



Media Release – For immediate release

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What’s happening at Sydney’s Theatre Royal?

Sydney’s Theatre Royal site is surrounded by construction hoarding bearing the NSW Government logo, but there’s been little news on when it will deliver on its commitment to re-open the venue.

Live Performance Australia has called for an update from the Minister for the Arts, Don Harwin, on progress towards securing a new operator for the CBD-based lyric theatre.

“It’s now more than six months since the Minister declared there were four operators being invited to progress with tender applications to operate the venue which would increase Sydney’s capacity to host new productions and compete on the world-stage for more first-run international tours,” said Evelyn Richardson, LPA Chief Executive.

“We’ve heard very little since that announcement, and every month without resolution only compounds Sydney’s venue shortage and makes the city a less attractive destination for productions.

“The Theatre Royal is a symbol of the government’s inertia and lack of support for NSW’s cultural economy, which is now being overtaken by Melbourne and Brisbane.

“The live performance industry is keen to know when the curtain will go up again at the Theatre Royal following the Government’s pledge to re-open the venue, announced in the lead-up to the NSW state election in March.

“The commitment followed a sustained industry and community campaign to bring live performance back to the Theatre Royal after it had been shuttered for almost two years.

“We’re eager to hear more from the Minister about when the future of the venue will finally be resolved,” Ms Richardson said.

ENDS

Read Minister for Arts, Don Harwin’s ‘*Operators to bid for limelight at Theatre Royal*’ Media Release on 8 May: <https://www.create.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Operators-to-bid-for-limelight-at-Theatre-Royal.pdf>

Media contact

Susan Fitzpatrick-Napier
DMG USA/Australia
Office: +1 61 2 8218 2144
susan@dmgpr.com

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About LPA

LPA is the peak body for Australia's live performance industry. Established 100 years ago in 1917 and registered as an employers' organisation under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*, LPA has over 400 Members nationally. We represent commercial producers, music promoters, major performing arts companies, small to medium companies, independent producers, major performing arts centres, metropolitan and regional venues, commercial theatres, stadiums and arenas, arts festivals, music festivals, and service providers such as ticketing companies and technical suppliers. Our membership spans from small-medium and not-for-profit organisations to large commercial entities.

LPA has a clear mandate to advocate for and support policy decisions that benefit the sustainability and growth of the live performance industry in Australia.