

UTS BIG THINKING FORUM INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA AND CAPTAIN COOK: SETTING THE AGENDA FOR 2020

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY
THE GREAT HALL
25 JANUARY
6PM

These panel discussions bring artists and experts from various disciplines together to explore the ideas that inspire their works.

First Australians are the oldest continuous culture in the world, having been on this continent for over 60,000 years. 2020 will mark the 250th

anniversary of when Cook first landed, irrevocably changing the lives of Indigenous Australians. Inspired by *ALWAYS at Barangaroo* and ahead of *The Vigil* on 25 January, Professor Larissa Behrendt (UTS) hosts a powerful conversation with Indigenous leaders and artists, including Sydney Festival Director Wesley Enoch, to set the agenda for this anniversary.

SYD FEST 19



UTS

#UTSTHINKBIG

Start the year with some Big Thinking!
Sydney Festival artists and UTS thinkers will come together at a series of free public forums, opening up new ways to talk about the issues confronting us today.

Brought to you by Sydney Festival's knowledge partner, the **University of Technology Sydney**.

SYD
FEST
19

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REACH FOR THE
STARS
CYCLE TO THE
MOON

WITH FREE INTERACTIVE ART AT
BARANGAROO
DARLING HARBOUR
WORLD SQUARE

SPEAKERS

WESLEY ENOCH (SYDNEY FESTIVAL DIRECTOR)

Wesley Enoch is the Director of Sydney Festival. He has been a theatre director/writer for over 25 years specialising in Aboriginal Theatre. Wesley was Artistic Director of Queensland Theatre Company 2010–15, Ilbijerri 2003–06 and Kooemba Jdarra 1994–97, and Resident Director at Sydney Theatre Company 2000–01, Associate Artistic Director of Company B Belvoir 2007–10, and worked on the Opening Ceremony of the 2006 Commonwealth Games. Wesley has worked with all the large theatre companies, arts centres and festivals in Australia and won multiple awards. Wesley was a Trustee of the Sydney Opera House 2006–13 and is the Chair of the ATSI Strategy Panel for the Australia Council.



AMRITA HEPI (*THE ROPES*)

Amrita Hepi is an award-winning First Nations choreographer and dancer from Bundjalung (AUS) and Ngapuhi (NZ) territories. She has worked with leading Australian dance companies Force Majeure, Marrugeku and OCHRES, and toured work nationally and internationally to theatres and galleries in Australia, Europe and the USA. She trained at NAISDA and Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre, New York, and in 2018 she was the recipient of the People's Choice for the Keir Choreographic Award. In 2018 she was also named one of *Forbes Asia's* 30 under 30. Hepi has worked in various commercial capacities, including being commissioned by ASOS UK to create and choreograph film works. She has given TEDx Talks at the Sydney Opera House and been featured globally in *Vogue*, *Teen Vogue*, *Nowness*, *Instyle*, *Harpers Bazaar* and *PAPER*. An artist with a broad global reach and following, Hepi combines her interest in advocacy for First Nations sovereignty with a compelling and diverse physical practice.



RACHEL PERKINS

Rachel Perkins' Australian Aboriginal heritage has informed her entire filmmaking career. She founded Australia's premier Indigenous production company Blackfella Films in 1992, and has contributed extensively to the development of Indigenous filmmakers and, more broadly, to the Australian film and television industry. Perkins has directed four feature films: *Radiance*, *One Night the Moon*, the musical *Bran Nue Dae*, which screened at the Sundance, Berlin and Toronto Film Festivals, and *Jasper Jones*. In 2012 Perkins directed the telemovie *Mabo* for ABC1. Perkins also directed three episodes and a telemovie of the landmark television drama series *Redfern Now* for the ABC, for which she received the Australian Directors Guild (ADG) Award for Best Direction in a TV Drama Series in 2013, 2014 and again in 2016. She directed all six episodes of the critically acclaimed *Mystery Road* for ABC1. Perkins also wrote, directed and co-produced the seven-hour documentary series *First Australians* (2009) for SBS, and the documentary *Black Panther Woman* (2014).



PROFESSOR JOHN MAYNARD

Professor John Maynard is a Worimi Aboriginal man from the Port Stephens region of New South Wales. His publications have concentrated on the intersections of Aboriginal political and social history, and the history of Australian race relations. He is the author of several books, including *Aboriginal Stars of the Turf*, *Fight for Liberty and Freedom*, *The Aboriginal Soccer Tribe*, *Aborigines and the Sport of Kings*, *True Light and Shade: An Aboriginal Perspective of Joseph Lycett's Art and Living with the Locals – Early Indigenous Experience of Indigenous Life*. He is currently Chair of Aboriginal History at the University of Newcastle and Director of the Purai Global Indigenous and Diaspora Research Studies centre, and has held several major positions and served on numerous prominent organisations and committees. He gained his PhD in 2003, examining the rise of early Aboriginal political activism. He has worked with and within many Aboriginal communities, urban, rural and remote, and has appeared on numerous television and radio programs.



MODERATOR

PROFESSOR LARISSA BEHRENDT (UTS)

Professor Larissa Behrendt holds the Chair of Indigenous Research at UTS, is a Board Director of Sydney Festival and the host of *Speaking Out* on the ABC Radio Network. She is an award-winning author and filmmaker.

