



Don Harwin
Minister for the Arts

Stuart Ayres
Minister for Tourism and Major Events

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 8 May 2019

OPERATORS TO BID FOR LIMELIGHT AT THEATRE ROYAL

The NSW Government has announced four theatre operators are being invited to progress with tender applications to reopen Sydney's Theatre Royal.

NSW Minister for Arts Don Harwin said he is delighted by the enthusiastic response from the sector.

"We have a shortlist of Australian and international theatre operators and producers that are creating a real buzz around about the future of musical theatre in Sydney," Mr Harwin said.

"It's exciting to take this project forward to the next milestone through this selective process, as we seek an operator who can deliver the very best plan to reopen this marvellous and historic theatre."

Mr Harwin said reopening the CBD-based lyric theatre will increase Sydney's capacity to host new productions and compete on the world-stage for more first-run international tours.

"In the next few years Sydney will welcome global productions like *Waitress*, *Billy Elliot* and *Chicago* plus the first international production of *Frozen*, – but we know NSW audiences are hungry for more.

"The re-opening of the Theatre Royal will deliver significant economic benefits to the city through employment and tourism and contribute to the vibrancy of the city's night-time economy," said Mr Harwin.

NSW Minister for Tourism Mr Stuart Ayres said "More theatre space means more shows and events can come to Sydney and bring more tourists to experience the art and culture our city has to offer."

Situated among retail and fine dining outlets, and transport links, the theatre, designed by Harry Seidler, will reopen to the public once a new operator is chosen.

Theatre owners Dexis will redevelop the retail precinct surrounding the theatre concurrent to its anticipated reopening in 2021.

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