

Media Release



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Director of the Edinburgh International Festival, Jonathan Mills asks the big questions and dissects Australia's arts industries.

On the eve of his fourth festival, Jonathan Mills will be in the country to deliver the inaugural State of the Arts Lecture.

Tuesday 3 August 2010, 6:30PM - 7:30PM

State of the Arts: Jonathan Mills

National Gallery of Victoria, St Kilda Road, Melbourne

The Wheeler Centre, in partnership with the National Gallery of Victoria and the Harold Mitchell Foundation, is establishing an annual lecture to examine Australia's arts policy, industries and institutions.

In the 2010 State of the Arts Lecture, Jonathan Mills delves into the cultural heritage of our arts institutions and the need for profound change to accommodate Australia's future. He also examines arts education and finds fundamental and worrying shortcomings.

Looking beyond arts policy specifically, Mills highlights the way current government policy fails to embrace culture and, in the most important ways, ignores the arts. In this wide-ranging lecture, this internationally renowned artistic director and prominent Australian composer will lay out the challenges and key priorities for the arts in this country.

More on Jonathan Mills

Mills took up the post of Festival Director and Chief Executive of the Edinburgh International Festival in October 2006. Before this appointment he was the Vice-Chancellor's (Professorial) Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Director of the Alfred Deakin Lectures and an Artistic Advisor to the new Melbourne Recital Centre and Elisabeth Murdoch Hall.

One of Australia's most experienced festival directors his previous posts have included Artistic Director of the Melbourne International Arts Festival, the Melbourne Federation Festival, the Melbourne Millennium Eve celebrations and the Brisbane Biennial International Music Festival. As a composer he is regularly commissioned in Australia and increasingly in Europe and the UK. His composition Sandakan Threnody for solo tenor, choir and orchestra won the Prix Italia in 2005.

The inaugural State of the Arts Lecture is free and open to the public. Bookings are recommended via wheelercentre.com

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The Wheeler Centre

A Victorian Government initiative and the centrepiece of Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature.