

Arts honorary doctorate citations

Thursday 12 September 2019, 2.00pm

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you three outstanding candidates for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa): **Neil Armfield, Rob Brookman** and **Rachel Healy**.

South Australia's reputation as a festival state is known around the world. We are known for innovation in the arts.

Our Festival Centre was Australia's first arts complex, and the Adelaide Festival has a long history as one of the world's major celebrations of the arts.

From our earliest days, the University of Adelaide has fostered the arts in South Australia. We are home to the Elder Conservatorium of Music. We hosted the first Adelaide Festival in 1960 on our campus, directed by our Elder Professor of Music, John Bishop.

We are proud to continue that close relationship with the Adelaide Festival and Adelaide Fringe to this day.

Today we are privileged to have with us three luminaries of the arts world who have each made outstanding and sustained contributions to the arts locally and nationally. Between them, they have written, directed, produced, managed and supported thousands of artistic productions.

Neil and Rachel are currently Joint Artistic Directors of the Adelaide Festival, while Rob is Executive Director of the Adelaide Festival.

Their involvement in the Festival has seen visitors flock to Adelaide. Beyond the financial impact of the event, the Festival remains an enduring feature of South Australia and a proud reflection of the talents of its leadership.

Collectively, their work has been vital to South Australia's reputation as the Festival State, to the creative and cultural industries, and to the economy.

Neil Armfield citation

Neil Geoffrey Armfield has given exceptional dedication and service to the arts in Australia during a career that spans over 40 years.

Neil is widely acknowledged as one of Australia's greatest directors. His artistic acclaim stems from a career as a director of plays, operas and films.

He has won countless awards nationally and internationally for his work, including the Australian Writer's Guild Dorothy Crawford Award for outstanding contribution to the profession. The 2005 film *Candy*, which he Directed and co-wrote, won the Australian Writers' Guild Award for Best Screenplay, and the Australian Film Institute Award for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Neil's truly significant contribution to the arts was recognised in 2007 as an Officer of the Order of Australia.

Chancellor, I am very pleased and proud to present to you Mr Neil Armfield, Bachelor of Arts with First-Class Honours, Doctor of Letters, Officer of the Order of Australia, for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).

Rob Brookman citation

Robert George Brookman has given four decades of exceptional dedication and service to the arts in Australia.

A University of Adelaide graduate with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours, Rob has led a number of Australia's foremost arts organisations and festivals, and his vision and passion have ensured the growth of these cultural festivals and institutions.

In 1992, Rob placed Adelaide at the heart of world music celebrations when he launched the WOMADelaide music festival. This festival has altered the way Australians view world music in all its forms, and has become a mainstay of the festival calendar in our State.

His roles in administration and artistic direction include: the Adelaide Festival Centre and Adelaide Festival, the Come Out Youth Festival, the State Theatre Company of South Australia, and Sydney Theatre Company.

He has won numerous awards, including recognition as a Member of the Order of Australia, and the South Australian Premier's Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ruby Awards.

Chancellor, I am very pleased and proud to present to you Mr Rob Brookman, Bachelor of Arts, Member of the Order of Australia, for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).

Rachel Healy citation

Rachel Healy is one of the country's leading culture professionals, with a career that spans nearly 30 years, and has managed a wide range of arts organisations.

An Arts graduate from the University of Adelaide, her first steps into the arts world began right here, when she became Theatre Editor for the student newspaper, *On Dit*.

Rachel's high-level administrative, managerial and directorship positions include: the Sydney Opera House and Belvoir St Theatre, as a member of the Major Performing Arts Panel of the Australia Council, and part of the working group for the Australian Prime Minister's 2020 summit for Creative Australia.

As Executive Manager for Culture with the City of Sydney, she was instrumental in developing and drafting the city's first ever cultural policy and 10-year action plan, and the city's Live Music and Performance Action Plan.

We are proud to award her an honorary doctorate today in recognition of her exceptional dedication and service to the arts in Australia.

Chancellor, I present to you Rachel Healy, Bachelor of Arts, for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).