

Dr Peter David Goldsworthy AM

Approved by Peter 26/3/21

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you an outstanding candidate for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Arts (honoris causa): Dr Peter David Goldsworthy AM.

Award-winning novelist and poet, Dr Goldsworthy is acknowledged today not only for his enormous creative contribution to literature, but also for his support for the creative arts in South Australia and his leadership in arts administration.

A graduate in Medicine from the University of Adelaide, he spent some years working in drug and alcohol rehabilitation before his great passion for writing saw him increasingly divide his time between General Practice and the arts.

Author of nine novels, eight published collections of poetry, seven collections of short stories as well as novellas, film scripts and opera libretti, Dr Goldsworthy's work has earned acclaim across his 40-year career.

His 1989 novel *Maestro* was voted one of the Top 40 Australian Books of All Time by the Australian Author's Society, and his novels have sold more than 400,000 copies in Australia. His 1995 novel *Wish* was also recently reissued in the Text Publishing Text Classics series, and in 2019 he published a new work, *Minotaur*.

His work has been widely translated and adapted for the stage. His novel *Honk if you are Jesus* was adapted for the stage by the State Theatre of South Australia, winning the 2006 Ruby Award for Best New Work.

An adaptation of his 1999 novella *Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam*, by Steve Rodgers, won the 2015 inaugural Lysicrates Prize, and his short story *The Kiss* was adapted for stage by the Belvoir St Theatre and has been made into a multi-award-winning film by Ashlee Page.

Since 1979, Dr Goldsworthy's work has won many awards, including the Western Australian Sesquicentenary Literary Prize, the Patricia Hackett prize for poetry, the Commonwealth Poetry Prize, the FAW Anne Elder Poetry Award, the South Australian Government Biennial Literature Prize (South Australia), the Australian Bicentennial Literary Prize for Poetry, the Poetry Australia Literary Award and the 2004 FAW Christina Stead Award, and he has been shortlisted for more both in Australia and internationally.

His collaboration with Richard Mills on the libretto for the opera *Batavia* won the 2002 Robert Helpmann Awards for Best Opera and Best New Australian Work, and the 2002 Green Room Award for Special Creative Achievement.

Understanding the importance of support for the arts, Dr Goldsworthy has taken an active role in arts administration, serving as Chair of the Literature Board of the Australia Council and Chair of the State Library of South Australia for many years. He has also been an active, high-profile member of the J M Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice at the University of Adelaide. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor of Creative Writing at the University.

Dr Goldsworthy's contribution to literature as an author and poet, and his work for the wider arts community, was acknowledged in 2010 when he was made a Member of the Order of Australia.

Today we celebrate his creativity and literary talent, and his contribution to the arts community, but also his support for this University in its efforts to nurture new generations of creative thinkers and artists.

Chancellor, I am pleased to present to you **Dr Peter Goldsworthy**, Bachelor of Medicine, Member of the Order of Australia, for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Arts (honoris causa).