

Mr Ian Alexander Scobie AM

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you an outstanding candidate for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa): Mr Ian Alexander Scobie AM.

Ian is one of the outstanding arts administrators of his generation. This award recognises his distinguished and significant contribution to the performing arts in South Australia, and nationally, over four decades.

If you have enjoyed the Adelaide Festival, WOMADelaide, the Adelaide Film Festival, Illuminate Adelaide or a collection of other performing arts events across Australia over the last 40 years, then Ian Scobie may well have been the producer, director, or curator behind these productions.

Graduating from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Arts in 1979, Ian Scobie briefly worked for Shell Australia before joining the Adelaide Festival Centre in 1983 as a trainee. His varied career since that time has encompassed both an extended period within the not-for-profit sector and twenty-five years as Director of an independent arts management company specialising in high profile events from both Australia and around the world.

During his 14 years with the Adelaide Festival, Ian worked as General Manager and in associated roles on 8 Festivals with 7 different Artistic Directors. He has been a part of WOMADelaide since its beginning in 1992. He has served as Executive Producer of WOMADelaide since 1997 and as Director since 2001, programming some 22 Festivals and overseeing its move to an annual event in 2003.

Ian co-founded independent arts and event management company Arts Projects Australia in 1997, producing events and international tours across South Australia, nationally and within the region. In 1997, Ian was appointed as Consultant to the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games for the Olympic Arts Festival and worked as Executive Producer for the 1997 Festival of the Dreaming. He has been event producer of the Performing Arts program for the 2006 Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival in Melbourne, the first seven years of the Adelaide Film Festival, and for the Australian Performing Arts Market.

In addition to producing the WOMADelaide festival and delivering the international program for its sister event WOMAD New Zealand, Ian has produced a range of international performing arts tours between Australia, Hong Kong and New Zealand. His work has also involved taking Australian productions to the world, including the international tours of Cloudstreet to Zurich, London, Dublin, New York and Washington and touring five productions of acclaimed theatre director Peter Brook to Australia.

Ian was the inaugural Chair of Festivals Adelaide and is a Director of Illuminate Adelaide. He instigated the Major Festivals Initiative when Chairman of the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals during the 1990s. He has served as a board member of the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust, the Sydney Dance Company, and the Helpmann Academy. Ian is also a past Chair of the Theatre Panel of Live Performance Australia's Helpmann Awards.

Ian was recognised by the Government of France as a Chevalier des Arts et Lettres in 2003, was awarded the Sidney Myer Performing Arts Facilitators award in 2008, and the Premier's Award for Lifetime Achievement at the 2017 Ruby Awards. He was recognised in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours List as a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia for significant service to the performing arts through the production, management and promotion of festivals, theatre and performance events.

Ian Scobie's contribution to the arts in Australia and their relationship with the rest of the world is both unique and of the highest order. The Adelaide Festival and WOMADelaide are part of the South Australian psyche and Ian has played a key role in the development and longevity of both. Under his Directorship, WOMADelaide has established itself as an iconic and award-winning event celebrating cultural and creative diversity and has become a truly unique part of the Australian festival landscape.

Ian's contribution has not only involved bringing international dance, theatre and music productions and tours to Australian audiences, but has also promoted Australian acts to the world. Through his creative vision, exceptional management and leadership, Ian has enriched South Australia's cultural landscape and shaped an invaluable legacy for the performing arts sector in Australia.

Chancellor, I am pleased to present to you Mr Ian Scobie, Bachelor of Arts, Member of the Order of Australia, for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).

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