

MEDIA RELEASE,
Friday 16 October 2014

Carriageworks welcomes new three new resident companies, Sydney Chamber Opera, Moogahlin and the Felix Foundation



Sydney, Australia: Carriageworks has announced three new resident companies will be joining the Redfern-based, contemporary multi-arts precinct from this October, bringing the total number resident organisations to seven.

The new resident companies are critically acclaimed Sydney Chamber Opera, renowned for its innovative programming, musical rigour and compelling theatre-making; New South Wales' leading Aboriginal Theatre Company Moogahlin; and artist-focused moving image production company Felix Foundation.

The contemporary arts companies commence three-year residency contracts this month at Carriageworks, joining existing resident organisations Performance Space, Erth, Force Majeure, Stalker and Marrugeku.

The Hon. Troy Grant MP, Minister for the Arts, commented: "I'm pleased to hear that these three dynamic contemporary arts companies have found a home at the NSW Government's major contemporary arts precinct and their work will be supported through the Carriageworks Artistic Program. Carriageworks continues to grow, support the arts sector and reflect the diverse communities of our State."

Carriageworks Director Lisa Havilah added: "We are excited to be expanding our existing group of resident companies with the addition of three dynamic arts organisations who are an excellent fit for our Artistic Program."

"Carriageworks is dedicated to championing ambitious and risk-taking, artist-led programming and the works presented by Sydney Chamber Opera, Moogahlin and the Felix Foundation are a perfect fit for our vision. Our new resident companies each have an existing history with Carriageworks, having presented and co-produced works with us in recent years. We look forward to integrating them further into our Artistic Program in 2015." said Ms Havilah.

Bridget Ikin of the Felix Foundation added: "Our presence at Carriageworks cements the new direction of the Felix Foundation, working with visual artists on major moving image projects. We believe there is significant synergy between our aspirations and those of the other resident companies at Carriageworks, and we're really looking forward to contributing."

The new resident companies will be integrated into the 2015 Carriageworks Artistic Program that will be unveiled on Wednesday 12 November 2014. Co-presented productions between the resident companies and Carriageworks and other developmental artistic works will be announced at the launch.

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Moogahlin's Liza-Mare Syron said: "Becoming a resident company at Carriageworks will provide Moogahlin with a stable base for the company and for its members. Carriageworks location in Redfern ensures a continued connection to the foundations of Black Theatre in NSW and nationally. The space will provide Moogahlin with a creative hub for developing and producing new Indigenous work."

Sydney Chamber Opera's Louis Garrick, said: "We are thrilled and honoured to have been asked to become a resident company at Carriageworks. It is an extraordinary opportunity that confirms the company's legitimacy as a significant emerging player in the sector and it is a huge step towards securing the organisation's long-term future. Sydney Chamber Opera is officially here to stay - and there is no place we would rather call home than Carriageworks, Australia's leading contemporary multi-arts centre."

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IMAGE CREDITS (above, L to R): **Moogahlin** (Bully Beef Stew, 2011. Photo by Cat Jones courtesy of PACT theatre); **Felix Foundation** (Angelica Mesiti, In the Ear of the Tyrant, 2013–14 (video still), multi-channel HD video installation, surround sound. Courtesy the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne and Sydney. Produced by Felix Media, Sydney. Photography: Bonnie Elliott); **Sydney Chamber Opera** (An Index of Metals, Sydney Chamber Opera. Image: Samuel Hodge)

ABOUT CARRIAGEWORKS

Carriageworks is the largest and most significant contemporary multi-arts centre of its kind in Australia. Engaging artists and audiences with contemporary ideas and issues, Carriageworks has a reputation for presenting large-scale immersive programs that are artist-led and emerge from Carriageworks' commitment to reflecting social and cultural diversity. The Carriageworks artistic program is ambitious, risk taking and unrelenting in its support of artists. Adding to the rich cultural atmosphere at Carriageworks are a number of Resident Organisations, all working within the contemporary arts sector: Erth, Force Majeure, Performance Space, Playwriting Australia, Stalker and Marrugeku. Carriageworks is a cultural facility of the NSW Government and receives support through Arts NSW <http://www.carriageworks.com.au>

ABOUT MOOGAHLIN

Moogahlin Performing Arts is New South Wales; leading Aboriginal theatre company based at Carriageworks Redfern. Moogahlin works closely with emerging and established Aboriginal theatre practitioners and communities to give voice to NSW Aboriginal stories. Moogahlin was formed in Redfern, New South Wales in 2007 by a group of Aboriginal performing artists and community workers in honour of the late Kevin Smith's request and in memory of the founding members of the Black Theatre.

ABOUT SYDNEY CHAMBER OPERA

Established in 2010 by Artistic Director Louis Garrick and Music Director Jack Symonds, Sydney Chamber Opera is a fresh and youthful answer to some of the difficult questions facing contemporary opera today. Sydney Chamber Opera has rapidly developed into an important and distinctive voice in the Australian music and theatre landscape. Critically acclaimed for its innovative programming,

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musical rigour and strong focus on compelling theatre-making, Sydney Chamber Opera makes opera with a 21st-century outlook that resonates with a new, younger audience, and that shows how vibrant and relevant the art form can be.

ABOUT FELIX FOUNDATION

The Felix Foundation was set up by established film producers John Maynard and Bridget Ikin, to support the development, creation and presentation of significant new moving image projects by artists. Recent works include CORAL, a work for the fulldome screen, by Lynette Wallworth; three multi-screen works CITIZEN'S BAND, THE CALLING, and IN THE EAR OF THE TYRANT by Angelica Mesiti; and the trilogy of adaptations by William Yang: FRIENDS OF DOROTHY, MY GENERATION, and BLOODLINKS. Felix works with artists at the intersection of originality, audience engagement and social conviction, and looks to explore alternative screen formats. The next production will be the 4-screen video work CHAR SOO, by artist Hossein Valamanesh, in partnership with the Adelaide Film Festival, the University of Western Australia Cultural Precinct, and Carriageworks.