

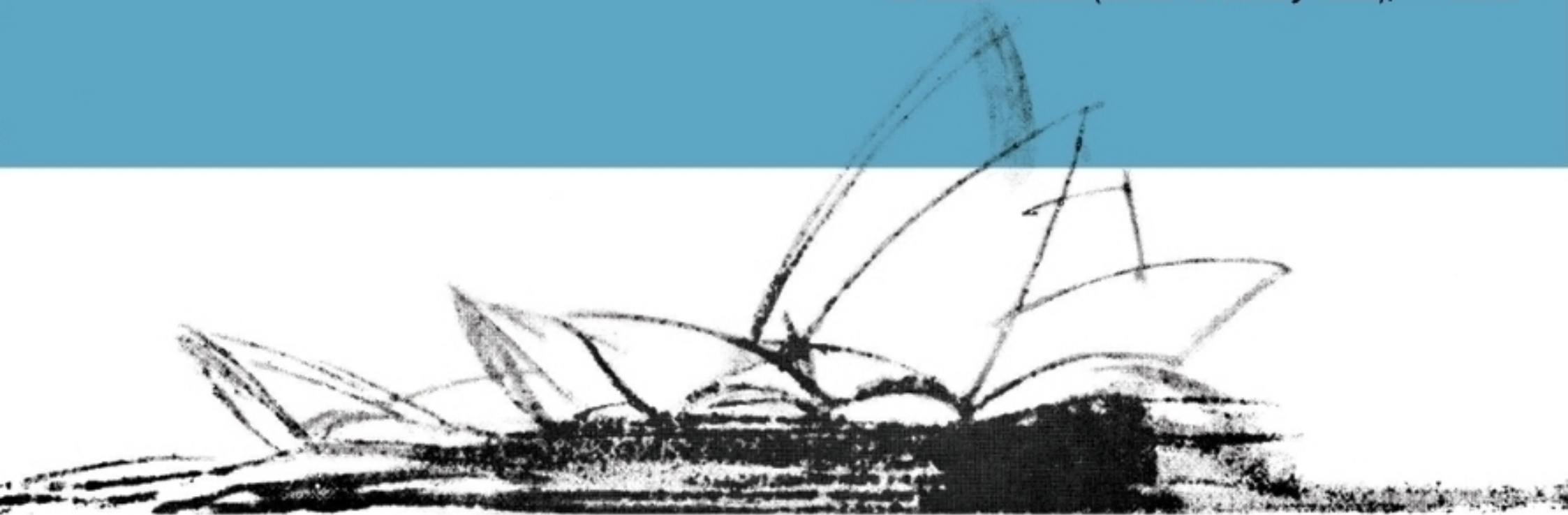
A TALK BY MICHAEL DAY

a Wagner Society in NSW Inc event

2.00pm Sunday 22 October, 2023

Goethe Institut

90 Ocean Street (corner of Jersey Road), Woollahra



Elevation sketch by Jørn Utzon (1918-2008) used as a frontispiece for the "Red Book", March 1958.

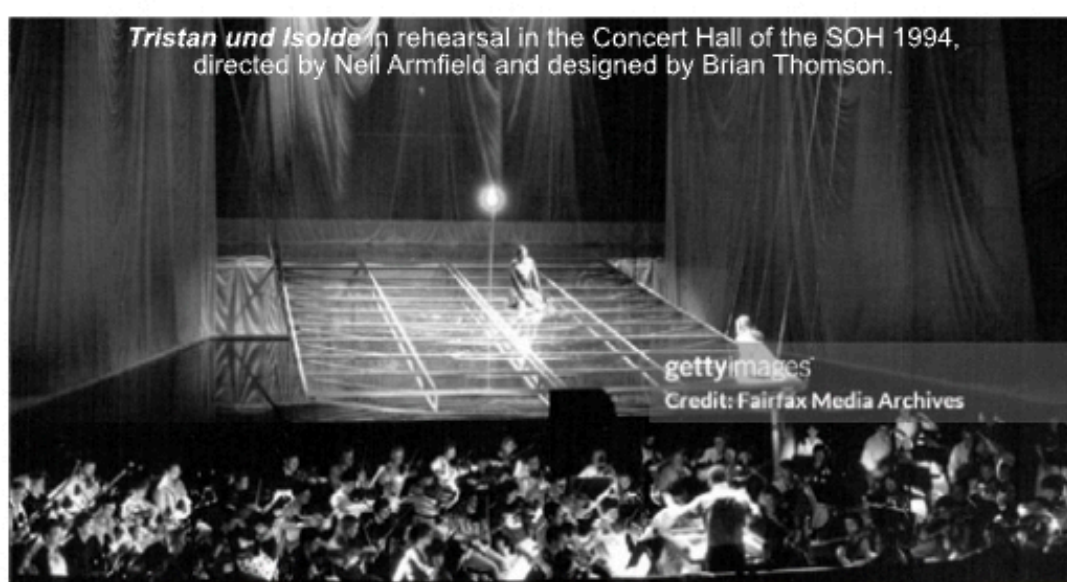
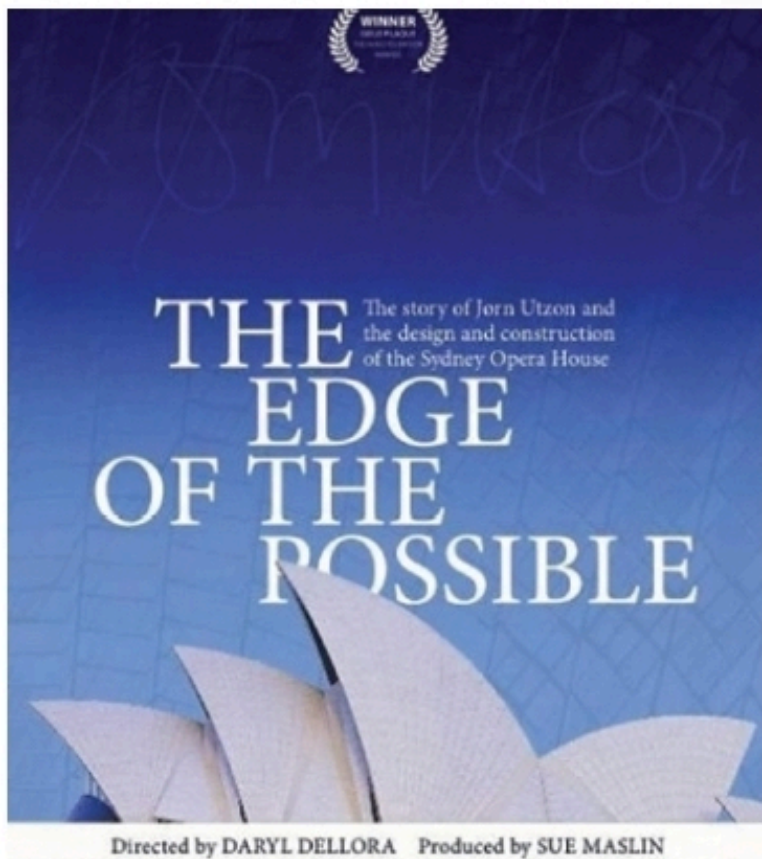
To find out more about the Wagner Society in NSW Inc, please go to:

www.wagner.org.au



PROGRAMME

12.30pm DVD
'The Edge of the Possible'
(1998, 58 Mins)



SHORT BREAK

2.00 pm MICHAEL DAY on
A Tale of Three Houses - Paris, Bayreuth and Sydney

3.30pm (approx) REFRESHMENTS

DONATIONS TO WSNSW

Your Society has a number of recurrent philanthropic projects for which we seek your help. One such project, which we would like to focus on is the **Jane Mathews AO Scholarship**, named in honour of our late President Justice Jane Mathews AO.

The Society joined with **PACIFIC OPERA** to establish a \$5,000 annual scholarship to help young potential Wagnerians. It also forges stronger ties between our two organisations.

There are a number of projects your WSNSW supports which would benefit from your help. If interested in contributing please contact the President on: 7 0412 282 070 or esteban24insausti@gmail.com.



Das Rheingold Scene 1 at Bayreuth 1965, directed and designed by Wieland Wagner

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

WSNSW EVENTS

Das Rheingold Symposium, a select group of experts discuss aspects of the Ring's opening work before Simone Young AM conducts the SSO in a concert performance. **12 November** at the Goethe Institut.

Adrian Tamburini performs at our Christmas Party. **November 26** at Ampico Towers.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Das Rheingold, **Simone Young AM** conducts the SSO and a stellar cast in concert. SOH, **16 and 18 November**.

OA *Ring*, 3 cycles. **1-23 December**, Brisbane.

MICHAEL DAY

Mike Day is Vice President of WSNSW and the editor of the Quarterly. He has been practising as a registered architect for over 50 years and obtained a Masters of Illumination from the University of Sydney in 2004. He taught architectural lighting design and theatre design at UTS Architecture 2003 – 2020. He was a founding designer for Sydney's Vivid Light Festival in 2009. He has worked as a set designer in several countries, including designing a *Don Giovanni* with Sir Roger Norrington in London in 1972. He decided to become an architect after his father showed him Utzon's winning entry for the SOH competition in 1956. Around the same time, he was infected with the Wagner virus when a friend's mother played him the finale of *Die Walküre* Act I on an old 78rpm record. He first visited Bayreuth in 1970 and has attended 3 festivals since then. He considers himself very fortunate to have seen some wonderful Wagner performances in the 1970's with Sir Colin Davis, Karl Boehm, Sir Georg Solti and Sir Reginald Goodall.



ABOUT THE TALK

This illustrated talk will compare the background, conception, construction and subsequent development of three of the most important performance spaces in the world. There are many fascinating parallels and differences between the buildings. The Paris and Sydney designs were chosen in competition (about 100 years apart). Both took 14 years to complete and cost many times the original estimated cost. Neither architect was present at the opening. Paris was conceived as an imperial status symbol. It's a wonderful building to visit but has poor audience sight lines and paradoxically now showcases ballet rather than opera. Bayreuth was planned as, and remains, a temple for the worship of (Wagner's) Art. It has the best sight lines and acoustics in the world. And the most uncomfortable seats. Sydney was to be an egalitarian 'Peoples' House'. It is a very successful performing arts centre on the most spectacular site but unfortunately is a very flawed space for large scale opera, as there is limited wing space and the orchestra pit is too small.



SSO RING PROJECT



SUZANNE CHAUNDY



WSNSW **DAS RHEINGOLD** SYMPOSIUM
12 NOVEMBER 2023
BOOKINGS VIA EVENTBRITE & E-NEWS



COLIN PIPER



ROBERT MACFARLANE

The Symposium is to take place on the Sunday before the two SSO performances (Thursday 16 November and Saturday 18 November).

The symposium will focus on *Das Rheingold*, the preliminary evening of the *Ring*. It is not meant to be an introduction to the work, in fact it should be assumed that those attending know the work. Rather the individual papers will provide a unique view of *Das Rheingold* and provoke or challenge the audience's imagination before they attend the concert performance by the SSO under our Patron, Simone Young AM.

Symposium programme:

- 1000 – 1030 Registration and coffee
- 1030 – 1040 Welcome and Introduction by the WSNSW President
- 1040 – 1110 **SUZANNE CHAUNDY - *Das Rheingold* – Beginning with the End**
- 1115 – 1145 **ESTEBAN INSAUSTI - Symbols and trends in landmark productions of *Das Rheingold* 1951-2023**
- 1145 - 1155 Short break
- 1155 – 1225 **COLIN PIPER - When 18 anvils are barely enough**
- 1230 – 1300 **ROBERT MCFARLANE - #mimetoo: portraying 'cancelled' characters in Wagner**
- 1300 – 1345 Lunch/Refreshments
- 1345 – 1415 **DAVID LARKIN - Symphonic drama: Revisiting the innovations of *Das Rheingold***
- 1420 – 1450 **Round table discussion moderated by TBC**
- 1455 – 1600 Drinks and close



DR DAVID LARKIN



ESTEBAN INSAUSTI