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The Depot Theatre to open a new independent theatre and events venue in Sydney

The Depot Theatre today announced they will open a new venue for independent theatre makers and cultural organisations to develop, rehearse and stage their productions and events. A newly formed not-for-profit organisation, The Depot Theatre will collaborate with an eclectic range of Sydney's emerging and seasoned independent arts practitioners to stage and host a wide range of Australian and international works and events.

"We will entertain, challenge and hopefully inspire audiences with performances that are accessible, affordable and – most importantly – a really fun night out," said co-founder, Julie Baz. "We are looking to program anything from the completely experimental to the traditional, including new and classic works from a variety of genres and at all stages of development."

Located in Sydney's inner west suburb of Marrickville, known for its vibrant street culture, multicultural influences, and buzzing music and arts scene, The Depot Theatre will be situated within and is proudly supported by the historic Addison Road Centre (ARC), Sydney's largest and oldest community centre, and a thriving hub for culture, arts and the environment visited by over 200,000 people annually.

Assisted by a grant-in-kind provided by the the Centre and contributions from supporters including Kelly's Consultants, The Depot Theatre will refurbish, reinvent and breathe new life into what is currently an empty shell. The site was originally occupied by the Cadigal Wangal people and the venue itself housed an X-Ray centre during WWII and was the former home of Sidetrack Theatre Group for 25 years.

"Using the history and the character of the building and the site as inspiration, and recycled and eco-friendly materials where possible, we will create a unique, multipurpose venue that can be used for theatre productions, cultural events, workshops, meetings, seminars, film screenings, shoots and rehearsals," said David Jeffrey, co-founder and designer of the refurbishment.

The venue will contain multiple spaces available for hire, including a 100-120 seat theatre with a 40-50sqm stage area, a 60sqm foyer and a 50sqm workshop and rehearsal studio. Rental subsidies afforded to tenants of the Centre will be passed on to the incoming organisations, making the hire fees among the most affordable in Sydney.

"We are delighted that the theatre will be up and running again at the Centre," said Juan Carlos Rios, the ARC's Cultural Development Officer. "The Depot Theatre will provide many new opportunities for performing artists and cultural experiences for the whole community to enjoy."

The venue will be fully up and running in a few months, however the Workshop, suitable for rehearsals, meetings and classes, will be ready to use in just a few weeks. Tickets are also on sale for The Depot Theatre's inaugural production, Anton Chekhov's masterpiece *The Cherry Orchard*, a moving comedy about social change, which kicks off in July. Directed by Julie Baz, the cast and creative team will be announced in early June.

For information about upcoming events, to book tickets or to enquire about hiring the venue, visit The Depot Theatre's website: www.thedepottheatre.com



David Jeffrey, co-founder of The Depot Theatre signing the ARC agreement: with Rosanna Barbero, Centre Co-Ordinator, Juan Carlos Rios, Cultural Development Officer and a member of the ARC Board.

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