

## **Statement from Griffin Theatre Company's Board of Directors**

### **Farewell to Lee Lewis, the search for a new Artistic Director and the appointment of Karen Rodgers as Executive Director**

The Board of Griffin Theatre Company is immensely proud of the position the Company finds itself in at the end of the tenure of the brilliant Lee Lewis, who is leaving to become Artistic Director of Queensland Theatre.

Griffin has clearly established itself as the home of new Australian playwriting. We are known for bold artistic choices that have allowed audiences to explore territories they would not otherwise have found. The Company has made significant strides in achieving gender parity and given a voice to artists from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Audience and donor support are at an all-time high and we have an excellent relationship with our major supporters, the SBW Foundation and the State and Federal Governments.

Critically, under Lee's leadership, we have constantly been challenged to ask ourselves what it means to be an Australian and a citizen of the world today—always in an engaging, enjoyable way.

The Board is now looking for a new Artistic Director to take the Company on the next stage of its journey. We will not find and do not want a clone of Lee. However, we are very happy with the purpose, philosophy and direction of Griffin. The new Artistic Director has a remarkable legacy to build on. We are confident that there will be many exceptional candidates who will propose exciting artistic visions that align with our ambition for Griffin.

In recognition of her tremendous skill and contribution, the Board is appointing Karen Rodgers to the position of Executive Director, reporting to and having a place on the Board. As Executive Director, Karen will ensure that the new Artistic Director can focus squarely on setting and executing on the artistic vision for the Company.

Our staff are talented and passionate and fun. We look forward to finding a new artistic leader to continue to inspire and excite them.

It is with some trepidation, but great excitement that we enter into this next phase for Griffin. It is appropriate that a new era begins as we acknowledge the legacy of 50 Years of the (SBW) Stables Theatre.

The recruitment process will commence at the beginning of October. Ideally, a new Artistic Director will be engaged before Lee leaves at the end of January.

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Simon Burke AO, Lyndell Droga, Tim Duggan, Bruce Meagher, Mario Philippou, Julia Pincus, Lenore Robertson, Simone Whetton, Meyne Wyatt.