

NEIL ARMFIELD – BIO



Neil Armfield is Co-Artistic Director of the Adelaide Festival of Arts 2017 – 2023, in partnership with Rachel Healy.

Neil directs for theatre and film. He was Artistic Director of Belvoir Street Theatre in Sydney from 1994 to 2010. He has directed for all of Australia's state theatre companies, Opera Australia, The Welsh National Opera, The Bregenz Festival in Austria, Zurich Opera, Canadian Opera, Houston Grand Opera, English National Opera, The Lyric Opera in Chicago and the Royal Opera House, London. He was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2007 for service to the arts, nationally and internationally.

Neil is the recipient of two Doctorates of Letters (University of Sydney and UNSW) and many awards including the Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Performing Arts; the Sydney Theatre Critics' Circle Award for Significant Contribution to Theatre; Best Production at Dublin International Festival of the Arts for *Cloudstreet*; co-winner of the 1998 Barclay's Award in London for *Billy Budd* and a record six Dora Mavor Awards including Best Production and Outstanding Direction of a Musical in Canada. Neil's theatrical highlights include the Benjamin Britten opera of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Adelaide Festival 2021; *Der Damon* at the Bregenz Festival; world tour of *Cloudstreet*; *Exit The King* on Broadway starring Geoffrey Rush (which won him a Tony Award) and Susan Sarandon; *Bliss* for Opera Australia including Edinburgh Festival; *Billy Budd* and *Peter Grimes* for Houston Grand Opera; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Houston Grand Opera, Canadian Opera Company and Lyric Opera of Chicago and *Der Ring Des Nibelungen* (Das Rheingold, Die Walkure, Siegfried, Gotterdammerung) in 2013.

Neil revived his production of *The Diary of a Madman* in 2010, Belvoir transferring to BAM in New York. Neil directed the feature film *Candy* (which he also co-wrote) in 2005, starring Geoffrey Rush, Heath Ledger and Abbie Cornish which screened in over 20 international film festivals and won an AWGIE and AFI Award for Best Adapted Screenplay. He directed his first film in 1985, *Twelfth Night*, which was based on his stage production. He went on to direct the television miniseries *Edens Lost* for ABC in 1988 which won 4 AFI awards including Best Director and Best Mini Series, the feature *The Castanet Club* (1990) and 2 telemovies for the ABC TV in 1996, *The Fisherman's Wake*, which won an ATOM Award for Best Original TV Production, and *Coral Island*. Neil's feature film *Holding The Man* premiered in 2015 as part of the Adelaide Film Festival.