

RACHEL HEALY – BIO



Originally from Adelaide, Rachel has been working in the arts and cultural sector for more than twenty years including four years as Director of Performing Arts for Sydney Opera House and ten years as General Manager of Belvoir St Theatre. Rachel has also worked for The Australian Ballet, Handspan Theatre and the State Theatre Company of South Australia and as a cultural industries consultant and independent producer. She was a participant in the Australian Prime Minister's 2020 summit and has served on many arts boards including the Sydney Opera House Trust, Live Performance Australia, Kage Physical Theatre, Arts NSW and as Deputy Chair of the Theatre Board of the Australia Council. In 1998 she was awarded an inaugural Nugget Coombs Award for Arts Administration and her essay on the role of arts centres in the 21st Century was published in 2012 by Skira.

From 2011 – 2015 Rachel was Executive Manager, Culture for the City of Sydney where she was instrumental in developing and drafting the City's first cultural policy and 10-year action plan and the City's Live Music and Performance Action Plan. She is currently Chair of the Creative Economy Taskforce and also of Carclew (South Australia's only multi-art form and cultural organisation dedicated to artistic outcomes by and for people aged 26 and under).

In May 2015, it was announced that Rachel Healy and Neil Armfield AO were to become Joint-Artistic Directors of the Adelaide Festival for a tenure of three years – the first co-artistic directors in the festival's history. Their first festival in 2017 was well received by critics and the public, with Adelaide Festival achieving its highest box office in history. Following the success, Rachel's and Neil's terms have been extended by a further two years up to and including 2023.