

## **Citation for the Award of the Degree of Doctor of the University *honoris causa***

### **Mr Rob Brookman AM, BA *Adel***

Mr Rob Brookman is a leading Australian Theatre Producer, Festival Director, Cultural Programmer and Arts Administrator. He is currently the Executive Director/Producer at the State Theatre Company South Australia.

In 1973, after completing a Bachelor of Arts in English and Politics at the University of Adelaide, where he was involved with the Dramatic Society Footlights Club and the Theatre Guild, he started his career with a short stint as a Radio Actor and Presenter.

Since those early days he undertook a variety of roles, leading to key positions in a number of Australasia's foremost festivals and performing arts organisations. These include the Programming Director, Producer, and Artistic Director for the Adelaide Festival Centre; Administrator, then Associate-Artistic Director from 1984 to 1990 and then in 1992, Artistic Director for the Adelaide Festival. In 1992 he was the Founding Director of Australia's leading world music festival WOMADelaide and remained as Artistic Director and interchangeably, Artistic Advisor, until 2007. He continues to contribute through the WOMAD Foundation, which he was instrumental in establishing.

Rob has also held a number of other roles, including: the Artistic Director for the National Festival of Australian Theatre in 1996; the Artistic Director for the New Zealand International Festival of Arts in 1994; Founding Co-Director for the Arts Projects Australia from 1996 to 1999; and then General Manager at the Sydney Theatre Company, a position he held for 11 years, until 2010.

In addition, Rob has also run his own cultural consultancy Sweet Reason Pty Ltd, undertaking a diverse range of consultancies including a major review of Sydney's cultural venues and a feasibility study for a National Indigenous Arts Festival. During this time he also produced '*The Planet Talks*', a series of environmental forums and events staged as part of WOMAD Earth Station in October 2011, and was Co-Producer of *Strictly Ballroom* in its developmental phases for Global Creatures from 2010 to 2011.

He joined the State Theatre Company of South Australia in March 2012, together with his son Mr Geordie Brookman who took the position of the company's Artistic Director. He is also at the helm of a State Theatre company partnership with Flinders University where Flinders is the University Partner, Red Carpet Program Partner and sponsor of the Young Playwrights' Award.

Rob has been a key contributor to the arts industry in Australia through a large number of arts industry boards and associations. These include serving as Deputy Chair of Australia's national touring scheme, Playing Australia, and membership of the Performing Arts Committee of the Australian Bicentennial Authority, as well as sitting on the boards of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Theatre, and Belvoir Street Theatre at different times. He has served as Chair of the panel for the Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award, and as Chairman of the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals from 2011 to 2014. He is currently a member of the board of the Melbourne Festival.

In 2003 Rob Brookman was awarded the Australian Institute of Arts Administration's 'Nugget' Award – named for Nugget Coombs - a national award for excellence in Arts Administration, voted by members of the Institute.

Rob's contribution to the arts was recognised by the award of the Member of the Order of Australia in 2010 for *'for service to arts administration, particularly through executive and artistic roles with the Sydney Theatre Company, WOMADelaide, the Adelaide Festival Centre and the Adelaide Festival'*.

The award of the degree of Doctor of the University recognises Mr Rob Brookman's life-time commitment to, and achievement in, the Australian performing arts.