



## MEDIA RELEASE

The Chair of Sydney Writers' Festival, Sandra Yates AO, today announced that Wendy Were will not be returning to the Festival after her extended maternity leave.

Ms Were, the Artistic Director of Sydney Writers' Festival for 2007-2009, has decided to work in her home state of Western Australia. She is expecting her second child in October.

Ms Yates praised Wendy Were's contribution. "Wendy was an excellent artistic leader of Sydney Writers' Festival. Her tenure was marked by extraordinary growth, with her three programs setting attendance records. Sydney audiences will remember fondly her presentation of terrific writers such as Andrew O'Hagan, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Jeanette Winterson, Junot Diaz, and many others. We wish her every success and happiness with her young family and new career."

Chip Rolley, Artistic Director of the widely praised 2010 program, is Artistic Director of the 2011 Festival.