



MEDIA RELEASE

2010 Sydney Writers' Festival Artistic Director Announced

Sandra Yates AO, Chair of Sydney Writers' Festival's Board of Directors, has announced that Chip Rolley has been appointed to the position of Artistic Director for the 2010 Sydney Writers' Festival, when current SWF Director Wendy Were takes maternity leave. Dr Were is expected to return to the post of SWF Director for the 2011 Festival.

Yates said:

Chip Rolley possesses the creative vision and the expertise to ensure the continuing success of this internationally renowned festival. The Board are delighted that Chip will bring his experience and insight to the 2010 Sydney Writers' Festival and we look forward to working with him.

Chip Rolley is an editor, literary project manager and freelance writer who has worked in Australia, the US and China. Conversant with current literary, social, cultural and political issues and debates and with an eclectic background including marketing, advertising and literary events management experience, Rolley also has a strong background of activism for freedom of expression, particularly through his recent involvement with International Pen and Sydney PEN.

In his writing, he has covered a very wide range of subjects from politics to poetry and from food to fashion. He also has a particular focus on literature and Chinese politics and culture. His work has appeared in a variety of publications, including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Age*, the *Australian*, *Griffith Review*, the *Bulletin*, *Vogue* and *Rolling Stone*.

Rolley said:

I'm looking forward to creating an exciting program in 2010 for this iconic Sydney event. I've got strong views on delivering a good mix in the programming — from the literary to the popular, from the provocative to the poetic — and doing so in a way that fosters a good sense of community for both the writers and the audience. I also have ideas for linking the festival more strongly to the city and for making it easier for the festival audience to navigate the rich variety of events the festival offers every year.

Chip Rolley will take up his position in June. In another appointment, Ben Strout, formerly Executive Director of Arts Funding at the Australia Council for the Arts, will take up the newly created position of General Manager, commencing in February.

For all media enquiries or to request the SWF 2009 media kit available in March, please contact:

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DIARY DATES:

SWF Program Launch: Thursday 26 March 2009

Sydney Writers' Festival 2009: 18- 24 May 2009