



GEELONG ARTS CENTRE 25 OCT
MEDIA ALERT 2019

GEELONG ARTS CENTRE TODAY ANNOUNCES OPENING OF RYRIE STREET REDEVELOPMENT- THURSDAY, 7 NOVEMBER AT 6PM.

The opening marks the completion of an ambitious \$38.5 million redevelopment that includes new foyer and bar spaces, 'Creative Engine' - a creative industries co-working floor - and four purpose built rehearsal and performance studios.

The new building responds to the changing needs of Geelong as a growing city region and Australia's only UNESCO City of Design, echoing the Clever and Creative strategic direction of the City of Greater Geelong and driving the growth of the region's creative capability.

International design practise, HASSELL led the architectural design of the landmark arts centre, with construction work carried out by one of Australia's largest private construction groups, Kane Constructions.

The building seamlessly blends the old and the new, with a striking translucent façade comprising of over 2,400 square metres of U-Channel glass, revealing a delicately restored heritage church - once hidden from public view behind the former Band of Hope building.

Geelong Arts Centre will open the building to the public with two excellent performances on the

evening - **The Irresistible** and **The 39 Steps** - and a stellar program of events throughout November.

The Irresistible | 7 – 9 November, 7.30pm nightly

A dark, creepy and mysterious piece of contemporary theatre, rem, reminiscent of cult classic television series Twin Peaks and Stranger things. A binge-worthy production that comes to Geelong after sell out seasons at DarkMofo and the Sydney Opera House.

The 39 Steps | 6 – 9 November, 8.00pm nightly

The last show of Geelong Arts Centre's Deakin University Theatre Season, The 39 Steps is a theatrical reimagining of the feature film directed by Alfred Hitchcock and book by John Buchan.

Breathe by PluginHUMAN | from 4 November

A site-specific light sculpture and projection art installation will appear within the first level of the arts centre's Ryrie Street building. The installation responds to changes within the local environment, incorporating biological imagery of significant local ecosystems.

Issued by Kate Brereton , Geelong Arts Centre. Phone 0407496612 Email kate@geelongartscentre.org.au



Reflex – The Future of our Creative Community | 15 – 16 November, various times

Key note speakers, Dr. Betty Sargeant and Dr Megan Beckwith, alongside representatives from Geelong's cultural precinct, leading artists and academics from Deakin University, lead a creative symposium that explores how and why we must remain responsive to changes in technology, community, innovation and arts practice.

Open House | 17 November, 11am – 2.30pm

A free public open house to share the opening experience with Geelong Arts Centre's vibrant community. A range of entertainment and hospitality options will operate with regular tours cycling through the entire venue.

Geelong Arts Centre x Deakin Design | November, various times

An exciting exhibition of work by final year design students from Deakin University. These emerging creatives were empowered to design branding and communication elements to an industry brief, informed by the Ryrie Street Redevelopment.

For further information on all programming, visit geelongartscentre.org.au

The successful delivery of the redevelopment results from the generous support of the Victorian Government and philanthropic donations.

“Our creative community is the heartbeat of our arts centre and we're delighted to welcome Geelong and the region to the incredible new spaces.

“We hope our Ryrie Street building will empower the community to be bold and develop works that dive the national and international arts conversation.”

Joel McGuinness, CEO Geelong Arts Centre

“The Geelong Arts Centre Ryrie Street redevelopment is more than just stunning architectural addition to the city. It's been designed to be used and enjoyed by the local community – from new dance studios, performance and rehearsal spaces, to a creative co-working space and new foyers and bars to enhance the visitor experience. I encourage you to join the opening celebrations and explore the newly transformed creative heart of Geelong.”

Christine Couzens MP, Member for Geelong