

# Philosophy and Life

## An Evening with A.C. Grayling

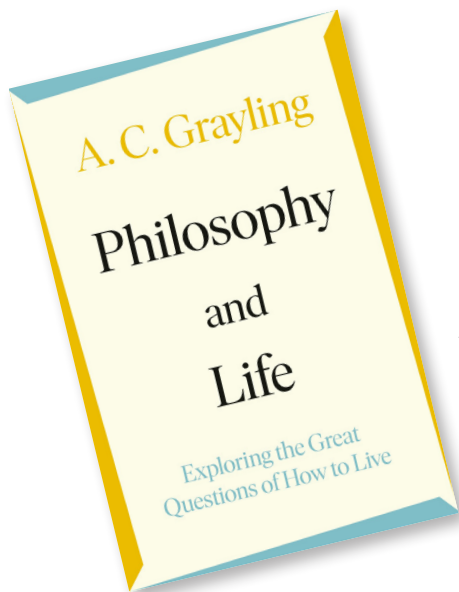


27 - 28 November 2023  
Concert Hall, QPAC

**Qpac**  
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We pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors of this land, their spirits and their legacy. The foundations laid by these ancestors – our First Nations Peoples – gives strength, inspiration and courage to current and future generations, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, towards creating a better Queensland.



Professor A.C. Grayling's latest book *Philosophy and Life* (2023) and other titles are available to purchase in the Concert Hall foyer, with audience members having the opportunity to have their book signed by Professor A.C. Grayling after the conversations.

# Welcome from QPAC



Curiosity and a desire to understand — to make the unknown known — has propelled humanity throughout time. Indeed, a significant part of what drives artists is the urge to question, challenge, and explore, to seek meaning and connection through the creation and sharing of stories.

This is why it feels so appropriate that the acclaimed Professor A.C. Grayling joins us this evening in this space dedicated to the arts to do what he does best: challenge us to think and to question.

Though human nature typically leads us to spend our lives in the minutiae of day-to-day existence, it is always valuable to be reminded to stop and consider how we should live our lives. The fact that you're here this evening demonstrates your openness to such a notion, and we hope that this evening's discussion piques your curiosity more and may even inspire a change for the better.

**John Kotzas AM**

Chief Executive  
QPAC



## Professor A.C. Grayling

Professor A.C. Grayling CBE MA DPhil (Oxon) FRSA FRSL is the Principal of Northeastern University London, and its Professor of Philosophy. He is also a Supernumerary Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford. He is the author of over thirty books of philosophy, biography, history of ideas, and essays and was for several years a columnist on *The Guardian*, *The Times*, and *Prospect* magazine. He has contributed to many leading newspapers in the UK, US and Australia, and to BBC radios 4, 3 and the World Service, for which he did the annual *Exchanges at the Frontier* series; and he has often appeared on television.

Professor A.C. Grayling has twice been a judge on the Booker Prize and in 2014 served as the Chair of the judging panel. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, a Vice President of Humanists UK, Patron of the Defence Humanists, Honorary Associate of the Secular Society, and a Patron of Dignity in Dying.

Professor A.C. Grayling's latest book, *Philosophy and Life* (2023) is a summation of a lifetime of thinking and writing about the great question: How should I live my life? Drawing on the lives, experiences, and works of a fantastically eclectic range of thinkers such as Confucius, Seneca, Nietzsche, Shakespeare, Ursula LeGuin, Martha Nussbaum, and Simon May – *Philosophy and Life* brings together wisdom from across eras and continents in a tour de force on the philosophy of how to live.

*Professor A.C. Grayling is in Australia as the inaugural speaker of the Ngalang Koort Conversations, presented by Wesfarmers and the Foundation for the WA Museum.*



## Dr Dave Burton (Facilitator)

Dr David Burton is an acclaimed author, playwright, and director living in Meanjin (Brisbane). He won the Text Prize for Children and Young Adults' Writing in 2014 for his memoir *How to be Happy* (2015).

David is also known for his award-winning theatrical work, including *April's Fool*, a verbatim play concerning illicit teenage drug use. His work *St Mary's in Exile* premiered as part of the 2016 Queensland Theatre Company MainStage season. He's gone on to write and direct Queensland Music Festival's signature community works, including *The Power Within* (2017, in partnership with the Isaac Regional Council) and *The Mount Isa Blast* (2019, in partnership with the Mount Isa City Council).

David obtained his doctorate in Creative Industries in 2021 and continues to write theatre-in-education touring pieces for the Grin and Tonic Theatre Troupe.

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