

MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA AND QPAC PRESENT

Changing the **CONVERSATION**

A SERIES EXPLORING MULTICULTURALISM IN AUSTRALIA



TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2024
CONCERT HALL, QPAC



MULTICULTURAL
AUSTRALIA



WELCOME

FROM QPAC AND MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA



How do we make sense of the myriad points of view, opinions, media reports, social media posts, fake news, and fevered voices that swirl around our lives every day—especially regarding conflict in our world?

We are regularly urged to take a stand on complex issues, social concerns, or conflicts of which we may have no first-hand or even second-hand experience. But where can we turn to acquire a more informed point of view? It starts with conversation.

A productive conversation is not one-sided nor is it a simple binary. Rather, it allows for nuance and depth, sharing of lived experiences, presenting facts, and creating a shared space where perspectives and arguments can be aired and understood.

This is what we hope our *Changing the Conversation* series offers: in place of the perpetual cycle of winners and losers, black and white, right and wrong is a robust discussion led by people whose experience and knowledge shed light on challenging issues.

I thank our panelists for being willing to share their stories and our host Benjamin Law for always expertly guiding us through the complex real-world issues with empathy and élan.

John Kotzas AM

Chief Executive, QPAC



Thank you for engaging with our *Changing the Conversation* series, delivered in partnership with the Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

Multicultural Australia is committed to building the capability of Australians on how to be better citizens locally and globally, through the delivery of brave conversations that create a space for meaningful dialogue and cultural exchange.

Tonight's conversation, *Culture in Conflict: Talking About World News When It Hits Home*, is an important discussion about how we can respond to conflict abroad with sensitivity and respect despite differences of perspectives and lived experiences.

Our panel of thought leaders will share their unique experiences of past and current conflicts that move us beyond the binary of right and wrong towards engaging and connecting with each other in a way that values everyone's voice and perspective.

I sincerely hope tonight's conversation provides the foundation for you to participate in challenging conversations with courage and care.

These are important conversations that make us stronger and better as a community, and I look forward to seeing you at future *Changing the Conversation* events.

Christine Castley

CEO, Multicultural Australia

ABOUT MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA

Since 1998, Multicultural Australia has worked to create welcome and belonging in Queensland. Our clients and community are at the heart of everything we do, and we are passionate about providing client-centred and culturally informed care and support to meet the unique needs of individuals and communities.

We have welcomed tens of thousands of individuals from refugee, asylum seeker, international student, and migrant backgrounds in Queensland – with the goal of creating a more equitable and prosperous society.



For more information about
Multicultural Australia visit multiculturalaustralia.org.au

HELP US IMPROVE CHANGING THE CONVERSATION AND

WIN!

Tell us what you think about *Culture in Conflict* and you can go in the draw to win two tickets to attend the next event *Who Are We?: Identity in a Multicultural Australia* on 20 August 2024, 7pm.

ENTER HERE



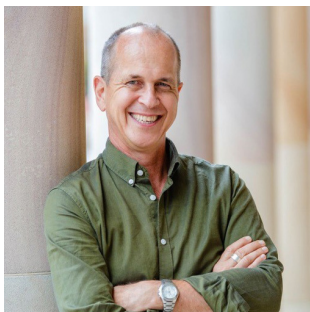
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ABOUT THE PANELISTS



BENJAMIN LAW - FACILITATOR

Benjamin Law writes books, TV screenplays, columns, essays and feature journalism. Every week, Benjamin co-hosts ABC RN's weekly national pop culture show *Stop Everything*. He also co-hosts online startup and tech TV show *That Startup Show*, and you can catch him on TV shows like *Q&A* (ABC), *The Drum* (ABC), *The Project* (Ten) and *Filthy Rich and Homeless* (SBS).



PETER GRESTE

Professor Peter Greste is an award-winning foreign correspondent who spent 25 years working for the BBC, Reuters, and Al Jazeera in some of the world's most volatile places. From Afghanistan, to Latin America, Africa and the Middle East, he reported from the frontlines and beyond, although he is best known for becoming a headline himself, when he and two of his colleagues were arrested in Cairo while working for Al Jazeera, charged with terrorism offences and imprisoned for more than 400 days. He has written about his experiences in Egypt and what he regards as the global war on journalism in a book, *The First Casualty*.



AMOK DHUOL

Amok Dhuol is a South Sudanese-Australian, deeply involved in mentoring young people through her work and advocacy with the Queensland African Communities Council (QACC). Growing up in Australia, but deeply connected to her South Sudanese roots, Amok understands the challenges faced by young immigrants as they settle into their new home. She is completing tertiary studies in Government and Policy and is a member of Multicultural Australia's Future Leaders Advocacy Group (FLAG).



ARUNN JEGAN

Arunn Jegan works as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Australia's Head of Mission and Humanitarian Affairs. He has worked in Yemen, Syria, Venezuela, Bangladesh and Palestine for MSF and in Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey for other international NGOs. He specialises in social research, conflict/political analysis, complex project management, and humanitarian crisis coordination of public health emergencies. Arunn is also a curator for Tedx Sydney and co-directs a community arts centre in Marrickville.



SPECIAL PERFORMANCE FEATURING LUATÈ

South Sudanese-Australian artist LUATÈ is an emerging alt-pop singer / songwriter based in Brisbane. She generates deeply emotive works, penning lyrics laden with viscous imagery compared to the likes of Tracy Chapman, Nao and Lorde. Having played sold out shows along with returning performances at Brisbane Festival and BLEACH* Festival, she has also co-written the single *Trap Door* with award-winning performer DENNIS, which has since racked up an astounding 216,000+ Spotify plays. Keep your eye on the rising star that is LUATÈ!

QUEENSLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

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The Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP: Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts

Director-General, Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts: Ms Clare O'Connor

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.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

QPAC warmly thanks our key donors who help us engage broadly across the state and continue enriching lives through performing arts.

Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax AC, Dr Lee and Professor Peter Coaldrake AO, Leigh Tabrett PSM, Susan Rix AM, Julian Myers, Dr Sally Pitkin AO, Dare Power, Dr Cathryn Mittelheuser AM, Sandi Hoskins, Lance and Suzanne Hockridge, Leigh Wheeler, Queensland Community Foundation, de Groot's Charitable Fund, Joachim and Paula Erpf, Dr Colin and Mrs Noela Kratzing, Barbara Snelling, Frank and Karen Alpert, Dr Ailbhe and Dr Frank Cunningham, Alison Iverach, Jenny Morton, Klaus Beckmann and several donors who wish to remain anonymous.

We give heartfelt thanks to QPAC's Principal Partners Hyundai and MinterEllison.

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qpac
QUEENSLAND
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Changing the **CONVERSATION** SERIES

UPCOMING CHANGING THE CONVERSATION EVENTS



WHO ARE WE?: IDENTITY IN A MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA | 20 AUGUST, 7PM

Hear diverse perspectives about our national identity and unravel ideas of belonging, heritage and collective identity.

WORDS THAT BIND: CREATING UNITY THROUGH OUR MANY LANGUAGES | 19 NOVEMBER, 7PM

Join us for this panel about the transformative potential of language diversity as a tool for nation building and social inclusion.

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