

Robyn Archer AO

Artistic Director

TEXT

BODY

VOICE

Robyn Archer is a singer, writer and director who has performed throughout Australia and the world.

Her specialty of the songs of Brecht /Weill /Eisler and Weimar culture generally have marked her out internationally, and her landmark recordings with the London Sinfonietta are available on CD as Songs For Bad Times Vols 1 and 2 on the Festival label. She continues to sing an eclectic repertoire including country, standards, and her own songs. She is an exponent and a champion of music theatre and the classic European cabaret tradition, and is always writing in various forms from songs to shows to essays, articles, speeches and verse. She wrote the libretto for Opera Mambo, with the score recently completed by London-based Mexican composer Javier Alvarez.

Robyn performed with Paul Grabowsky in New York in October 2001, a show they took to the Brisbane Powerhouse in April, the Adelaide Cabaret Festival in June, and Zurich and Berlin in August 2002. In 2003 she performed in Ljubljana and is developing a new solo show.

Robyn was Artistic Director of the National Festival of Australian Theatre in Canberra for three years and of the Adelaide Festival in 1998 and 2000. She was chair of the Australia Council's Community Cultural Development Board, a consultant to the new Melbourne Museum for three years and advisor on the Australian cultural content for EXPO 2000 in Hannover. She created a new celebration of the arts for Tasmania: the second edition of this biennial event called Ten Days on the Island was held in March/April 2003. Currently Robyn is artistic director of the Melbourne International Arts Festival: the theme of the 2003 event is BODY and she is currently in the planning stages for 2004 (VOICE) and for Ten Days on the Island 2005

Robyn was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2000, and Chevalier du l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2001

Robyn is currently:

Artistic Director, Melbourne International Arts Festival
Advisor to the Artistic Program of Ten Days on the Island
Member, Australian International Cultural Council
Member of the Board of Directors, International Society of Performing Arts
Member of Council, Victorian College of the Arts
Inaugural Ambassador, Adelaide Festival Centre
Trustee, The Don Dunstan Foundation
Patron, The National Script Centre
Official Ambassador, the Adelaide Crows
RMIT Global Sustainability Leader

