



Clemenger Auditorium, NGV

Wednesday 21 October at 6pm

1hr 15 mins, no interval

FREE

#melbfest

AUSTRALIA // Forum

Australian Exclusive

The University of Melbourne in association with Melbourne Festival presents

LANGUAGE, POWER & PERFORMANCE Reflecting on 1984 on 2015

As part of a series of events responding to the exclusive season of Headlong's *1984* in the 2015 Festival program, **Language, Power & Performance** invites audiences to a discussion about the production and the continuing relevance of Orwell's novel.

George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* has been described as the 'definitive book' of the twentieth century. Indeed, so powerful were the themes of his novel that terms and concepts such as *Big Brother*, *Doublespeak* and *Thoughtcrime* have entered the lexicon, and realised his warning about the often insidious relationship between language and power.

In *Nineteen Eighty-Four* the totalitarian government plans to abolish the English language altogether in favour of their official language *Newspeak*, designed to control the populace and eradicate individual thought.

Anatomising in a world where there is no longer a word for 'science' and the concept of Freedom has been eroded, Orwell explores the links between language, politics and psychology, the rewriting of history, and the manufacturing of the past.

This event brings together speakers from the University of Melbourne to discuss Headlong's production of *1984*, the history of the impact of Orwell's novel and its relevance nearly 70 years after it was first published in 1949.

What are the lessons of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* for the era of rendition, electric surveillance and the media landscape of today? What if a contemporary Orwell was to write *2051*?

Headlong's critically acclaimed production of **1984** is at Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse from 16-25 October. Other special events responding to this production include: with ACMI, **Aural Contract: The Voice Before the Law** with artist Lawrence Abu Hamdan, curated by Liquid Architecture on 18 October; **George Orwell's 1984: A Live Reading** at the Legislative Assembly Chamber in Victoria's Parliament House on 17 October co-presented with the Wheeler Centre; and the **Eyes Without a Face: Surveillance in Cinema** program at ACMI from 8-25 October.

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