



**Southbank Theatre**  
The Sumner

**Sunday 18 October 11AM — 1PM**

Free

Bookings at [www.festival.melbourne](http://www.festival.melbourne)

#melbfest

INTERNATIONAL // Forum

The University of Melbourne and Melbourne Festival present

**AFTER TRAGEDY, LISTENING: A  
roundtable in response to Toni  
Morrison's *Desdemona*  
A University of Melbourne Forum**

Chaired by Paul Rae with Genevieve Grieves, Peter Sellars, Marcia Langton & others

What comes after tragedy? What social actions and creative responses do such events demand of us? How do we live with death— and not *just* live, but flourish and thrive?

Taking its cue from Toni Morrison's bold and subtle telling of the other side of the *Othello* story, this roundtable gathers a compelling line-up of artists and thinkers to debate and develop these questions.

In art, tragedy reflects an enduring, inescapable fascination with our own mortality. In the media, it tags event after event in a seemingly endless parade of wretched suffering.

Tragedy can be overwhelmingly powerful, or it can turn us into helpless onlookers. Neither reaction is sufficient—but what comes next? *Desdemona* provides one response by shifting the emphasis of *Othello* from hubris to history and from looking to listening. A personal stake in history arises, it suggests, from the intimacies of tragic knowledge, which enter the body as stealthily as sound.

Join prominent artists, activists and academics and the renowned director of *Desdemona*, Peter Sellars, to examine what other strategies move us in these directions and beyond. At issue are the methods and means we can use to track tragedies across cultures and generations; how new ideas and cultural forms enable us to testify to the effects of tragedy while escaping its clutches; and what citizens can do in the present to anticipate the human and environmental tragedies of the future.

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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