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Foxytel Arts channel to launch Saturday March 28

Foxytel Arts, a new high definition channel dedicated to arts, artists and a diverse heritage of creative expression, launches on **Saturday March 28 at 10am**.

Arts (Channel 132) will showcase the full breadth of artistic forms including the world's finest opera and ballet productions, music, theatre, dance, cabaret, classical and contemporary performance as well as informative documentary specials and series from the diverse worlds of cinema, literature, music, visual art and artists.

Foxytel Executive Director of Television, Brian Walsh, said: "Foxytel is proud to launch a brand new high definition channel dedicated to arts, which will showcase a deep library of world class programming which captures every facet of performance and creativity.

"**Foxytel Arts** will be curated for a passionate arts audience and feature a dazzling array of performances across many art forms, together with compelling documentaries and entertainment programming. Drawn from an incredibly rich programming palette – from the timeless to the contemporary – **Foxytel Arts** will bring our subscribers extraordinary experiences in Australian arts and the best from around the world."

"We are proud that the launch of this channel will extend Foxytel's commitment to fostering and supporting Australia's creative industries and arts organisations." Walsh said.

Foxytel Arts will feature locally-produced magazine shows and specials, festival and event news and information, in-depth interviews and reviews, all in High Definition.

Screen, premiering **Thursday April 2 at 8pm**, is the first local commission for **Arts**, and sees the partnership of Australian iconic movie host **Margaret Pomeranz** with legendary television critic **Graeme Blundell**.

Margaret and Graeme will discover, digest, review and guide viewers through the latest offerings on our screens - movies, television and online TV in a panel show. Each week Margaret and Graeme will be joined by enthusiasts including **Chas Licciardello** and guests who will offer new discoveries, fresh insights and a wide range of critical perspectives.

Weeknight programming on **Arts** leads with documentary series and specials from 7:30pm and follows with great performance specials from 9:30pm Monday to Thursday.

Every Monday evening viewers can 'find their story', with documentaries focused on literary and the theatrical. The line-up includes **Theatreland** - an eight-part documentary which takes its audience behind the scenes of the life in London's legendary Theatre Royal Haymarket and **Shakespeare Uncovered** which explains the role of the bard and his characters in shaping the craft and careers of

some of the stage's brightest stars. Monday brings the world's finest operatic productions to **Arts** starting with **Il Trovatore** with Placido Domingo.

On Tuesday evenings, **Arts** will cover all the visual mediums including the series **Portrait Artist of the Year** and **The Waldemar Januszczak Collection Impressionists**.

Wednesday evening's documentaries explore the worlds of music and dance and are followed by an extensive repertoire of ballets including Graeme Murphy's **Swan Lake** and **Le Corsaire**.

On Thursdays, the focus will turn to the moving image with the premiere of *Screen*, hosted by Margaret and Graeme, then documentaries from all screen arts followed by great works of instrumental music – all performed by masterful soloists, prestigious orchestras and every type of ensemble in between including, at launch, several performances played under the baton of **Sir Simon Rattle**.

Friday evening is home to popular favourites such as **Andrea Bocelli** and **Andre Rieu**. To launch the channel, **Arts** will broadcast **Love In Venice**, filmed in Andre's home town in the Netherlands, and, for the first time the performance will be televised in full.

Saturday night features some of recording history's biggest rock and pop acts and, early every Sunday evening, the **Arts** audience can sit back and enjoy a very special family performance in the 'Sunday Spotlight' including **The Sound of Music Live**, **Bach's St. John Passion** and **Les Miserables Live from the O2 Arena**.

Foxtel Arts will also be the new home to major awards shows including Australia's annual **Helpmann Awards** for live performance and Broadway's coveted **Tony Awards** broadcast LIVE in HD.

Throughout the week you will find your story, find your vision, find your beat, and find your self on **Arts**, Channel 132.

www.foxtelarts.com.au

About Foxtel

Foxtel is one of Australia's most progressive and dynamic media companies, directly employing around 2,700 people, and delivering a diverse subscription television service over cable, satellite and broadband distribution. We offer a better entertainment experience every day to each one of our 2.6 million subscribing homes through delivery of new and inspiring programming across all genres, the world's most popular channel brands, and investment in high quality local content. As constant champions of innovation we have brought customers the iQ personal digital recorder, Australia's largest HD offering, the Foxtel Go App for tablets and mobile devices, internet TV service, Foxtel Play and subscription on demand (SVOD) entertainment service, Presto. In 2015 Foxtel launched new television, broadband and home phone bundles with Foxtel internet and voice services delivered over one of Australia's largest telecommunications networks. Foxtel is owned by Telstra Corporation Limited ACN 051 775 556 (50%) and News Corporation (50%). foxtel.com.au

The Foxtel logo consists of the word "FOXTEL" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are primarily red, with a gradient effect where the 'O' and 'X' transition into orange and yellow, suggesting a sun or fire.

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