

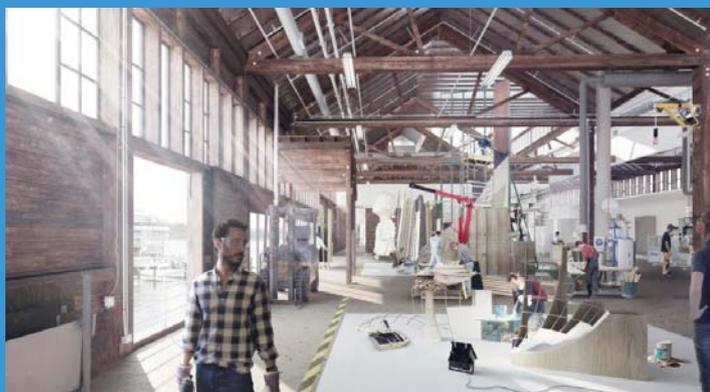
# SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY WHARF RENEWAL PROJECT

Further to the plans for the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, the Sydney Theatre Company (STC) is planning much needed improvements at Wharf 4/5, subject to the relevant approvals. STC has lodged a separate development application for internal alterations within Wharf 4/5 that will modernise aspects of the 30-year old fit-out and make the theatre more flexible and accessible, while staying true to the building's important heritage and character.

## Why is renewal important?

STC's Wharf Renewal Project maintains the Wharf's distinctive character and continues to house the full theatre-making process all under one roof. It creates new and better experiences for artists and audiences, and will ensure The Wharf remains an inspiration for adaptive reuse of a heritage building.

When STC moved into The Wharf over thirty years ago, it presented six plays a year across two venues. Today STC presents 16 productions across four venues, plus regional and international tours, and hosts a range of other programs and initiatives. Accessibility improvements and upgraded amenities are required to ensure that visitors enjoy the best possible experience at The Wharf.



Visualisation of new Hickson Road entry to the Wharf Theatre (top) and improved workshop space (above)

## What is proposed?

STC's Wharf Renewal Project realises the original vision for the theatres of founding Artistic Director Richard Wherrett, who had hoped for "a more fully flexible space in which the seats could be removed and replaced in any configuration the director wanted."

Key aspects of the proposal include:

### Better theatres and rehearsal spaces

- » Modernised Wharf 1 and 2 theatres offering flexible seating and uses
- » Improved rehearsal and dressing rooms for artists.

### Enhanced visitor experience

- » A more welcoming entry point and STC box office on Hickson Road
- » Two new accessible entries, located mid wharf and at the end of the wharf
- » Improved facilities including new foyer spaces and more efficient paths of travel, improving the experience for visitors requiring level access.

### Behind the scenes improvements

- » Improved and enhanced work spaces for STC's growing team (including more functional workshop space and improved administrative offices).

## Where to from here?

Work on the project will not interrupt scheduled productions during 2017. Pending approvals, work will begin after STC's 2017 Season. STC is currently raising funds to realise the project, with some philanthropic funding already in place.

Work on the project will commence at the conclusion of the 2017 season, pending approvals. Arts NSW and Infrastructure NSW have been closely involved to ensure work on the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct is complementary and coordinated to minimise disruption.