



MEDIA RELEASE

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The Hordern at 100: Sydney's iconic venue celebrates its centenary

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This year marks 100 years since The Hordern Pavilion (The Hordern) first opened its doors in 1924. Considered a historic Sydney landmark and one of the most iconic live music venues in Australia, The Hordern is only getting better with age.

Some of the biggest names in music have taken to the stage at The Hordern including Frank Sinatra, Coldplay, Billie Eilish, Nirvana, Queen, Lorde, the Rolling Stones, Dua Lipa and Elton John.

Celebrating 100 years in 2024, the Hordern is still attracting accomplished and emerging artists from around the world. Canadian rock band Simple Plan and American rapper Macklemore are among the headline acts to feature in the centennial year, alongside chart topper Tate McRae and US rock heavyweights Live and Incubus.

Playbill Group Managing Director Michael Nebenzahl said The Hordern is an icon of Australia's live music and entertainment scene and has brought many people together through music, art and events over many years.

"The Hordern has been a beloved part of the social and cultural fabric of the Sydney community for 100 years and continues to connect the community and the arts," he said.

Designed by Northern Sydney architecture firm Trenchard Smith & Maisey, The Hordern was built in 1924 to meet the needs of the increasingly popular Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The architecturally and socially-significant building has been used over the years for film premiers, gala dinners, sporting events and the Mardi Gras After Party. Only adding weight to The Hordern's undeniable importance was a rather unique use during WWII as a bulk store for the Army.

While live music is synonymous with The Hordern, sport has always played an important part in the iconic venue. In 1925 the first covered tennis courts in Australia were constructed in the venue.

In the 1970s the Hordern underwent major renovations to convert it from an exhibition hall to a multi-purpose venue capable of hosting an even wider range of music and sporting events.

The Hordern welcomed the Harlem Globetrotters, an American exhibition basketball team in the '70s and became a popular site for championship boxing events such as the International Boxing Federation world bantamweight title between Australia's Jeff Fenech and Japan's Satoshi Shuingaki in 1985.



In the mid to late '80s, The Hordern was pivotal to the birth of Australia's rave scene, becoming synonymous with the dance music movement and establishing Sydney as one of the party capitals of the world.

Over the years, The Hordern has undergone multiple renovations and modernisations while maintaining its historical essence. Most recently, new state-of-the-art seating was installed as part of a multi-million-dollar upgrade in 2022.

The Hordern is showing no signs of slowing down – in fact, it is quite the opposite.

While best known as a home for live music, The Hordern continues to be one of the most versatile and sought-after venues in Sydney for exhibitions, product launches, award evenings, charity functions, film shoots, and community and sporting events.

In 2022 and 2023, The Hordern hosted the prestigious ARIA Awards in partnership with YouTube and The Official ARIA Awards After Party. The venue also held the 2023 TikTok Awards, an electric celebration of Tik Tok content creators and viral trends.

A premier event destination and live performance powerhouse, The Hordern continues to make its mark on popular culture and remains as relevant today as it was 100 years ago.

“Everyone has a story about their first concert at The Hordern, which only adds to the importance and significance of the venue,” said Michael.

**To find out more about The Hordern and the artists performing during 2024, visit www.thehordern.com.au
For more information, interviews and photos please contact Clare Masters on 0424 261 947.**

Hordern Pavilion Quick Facts

- Officially opened on 2 April 1924 by the Premier Sir George Fuller.
- Cost £45,000 to build on the grounds of the old Sydney Showground.
- Named after Sir Samuel Hordern, president of the Royal Agricultural Society.
- Designed in the Inter-War Academic Classical Style with rendered masonry featuring classical detailing inside and out, including fluted Doric columns, a parapet and an imposing vaulted roof with lantern tower.
- Sydney's largest indoor venue until the opening of the now demolished Sydney Entertainment Centre in 1983.
- Maximum capacity of 5,500.

About Playbill Venues

Playbill Venues is a specialist venue management partner dedicated to the care and management of historic venues. Proudly part of the Playbill Group, Playbill Venues has successfully managed the Hordern Pavilion since 1999. An Australian-owned and independent business, Playbill Group was established in Sydney in 1958, and today operates at the heart of the entertainment industry in more than 10 countries.