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Alok Vaid-Menon speaking at FODI 2022 Image: Yaya Stempler.

CREATING SPACE FOR THE CONVERSATIONS WE NEED TO HAVE: THE ETHICS CENTRE ANNOUNCES 2024 PUBLIC PROGRAM

The Ethics Centre reveals a year stacked with meaningful collaborations, unheard voices, thought-provoking events and Australia’s original disruptive ideas festival.

“Most of the important things in life are complex. The ‘messiness’ of the human condition comes from the fact that we have the capacity to make choices but often in circumstances of radical uncertainty,” said Executive Director of The Ethics Centre, **Dr Simon Longstaff AO**. “The work of The Ethics Centre helps address this messy reality; by bringing ethics to the centre of everyday life, we are all able to make decisions of which we can be proud and in doing so, pay our part in restoring trust in our institutions. This year’s program brings together thinkers, writers, artists, young people and the general public to surface ideas, solutions and to connect community so we can forge the future we should hope for.”

The Ethics Centre proudly presents **Festival of Dangerous Ideas** (FODI to its fans), returning to CARRIAGEWORKS on 24-25 August 2024. This year Australia’s original disruptive festival will continue its tradition of being first to bring global trailblazers to Australia, live and uncensored. These have included Salman Rushdie, Pussy Riot, Alicia Garza, Slavoj Žižek and Naomi Klein among over 630 of the most fascinating and fearless speakers and artists the world has to offer. This year's

program challenges audiences to stay curious and be brave as it takes on the urgent issues of our time. The full program will be announced in June 2024.

Following its successful inaugural year, **The Ethics Centre Residency Program** returns in 2024 with 17 new residents at the Centre's CBD headquarters. From an extraordinary field of quality applications, this year's cohort showcases original thinking and projects exploring an ethical aspect of topics as diverse as fieldwork, scent, cultural appropriation, villainhood, and voluntary assisted dying. 2024's Residents are: veterinarian **Dr Anne Quain**, anthropologist group **Anthroprospective**, **Clockfire Theatre Company**, writer **Erica Brennan**, choreographer and researcher **Jason Pitt**, **JAWI Australian Indonesian Muslim Association**, artist and researcher **Julie Monro-Allison**, psychiatrist and psychedelic therapy guide **Dr Lauren Macdonald** with death doula **Justine Topfer**, sustainable fashion activist **Sally Jackson**, wildlife veterinarian **Dr Michelle Campbell-Ward**, olfactory artist **Nadia Vitlin**, **Nautanki Theatre Company**, director **Nell Ranney** and actor/writer **Jonny Hawkins**, theatre maker **Sarah Easterman**, **Slanted Theatre**, youth-focused NFP **Yung Prodigy**, and **Sydney Fringe Festival**. Residencies will take place across the year, with opportunities provided for participants to collaborate and engage with philosophers, Centre staff, community and audiences.

New this year, The Ethics Centre introduces ***Ethics Tune Up*** – a masterclass series that will take your ethical skills to the next level. Facilitated by an expert philosopher these six two-hour workshops will be equally enjoyable and informative as they help participants navigate today's complex ethical terrain and guide them towards living a good life. Each masterclass tackles a separate topic including *correcting your ethical blind spots*, *getting in touch with your values*, and *how to disagree without getting into a fight*. Participants are welcome to attend just one or as many sessions as they like, taking this rare opportunity to engage in a safe space for tackling challenging topics, fostering rich discussions, and connecting with other participants.

To coincide with Youth Week, **Hannah Ferguson** (CEO of Cheek Media/author of Bite Back) will take to the stage with The Ethics Centre's Executive Director **Dr Simon Longstaff AO** for the next '***In Conversation with...***' event. Known for her daring feminist opinions on everything from right-wing politics to overcoming taboos around sex and pleasure, this conversation will turn Hannah's famously sharp and bold perspective towards ethical issues young people are contending with. This is a rare opportunity where two people from very different generations come together for some real chat on hotly relevant and difficult issues.

The popular interactive event series '***The Ethics of...***' returns and first up we unpack the mess and morality of Beauty, Power and Shame. For the ancient philosophers, beauty was a supreme value, in line with goodness and truth. But what does this mean for us today? In ***The Ethics of Beauty***, host **Dr Sam Shpall with award-winning author and advocate Tara Rae Moss** will step through the mirror and examine what makes someone (or something) beautiful and how this impacts us. Are there 'unfair' advantages to being beautiful? Does beauty corrupt? Speaking of corrupting, ethics is in constant tension with power. Many who know what is right lack the power to act on it, and many with power can simply flout what is right. In ***The Ethics of Power***, **Dr Gwilym David Blunt** leads an interactive session to understand the dynamics of power and examine how it can be

wielded in daily life. Do the powerful have extra ethical responsibilities? If so, how do we hold them to account? In *The Ethics of Shame*, Dr Tim Dean will delve deep into why we feel shame and what role it has in our ethical world. Do we ever deserve to feel shame? Do we have a right to shame others? When does being shamed go too far?

The Centre's first **Young Writers' Competition** attracted over 80 outstanding, original submissions from emerging writers aged 13 to 30. Entrants tackled some of the most pressing ethical issues they see in today's world, as part of the Centre's commitment to amplifying young people's voices and perspectives. Winning entries covered copyright in art, plagiarism and AI, true crime content's impact on victims, intergenerational justice and the complexity of friendships - reflecting the breadth of unique insights offered by these articulate young thinkers. Essays from the following winners will be published online by The Ethics Centre over the coming months: **Stella Eve Pei-Fen Browne, Kieran Cashin, Pia Curran, David He, Jessica Liu, Zoe Timimi, Sophie Yu and Layla Zak-Volpato.**

More details and book for events at www.ethics.org.au.

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ABOUT THE ETHICS CENTRE

The Ethics Centre is a fiercely independent not-for-profit that, for over 30 years, has advocated for a more ethical society. The Centre's programs are recognised for stimulating public awareness and understanding, creating a safe space for open, honest and sometimes difficult conversations. Across all its work, the same goals drive what the Centre does: to bring people together, create space for open and honest conversations, and build the skills and capacity of people to live and act according to their values and principles. Alongside public programs, the Centre also offers consulting and leadership services for organisations, membership programs for individuals and businesses, and a free ethics helpline, Ethi-call.

KEY DATES 2024

- The Ethics of Beauty: 29 February
- The Ethics of Power: 14 March
- The Ethics of Shame: 27 March
- In Conversation with Hannah Ferguson: 11 April
- Ethics Tune Up: 1, 8 and 15 May
- Festival of Dangerous Ideas: 24-25 August
- The Ethics of Being Old: 10 October
- The Ethics of Identity: 24 October
- The Ethics of Being Young: 21 November
- Ethics Tune Up: 6, 13 and 27 November

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