

The Ethics Centre presents

FESTIVAL OF DANGEROUS IDEAS

LIVE IN SYDNEY
21–23 AUG 2026

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The veil lifts: Festival of Dangerous Ideas announces 2026 theme

Australia's original ideas event, Festival of Dangerous Ideas (FODI) returns to Sydney from 21–23 August with a bold theme of Revelation.

Now in its 13th edition, FODI continues to carve out a singular place in Australia's cultural landscape – a trusted forum where complex and inspiring ideas are explored with rigour. This year's theme will unpack unspoken truths, hidden histories and inconvenient futures, inviting audiences to confront what is often left unsaid.

FODI Director Danielle Harvey said the Festival's longevity is testament to its commitment to deep, respectful inquiry at a time when public discourse is increasingly polarised and cultural spaces are under pressure.

“Across 17 years and heading into our 13th Festival, FODI has proved that ideas don't need to be cancelled – they need to be interrogated. Why cancel? Interrogate the idea instead. Ask questions. Be curious. Be respectful. Don't shut down critical thinking.

“The real danger isn't controversial ideas – it's the lack of time to properly engage with them. FODI creates space to listen deeply, to sit with complexity, and to discover what becomes possible when we move beyond outrage. Ultimately it is through and with time that all is revealed.”

Opening the Festival at Sydney Town Hall on Friday 21 August is one of the world's most influential literary voices, **Salman Rushdie**. In his first visit to Australia since the 2022 attack that profoundly reshaped his life and work, Rushdie will present *The Price of Ideas* – a timely and urgent reflection on free expression, risk and the enduring power of storytelling.

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With the full program announced in June, FODI has demonstrated that challenging ideas need not be silenced – they can be examined.

Through talks, performance and interactive art, FODI convenes leading thinkers and trail-blazing artists to explore the uncomfortable, the complex and the confronting.

Since its first iteration in 2009, the Festival has welcomed some of the world’s most provocative and influential voices, including **Stephen Fry**, Lionel Shriver, Christopher Hitchens, Alicia Garza, Roxane Gay, Naomi Klein, Marcia Langton, Julian Assange, Slavoj Žižek and Germaine Greer.

Reflecting on his experience at the Festival, Fry said:

“I first encountered Festival of Dangerous Ideas back in 2018, and I was struck – delightfully struck – by its singularity ... It was a rare corner of the world where free expression isn’t just tolerated but it’s celebrated. In an age when so much bends towards caution ... FODI stands out as a place to think out loud, to question boldly, to welcome the uncomfortable.”

The Festival is presented by The Ethics Centre, a not-for-profit that convenes the community for difficult conversations, advocates for improved ethical infrastructure and supports better decision-making for individuals and organisations.

festivalofdangerousideas.com

– ENDS –

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Media centre: [Images available here](#)

NOTES TO EDITOR

- The Festival of Dangerous Ideas 2026 runs from 21-23 August
- Salman Rushdie presents the 2026 John Caldon Provocation for the Opening Night on 21 August at Sydney Town Hall. He is presented in Australia with The Wheeler Centre.
- The Festival continues across the weekend 22-23 August at Carriageworks, Sydney.
- The theme of the 2026 event is *Revelation*
- The full 2026 program will be launched in June
- The Festival of Dangerous Ideas is presented by The Ethics Centre

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About The Ethics Centre

FODI is the flagship event presented by The Ethics Centre. It sits alongside an annual program of events, courses and content with memberships and advice services for individuals and businesses. Ethics is at the centre of being human. The Ethics Centre is a not-for-profit organisation developing and delivering innovative programs, services, and experiences, designed to bring ethics to the centre of personal and professional life. Across all they do is a goal to bring people together and to create space for open and honest conversations. The Ethics Centre is committed to injecting a pause into the centre of public life and allowing people to stop, connect with others and explore the ethical dimensions of our everyday lives.

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