

Sandra Bates (Ross, 1955) – Full Biography

Sandra Bates was Governing and Artistic Director of the Ensemble Theatre for 30 years from 1986 to 2017. She is it longest serving Artistic Director of any theatre company in the country. She had a long association with Ensemble Theatre both on stage and as a director.

Sandra originally trained as a speech and drama teacher then studied Pharmacy at Sydney University and

In 2000, to celebrate the company's 40 years in their Kirribilli venue, Sandra presented an enlarged season of 16 plays in four Sydney venues, at the Ensemble Theatre, The Playhouse-Sydney Opera House, The Footbridge Theatre and the SBW Independent Theatre.

Sandra's more recent directing credits include SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX WEEKS, PROOF, RAPTURE BLISTER BURN, HAPPINESS, BOMBSHELLS, WHEN DAD MARRIED FURY, THE GINGERBREAD LADY, THE ACT, FOUR FLAT WHITES IN ITALY, AT ANY COST?, JUST THE TICKET, RAIN MAN, NINETY, THE RUBY SUNRISE, DUETS, LET THE SUNSHINE, McREELE, DEATH OF A SALESMAN, BURNT PIANO, GLORIOUS!, RABBIT HOLE, TRYING, THE DRAWER BOY, CHARITABLE INTENT, A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE, CHAPTER TWO, OPERATOR, HUMBLE BOY, ART, BIRTHRIGHTS, THE DOCK BRIEF and AFTER THE BALL.

AWARDS: Sandra's production of DEATH OF A SALESMAN at the Sydney Opera House was awarded the 1997 John McCallum Critic's Choice Glugs Award for Outstanding Production. Her production of THE PRICE was nominated for a MO Award for Best Theatre Production in 2002. Sandra's production of SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX WEEKS was awarded the 2006 Glugs Award for Best Production and the 2007 Helpmann Award for Best Regional Touring Production. Sandra was made a Member in the Order of Australia in 2001 for her services to theatre and the arts. She was awarded the Variety Club Heart Award for Theatre in 2002. In 2004 she was awarded the Hayes Gordon Memorial Glugs Theatre Award for Outstanding Contribution to Theatre. In 2007 Sandra was presented with The Lifetime Achievement Award by the Sydney Theatre Critics.