

# News Release



**Premier Mike Rann**

Minister for Economic Development  
Minister for the Arts  
Minister for Volunteers

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Wednesday, 5 March 2003

## **RANN ANNOUNCES FIRST FOUR *'THINKERS IN RESIDENCE'***

Premier Mike Rann today unveiled the first four Thinkers in Residence who will come to South Australia at varying times over the next two years to teach, work, research, mentor, hold master classes, tour and collaborate with the community and others in their field of expertise.

Mr Rann, who first proposed the idea in Opposition two years ago, says 230 candidates nominated by SA community leaders were considered for these two to six months residencies.

“While further appointments will be finalised during this year, I’ve been delighted with the high quality of candidates.

“This new program is designed to bring to South Australia internationally recognised leaders in various areas of expertise.

“This is in effect a broadening of the concept of Artists in Residence.

“The program will bring to South Australia world leaders in science, arts, business, IT, manufacturing, water resources, environment, wine, aquaculture, food and the social sciences.

“The Thinkers will end up not only maintaining links with SA but they will act as ambassadors and champions for the State.

“It is hoped that the Thinkers will be a valuable source of networking for us as well as adding value to the lives, work and creativity of those working with them during their visit here,” Mr Rann said.

The first appointments are:

### **Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield**

Professor Greenfield is one of the world’s most renowned scientists and a leading expert on the human brain.

She is widely known for her research into the areas of Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’ diseases and is Senior Research Fellow at Lincoln Collage, Oxford, Honorary Fellow at St Hilda’s College, Oxford and Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain – the first woman to be appointed to this position.

She is also an outstanding communicator and a significant contributor to the public understanding of science, having written and presented a series of programs on

drugs for the BBC and a major six part series on the brain and mind 'Brain Story' for the BBC.

Professor Greenfield has presented a consultative seminar on The Future of Science at 10 Downing St at the invitation of the PM and led a UK Government task force to investigate how to attract women to science.

She will come to South Australia in 2004-05 for a six month residency and will focus on the future of sciences in SA and develop strategies for our State to manage degenerative diseases of the ageing.

### **Charles Landry**

Mr Landry is a leading expert in urban renewal and development from Britain. He founded Comedia, Europe's leading cultural planning organisation in 1978 which has worked in 35 countries including Australia, Bosnia, Germany, Spain, Russia, South Africa, the US, Hong Kong and Yemen.

Comedia has undertaken several hundred projects concerned with city and regional strategies for revitalising public, social and economic life through cultural activities.

While Mr Landry has visited Adelaide before for brief periods, his appointment was made at the request of the Adelaide City Council, the Playford City Council, the Property Council, the Centre for Lifelong Learning, the University of SA and the Capital City Committee.

His 12 week residency, to begin in June this year, will concentrate on making Adelaide a more vibrant, creative city with emphasis on the connection between the city and the northern suburbs.

### **Herbert Girardet**

Mr Girardet is a specialist in making cities sustainable. He is widely published and is a prolific documentary maker who has been invited to work on sustainability in many countries around the world.

He is a recipient of the UN Global 500 Award for Outstanding Environmental Achievement, an honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and Chair of the UK Sustainability Alliance.

His eight week appointment, to begin in May this year, will concentrate on developing a strategy for Adelaide to become a 'green city' focusing on better waste management, energy use, water management, urban design and sustainable business practices.

Mr Girardet will work collaboratively with Mr Landry while in Adelaide.

### **Blast Theory**

Blast Theory is arguably the world's leading new media performance companies, comprising Matt Adams, Farr and Nick Tandavantij.

They will work with the new media laboratory of the University of Nottingham to assist SA to develop expertise in the emerging industries of content development for computer gaming and remote telecommunications networks. This will be achieved through industry development seminars and master classes.

Their residency from January to March next year, will culminate in a cutting-edge, world-premier new media performance which will promote SA's capacity in technology and the arts through national and international broadcasts.

Blast Theory are young, hip and provocative and a special feature of their work in Adelaide will be their involvement with young people.

Funding for the Thinkers in Residence program is \$500 000 a year in the first term of the Government, although the Thinkers will be co-sponsored by private organisations.