



## Citation for the Award of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) *honoris causa*

### Ms Kerry Heysen AM, BA(Hons) *Flin*

Kerry attended Flinders University as a young widow and graduated with Honours from the Bachelor of Arts at Flinders in 1975. It was here, on the steps of the University Library she met her future husband and film collaborator Scott Hicks.

Kerry Heysen became a Hollywood Film Producer and CEO of the Kino Films Groups of Companies in Australia and Color and Movement in the USA and companies in Singapore.

Her company developed *Shine*, which was a commercial and critical success, nominated for seven Academy Awards, five Golden Globes and nine BAFTAs. *Shine* won 62 awards including nine Australian Film Institute Awards, including Best Film and the Oscar for Best Actor for Geoffrey Rush. *Snow Falling on Cedars* was also an Academy nominated Film.

Kerry has worked with Warner Bros, Universal Studios, Castle Rock Entertainment, Fine Line Features and DreamWorks. Kerry is a member of the prestigious Producers Guild of America.

Her films have starred actors of the calibre of Anthony Hopkins, John Gielgud, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Ethan Hawke, Sam Shepherd, Zac Efron, Max Von Sydow and Lyn Redgrave.

Her documentary *Glass: A Portrait of Philip in Twelve Parts* won the Australian Film Awards Best Feature Length Documentary and was in consideration for the Academy Awards.

*Highly Strung* opened the Adelaide Film Festival and was acquired by Netflix worldwide.

Currently producing a documentary, *The Musical Mind* which features musicians, including Ben Folds, Daniel Johns, and David Helfgott, Kerry's development slate also includes two feature films *Only the Heart* and *As Dreams are Made*.

Her films have grossed over half a billion dollars and brought millions of dollars to post facilities in South Australia.

Kerry was a recipient of the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award from Flinders University in 2006. In 2019 Kerry was awarded a Queen's Birthday Honour as a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the film industry as a producer and in 2020 received the Premier's Lifetime Achievement Award with her husband Scott Hicks.

Kerry has remained closely connected to Flinders by being on the University's Council in 2011 and is presently a member of the Alumni Awards Selection Committee.

A passionate South Australian, she says the only people who criticise South Australia are those who have never left here, or those who have never been here.

**A quiet achiever in Australia, yet widely known in the USA, Kerry is outstanding in her field, a brilliant advocate for South Australia, particularly in the field of arts and an extremely worthy recipient of an Honorary Award of a Doctor of Letters from Flinders University.**

**9 May 2022**