



Australian Embassy
Manila

MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIA NETWORK PRESENTS JAI HO! *Saturday 16 January*

A spectacular performance by the award-winning composer of the Slumdog Millionaire film score.

Sydney, 11th January 2010: Australia Network is very proud to present the exclusive direct broadcast of a concert for Sydney Festival 2010 by internationally renowned music composer A. R. Rahman.

On the same night he performs his only Australian concert, Australia Network will bring A. R. Rahman's unique outdoor extravaganza to the small screen for fans from Fiji to Delhi to enjoy.

Dubbed the 'Mozart of Madras' by Time magazine earlier this year, Rahman is best-known globally for his two-time Oscar winning score for the film *Slumdog Millionaire*.

Rahman's sole Australian performance will be held on Saturday 16 January on a stage set in the beautiful parkland of Parramatta Park. Australia Network will broadcast the entire event to 44 countries.

Rahman will perform with an entourage of more than 40 Indian musicians and Bollywood dancers on stage, as well as high-impact lighting displays, choreographed moving video screens and audience interaction.

The A. R. Rahman concert is a free event made possible by the generous support of the NSW Government. It promises to be a night filled with colour, dancing and the irrepressible rhythms and melodies of contemporary Indian music.

Australia Network Chief Executive Bruce Dover says "The concert and broadcast celebrates Australia's cultural diversity and provides a musical bridge between Australia and the region".

The concert will be co-hosted by Australian cricketing legend, Matthew Hayden and ABC presenter Miriam Corowa. Hayden said of the event "I am honoured and thrilled to be a part of A. R. Rahman's unique outdoor extravaganza and the Sydney Festival. Rahman was born in Chennai, a city that I have come to love and a part of India that is very special to me for many reasons. I am excited that many Australians will be able enjoy what millions of people around the world have come to love and appreciate, the incredible 'Mozart of Madras and the amazing Indian musicians and Bollywood Dancers."

Join Australia Network for this exclusive A.R. Rahman concert on:

Saturday 16th January:

India	15:00
Hong Kong	17:30
Pacific	21:30

~END~

Media Enquiries:

Australian Embassy Public Affairs (02) **757-8173** – Mr Kiel Enrique

Fax (02) 757-8323 | Public-Affairs-MNLA@dfat.gov.au | www.philippines.embassy.gov.au



Australian Embassy
Manila

MEDIA RELEASE

About A. R. Rahman

Born in Chennai in Tamil Nadu, India, in 1966, A. R. Rahman won a scholarship to Trinity College of Music in the UK and graduated with a degree in Western classical music.

He is one of the world's all-time top-selling recording artists, with worldwide CD sales of his film scores and soundtracks exceeding 100 million.

Rahman obtained global attention when he won two Academy Awards for his score to *Slumdog Millionaire*. He also became the first Indian artist to win a Golden Globe for 'Best Original Score' and has also won 13 Filmfare Awards, four National Film Awards and a BAFTA Award.

The single, 'Jai Ho' (meaning 'victory to you') reached 8th position on Billboard's "Top Digital Track" chart.



About Sydney Festival

Since 1977 Sydney Festival has guaranteed Sydney as the place to be each January. A celebration of summer, the Festival is a natural promotion of the city - both are synonymous with energy, style, spectacle and sophistication. For three weeks the Festival fills venues across the city with theatre, music, dance, film and talks, attracting 1 million enthusiastic patrons and travellers.

Festival First Night is Sydney Festival's biggest point of difference to other Festivals. A unique event on a global scale, it celebrates and showcases the city itself, providing free entertainment from a staggering array of international and local talent.

About Australia Network

Australia Network, Australia's international television and online service, broadcasts 24/7 across 44 countries in Asia, the Pacific and the Indian sub-continent. Brought to you by Australia's largest and most trusted broadcaster, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Australia Network brings a uniquely Australian perspective to living rooms and desktops around the region.

Australia Network boasts an independent news and current affairs service that goes beyond the headlines. Viewers can see the best in Australian drama, documentary, entertainment, lifestyle, sporting and children's programming. These exclusive shows are complimented by English language learning programs; no other channel offers such an unparalleled array of thought provoking, quality programming.

For more information and a complete program guide, visit www.australianetwork.com.

For interviews with Lindy Hume, Sydney Festival Director and Chief Executive, please contact;

Sarah Wilson
Sydney Festival
Tel: +61 2 8248 6523
Sarah.wilson@sydneyfestival.org.au

For general media enquiries, please contact;

Pam Murray
Australia Network
Tel: +61 2 8333 5078
pam.murray@australianetwork.com

Media Enquiries:

Australian Embassy Public Affairs (02) 757-8173 – Mr Kiel Enrique
Fax (02) 757-8323 | Public-Affairs-MNLA@dfat.gov.au | www.philippines.embassy.gov.au