

Citation – Margaret Pomeranz AM

Tuesday, 23 May 2023 – 2.30pm

Vice-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Margaret Pomeranz for the award of a Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Australian film industry.

Margaret initially began her tertiary education studying economics at the University of Sydney. She later moved to Macquarie University to study a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in German and Social Psychology. Halfway through her degree she travelled to Vienna to study German where she worked as a freelance journalist for the Bulletin and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC) rural radio.

After completing her degree in 1971, Margaret began her career in film and television as a screenwriter by attending the Playwright's Studio at the National Institute of Performing Arts. In 1980, Margaret became a writer and producer at the newly established Special Broadcasting Service (SBS). After six years with the broadcaster, she established 'The Movie Show' with co-host David Stratton. The show was later rebranded as 'At The Movies' when it moved to the ABC in 2004. Together, Margaret and David presented their insights into cinema and film to Australian audiences for 28 years. Several years after the show had finished, the pair reunited for a feature with The Chaser, to review what transpired in the film industry during 2020.

Alongside her on-screen partnership with David, Margaret worked as an executive producer of The Movie Show and the documentary series, 'Front Up' and 'Subsonics'. She held the same executive position for the Australian Film Institute Awards and Inside Film Awards. Between the years 1994 and 2000, she also appeared as a cameo in multiple films and television series.

On leaving the ABC she teamed with Graeme Blundell at Foxtel for the review program Screen and presented movies for the network.

Margaret has served as both a Chair and Vice-Chair of Watch on Censorship and as President of the Film Critics Circle of Australia. She also served as a member of the Australian Advertising Standards Board and appeared many times before the Classification Board playing an important role in challenging decisions that were made by that body.

In 2005, Margaret was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of her service to the film industry as a critic and reviewer, promoter of Australian content, and advocate for freedom of expression in film. She was also the first woman to be honoured with a star at the Winton Walk of Fame at an outback film festival held in 2007.

Today, Margaret is on the Board of Directors of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards (AACTA) as Vice Chair.

Margaret is a truly inspirational figure and an Australian cultural icon.

Vice-Chancellor, I present Margaret Pomeranz AM for admission of a Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) and invite you to confer the award upon her.