

Deng Adut: Songs of a War Boy

Presented in partnership with The Wheeler Centre

Media Release

October 2016

Friday 4 November 2016

1.00pm–2.00pm at M.A.D.E Ballarat

FREE EVENT

‘In 1987 ... I was among many young children forcibly removed from their homes and families and marched to Ethiopia,’ Deng Adut told the crowd at this year’s Australia Day Address in Sydney. ‘I walked thousands of kilometres without shoes or underwear.’

Adut’s trajectory from a small village in Malek, South Sudan, to the Australia Day stage has been an extraordinary one. At seven years old, he was conscripted to the Sudan People’s Liberation Army and forced to undertake brutal military training. He suffered years of famine, disease and deadly fighting. Eventually Adut escaped to a refugee camp in Kenya and settled as a refugee in Australia.

Today, Adut has his own legal practice in Sydney, where he helps marginalised people – especially those in the Sudanese community – to navigate the justice system.

Adut was the subject of a stirring YouTube clip – an advertisement for Western Sydney University, where he studied law, that went viral last year, but there’s much more to this brilliant young man than can be squeezed into a 90-second video. He’s coming to M.A.D.E, in partnership with the Wheeler Centre, in November for an hour-long conversation with co-writer Ben Mckelvey. Join this extraordinary Australian as he discusses his own experiences and shares his insights on the challenges facing refugees in Australia today.

Adut came to the attention of artist Nick Stathopoulos who chose Adut as his subject for his 2016 Archibald Prize entry. Adut will visit the Art Gallery of Ballarat, while in town for his discussion at M.A.D.E, to view his portrait, winner of Peoples’ Choice Award in this year’s Archibald Prize.

Tickets available www.made.org

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M.A.D.E is one of Australia's newest museums and commemorates the role of the Eureka Stockade in shaping our nation. It is located on the site of the 1854 Eureka Stockade uprising in Ballarat.

M.A.D.E explores both the evolution of democracy and how it has shaped cultures and countries around the world and also looks to its future.

Using art installations and immersive, interactive content, M.A.D.E inspires people to contemplate what issues are important to them today.

For further information and interviews please contact:

Jemma Holcombe
M.A.D.E Marketing Manager
marketing@made.org
0409 448 227