“Rather than describing the cinema venue as a place where film events happen, we realized it could just as easily be imagined in the converse, as a series of events where ‘places’ happen.”

Deb Verhoeven, ‘What is (a) cinema?’

With the advent of new technologies of the image and sound, challenges to the limits of the sensorial realms of the human being, rapid changes to everyday social practices, and greater realization of the networked complexities of space, place and time, it might be expected that the public venues, public places, their designs and possibilities, and the very concept of ‘publics,’ would also be undergoing commensurate transformations.

You are invited to participate in a 2-day colloquium that dwells on the possible futures of social performance, engagement and imagination from within a series of different disciplines and practices such as Cinema Studies, Theatre and Performance Studies, Architecture and Design, Philosophy and Media Production.

Some questions addressed in the symposium may include:

• In the face of comprehensive technological change, what will future cinemas and other similar public venues look like? How may their spatio-temporal geometries change?
• How might understandings of social performativity, event, the body and so on contribute to a new practices of public attendance and vice versa? How are the conventional boundaries between cinema and theatre challenged?
• How might changing perceptions of film or theatre content imbue or respond to changes in the built environment? What is sustainable cinema or theater?
• How might audience behaviours be framed through the perception of cultural events as destinations and relocations?
• How do new forms of sociality and communality inflect our understandings of cultural events? How can the concept of ‘publics’ be rethought?
• How does the contemporary dispersal of the cinematic and the theatrical, which can be found almost everywhere and anywhere, inspire a rethinking of venues and their performativities?

The colloquium will take the form of a roundtable and will focus on conversations, provocations and discussion, rather than spoken papers. Participants of the colloquium will be invited to develop their material in the light of discussions at the colloquium towards the submission of a full paper and/or creative works in March 2012 for later publication.

The **Cinema, Theatre, Publics** colloquium is part of a collaborative project between the University of Tasmania and Deakin University to establish a research and pedagogical framework for contemporary cinema, theatre and performance studies at UTAS. The Colloquium is also part of BOFA, MyState Breath of Fresh Air Tasmanian Film Festival [http://bofa.com.au/2011/](http://bofa.com.au/2011/)

This is a free colloquium for all UTAS staff and students. To RSVP please contact [nicole.dobber@utas.edu.au](mailto:nicole.dobber@utas.edu.au) with your name and UTAS affiliation.

Organisers:
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Prof Marie Sierra, School of Visual & Performing Arts, University of Tasmania