

# Rotary District 9685 Vocational Excellence Awards 2024

David Stratton AM

Many of you would know of David Stratton AM, an English-Australian film critic who has also worked as a journalist, interviewer, film historian, educator, television personality, and producer. His career as a film critic, writer, and educator in Australia spanned 57 years. He co-presented film review shows on television for 28 years, wrote film reviews for The Weekend Australian for 33 years, and lectured in film history for 35 years.

David worked for SBS from 1980, acting as their film consultant and introducing the SBS Cinema Classics on Sunday evenings, and Movie of the Week. As many here would be aware, from 1986 David co-hosted the long-running SBS TV program "The Movie Show" with Margaret Pomeranz. On leaving SBS in 2004 he co-hosted the ABC film show "At the Movies with Margaret and David". In 2014, David announced that he would be retiring at the end of the 2014 series, a sad day for many of us.

David has been invited to sit on many international juries at film festivals. Regarded as an expert on international cinema, particularly French cinema, he was president of International Film Critics Juries in Cannes twice, and in Venice. He was also a member of the jury at the Berlin International Film Festival and has acted as programming consultant to the London and Los Angeles Film Festivals, as well as contributing regularly to the International Film Guide, compiled and published in London. As of 2023 he had authored five books.

Amongst David's recognitions and honours are:

- The Centenary Medal for "Service to Australian society and Australian film production"
- The Order of Arts and Literature, established by the French Minister of Culture, the highest rank for this award, for his services to cinema, in particular French cinema
- Honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of Sydney in recognition of his career and his contribution to intellectual life at the university, and from Macquarie University for his contribution to the film industry
- Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day honours, for significant service to the film industry as a critic and reviewer, and as a promoter and ambassador for Australian cinema