

Gill Hicks AM

Founder of M.A.D., Australian of the Year (UK) and Australian Woman of the Year (UK), London Bomb Survivor, Peace Advocate, Inspiring Speaker

Gill Hicks AM is a woman who considers herself lucky to even be alive. Gill lost both her legs from below the knee as a result of the London bombings of July 2005. On that morning, she had to find the inner strength to not only fight for her life, but to learn to walk again using prosthetic legs.

Since that day Gill has been determined to make her life count - to really make a difference for world peace. And make a difference she has. She uses her experience to do all she can to deter anyone from following a path of violent action. She is a firm believer that we all have the strength and ability to make a difference and to create a world that is peaceful.

Gill Hicks is well-known for her inspirational talks and seminars with many diverse organizations in the UK and Australia including charities, city institutions, schools and community groups.

About Gill Hicks:

A published author, musician, artist and mother, Gill's appreciation and gratitude for life is present throughout all her creative works.

Originally from Adelaide, Gill had lived in London since 1992. She returned to her native Australia after 25 years in London, continuing her passion for communicating the importance of recognising our shared Humanity by launching a new practice exploring Music, Art and Narrative as powerful forms of universal communication.

Gill is the former Publishing Director of the architecture, design and contemporary culture magazine, Blueprint, Director of Dangerous Minds multi-disciplinary design and publishing group, and latterly Head of Curation at the UK's Design Council. Gill Hicks is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Trustee of the Women's Playhouse Trust and an Advisor to Psychology Beyond Borders.



Gill left her career within architecture, design and the arts, notably a respected curator and publisher in London, to devote her life to deterring anyone from following a path of violent extremism and the destructive ideologies that seek to divide our global societies.

In 2006 Gill was appointed Ambassador for Peace Direct (Best New Charity 2005), in 2007 an Advocate for Leonard Cheshire Disability and has founded M.A.D. for Peace, a not-for profit organization which communicates the importance of our individual responsibility in creating a world in which extreme conflict is ended.

Gill's first book, *One Unknown*, is published by Rodale, part of Pan Macmillan and was short-listed for the Mind Book of the Year, 2007.

Gill continues to be recognised and highly awarded for her work within the Arts, Community and Healthcare. She was been honoured with an MBE for her services to charity in the Queen's New Year's Honours List, and an AM for her ongoing devotion to making a positive difference through her own adversity. Gill became both Australian of the Year in the UK and Australian Woman of the Year in the UK.

Client testimonials

“ One could not help but be inspired and challenged - and in the very self centred world of the City reflective on how we spend our time, live our lives and evaluate what is truly important. Pity I could not have made it mandated viewing for all on the trading floor!!!

- *City Banker*

“ Inspiring! ... Gill was fantastic - I could have listened to her all day! ... She made me realise that little things mean a lot.

- *Nurse in the West Midlands*

“ Gill gave two of the best received, uplifting and thought provoking presentations I have heard in many years of attending conferences and events. Her presentation at the National Meetings and Events Association in Adelaide in April 2009 achieved the highest ever rating from attendees for a presentation at the conference. The Melbourne presentation was equally well received by a totally different audience and greatly added to the effectiveness of the lunch and the achievement of its objectives.

- *Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre*

“ In her speaking engagements on behalf of Leonard Cheshire Disability she always manages to move and inspire people so their combined energy and creativity can be used positively to benefit others less able.



- Leonard Cheshire

“ Gill held the audience spellbound for well over an hour. The presentation was both confronting and inspirational. It gave our members a new perspective on prioritising their lives and what is truly important as well as the sheer determination in beating the odds... truly a unique experience.

- YPO Education Chair, Adelaide

“ You could hear a pin drop, in all my years in events management I have never seen an audience so gripped by every word, Gill inspired us all, amazing...

- Adelaide Convention Centre

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