



Photo by Jeff Busby

Ewen Leslie in 'Richard III'; Tim Walter (right) in 'King Lear'



Photo by Wendy McDougall

## WAAPA ALUMNI STAR IN BOX OFFICE HITS

Australian audiences are flocking to theatres for two popular seasons of Shakespearean dramas starring WAAPA alumni.

With the Melbourne Theatre Company making record sales for its season of *Richard III* and Bell Shakespeare's sold-out Sydney run of *King Lear* leading up to Perth performances at his Majesty's Theatre, Shakespearean dramas are being embraced by Australian audiences.

WAAPA graduates Ewen Leslie and Tim Walter are being lauded for sensational performances in both productions.

In a performance described by *The Australian* as "not to be missed", WAAPA graduate Ewen Leslie commanded the stage playing the title role in MTC's production of *Richard III*. Alison Croggon, *The Australian's* theatre reviewer, described Leslie's performance as "a deeply intelligent performance, physically and emotionally unafraid ... Leslie dominates the stage... His Richard will be talked about for years."

2002 WAAPA graduate Tim Walter plays Edmund alongside the acclaimed John Bell in Bell Shakespeare's 20-year anniversary production of *King Lear*. Walter joins the ranks of a number of WAAPA graduates who have performed with Bell Shakespeare over the past 20 years, including in their extensive school touring program.

Walter explains what an important achievement it is to perform alongside the founder of Bell Shakespeare: "John Bell is great, when it comes to Shakespeare he's technically perfect and can convey the meaning of the poetry very clearly which is really hard to do. He's a bit of a legend in Australian Theatre. It's one of those things that you'll be able to say to your kids. Guess what? I worked with John Bell."

## WAAPA GRAD TAKES THE LEAD IN WEST END

2003 WAAPA graduate Vivien Carter stars in the West End production of *Chicago*, one of London's most popular and thrilling smash hit musicals.

Carter, whose stage credits include *We Will Rock You* in Australia and *Guys and Dolls* in London, makes her West End debut as Velma in the Tony Award-winning hit musical at Covent Garden's Cambridge Theatre.

After backpacking around Europe Carter settled in London and saw an open audition for *Guys and Dolls*. After queueing around the block with over 300 other hopefuls she got the part and through this Carter found an agent and went on to hold understudy roles in *Evita*, *Eurobeat* and *Oklahoma!*.

When Carter finally got the chance to audition for *Chicago*, one of her favourite shows, she was delighted to be offered the understudy roles of Velma Kelly and Mama Morton. As Carter was coming to the end of her contract she was asked to stay and take over the role of Velma.

Carter said: "It's so wonderful to be able to play this role every night, to play, experiment and have the freedom to make it my own."

"My experience of living and working in London has been very positive, I came on a long holiday and I have been here nearly five years.

"Auditions are more frequent and there is a healthy theatre-going culture as well as a huge tourist market which helps keep shows afloat. Of course, it could always be better!

"Quite a number of casting directors over here have heard of WAAPA and its training and through my training I feel very well-prepared and grounded in my approach."



Photo by Matt Crockett

## NESTER WINS TOP U.S. SCHOLARSHIP

Sam Nester, who graduated from WAAPA last year with a Bachelor of Music (Honours), has been awarded a 2010 Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship.

The award was announced at a presentation dinner held at the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne on March 18.

Jonathan Paget (WAAPA Senior Lecturer and Fulbright alumni) travelled to Melbourne along with Brenda Cherednichenko (Dean, ECU Faculty of Education and Arts) in support of Nester at the Fulbright national dinner. Nester and Paget also performed at a reception held by the US Consul General in Perth, Dr Kenneth Chern, in honour of Western Australian Fulbright recipients and in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Fulbright scholarship program in Australia.

The scholarship, worth up to \$45,000, will enable Nester to undertake a Master of Music in classical trumpet at the Manhattan School of Music in New York.

Nester said that his studies in New York will provide him with the necessary skills and knowledge to tackle the life of an elite musician here in Australia.

"The Master of Music program is designed to foster high achievement in the performance of music, as well as a broad intellectual development.

"I will have the experience of the finest artists and educators to call upon and will be immersed in the rich cultural life the United States is well recognized for," Nester said.

As part of the course Nester will be required to engage in analytical skills, research and writing skills as well as being involved at the highest level of performance training available.

"This course will greatly enhance my chance of successfully applying to a professional symphony orchestra as a full-time member and will give me both the credentials and skills required to further my ability toward becoming an educator at the University level," Nester said.

In addition to his WAAPA degree Nester holds a Bachelor of Music from the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University.

In recent years he performed with the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and in 2009 was the conductor of Victorian Opera's sold-out production of Benjamin Britten's *The Little Sweep*.

Nester joins fellow WAAPA Alumni who have been granted Fullbrights including Jonathan Paget, Carmel Dean (2000 music graduate) now a Broadway musical director in New



York, Cecilian Jian-Xuan Sun (1992 music performance graduate) and Robert Griffin Byron (2003 composition graduate).

## WAAPA SUCCESS AT BELL AWARDS



Photo by Adria Leboevf

of Australian Dixieland pianist Graeme Bell, the Bell Awards are the Australian jazz fraternity's most coveted awards. Each award carries with it a prize of \$5,000.

Winning Young Artist of the Year is a tremendous achievement for Oh who graduated from WAAPA in 2007.

Born in Malaysia, raised in Western Australia and now living in New York City, Oh began playing piano, bassoon and electric bass before starting upright-bass in 2002 at WAAPA where she graduated with first-class honours.

Since completing her Masters at the Manhattan School of Music, Oh has performed with a who's who of the New York Jazz scene including Steve Wilson, Joel Frahm, T.S Monk, Billy Kilson and Slide Hampton to name a few.

Oh released her debut album *Entry*, featuring Ambrose Akinmusire on trumpet and Obed Calvaire on drums, to critical acclaim in 2009 and has been described as "one of the greatest bassists of the new generation".

Fellow WAAPA graduate Sam Anning was also recognised with an award for his Classic Jazz Album, *Homage*.

The prestigious Bell Awards were announced on April 15 with Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts Jazz Graduate Linda Oh being awarded Young Artist of the Year.

Established in 2003 and named in honour

## DEFYING GRAVITY STAR JOINS CIRCUS

WAAPA Music graduate Marcus Perrozzi's (BMus 2005) dreams were realised in May when he secured a two-year full-time contract to tour North America with Cirque du Soleil performing as a percussionist in the *Dralion* show.

Just finishing up a three-month Australia and China tour with the renowned percussion ensemble, Tetrafide, Perrozzi's world began to change when Cirque sought interest in him for a major percussion role in one of its shows, *Dralion*.

Perrozzi has wanted to play with Cirque de Soleil ever since he saw the *Saltimbanco* show when he was 15 years old.

Perrozzi said "The band for *Saltimbanco* was all on stage, I saw the percussionist play and thought that would be an awesome gig."

It has been a ten-year dream for Perrozzi and he is thrilled that it's being realised.

"Since getting the call from Cirque I'm still orbiting the moon! I haven't come down and I suspect I won't until I play my first show."

## YOUNG DIRECTOR RECEIVES ACCOLADE

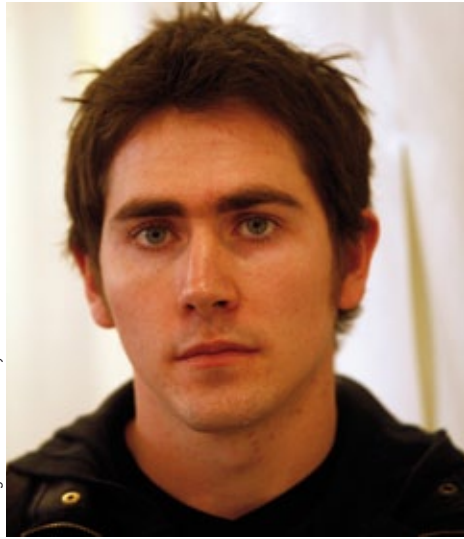


Photo by Bohdan Marchonij

Matthew Lutton, acclaimed young West Australian theatre director and founder of theatre company Thinlce, has received a Western Australian Citizen of the Year Award.

Lutton was announced winner of the Youth Arts category by His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC at a gala presentation at Burswood Entertainment Complex. The award

was accepted by his mother Susan Lutton as Matthew is currently working on a new opera in Munich for the Bavarian State Opera.

The award recognises a young person aged 18-25 years who has been engaged in the pursuit of excellence in the arts. Previous recipients of the award include celebrity choreographer Jason Gilkinson and now international fashion designer Michelle Jank.

Lutton, who at age 17 founded Thinlce while still at school, completed studies at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Lutton has since worked with most of Australia's leading theatre companies and directors and his work has been staged in Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Hobart during the past 24 months.

At just 25 years of age, Lutton's directing credits are numerous and Thinlce has emerged as one of the country's most progressive theatre companies. His most recent work *Love Me Tender* premiered at the 2010 Perth International Arts Festival, following on from previous festival productions of *Antigone* (2009) and *The Lady Aoi* (2007). *The West Australian* has described his work as: "Unconventional and endlessly inventive, the Lutton theatre experience is intoxicating."

Lutton's past works include *The Duel* (Thinlce and Sydney Theatre Company), *Red Shoes* (Thinlce and Artrage), *Don't Say the Words* (Griffin Theatre Company), and *Tartuffe* (Malthouse Theatre).

A co-production of Franz Kafka's *The Trial*, directed by Lutton, will be staged in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth later this year.

## LEWIS OFF TO THE MET

Alexander Lewis recently accepted a position on The Lindemann Young Artist Development Program with The Metropolitan Opera Company in New York.

The son of acclaimed Australian opera singers, Michael Lewis and Patricia Price (WAAPA Coordinator, Vocal Studies and Opera), Lewis has gone onto musical heights himself, graduating from WAAPA with a BA (Music Theatre) in 2004 before hitting the professional stage. Lewis and Price have worked as a student and teacher for ten years and he feels this opportunity would not have been possible without her guidance and support.

Lewis said: "It means the world to me, having grown up in an operatic family I dreamed of having opportunities like this, but being accepted into the Met's Young Artist Program is truly humbling. I keep pinching myself and re-reading my acceptance letter to make sure its real.

"It's been an interesting journey from my musical theatre training through shows like *Sweeney Todd* and *Phantom of the Opera* to now be fully immersed in the operatic world. I feel blessed."

Lewis' performance highlights include soloist with Opera Australia in Baz Luhrmann's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with The State Opera of South Australia in Verdi's *Macbeth* and with the Australian Chamber Orchestra. He starred in the musical *Titanic*, performed in *Sweeney Todd* for Opera Australia, was the recipient of the 2006 New York Study Award, and a semi finalist in the 2007 Neue Stimmen in Germany.

The goal of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, founded in 1980, is to nurture the most talented young artists through training and performance opportunities. The program uses the Met's unique resources to identify and educate young singers and coach/pianists for major careers in opera.

Lewis will be off to New York to start the program in September and has just been cast in the lead role of Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore* for the 2010 Merola Opera Program in San Francisco.



## 2010 SALLY BURTON AWARDS

Wade Briggs and Claire Lovering won the Sally Burton Awards on June 1 after third year Acting students battled it out in a riveting evening of high drama.

The annual awards were instigated in memory of the great actor, Richard Burton by his widow, Sally, who now lives in Perth.

The prizes, worth \$2,000 each, go to a male and female final year Acting student who best performs a Shakespearean, Jacobean or Elizabethan text monologue or duologue. The judging is based on the ability to speak the verse, connect to the text, interpret the content and present the finished work.

Lovering impressed the judges with a scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* while Briggs shone in a scene playing Brutus from *Julius Caesar*.

Sally Burton said the standard and bravery of the students had increased over the four years of the award.

WAAPA is tremendously grateful for the generosity of Sally Burton in making these awards available to honour the work of her late husband.

## WAAPA DANCERS LIMBER UP FOR DEBUT IN NYC

WAAPA dance students have received two ECU study abroad grants.

The first grant enables students in LINK Dance Company to participate in the ACT Festival in Bilbao, Spain and to attend the Montpellier Dance Festival in France.

Several students will go on to participate in Dutch choreographer Anouk van Dijk's Summer Intensive in Amsterdam, whilst others will participate in residencies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and at the Baryshnikov Arts Centre in New York.

The University of Wisconsin residencies are a fantastic opportunity for WAAPA students to collaborate with dancers from around the globe. There will be 15 American students, six Taiwanese students, two Brazilian students and ten Trinidadian students attending the summer dance institute. There will also be choreographers from Brazil and Canada setting works for these students which will then be presented in New York.

The other grant will enable undergraduate dance students to attend and perform in the World Dance Alliance Conference and Festival in New York next month.

The World Dance Alliance Global Dance Event is a conference and festival which brings together an international cohort of over 300 dance artists, scholars, educators and students including individuals and groups from more than 25 countries. The event will feature six concert programs, paper and panel presentations, master classes, and workshops.

WAAPA dancers will undertake classes and workshops with a wide range of international students, lecturers and guest artists and will perform a work by Perth choreographer and WAAPA Dance Lecturer, Sue Peacock. Nanette Hassall, Head of Dance at WAAPA, will also attend and present a conference paper.



Photo by Bohdan Warchonij

## ANYTHING GOES AT REGAL THEATRE

For its 30th Anniversary year, the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts pulls out all the stops for its most lavish musical theatre production to date.

Following on from last year's sold-out season of *42nd Street*, WAAPA proudly presents Cole Porter's most popular musical, *Anything Goes*, at the Regal Theatre in Subiaco from Friday June 11.

This huge song-and-dance spectacular follows the madcap antics aboard the ocean liner SS America as young Billy Crocker discovers true love in the form of gorgeous heiress Hope Harcourt.

Throw in a two-bit gangster disguised as a priest, an overbearing mother, a sultry nightclub singer and a swag of much-loved Cole Porter songs and you're guaranteed an hilarious and exhilarating evening of musical comedy. 70 years after first being seen on Broadway, classic numbers like 'I Get a Kick Out of You', 'You're the Top', 'Blow, Gabriel, Blow' and the irresistible title song make *Anything Goes* an infectious night of joyous entertainment.

Performed by WAAPA's Musical Theatre students, *Anything Goes* will be directed by Crispin Taylor, with music direction by David King, choreography by Jenny Lynnd, lighting design by the acclaimed Trudy Dalgleish and set design by Steve Nolan.



Photo by Jon Green

## A PERFECT TEN FOR THE WA SCREEN ACADEMY

A staggering ten films produced by the WA Screen Academy were selected to screen at one of Australia's most prestigious and unique film festivals, The Dungog Film Festival. Four documentaries and six dramas were featured at the festival between May 27 -30.

Laura MacDonald, Dungog's Screen Programmer said: "We were sincerely blown away by the quality of content submitted by the WA Screen Academy. We're proud to include almost every entry sent to us in our festival this year, congratulations to the talented filmmakers."

The Dungog Film Festival screened 165 films, including six world premieres, as part of the biggest-ever festival of Australian films.

Workshops and master classes took place by day, mentored by the likes of acclaimed directors Gillian Armstrong and Nadia Tass, before Dungog's four screening venues gave way to red-carpet premieres each evening.

The selected films were: *Pig Skin* - an innovative collaboration between the Aboriginal Theatre Program at WAAPA and the WA Screen Academy; *Trolley Boys* featuring WAAPA actor Felix Jozeps; *Hidden* featuring WAAPA graduates Chantelle Jamieson and Hannah Greenwood performing the lead roles; *Stuffed* featuring WAAPA graduates Jennifer White, Shannon Rae, Adele Querol and Lizzie Schebesta; *Sorrento* featuring cast members from WAAPA Matt Levett, Megan Holloway and Scott Sheridan and *The Bucks Party* written

and directed by Mike Hoath, who was recently awarded 'Young Filmmaker of the Year' at the WA Screen Awards.

The four documentaries screened at the festival were: *The Bubbleologist*; *Rock'n Roll Mudwrestling*; *Back to Burlesque* and *Living Colour*.

Acting Director of the WA Screen Academy, Barbara Connell, is thrilled to have had ten films selected: "Dungog is a highly-regarded festival so it an honour to have our films shown alongside the nation's best. It consolidates our reputation as one of the leading screen training programs in the country. We're extraordinarily proud of our students and thrilled that their work is being recognised."

# RESIDENCIES, WORKSHOPS AND VISITORS

Aboriginal Theatre students were treated to an exciting and exhausting series of workshops when English actor **JAKE HARDERS** introduced the group to Grotowskian movement technique. Harders was in town performing in the highly acclaimed production of *Six Characters in Search of an Author* for the Perth International Arts Festival. He has performed in numerous productions in London's West End, has been seen on screen in *Foyles War* and *Amadeus* and currently teaches at London's Central School of Speech and Drama.

**JOHN HOLLENBECK**, whose journey has been one of the most remarkable in contemporary music, visited WAAPA in May. Building on a wealth of experience in jazz and world styles as well as a deep interest in contemporary composition and spiritual practice, he has forged a lyrical new musical language, as accessible and expressive as it is advanced. After receiving degrees in percussion and jazz composition from the Eastman School of Music, Hollenbeck moved to New York City in the early 1990s. He has worked with many of the world's leading musicians in jazz, world music, and new music. In 2005, Hollenbeck accepted a professorship at the Jazz Institute Berlin where he currently teaches. Hollenbeck's first large ensemble recording, *A Blessing*, received a 2006 Grammy Nomination, and in 2007 John was awarded the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship.

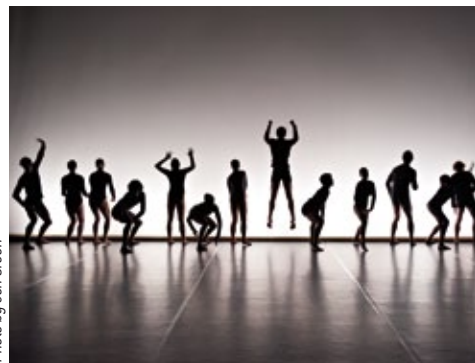


Photo by Jon Green

Acclaimed French choreographer **AMAURY LE BRUN** created a new work for the last dance season *Flash* at WAAPA. Since 2009 Le Brun, who is based in Spain, has been artistic director of the Amaury Dance Company, and been invited to perform at many festivals around the world. He developed his love of choreography whilst working at the Ballet de l'Opéra in Nice. Le Brun has since received a number of awards for his outstanding choreography including winning first prize at the international choreographic competition in Burgos with his piece *Kenmey* in 2002. Throughout his career he has worked in various European companies as a soloist including the Jeune ballet de France, the Ballet du Rhin and the Deutsche Staatsoper in Berlin. He has been noted for his interpretation of works by choreographers such as Maurice Béjart, Georges Balanchine, Nils Christie, Carolyn Carlson, Roland Petit, Hans

van Manen, John Cranko, Jose Limon, Maryse Delente, Myriam Naisy among many others.

Praised by his mentor Herbie Hancock as "a musical painter", **LIONEL LOUEKE** recently visited WAAPA Jazz students and passed on some of his incredible knowledge. Loueke has enjoyed a meteoric rise over the past few years and combines harmonic sophistication, soaring melody, a deep knowledge of African music as well as conventional and extended guitar techniques to create a warm and evocative sound. Originally from the small West African nation of Benin, Loueke is now based in New York. In 2008 and 2009 he was picked as top Rising Star guitarist in *Down Beat* magazine's annual Critics Poll. His 2007 release *Karibu*, featuring Hancock and Wayne Shorter as special guests, won widespread critical praise. *Mwaliko* is his most recent release.



Photo by Jacqueline Arty

Two-time Grammy nominee **TIERNEY SUTTON** visited WAAPA on April 29 and delighted students during a performance workshop. Sutton was a semi-finalist in the Thelonious Monk Jazz Vocal Competition and has released seven albums. Her band has won a host of awards, headlined at Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl and tours regularly, appearing at major jazz festivals around the world. Her band's most recent disc *On the Other Side* was hailed as "a masterpiece...eloquent, honest and magnificently sung and played."

Acclaimed Cellist **JIAN WANG** took time out from his demanding schedule performing with WASO to give a master class to classical instrumental students in May. Wang is a well-known face in concert halls all over the world and his performances as concert soloist and chamber player are regularly greeted with excellent reviews. Wang was born and brought up in China and discovered at an early age by Isaac Stern with whom he was featured in the celebrated documentary *From Mao to Mozart*. Stern's encouragement and support paved the way for him to go to the United States and in 1985 he entered the Yale School of Music under a special program where he studied with the renowned cellist Aldo Parisot.

Jazz guitarist and composer **ANTHONY WILSON**, who was in Australia performing with Diana Krall, conducted a workshop for the Jazz & Contemporary students in February. The son of band leader Gerald Wilson, Wilson joined Diana Krall's group in 2001 for a concert at the historic Olympia Theatre in Paris, which became a Grammy award-winning live recording CD and DVD. He has seven albums under his own name along with a host of others.

# ACCOLADES

JUST A FEW OF THE ONGOING ACHIEVEMENTS OF WAAPA STUDENTS

**JARRYD BYRD**, third-year music technology major won a scholarship from Apple Inc. to attend a software development workshop in Melbourne earlier this year. In April, he won an award for the Best iPhone application at an Apple iPhone development workshop here in Perth.

WAAPA Composition student **ANDREW CLARKE** picked up an award at The West Australian Screen Awards for Best Original Music Composition for the film *Runner*. Three of the five nominations for Best Film Soundtrack were WAAPA graduates.

**ELLA MCNEIL**, third year arts management student, secured ten week industry placement at Druid Theatre, Dublin.

# STAFF CAMEOS

JUST A FEW OF THE ONGOING ACHIEVEMENTS OF WAAPA STAFF

Long time associate of WAAPA and grand dame of dance **LUCETTE ALDOUS** created a triumphant re-staging of WA Ballet's recent production, *Don Quixote*. Aldous danced alongside the legendary Rudolf Nureyev in the principal role of Kitri in the Australian Ballet's production of *Don Quixote* 40 years ago.

WAAPA lecturer **ANDY CROSS** (Lecturer, Properties) created the armour for WA Ballet's recent production, *Don Quixote*.

**DECIBEL**, a WAAPA staff new music ensemble that presents compositions combining electronic and acoustic instruments, has been invited to the Trilling Wire Chamber Music Series in Brisbane later this year. Decibel was also featured at Liquid Architecture Festival of Sound Arts in both Melbourne and Sydney in July and will appear at the Australian Computer Music Association conference at the Australian National University in Canberra in June.

**CHRIS EDMUND** (Coordinator and Senior Lecturer – Acting) recently returned from a quick visit to New York where he filled his time seeing shows, including Denzel Washington in *Fences*, as well as meeting the new Director of Drama at Juilliard. Chris was also invited to WAAPA Alumni **HUGH JACKMAN'S** beautiful apartment in the West Village. Edmund said: "Hugh was kind enough to get me house seats for some Broadway shows. He was relaxed and happy with lots of projects on the boil and sends his love to all at WAAPA!"

**CAT HOPE** had her new work, *Kuklinski's Dream*, premiered by Golden Fur Ensemble at the New Melbourne Recital Hall in March this year. She was also Artist in Residence at the Mona Foma Festival in Hobart in January. This resulted in the premiere of a new work, *Wolf at Harp*, for four drum kits, that was recorded by ABC Classic FM, and a number of other performances.

**DR JONATHAN PAGET** (Senior Lecturer, guitar) performed at Playmakers Festival in Albany, as part of the Perth International Arts Festival in the Great Southern region.

**DR MAGGI PHILLIPS** recently returned from presenting at a number of international conferences, notably the World Dance Alliance Conference in India and the International Symposium of Performance Science in New Zealand. She will be presenting papers at the Society of Dance History Scholars Conference in Surrey and at the World Dance Alliance Conference in New York next month.

**ANGELA PUNCH MCGREGOR** stars in Australian actor John Jarratt's new movie *Savages Crossing*. The Australian action thriller premiered in April and Punch McGregor plays the role of Sue, Jarratt's wife.

**TIM WHITE** (Lecturer, Music) and four members of WAAPA's Defying Gravity percussion ensemble have been invited to perform at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Indianapolis in November.

**DEFYING GRAVITY** will perform a work by WA Composer, David Pye. **TETRAFIDE PERCUSSION** (comprising mostly WAAPA graduates) has also been invited to attend making this a particularly West Australian showcase.

**GRAHAM WOOD** (Program Director, Music) picked up a WAMi Award for Best Jazz Act for his outfit The Graham Wood Trio. The 2010 WAMi Awards were held on Thursday 20 May at Capitol and showed off an impressive array of WA talent.

## APPLAUSE

JUST A FEW OF THE ONGOING  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF WAAPA ALUMNI

### ACTING



**CHEREE CASSIDY** (2008) has become a household name after winning a major role in the latest season of *Underbelly*. Cassidy plays policewoman Debbie Webb and has been lauded for her acting talent. Fellow Acting Graduate **GEORGINA HAIG** (2008) also appears in the series.

**DUSTIN CLARE** (2004) has recently begun his first role in a feature film. Clare will be performing a support role in Fred Schepisi's new film *Eye of the Storm* also starring Geoffrey Rush, Charlotte Rampling and Judy Davis. Clare said: "I'm very excited to be working with this calibre of people, it should be a great learning experience."

**JONATHAN GAVIN** (1998) is now working as a scriptwriter and has garnered recent success with his work on the TV series *Offspring*. Working alongside Series Creator Debra Oswald, Gavin is thrilled to be working with fellow WAAPA graduate **EDDIE PERFECT** (2001) on the series. Gavin started writing whilst studying at WAAPA. It was writing his graduation showcase monologue that led to the commissioning of his first play. As well as writing for *Offspring*, Gavin is also the Story Editor for the series and has a new play *Bang* premiering at Belvoir Street later this month.

### ARTS MANAGEMENT

**KARI ALLEN** (2009) has just secured a place at B2B in London which is run by fellow WAAPA graduate **ALISON HEPPENSTALL** (1995).

**ANNETTE WIGUNA** (2009) has secured a position at Gallery 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art in Sydney. 4A is an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists' Association Inc, 4A is dedicated to presenting contemporary Asian art in Australia and promoting a greater understanding of diverse cultures through the arts.

### DANCE

**LACHLAN BELL** (2008) joins five other WAAPA alumni at the Sydney Dance Company after being invited to join by Rafael Bonachela in March, 2010. He makes his Company debut on tour with *we unfold* across Australia and at the Biennale di Danza in Venice.

### MUSIC



Photo by Jacqueline Aulry

Defying Gravity graduate **FIONA DIGNEY** (BMus 2009 and DipEd 2010) is moving to the USA in August, to take up a teaching assistantship at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. She will be working with Professor Morris Palter, one

of the world's leading multi-percussionists. Digney will perform a farewell concert at WAAPA in July, where she will be joined by her friends from Defying Gravity.



Photo by James Rogers, courtesy of West Australian Opera

**CAITLIN HULCUP** (1995) played the title role in WA Opera's recent production of *Carmen*. Hulcup returned home to Perth to perform in her first *Carmen* fresh from her baroque triumphs in Europe.

**EMMA MATTHEWS** (1992) recently starred in Opera Australia's production of *La Sonnambula* playing the sleepwalker, Amina. As Peter Burch, reviewer from *The Australian* said: "Matthews' successes span an extraordinary breadth of repertoire, from Handel to Richard Strauss, Mozart to Janacek, Verdi to Richard Mils. The consistent beauty and integrity of her performances have established her as one of Australia's best-loved singers and this role affirms her star status."

**KYNAN TAN** (2009) Honours in Music Technology has had an audio visual installation, *Hypnogenia*, at Sci Tech since March, which during the school holidays received over 1000 visitors a day. Sci Tech will be employing Tan to do some programming for their installations later this year.

### MUSIC THEATRE

**NICK ATKINSON** (1996) recently performed his cabaret show *Going Vogue* at The Duplex, West Village, New York City.

**PETER EYERS** (1996) is currently Head of Acting at The McDonald College of Performing Arts in Sydney. He has just finished playing 'Georges' in a local production of *La Cage aux Folles* and now directs a production of *The Madwoman of Chailot* with students from the College.

**MATTHEW HETHERINGTON** (1996) recently won the Green Room Award for Best Actor in a Musical for his performance in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* for the Production Company. This year he stars in the musical *Sugar* for the Production Company in Melbourne.

**ALEXANDER LEWIS** (2004) will be heading to San Francisco in mid-June to perform the role of Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore* as part of the Merola Opera Program run by the San Francisco Opera Company. Since graduating, Lewis has

worked professionally in music theatre, most recently in the role of Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera*. The Merola program offers Alexander a priceless opportunity to transition not only from Musical Theatre to Opera, but from Baritone to Tenor. Whilst there, Lewis will work with some of the finest musical coaches and performers in the world.



Photo by Jacqueline Auty

Four WAAPA graduates took time out of their hectic schedules performing in one of the world's best-known musicals, *Cats*, to give Music Theatre students a master class. **JOHN O'HARA** (2001), **MONIQUE CHANEL PITSIKIS** (2002), **ERIN JAMES** (2005) and **BRENT DOLAHENTY** (2007) taught students some of the opening of *Cats* and some of the 'Jellicle Ball'. WAAPA Senior Lecturer David King said: "It was fascinating stylistically, because it's quite different to anything we've done. They also gave examples from the dance audition that they had to do, so that students were given a clear idea of how demanding that audition was."

**YVETTE ROBINSON** (1995) is starring in *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* in London's West End, playing the role of Marion.

**PETER CATHIE WHITE** (1996) is Director of Marketing at the Arts Club Theatre Company in Vancouver.

## PRODUCTION AND DESIGN



In June last year **ANDREW CAMPBELL** (2009) travelled to Ireland to intern as Dublin Fringe Festivals Production Assistant. Since completing his internship Andrew has stage managed productions for Second Age Theatre Company and Spotlight Productions. He has also production managed an independent production that has been recently selected for the Dublin Theatre Festival. Currently he is stage managing *The Parting Glass* a new play

by renowned Irish playwright Dermot Bolger which is touring Ireland and New York City later this year.

**LIEN SEE LEONG** (2005) has worked as Key Costume Standby on the films *Blame*, *Needle* and *Red Dog* as well as on the TV series *Lockie Leonard 2*. Leong has held the position of Costume Designer on a number of indie features and approximately 10 Link films since leaving WAAPA. The latest Link films include *It's Just Gary* (2009) and *Bertrand the Terrible* (2010). Two of the features (*No Through Road* and *Director's Cut*) picked up awards at the recent WA Screen Academy awards. Leong also designed the costumes for the Hyperlink film *Light as A Feather* and in 2008 worked on the ABC telemovie *Three Acts Of Murder*.

**ELIZABETH MAISEY** (2005 and WAAPA wardrobe assistant until 2009) has just finished work as wardrobe assistant for the Australian Ballet's season of *Coppelia*, Maisey is now working on *Don Quixote* for the Dancers Company at the Australian Ballet School.

**KEIREN SMITH** (2008) has been working with The Australian Ballet as an Assistant Stage Manager. Smith is based in Melbourne but is on tour four to five months of the year. She has just returned from Brisbane where she was working on the Australian premiere of Graeme Murphy's *The Silver Rose*. Smith will be heading to Japan later in the year to tour *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker* which she is very excited about.

**CAROL TEE** (2001) has just completed work for the wardrobe department of *So You Think You Can Dance*.



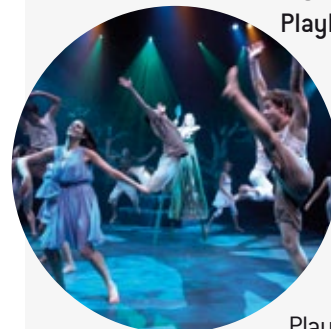
**ANNA WEBSTER** (2003) has made a name for herself in the world of contemporary music working with some of the industry's most recognisable artists. Upon graduating, Webster moved to London where she got a job working at Miloco studios for producers such as Ben Hillier and Paul Epworth. She was assistant engineer on albums for Florence and the Machine, Bloc Party and Editors to name a few. Webster relocated to Melbourne in February 2009 where she's now a freelance engineer mainly based at Sing Sing Studios and has worked with local heroes Temper Trap, the Cat Empire and Paul Dempsey as well as with Lady Gaga on the Melbourne recording sessions for the debut single from her forthcoming album.

# WAAPA'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

2010 marks WAAPA's 30th anniversary. To celebrate this milestone, WAAPA students will participate in more than 300 performances over the course of the year. Special events include:

## WAAPA SHOWCASE

Fri 16, Sat 17 July, 7.30pm  
Sat 17 July, 2pm  
Playhouse Theatre

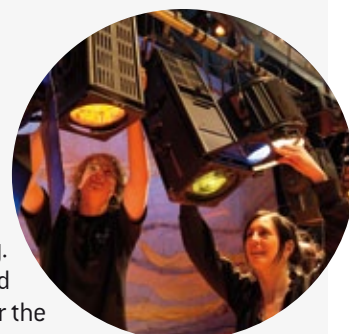


From singing and dancing to drama and opera, this wildly entertaining variety evening at the Playhouse Theatre showcases the talents of WAAPA's student actors, musicians, singers and dancers.

## WAAPA/ECU OPEN DAY

Sunday 25 July  
10am-3pm  
FREE EVENT

Take a look behind the scenes of Australia's premier performing arts academy. Meet staff and students, tour the world-class facilities, sit in on open rehearsals and classes, attend information sessions and enjoy a range of short performances.



## WAAPA 30 X 30

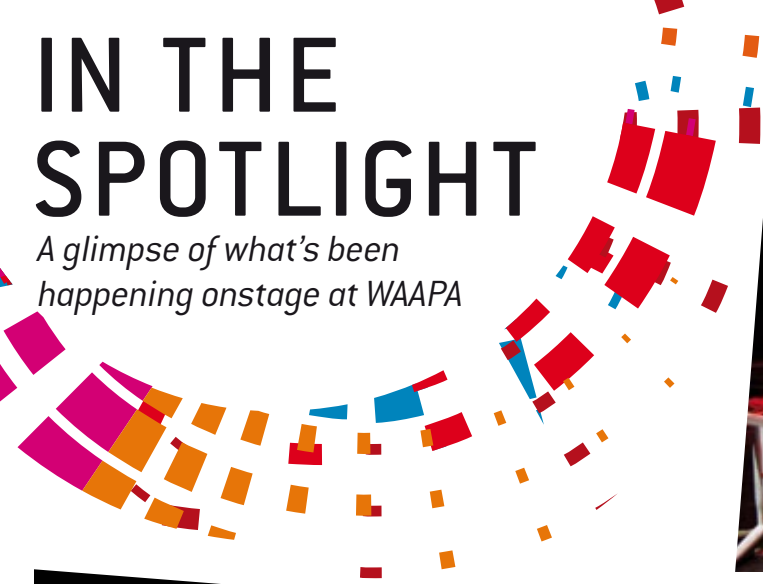
Friday 30 July, 12pm-2pm  
30 locations across  
Perth CBD  
FREE EVENT



WAAPA takes over the city with thirty 30-minute performances running in thirty different locations across the Perth CBD. Classical, jazz and contemporary music performances, acting, dance, music theatre, opera and much more.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A glimpse of what's been happening onstage at WAAPA



Attempts on Her Life



Attempts on Her Life



Dances For Small Spaces



Flash



Attempts on Her Life



Flash



Dances For Small Spaces



Dances for Small Spaces



Proud supporter of INSIDE WAAPA

Photos by Jon Green

## OUR PARTNERS

WAAPA acknowledges the very generous contribution of our partners

