



# INSIDE WAAPA

Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS, EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY [ISSUE 21] NOVEMBER 2009

## 2009 CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARDS

On September 2, WAAPA celebrated the achievements of its most outstanding classical music students at a presentation ceremony for the 2009 Classical Music Awards.

Morgan Cowling, who graduates this year with a Bachelor of Classical Music (Voice), was the winner of the prestigious Barbara MacLeod Scholarship. The scholarship will enable the talented soprano to further develop her vocal skills and artistry by undertaking intensive tuition with world-class experts.

Cowling plans to use her prize money to fly to New York for a self-devised study period with singing teachers and coaches, and for acting and movement classes. Perth audiences were able to see Cowling on stage



in October when she sang the role of Blanche in WAAPA's production of *Dialogues of the Carmelites*.

Every year, four awards are made possible through the generosity of John Court and his family: the Cecilia Daff Award, the Faith Court Award, the Michelle Robinson Award and the Helen Court Award. The significant contribution that the Court family makes to WAAPA's Classical Music program was recognised in 2005 with the founding of the Academy's student orchestra, the Faith Court Orchestra.

This year, the Cecilia Daff Award for the most outstanding first year pianist was awarded to Lucien Crotty while Kathryn Shinnick won the Faith Court Award for the most outstanding first year violin student. Kyla Allan took out the Michelle Robinson Award for the most outstanding first year vocal student. Baritone Ryan Sharp, who also sings in the West Australian Opera Chorus, was the recipient of the Helen Court Award for the most outstanding final year Classical Music student. Sharp intends to use his prize money towards travelling overseas next year for auditions.

The Villette String Quartet, made up of violinists Kathryn Shinnick and Madeleine Antoine, viola player Cheralyn Simpson and cellist Sacha McCulloch, was the winner of the EKCO Investments Chamber Music Award. This award specifically aims to encourage students to engage in student-driven chamber music.

Alice Humphries won the Tura New Music Commissioning Prize for Composition. This award, presented to a final year WAAPA Composition student, involves a cash prize to be used as a commission for a new work. Humphries plans to use her



At the awards (clockwise from top): Morgan Cowling accompanied by David Wickham; Kathryn Shinnick; The Faith Court Orchestra; Kyla Allan, John Court and Ryan Sharp.

commissioning prize to compose a new work for chamber jazz ensemble that combines a contemporary jazz writing style with contemporary and experimental classical ideas.

WAAPA congratulates these outstanding musicians, and is indebted to those benefactors who generously support the student scholarship program.

All photos by Jon Green



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## THUNDERSTRUCK STRIKES THE RIGHT NOTES

In October, percussion soloist Timothy Constable starred with WAAPA's award-winning percussion ensemble, Defying Gravity, in *Thunderstruck*, an inspirational and eventful trio of concerts.

A percussionist, composer and singer, Constable has won Australia's prestigious Freedman Fellowship and is currently the artistic director of Sydney's legendary Synergy Percussion quartet.

Just hours before his first evening concert with Defying Gravity, Constable was involved in a bicycle crash that left him with a broken finger and multiple grazes.

However the show went on, with the talented musician revamping several pieces to feature his beautiful African-inspired singing, and 2008 WAAPA graduate Daniel Hall pulling off the difficult task of replacing him in the louder hand-drumming works.

Hall also starred in the concert finale, playing with great verve on Constable's Senegalese 'sabar' drum.

While at WAAPA, Constable also presented an inspirational masterclass to the Defying Gravity students, with a special focus on percussion composition,

performance techniques and music and song from Africa.

Next year Defying Gravity has been invited to participate in the 2010 Australian Percussion Festival, to be held from August 26-30 at Griffith University in Brisbane.

The ensemble will perform a showcase concert at the Festival, the first national percussion event to take place since Defying Gravity toured to the 2006 Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival in Melbourne. The 2010 Festival will feature several international percussion soloists, along with a national percussion competition, and a massive installation at The Brisbane Powerhouse featuring 1,000 gongs!



Timothy Constable



## SERENA CHALKS UP ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR AIVDT

Anything Is Valid Dance Theatre, directed by WAAPA graduate Serena Chalker and also featuring dancers Megan Berryman, Nantale Kivubiro and Rhiannon Sprattling, has just completed a national tour as part of the Parklife 09 music festival, dancing with the headlining Australian band, Empire of the Sun.

The dancers performed to almost a half million people over the course of the tour, with the festival attracting crowds of up to 40,000 people in Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide.

The show included what is arguably the world's first improvised back-up dancing, one tonne of costumes, a feature film's worth of visual projections and 1.2 gigawatts of lighting. The performances also featured large improvisational scores, developed and choreographed by Chalker.

AIVDT are scheduled to perform with Empire of the Sun at the 2009 ARIA Awards.

Prior to their tour with Empire of the Sun, AIVDT dancers Serena Chalker, Quindell Orton, Nantale Kivubiro and Alison Plevey completed a two-week residency in improvisational performance at Hillarys Boat Harbour, funded by the City of Joondalup under an Arts Development Scheme.

The dancers spent two weeks on the main stage area, workshopping improvisation skills and performance scores during the week and

presenting formal showings on the weekends.

The project was designed to offer the public a behind the scenes look at a professional dance company's creative process, with AIVDT producing six performances over the course of the residency. The grant also facilitated the first stage of development of a new work that will be performed in the laneways of Perth in October 2010.



Photo by Anthony Iran



# WAAPA NEWS

## WAAPA DANCERS MAKE AWARDS CUT

A number of WAAPA dance graduates and lecturers have been short-listed by Ausdance WA for the 2009 West Australian Dance Awards. Each category has a maximum of only three nominations.

Michael Whaites, Artistic Director of LINK – WAAPA's graduate dance company – has been nominated for Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer for his work in Performing Lines' *Questions Without Notice*.

Graduate Dawn Jackson and sessional lecturer Sue Peacock have both been nominated for Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer, Jackson for her work in STRUT Dance Company's *Kohl* and Peacock for STRUT's *Prologue*.

Peacock's choreographic talents have also been recognised with her nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography for her dance work, *Questions Without Notice*. She shares this category with two WAAPA graduates, Alice Lee Holland for her piece *Preparing to be Beautiful* and Bianca Martin for *Home Alone (The Suburbs Dream Tonight)*.

Martin, with co-designer Jamie Macchiusi, has received a second nomination for the Award for Design and/or Composition in Dance for the set design of *Home Alone (The Suburbs Dream Tonight)*. Their fellow nominee in the category is WAAPA Production and Design graduate Holly Boyton for her costume designs for *Kohl*, *Preparing to*

*be Beautiful*, and *Depth Charge*.

Recent graduates Sally Blatchford (2005), Sofie Burgoyne (2007) and Joseph Simons (2008) have all been nominated for the Award for Emerging Artist.

Reyes de Lara, who retired earlier this year after 13 years as a lecturer at WAAPA, has been nominated for an Outstanding Achievement in Teaching Award.

Sessional lecturer Claudia Alessi and Michelle Saunders have been nominated for Outstanding Achievement in Regional or Community Dance for the Australian Youth Dance Festival in Mandurah 2009.

Graduate Rachel Ogle and Sete Tele have been nominated for their work with the Get Downers for DADAA [Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts Australia], and various outreach projects in the Pilbara and remote communities with Buzz Dance Theatre and the Michael Leslie Foundation.

The 2009 West Australian Dance Awards will be announced on November 26.



Joseph Simons in the 2006 WAAPA production of *Avatars* and Sophie Burgoyne (bottom left) in LINK Dance Company's production of *Transatlantic*



Photo by Jon Green

## SAM MAKES CLEAN SWEEP OF OPERA



Photo by Jeff Busby

Sam Nester (right) with Dr Richard Gill OAM

Trumpeter Sam Nester, who graduates this year with a Bachelor of Music (Honours), recently spent three weeks in Melbourne as the conductor for the Victorian Youth Opera's production of Benjamin Britten's *The Little Sweep*.

The VYO is an initiative of Victorian Opera's innovative education program, under the musical directorship of Dr Richard Gill OAM. Gill, who was Dean of Music at WAAPA from 1985-1990 and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Edith Cowan University, is one of Australia's pre-eminent and most admired conductors. He is internationally respected as a music educator, specialising in opera, musical theatre and vocal and choral training.

For *The Little Sweep*, which played for five performances from October 2-4 at Melbourne's Horti Hall, Nester worked with Gill as musical director, respected theatre director Shaun Murphy and an orchestra of high school and tertiary students.

The cast, chosen from more than 300 hopefuls who auditioned from around Victoria, was made up of school children – aged as young as eight – who took on the 10 principal roles and made up a chorus of 43.

The reviews were glowing. "Conductor Sam Nester, at 21 the veteran of the production, controlled the action nicely," commented Barney Zwartz of *The Age*. Sybil Nolan of Melbourne's *Herald Sun* wrote that "...director Shaun Murphy and conductor Sam Nester drew out a performance of remarkably consistent quality, one that gave emphasis to the show's elements of suspense and comedy, and featured some accomplished singing."

Nester, who completed a Bachelor of Music Studies at the Queensland Conservatorium before enrolling in Honours at WAAPA, has played trumpet with orchestras including the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, the Victorian Opera and The Queensland Orchestra for the Paris Opera Ballet's gala performance in Brisbane this year.

With expertise both as a trumpeter and conductor, Nester is not short of options for next year. However, if Nester is awarded the Fulbright Scholarship for which he has recently been short-listed, he plans to follow in the footsteps of his WAAPA trumpet mentor, David Elton, by travelling to America to study at the Northwestern University in Illinois under renowned trumpeter, Professor Charles Geyer.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE INSIDE WAAPA VIA EMAIL, PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO [bravowaapa@ecu.edu.au](mailto:bravowaapa@ecu.edu.au)

## DECIBEL CREATES A NEW WAVE OF SOUND

The 9th Totally Huge New Music Festival opened at WAAPA on September 10 with the debut performance of a new music ensemble, Decibel, under the musical direction of Cat Hope, WAAPA's Coordinator of Composition, Music Technology and Post Graduate Music Studies.

*Tape It*, a concert dedicated to exploring the nexus between acoustic and electronic instruments, focused on works that involved acoustic instruments playing with the 'tape' as another instrument. Decibel employed this concept in a number of ways: literally on tape, CD, with sampler, turntable or computer.

In addition to the world premiere of *Letters*, written for Decibel by Sydney composer Warren Burt, the *Tape It* program included the premieres of a work by Hope, *In the Cut*, and WAAPA graduate Dan Thorne's newly commissioned piece, *We'll Never Know*. Decibel also performed *Transit of Venus* by Lindsay Vickery, WAAPA's Coordinator of Brass and Woodwind.

Decibel features Hope (musical director, flute and electronics), Vickery (reeds and electronics), Stuart James (piano and electronics), Malcolm Riddoch (guitar and electronics), Rob Muir (sound design), Tristen Parr (cello) and Dan Russell (violin).

Next up for Decibel is a gig at the 2009 CreateWorld conference

– a performance, presentation and professional development event for academic and higher education technical staff in the digital arts disciplines – in Brisbane from November 30 to December 2.

The ensemble has also been invited to play in the 2010 Modern Music Festival at China's Shanghai Conservatory of Music next October.

In addition to the Decibel concert, WAAPA also hosted a number of concerts throughout September as part of the Totally Huge New Music Festival.

These included a free concert by Resonator, WAAPA's new chamber music ensemble; a performance by Defying Gravity with the Fremantle Symphony Orchestra and BellsWest, handbell ringers of WA, in a program which included the world premiere of David Pye's *ciadan*

rhythms; and *Guitar Dreaming*, showcasing WAAPA's guitar students under the direction of Classical Music Lecturer, Dr Jonathan Paget.

The Festival also included a Young Composers' Night, held at the WA Museum, which featured the new compositions of WAAPA graduates Tilman Robinson, Talitha Broughton, Kelly Curran and Kynan Tan. Graduate Christopher de Groot also premiered his *Tura*/WAAPA commissioned soundtrack which accompanied a 25-minute film by Mat de Koning.



Photo by KFord

## CHINESE WHISPERS FOR BIG BAND

A musical version of the children's game 'Chinese Whispers', in which a number of Australian jazz composers each contribute to the creation of a new work, premiered on October 15 in WAAPA's Music Auditorium.

Performed by the Mace Francis Orchestra, WAAPA's 2009 Ensemble in Residence, *Chinese Whispers IV* is a collaborative composition project devised as an innovative way of creating a new program of original music for Perth's powerhouse 14-piece jazz band. Now in its fourth edition, different rules are chosen each year for the game which affects the outcome of the final piece.

The game requires each composer to compose 10 bars of music, one after another, only seeing the previous 10 bars – never the whole piece.

"This allows the music to grow organically in a very unusual and interesting way. Very different to if one person was composing," says Mace Francis, band leader of MFO.

The composers involved in *Chinese Whispers IV* are Michael Barnes, a WAAPA graduate now living in Norway; Melbourne-based musicians Ross Irwin, Andrew Murray and Michael Wallace; Rafael Karlen in Brisbane; and Perth musicians – and WAAPA graduates – Mace Francis, Callum G'Frerer, Johannes Luebbers, Marty Pervan, Tilman Robinson and Dan Thorne.

In what is a coup for MFO, *Chinese Whispers* has been invited to become part of the American website/label ArtistShare – home of esteemed jazz musicians such as

Maria Schneider, Bob Brookmeyer, Jim Hall and Ron Carter.

"This is very exciting for us, as we are in the same company of many of our musical heroes," enthuses Francis. "To be the first Australian group invited to be part of ArtistShare is quite a buzz!"

For the premiere of *Chinese Whispers IV*, each audience member was given free access to download *Chinese Whispers III* on the ArtistShare website.



## ARTS MANAGEMENT GRADS CONQUER THE WORLD STAGE

The foyer at WAAPA is crowded and noisy, as a swell of theatre-goers enjoy drinks and conversation. It's the interval of the Academy's latest offerings: the Classical Vocal students are performing *Dialogues of the Carmelites* in The Geoff Gibbs Theatre, the 2nd Year Music Theatre students are performing *Company* in the Enright Studio and the 2nd Year Acting students are performing Hilary Bell's newly commissioned work, *Open Cut* in the Roundhouse Theatre.

Managing all these different audiences, from box office to bar work to ushering, is a team of students from WAAPA's Art Management course.

This behind-the-scenes theatre work is just the start of the hands-on experience that will lead these students into high-profile roles in arts management throughout Australia and overseas. From general managers of theatre, dance and music companies, to marketing and sponsorship leaders, to top government players influencing arts policy and planning, Arts Management graduates from WAAPA are found across the industry.

"Being a three year full-time degree program, we can achieve a breadth and depth of study that is just not possible in a shorter course," says Bruce Finlayson, head of the Arts Management course. "By the time our students graduate, they are job-ready."

With an almost 100 percent employment rate on graduation, Finlayson is unapologetic about how hard his students must work.

"Arts Managers are responsible for building the framework upon which the arts industry operates – they seek the sponsorship, funding, staff and audiences required for a production to become reality. So they have to be self-motivated,

dedicated and persistent."

"It was very hard work," agrees Meredith Potter, a 1994 graduate who now runs her own arts management company in Canada. "But it was rich and fun

and brain-expanding all at the same time."

Potter believes the focus on industry experience through secondments, coupled with rigorous theoretical work in management and marketing, was the course's main strength. "It was a well-balanced and very effective approach to preparing us for work in the field."

It proved so effective that Potter walked straight into a job after graduating. "I actually got my first job at the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust as the Marketing Fellow, having been seconded to the organisation in third year," says Potter.

Since then, Potter has worked in cultural organisations and performing arts companies in both Canada and Australia.

After three years as General Manager of Patch Theatre Company, in 1999 Potter moved to Toronto.

There she spent two years as the Administrator of Artists' Services at the Dance Umbrella of Ontario, before joining CORPUS as General Manager from 2001-04, and also produced the Dusk Dances Festival from 2002-08.

Current clients of Potter's company, Meredith Potter Arts Management, include Peggy Baker Dance Projects, Volcano Theatre, Ipsita Nova Dance Projects in Canada and Patch Theatre Company in Australia.

Further south in Hollywood, 2001 graduate Rikki Lea Bestall is a co-producer working on the Paramount Studios Lot.

Bestall's most recent project was working alongside director Joe Wright – whose credits include the highly acclaimed *Atonement* and *Pride and Prejudice* – on *The Soloist*, starring Robert Downey Jr and Jamie Foxx.

After graduating from WAAPA, Bestall spent five years working in Australia on the sets of *Neighbours*, *Stingers* and *Blue Heelers*, and on film projects such as *Ned Kelly* with Heath Ledger.

Then, in 2007, while working in Melbourne on *Ghost Rider*, starring Nicholas Cage, she landed a job as assistant to renowned Hollywood producer Gary Foster. Bestall has worked for Foster in Hollywood ever since.

"If you're really determined, you can do whatever you want," Bestall says. "Be smart about it, do your research, set some goals and do the training."

Bestall's work will next be seen on the world's cinema screens in *When in Rome*, a Disney romantic comedy starring Kristen Bell and Josh Duhamel which is due for release in January 2010.

She has also been collaborating with fellow WAAPA graduate Hugh Jackman on a movie titled *Avon Man*, which is still two to three years away from release.



Rikki Lea Bestall

On the other side of the world, 1998 graduate Damien Hewitt agrees that what he learned at WAAPA continues to hold him in good stead in his role as Executive Marketing Manager for London's Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG), the UK's largest theatre group. "The base in marketing and management are both key components in my current work," he says.

On graduating, Hewitt left Perth for London where he worked in a number of arts management positions, including the roles of PR Manager for the London Comedy Festival, Marketing Manager of the Warehouse Theatre, and Head of Marketing & Development for New Wimbledon Theatre.



His current position with ATG takes in 24 venues in the UK, with 14 in the West End alone. Ambassador also invests in productions such as *Le Cage Aux Folles*, *Sunset*

*Boulevard*, productions of *Guys & Dolls* for Broadway and Sydney, and most recently *The Misanthrope* starring Keira Knightley.

Next year, WAAPA's Arts Management program comes full circle: 2010 marks the 25th anniversary of the course and its graduates now hold highly influential positions in a wide range of arts organisations both in Australia and overseas.

To celebrate, a reunion is being organised for February next year; for more details, please contact Val Rhodes-Newton on [v.rhodes\\_newton@ecu.edu.au](mailto:v.rhodes_newton@ecu.edu.au) or phone +61 (0) 8 9370 6086.



# WAAPA NEWS

## JOE CHINDAMO PERFORMS AT DISKLAVIER LAUNCH

On October 22, Edith Cowan University and Yamaha Music Australia presented the launch of a Yamaha Disklavier grand piano at WAAPA, with Australia's premier jazz pianist and composer Joe Chindamo performing live as the event's special guest artist.

The Yamaha Disklavier is the final instrument to be delivered to WAAPA as part of a major acquisition between ECU and Yamaha Music Australia, which earlier this year saw 53 Yamaha pianos – including a handcrafted concert grand piano – delivered to WAAPA.

WAAPA's new Disklavier, from Yamaha's Pro Series, will be the only model of its kind available to the public in Australia. Coupled with the Yamaha pianos – which are used in rehearsal rooms, tutors' studios and in the Academy's many performance venues across all areas of the performing arts offered on campus including classical music, jazz, vocal studies, dance, acting and music theatre – means that no other university in Australia can boast such a fine and expansive collection of brand new instruments.

The Disklavier is a player piano that uses electromechanical solenoids and optical sensors connected to LEDs to play notes and use the pedals independent of any human operator. It can store data, such as a performance played on it by a pianist, and replay it accurately. Disklaviers also have inputs for data from MIDI and from several storage devices including floppy disks, CD-ROM, serial cables and USB.

Yamaha's Pro Series is the professional line of Disklaviers, which reproduces key and pedal strokes with greater precision than the standard line of the instrument.

To demonstrate the unique capabilities of this extraordinary instrument, guest artist Joe Chindamo performed a live accompaniment to a pre-recorded projected film of himself playing the Disklavier.

"We're privileged to be able to attract the world's finest musicians to perform at WAAPA so it's only fitting that we provide them with the best instruments possible," says WAAPA Director, Professor Julie Warn. "It's equally important that in our day-to-day teaching and learning environment, our staff and students are working with first-rate instruments for rehearsal and performance."



Joe Chindamo

## HILARY BELL PLAY PREMIERES AT WAAPA



Photo by Jon Green

WAAPA's 2nd Year Acting students in a scene from 'Open Cut'

In October, a new play by Australian playwright Hilary Bell had its premiere performance at WAAPA with assistance from the D'Arcy Slater Foundation.

*Open Cut*, which was commissioned by WAAPA for its 2009 season and was directed by WAAPA's Program Director, Andrew Lewis, explores the multitude of complex moral questions that arise from WA's mining boom.

Bell first visited WAAPA in 2008, and used research undertaken and interviews conducted by the students as the basis for her writing.

"I asked the students what was affecting their lives, right now," says Bell. "WA's mining industry emerged as an integral part of living in Perth... We expect it to solve all our problems, we blame it for all our ills, and as long as we insist on a certain standard of living, the damage is done in our name."

*Open Cut* focuses on dozens of characters whose lives intersect as they are affected by their relationship with the mines: a couple whose marriage survives only because the wife is rarely home; an Irish backpacker saved from drug-debt danger by 'skimpy' dollars; a group of Pacific Islanders, their home sunk by global warming.

A graduate of the Juilliard Playwrights' Studio, NIDA and AFTRS, Bell is well known throughout Australia as a multi award-winning writer for stage, radio, screen and music theatre.

## GRAND MA2 LIGHTING SETS NEW STANDARD

In September, through the generosity of the Friends of the Academy, WAAPA took delivery of a new Grand MA2 lighting control console.

This acquisition enables WAAPA to provide training on equipment that is recognised world wide as the pinnacle of state-of-the-art lighting.

Grand MA control consoles are used extensively in performing arts complexes, the corporate events sector, theatres, and for rock & roll touring acts across Australia and internationally. They are in operation from Broadway to the West End, and have been used to control lighting and vision for the Olympics, Eurovision and countless other productions around the world.

"We now have the opportunity to train our students with the most sophisticated control systems currently available," says Jerry Reinhardt, WAAPA's Lighting Coordinator. "The benefits of this acquisition will be felt across all the performing arts disciplines at WAAPA by assisting in producing productions to the highest professional industry standards."

"On behalf of WAAPA's staff and students, I would like to thank all of the Friends for their generosity, foresight and continued support."

# WAAPA NEWS

## LINK CREATES RIPPLE EFFECT

Fresh from their successful mid-year overseas tour, LINK – WAAPA's graduate dance company – took *Ripple Effect*, a program of new choreographic works to the Dolphin Theatre at the University of Western Australia for three performances in September.

New Zealander Craig Bary, who has worked extensively with highly-respected Australian and New Zealand choreographers including Gary Stewart of Australian Dance Theatre, created a work specifically for the LINK dancers entitled 'Caused to Happen'.

'Caused to Happen' featured original music composed by WAAPA Composition student, Kynan Tan.

In addition to his choreographic talents, Bary also appeared on stage with the LINK dancers performing in a new work by LINK Artistic Director, Michael Whaites. 'Things That Remain' was partially developed in July when LINK was in residence at the Performing Arts Forum in St. Erme, France as part of their overseas tour.



Photo by Jon Green

Using audio visual elements to heighten the work's themes, 'Things that Remain' also featured well-known Perth actor George Shevtsov.

LINK will finish their year at WAAPA with a December showcase in Melbourne and Sydney

George Shevtsov performs with the LINK Dance Company in 'Ripple Effect'

of works from the company's 2009 repertoire. They will perform in Melbourne at Dancehouse on Wednesday 2 December at 7.30pm, then head north to Sydney to the Io Meyers Studio Theatre at UNSW, with performances on Saturday 5 December at 8pm and Sunday 6, at 3pm.

## MINISTER AND MP WOWED BY WAAPA

The Minister for Training, the Hon Peter Collier MLC, and the Member for the East Metropolitan Region, the Hon Alyssa Hayden MLC visited WAAPA in October for an up-close-and-personal glimpse of the facilities, staff and students.

Director of WAAPA, Professor Julie Warn AM took the guests on a tour, giving them the opportunity to view the diverse range of fields available, including dance, theatre, props and scenery, sound and lighting.

They also spent time discussing WAAPA courses and pathways with Graham Wood, Program Director of Music, and Leisa Landre-Ord, Program Director of Production & Design and Arts Management.

Both the Minister and Ms Hayden were particularly impressed by the vitality and enthusiasm on display by students and staff in all disciplines, and commented that it was invigorating to see such personal passion at work.

The Minister went on to say that it is important for young people to be able to nurture their true interests and talents.

"Not everyone is inclined to follow a traditional academic pathway, and skills gained in appropriate training programs will set students up for very fulfilling careers," he said.



Photo by Jay Arty

Minister Collier and Alyssa Hayden at WAAPA

## LUNA LIGHTS UP WITH STUDENT FILMS

On October 3, filmmakers and fans gathered at Luna Leederville for *Venus and Mars*, a collection of short films made by the students of the WA Screen Academy.

A range of short films were screened, all of which were created in association with the WAAPA Acting, Production and Design, and Music Composition programs. Congratulations go to Sophie Mathewson and Barney Gederio, who took out the Russell Goodrick Award of Excellence, and also to WAAPA 2009 Acting graduates Jennifer White and Scott Sheridan who won the ECU Award of Excellence in Screen Acting.

## FORGING SOUTHERN ALLIANCES

Following their successful Perth season of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and *Richard III* in repertoire, WAAPA's 3rd Year Acting students took the Bard's works on a regional tour to Albany and Bunbury in September.

The students visited Albany on September 10 and 11 for three performances of *As You Like It*, directed by Lee Lewis, in the Albany Town Hall with an after-show Q&A session with the cast. Later that month, they performed three shows of *Richard III*, directed by John Sheedy, in the Bunbury Entertainment Centre.

This tour was made possible with financial assistance from the D'Arcy Slater Foundation, for which WAAPA is extremely grateful.

# RESIDENCIES, WORKSHOPS AND VISITORS



Photo by Jay Autry

Australian playwright **HILARY BELL** visited WAAPA in September for a week of fine-tuning her new script, *Open Cut*, in collaboration with director Andrew Lewis and the 2nd Year Acting students. Bell was commissioned by WAAPA to write the play for its 2009 season.

**CLAIRE EDWARDES**, the 1999 Australian Young Performer of the Year, visited WAAPA in September to take part in the 9th Totally Huge New Music Festival. She presented a fascinating percussion masterclass for Defying Gravity, explaining the joys and intricacies of the multi-percussion repertoire and giving advice on making a career in percussion.

In October, Sydney-based theatre director **KATE GAUL** directed WAAPA's Classical Vocal students in Francis Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. With musical direction by David Wickham, the singers were supported by the largest orchestra yet assembled in The Geoff Gibbs Theatre. A graduate of the NIDA Director's course, Gaul has directed a number of critically acclaimed productions in Sydney, in particular for Company B and as Artistic Director of Siren Theatre Co.



Photo by Jay Autry

In September, WAAPA graduate and jazz trumpeter/arranger/composer **RICKI MALET** performed in the final Jazz Windows concert for the year. *In Life and on Film with Ricki Malet* took its audience on a musical journey through famous jazz soundtracks and Malet's own original film compositions. Performing with Malet on trumpet were well-known Perth musicians Carl Mackey on saxophone, Jeremy Greig on trombone, Tim Jago on guitar, Matt Willis on bass and Dan di Paola on drums.

WAAPA recently hosted Assistant Professor in Theatre, **KEN WOMBLE**, from the University of Northern Colorado. The University's College of Performing and Visual Arts works very similarly to WAAPA and it is anticipated that there could be potential staff and student exchanges.

## STAFF CAMEOS

*JUST A FEW OF THE ONGOING  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF WAAPA STAFF*

In September **CAT HOPE** (Coordinator of Composition, Music Technology and Postgraduate Studies in Music) visited Shanghai, China for just under a week as part of a delegation of Western Australian electronic artists. During the visit Hope met with Professor Jia Da Quan, composer and Head of Postgraduate Studies at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, one of the largest and most established music schools in China. Hope's new music ensemble, Decibel, has been invited to perform in the 2010 Modern Music Festival at the Conservatory next October. Hope also gave a talk at the Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts and the University of Shanghai Science and Technology. The delegation met Chen Sheng Lai, President of the Center for the China Shanghai International Arts Festival, and government officials involved in international arts and education in Shanghai.

**ANNA SLEPTSOVA** (Sessional Lecturer in Music) will visit the National University of Singapore this month, where she has been invited to adjudicate the Piano Concerto Competition and to conduct a masterclass at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music. One of Sleptsova's single-study piano students, Tommy Seah – who is in his fourth year of an Engineering/Economics double degree at UWA – has been selected as a contestant in the 7th Hamamatsu International Piano Competition. It is one of the most prestigious of its kind in Asia and will be held in Hamamatsu, Japan in November.

**STEWART SMITH** (Coordinator, Classical Music) recently performed in the inaugural WA Baroque Festival where he played with musicians from Australia and around the globe. He also accompanied the choir of St George's Cathedral in a live broadcast for the ABC. The ABC has also released two CDs where Smith is featured as an accompanist – one with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and one with baritone Teddy Tahu Rhodes – and in December he will give several performances of two Handel organ concertos.

**TIM WHITE** (Lecturer in Percussion and Director of Defying Gravity) is heading to Canberra in January in the role of Music Director of the Australian Youth Orchestra's 2010 National Music Camp. **MICHEÁL MCCARTHY** (Senior

Lecturer, Music) will be the camp's Singing and Rhythm Workshop Director. White and McCarthy are the only two tutors hailing from WA at the camp. The fortnight-long camp will bring together 200 of Australia's finest young orchestral musicians, and features two full-sized symphony orchestras, a string chamber orchestra, and programs for young composers, arts administrators, music journalists and broadcasters.

In October, **DAVID WICKHAM** (Senior Lecturer, Piano) performed in two ABC Classic FM Sunday Live broadcasts, the first with soprano Sara Macliver and the second as a member of the trio PVC, with violinist Margaret Blades, Associate Concertmaster of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, and cellist Michael Goldschlager. In September Wickham teamed up with tenor Alexander Lewis (2004) for *American Stories*, a recital of American songs at Government House Ballroom; performed on Channel 7's Telethon, playing for the vocal group, Cabaret Cadenza; and was musical director of WAAPA's end-of-year opera production, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. Before that, Wickham completed a tour of New Zealand with soprano Aivale Cole and was musical director for Broome's *Opera Under The Stars*, starring Cole, Katharine Tier, Michael Lewis and WAAPA graduate Katja Webb.

## ACCOLADES

*JUST A FEW OF THE ONGOING  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF WAAPA STUDENTS*

### DANCE

In October, **WILLIAM BANKS** and **CHLOE HENDERSON** were offered Young Artist contracts with the WA Ballet for 2010. Banks, **ASHLEY MCLELLEN** and **CHRISTOPHER EAD** are performing with the WA Ballet for their regional tour of *Romeo and Juliet*.

### MUSIC



**THE WAAPA BRASS ENSEMBLE**, under conductor David Elton (Lecturer, Trumpet), performed at the Melbourne International Brass Festival, which was held from September 27 to October 3. Their performance was hailed as a triumph by everyone in attendance and they have been invited back to perform in 2010. In



addition to showcasing some of the best international talent around, the Festival is committed to nurturing, guiding and promoting the development of Australian brass players through inspirational workshops and master classes. The WAAPA Brass Ensemble performed a selection of virtuoso brass works including a performance of a new work by Alan Holley, *Opal Tide*, who was present for the performance. Plans are underway to send the WAAPA trumpeters to the 2010 International Trumpet Guild in Sydney, where David Elton is to be a featured artist.

After rigorous auditions, 3rd Year Jazz students **SEAN LITTLE** (tenor saxophone), **MARTY DUCK** (trumpet), **JAMES IRELAND** (piano) **KARL FLORISSON** (bass), **SEAN PHILLIPS** (drums) and **AMELIA ONG** (vocals) have been chosen to represent WAAPA at the Wangaratta Jazz Festival. The members of the ensemble all contribute material to the repertoire.

## APPLAUSE

JUST A FEW OF THE ONGOING  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF WAAPA ALUMNI

### ABORIGINAL THEATRE

In October, **KARLA HART** (2005) and ECU Contemporary Performance graduate Fleur Hockey worked with more than 90 students at Kellerberrin District High School to create a performance based on traditional Indigenous themes and contemporary dance for the town's annual agricultural show. Over a nine week period, the students worked on dance choreography and mask and lantern making for the performance. The next phase of the project involves students from Kellerberrin visiting WAAPA's Aboriginal Theatre studies program, Yirra Yaakin, Noongar Radio and Ab Music in Perth.

### ACTING

**SIOBHAN DOW-HALL** (2008), who recently worked as dramaturge on the Perth Theatre Company's production of Peter Shaffer's play *Equus*, performed the role of Rose in *Navigating Rose*, an October school holiday show about the famous French explorer Rose de Freycinet for the WA Museum Fremantle.

**HUGH JACKMAN** (1994) is performing on Broadway in the play, *A Steady Rain*, opposite James Bond star Daniel Craig. Jackman took time out from the smash hit drama to give a speech on the perils of global warming at the recent Climate Week NYC conference alongside Barack Obama and a host of world dignitaries. When the play closes, Jackman will begin filming the latest Wolverine movie and has signed on as the host of the 2010 Academy Awards.



**GERALD LEPKOWSKI** (1991), who appears on television as intelligence officer Richard Skerritt in the second series of SBS' acclaimed crime drama, *East West 101*, will be seen on the big screen in the forthcoming Jeremy Sims' war movie *Beneath Hill 60*, which was shot recently in Townsville. Based on the true story of a mining gang employed by the Australian army in World War I to tunnel beneath the enemy's trenches, the film also stars Jacqueline McKenzie, Brendan Cowell, Aden Young and Gyton Grantley.

Cry Havoc, a new theatre company set up by WAAPA graduates **JAMES MACKAY** (2008), **GEMMA PRANITA** (2007) and **JAI COURTNEY**



Gemma Pranita and Tom Stokes

(2007) with Kate Revz as artistic director, was launched on October 14 at the Richard Wherrett Studio in Sydney. The company then opened their first production, Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, on October 29 at the Wharf's Studio 1. The cast featured WAAPA alumni Mackay, Pranita, **TOM STOKES**, **BRENT HILL**, **MARK POUND**, **CLARE BLUMER** and **MEGAN O'CONNELL**.

### ARTS MANAGEMENT

**UTE BIEFANG** (1997), who worked with Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago and Opera Australia in Sydney before becoming producer of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival for seven years, relocated to Paris in 2008 and now runs her own business, UTE in Paris - Unique Taste Experiences in Paris. UTE designs personalised tours with a focus on culinary experiences and a discovery of the hidden treasures and secrets of Paris. Biefang, who is fluent in English, German and French, offers visitors the opportunity to experience such pleasures as discovering the best artisan bakers in Paris and hunting for the ultimate Parisian macaroon. Her website is [www.uteinparis.com](http://www.uteinparis.com)

### DANCE

After having spent this year as a company member of Leigh Warren & Dancers in Adelaide, **NATALIE ALLEN** (2008) has been invited to join Sydney Dance Company. In her final year at WAAPA, Allen was named Most Outstanding Dancer and Dancer to Watch in the Dance Australia 2008 critics' review and awarded the WAAPA Inaugural Hawaiian Award for Dance for the most outstanding graduate.

**SALLY BLATCHFORD** (2005), who recently performed in Dancenorth's *Remember Me* at the 2009 Queensland Music Festival, has been invited to join Queensland's leading contemporary dance company again for their national tour of *Nightcafé*.

In October, 1st Year dancers **SAM MAXTED** and **BEN CHAPMAN** with 2nd Year dancer **BLAINE HALL-JONES** performed the Australian Ballet's touring production of *Swan Lake*, choreographed by Graeme Murphy, in Perth at the Burswood Theatre.

**JUSTINE PUY** (2005) is one of six WAAPA graduates who will be touring Perth in April 2010 in the musical *Cats*.

TasDance member **CHARMENE YAP** (2006), who as a member Chunky Move toured internationally with Gideon Obarzanek's dance-video-laser work *Mortal Engine*, is currently rehearsing Tanja Liedtke's *Construct*, for an upcoming tour to Israel and Canada.

### MUSIC

Axis 21, the new music ensemble at WAAPA, performed in August at the Ellington Jazz Club as part of the regular Club Zoo series. Presented by Tura New Music in association with WAAPA, the concert was curated by Cat Hope (WAAPA's Coordinator of Composition, Music Technology and Post Graduate Music Studies) and Lindsay Vickery (Coordinator, Brass and Woodwind) and featured new works by WAAPA graduates **KELLY CURRAN**, **CAMPBELL ELLIS**, **KYNAN TAN**, **TALITHA BROUGHTON**, **BEN HAMBLIN**, **PIPPIN KENWORTHY**, **DAN THORNE** and **YAGAN KIELY**.

Percussion graduates **DANIEL HALL** (2008) and **RACHAEL FLYNN** (2009) will join their Defying Gravity colleagues Catherine Betts, Kaylie Melville and Joel Bass to form the percussion section for the WA Youth Orchestra's upcoming tour of South-East Asia, departing in December.

Baritone **SAM ROBERTS-SMITH** (2008) has made the finals of the Australian Singing Awards, to be held at His Majesty's Theatre on November 2. He is one of five young opera singers competing for prizes and scholarships valued at more than \$180,000. He has recently been offered a year's contract with Opera Australia, beginning in December.

# APPLAUSE

CONTINUED...

The Transients, made up of 2005 WAAPA graduates **ROBERT MASZKOWSKI** and **BELA INKSTER**, have released their debut EP, *Crossfades* (Independent/MGM). Since they formed in 2006, The Transients have quietly amassed plaudits and award nominations.



Bassist **LINDA OH** (2005) has released her first CD, *Entry – The Linda Oh Trio* with her fellow Manhattan School of Music graduates, trumpeter Ambrose Akinmusire and drummer Obed Calvaire. In his review in *The New York Times*, Ben Ratliff wrote, "...as it barrels ahead, the music's fearless energy seems self-generated. It's not airlessly virtuosic; it's smart and informed and hard working, full of real improvisation, the committed, hard-won, lumpy, nonmechanical, go-for-broke kind." Oh, who while visiting Perth in October played at The Ellington Jazz Club with the Graham Wood Trio and performed at the York Jazz Festival, will be performing with Akinmusire at this year's Wangaratta Festival of Jazz.

Percussionist **JOSHUA WEBSTER** (2008) made his concert debut on the cimbalom in September, when he joined the Fremantle Symphony Orchestra for two performances of Zoltan Kodaly's *Hary Janos Suite*. The cimbalom is a large wooden multi-stringed Hungarian folk instrument, and the performer uses two spoon-shaped mallets made of wood and felt to produce delicate melodies and cascading harmonic patterns.



Soprano **ELISA WILSON** (1983) sang the lead role of Cio-Cio-San in Puccini's romantic opera *Madame Butterfly* in Oz Opera's 2009

extensive regional national tour. Oz Opera is the touring arm of Opera Australia. Its *Madame Butterfly* tour began in Pakenham, Victoria in July and ended in Perth at the Octagon Theatre in October. Along the way there were 29 performances in 21 different venues over 11 weeks. Directed by John Bell of Bell Shakespeare fame, Oz Opera performed this production of *Madame Butterfly* in English rather than the more usual Italian. Wilson, who sang the role on alternate nights to preserve her voice, says it's one of the most technically challenging and emotionally draining in the repertoire.



The Chemist, a band formed at WAAPA in 2006 by Contemporary Music graduates **BENJAMIN WITT** (vocals, guitar, keyboard) and **HAMISH RAHN** (bass), with Jazz graduates **JAMES IRELAND** (keyboards) and **ELLIOT SMITH** (drums), have signed to Dirt Diamonds Productions. This new music producer is co-owned by Australian band Eskimo Joe – Kav Temperley, Stuart Macleod and Joel Quartermain – along with Catherine Haridy. DDP's ethos is to work with and support local artists who have outstanding talent.

A number of WAAPA staff members and graduates performed at the 2009 York Jazz Festival from October 23-25. WAAPA's Coordinator of Jazz Studies, saxophonist **JAMIE OEHLERS** and sessional lecturer, bassist **SAM ANNING** – both also graduates – were part of the headlining Ari Hoenig Quartet, playing with the American drumming sensation Ari Hoenig and guitarist Gilad Hekselman; fresh from New York, graduate and double bass player **LINDA OH** performed with her Linda Oh Trio; graduate **VICTORIA NEWTON** sang with the Victoria Newton Quartet; The Hounds featured graduates **RICKI MALET** on trumpet, **CALLUM G'FROERER** on cornet, **BEN COLLINS** on clarinet and alto saxophone, **TILMAN ROBINSON** on trombone, **MACE FRANCIS** on banjo, **WAYNE SLATER** on double bass and **GREG BRENTON** on drums; graduates of WAAPA's Contemporary Vocals program, **KRISTEN ABBOTT** and **GEORGIA MOONEY** performed with jazz and soul vocal legends, Helen Matthews and Annie Neil in a tribute concert to Joni Mitchell; Melbourne-based graduate **SARAH MCKENZIE** on piano and vocals led the Sarah McKenzie Sextet, supported by sessional lecturer Tim Jago on guitar, sessional lecturer and graduate

**CARL MACKEY** on saxophone, graduate **NICK ABBEY** on bass, graduate **RICKI MALET** on trumpet and lecturer Chris Tarr on drums.

## MUSIC THEATRE

*Once We Lived Here*, a farming musical about rural Victoria written by lyricist **DEAN BRYANT** (1999) and composer **MATHEW FRANK** (1997), played in September to sell-out crowds in the basement theatre space of fortyfive downstairs in Melbourne's Flinders Lane. Opening night was attended by Academy Award-winner Geoffrey Rush, fellow WAAPA alumnus Eddie Perfect, musical star Rhonda Burchmore and the Australian Ballet's David McAllister. Rural touring group Blackbird Productions plans to mount a national tour of the show in 2011. Bryant has spent the past three years as associate director on *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, while Frank has been the musical director of several productions, including the Melbourne Theatre Company's *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Poor Boy*.

**BRENT DOLAHENTY** (2007), **ERIN JAMES** (2005), **JOHN O'HARA** (2001), **MONIQUE PITSIKAS** (2002) and **KATHRYN SGROI** (2007) will be touring Perth in April 2010 in the musical *Cats*.

**ALEXANDER LEWIS** (2004) teamed up with David Wickham (Senior Lecturer, Piano) at the piano for *American Stories*, a recital of American songs from the likes of Gene Scheer, Kurt Weill and Leonard Bernstein at Government House Ballroom on September 6. Money raised is to be used for masterclasses at WAAPA by leading singers and teachers. Lewis, whose voice has changed from a baritone to a tenor, has recently returned from a long tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*, in which he performed the love-interest role of Raoul more than 300 times across Australia and as far away as Taiwan. In 2001, the then 18-year-old Lewis became the youngest-ever finalist in the Australian Singing Competition. Two years ago, he was a semi-finalist in the Neue Stimmen (New Voices) Opera Competition in Germany as a baritone and will be back there for the finals in October as a tenor.

**EDDIE PERFECT** (2001) has been signed to host the Inside Film Awards, held on November 18 at Sydney's Luna Park. The awards recognise the contribution of Australian artists to film.

**ALEXANDER RATHGEBER** (2003) has returned from London's West End after playing Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera* to perform the role of Robert in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, with a cast including Geoffrey Rush, Robyn Nevin and Rhonda Burchmore, for Melbourne Theatre Company's 2010 season, opening on January 18.



# WAAPA FAREWELLS...

"In farewelling these staff members, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution each has made to WAAPA. Through their dedication and commitment, they have been fundamental to the ongoing success of the Academy. We wish them well for their future endeavours."

- Professor Julie Warn AM, WAAPA Director.

## ANDY KING

Audio Visual Supervisor  
Commenced 1987

## REYES DE LARA

Senior Lecturer, Contemporary Dance  
Commenced 1996

## STEVE EMMS

Production Administrator  
Commenced 1997

## BRIAN ANSLOW

Lecturer, Lighting  
Commenced 2003

## DAVID COTGREAVE

Manager, Technical Operations  
Commenced 2004

## HARRY COGHILL

Vocal Consultant  
Commenced 2007

WAAPA also thanks Melbourne jazz pianist, **MARK FITZGIBBON** who has been an invaluable member of staff all year, filling in for Jeremy Greig while he was on leave.

# VALE

On October 13, social writer for the Perth newspaper *The Sunday Times* and tireless charity worker **HOLLY WOOD** died after a long battle with cancer. Holly, 68, had been a regular presence on Perth's social scene since 1983, when he started work with Perth's *Sunday Independent*. Holly was honoured with many awards from the community including the City of Perth's Citizen of the Year in 1999 and the Centenary Medal. Wood was a long-time WAAPA supporter, who particularly loved Music Theatre and rarely missed a musical.

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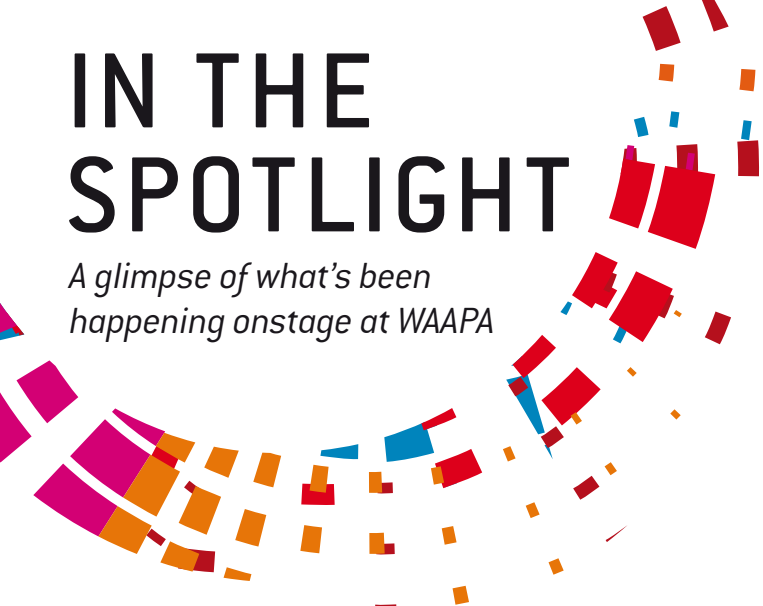
## OUR PARTNERS

WAAPA acknowledges the very generous contribution of our partners



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A glimpse of what's been happening onstage at WAAPA



Ripple Effect



Ripple Effect



Dialogues of the Carmelites



Company



Dialogues of the Carmelites



Dialogues of the Carmelites



Classical Music Awards



Classical Music Awards



Company



Company



Ripple Effect

Photos by Jon Green