

waapa

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS, EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY

[ISSUE 13] OCTOBER 2007

Features

'The Good Fight' knocks out New York



On 20 September, WAAPA's 3rd Year Music Theatre students premiered a powerful new Australian musical at the world's largest musical theatre event, the New York Musical Theater Festival.

The Good Fight, with book and lyrics by Nick Enright and music by WAAPA's Head of Music Theatre, David King, was enthusiastically received in its three performances at New York's Julia Miles Theater.

The contingent of 20 WAAPA students was invited to New York by the Festival's musical director, Perth-born Kris Stewart, himself a WAAPA graduate.

"Kris is a real mover and shaker who graduated in 1995 from our directing course," says David King. "When I met him in New York last year, he was enthusiastic about inclusion in the Festival, so we commenced fundraising in anticipation of receiving an official invitation to participate".

That fundraising, which included the students opening and closing conferences and staging shows at Perth's casino, provided the \$150,000 needed to send the cast and crew to New York.

New York has already seen a hugely successful musical by the late, great Nick Enright in *The Boy from Oz*.

The Good Fight is Enright's tribute to the legendary Australian boxer,

Les Darcy. Staged within the confines of a boxing ring, the musical seamlessly moves from the battlefields of World War I to the boxing rings and music hall stages of Australia and America as it explores issues of manhood, mothers and war.

The Good Fight was directed by Crispin Taylor, with choreography by Jenny Lynnd and music direction by David King, with Derek Bond on keyboards.

The reviews the play earned after its short three-performance run made the enormous effort that was required to get the show to New York worth it.

James Comtois of nytheatre.com wrote that "Crispin Taylor ably directs a cast made up of very talented performers and singers. Costume designers Alison Fraser, Bronwyn Mace, and Lorraine Koh adeptly evoke a sepia-toned look with the costumes. There are also some genuinely impressive moments in the play ..."

Elyse Sommer of www.curtainup.com was even more lavish in her praise.

"I wish I could urge everyone reading this to rush out and see *The Good Fight* instead of reporting on it after its all too brief run has ended. It's a chapter of Australian history that has been transformed into an absorbing, achingly beautiful musical that transcends its Aussie roots, especially for today's audiences. Though staged with a two-piano orchestra and just a few ingeniously used benches for scenery, this is nevertheless a spectacle that succeeds by any criterion for measuring the success of a musical theater piece ..."

"The lyrics by Enright and music by David King soar with lyricism and passion. The attractive, seventeen strong cast of students from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts which composer King heads brings the minor as well as the major characters of this epic to vivid life. Director Crispin Taylor ... and choreographer Jenny Lynnd make stunning use of the actors to form evocative tableaux when not actively involved and for the fight scenes which are absolutely brilliant thanks to lighting designer Glenn Hunter."

WAAPA student Daniel Jongen, who was production manager and stage manager for the New York tour, summed up the experience perfectly when he said, "It all came together exceptionally well ... I feel we have done WAAPA proud."

2008 PERTH DANCE CALENDAR

Buy it now online at the WAAPA shop: www.waapa.ecu.edu.au/shop
or contact the Marketing Department - 9370 6817 or bravowaapa@ecu.edu.au



PERTH DANCE CALENDAR

2008

dancers from the western australian
academy of performing arts

Backstage takes centre stage in Prague

In June, sixteen WAAPA design and costume students travelled to the Czech Republic with three WAAPA staff to participate in the 2007 Prague Quadrennial, the 11th International Exhibition of Scenography and Theatre Architecture.

The Prague Quadrennial, established in 1967, is the only exhibition of its kind and magnitude in the world that exhibits contemporary stage designs and theatre architecture. In 2007, the Prague Quadrennial celebrated its enduring success with the involvement of over 70 countries.

WAAPA was appointed curator for the Australian student exhibit, and under the leadership of Design Coordinator, John Senczuk, provided a representative photographic montage of design students' work from Australia's three elite theatre training institutions: WAAPA, the National Institute of Dramatic Arts

(NIDA) and the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA)

At the Quadrennial, the students assisted with the installation and bump out of the exhibit, as well as attending workshops, exhibitions and lectures.

John Senczuk delivered a paper to the conference on June 20, the designated "Day of Australia". While providing a history of Australian scenography and an overview of the past four years, the lecture primarily focussed on the work of Perth born designer, Brian Thomson.

Stan Kubalcik, WAAPA's Workshop Supervisor, generously used his local knowledge to arrange a rare backstage tour of Prague's National Theatre and its workshops, and visits to the Black Theatre of Prague and Joseph Svoboda's *Laterna Magica*.

Kubalcik also organised for the students to travel to the small medieval town of Keský Krumlov, 170



kilometres from Prague, where they were given a guided tour of Krumlov Castle's unique Baroque theatre, whose interior, furnishings, stage settings, costumes and stage machinery are impeccably preserved.

WAAPA in the city



From June to August, WAAPA staff and students enjoyed performing in inner-city venues as part of the City of Perth Winter Arts Festival.

Throughout June and August, students from WAAPA's music courses performed a series of free lunchtime concerts in town. The Perth Town Hall hosted free classical music concerts every Friday in June, while Jazz and Contemporary music concerts were held at the State Library every Friday in August.



(L) WAAPA's dance students in 'Etcetera Etcetera' (R) 3rd Year Acting students' production of 'East'

Etcetera Etcetera, a program of original pieces choreographed and performed by WAAPA's dance students, enjoyed a successful season in August at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts. The students were given the opportunity to work with student lighting and costume designers; some also collaborated with music composition students studying under Cat Hope, Lecturer in Classical Music, to create original music for their pieces.

At the end of August, the Blue Room Theatre in Northbridge was the venue for the 3rd Year Acting students' sell-out production of Steven Berkoff's confrontational play, *East*, directed by Sydney actor and director Tamara Cook.

The talented work of WAAPA's 3rd Year graduating Design students was showcased in the exhibition *Behind the Scenes*, on display from August 20 for two weeks at the Museum of Performing Arts in His Majesty's Theatre.

Student film wins LA award

Postcard Vernosti, a 2005 short film written by WAAPA graduate Josh Wakely (2005) and directed by WAAPA's Program Director of Performance, Andrew Lewis, has won the Action/Cut 2007 Best Foreign Award for Student Film.

The five parameters of judging were: Subject Originality, Content Realisation, Visual Storytelling, Production Values and Viewing Engagement of Work.

This is a remarkable achievement given that the 2007 competition, held annually in Los Angeles, had over 1,000 entries which were screened through a process of multiple jury committees.

Nanette Hassall honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award



On Friday 7 September, the 2007 West Australian Dance Awards were announced at Ausdance WA's 30th Birthday Gala Dinner. Nanette Hassall, WAAPA's Coordinator and Senior Lecturer in

Dance, was awarded the Ausdance WA Lifetime Achievement Award. At the ceremony, Hassall's years of dedication as performer, choreographer, educator and advocate for the Australian dance industry were honoured.

Hassall's performance career spanned both national and international stages with companies such as the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Ballet Rambert and Strider Dance Company in London, and time in London teaching at Dartington College.

On returning to Australia, Hassall established Dance Exchange in NSW with Russell Dumas, and later Danceworks in Melbourne. She has choreographed works for Danceworks, Tasdance, Dance North, Australian Dance Theatre and a number of works for the students at WAAPA.

Before being appointed as Head of the Dance Department at WAAPA in 1995, Hassall served as Lecturer in charge of Contemporary Dance at the Victorian College of the Arts.

She has served on numerous panels and boards including the Australia Council, the Australia-New Zealand Choreographers and Composers Project, the Green Mill Dance Board and Buzz Dance Theatre.

Hassall continues to be instrumental in the ongoing development of contemporary dance in Australia as the Chair of the Tertiary Dance Council of Australia and the Chair of the World Dance Alliance Creation and Presentation Committee for the Asia-Pacific region.

As a result of her work towards developing an international focus for the WAAPA Dance Department, a number of international performances have occurred as part of the students' final year of study, including performances at the Global Dance Festival in Dusseldorf in 2002, and the Hong Kong Dance Festival in 2006 and the TARI Festival in Malaysia this year - amongst others.

The 2007 West Australian Dance Awards also included a number of WAAPA students, graduates and lecturers in their roll-call of winners.

Paea Leach (1999) won the Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer for her *Solos Project*.

Aimee Smith (2004) won the Award for Emerging Artist.

Danielle Micich (sessional lecturer), **Alice Lee Holland** (1999), **Shona Erskine** (sessional lecturer) and **Richard Cilli** (2nd Year student) won the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography for their work *dash*.

Sound designer **Kingsley Reeve** (1995), with visual designer Ashley de Prazer, won the Award for Dance Film/Technology Within Dance.

Lynn Martlew won the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dance.

Sete Tele, who has been a sessional lecturer at WAAPA, won the Outstanding Teacher/Teaching Award.



'Time' at WAAPA for acclaimed Australian director

In August, the acclaimed Australian director George Ogilvie AM directed the 3rd Year Acting students in the classic English play, *Time and the Conways* by J.B. Priestly.

Ogilvie was part of many of the most important movements in the development of Australian theatre, among them, the beginning of the Melbourne Theatre Company, and the founding of the South Australian Theatre Company, of which he was the first artistic director.

The veteran director, whose extensive career includes directing for theatre, opera, ballet, musicals, television and film, scored a unique trifecta in 1982: concurrent productions in the Sydney Opera House. They were *Lucrezia Borgia* with Joan Sutherland; *Coppelia* for the Australian Ballet and *You Can't Take It With You* for the Sydney Theatre Company.

Among his many television credits, Ogilvie directed *The Shiralee* and episodes of Kennedy-Miller's landmark miniseries *Bodyline* and *The Dismissal*.

In 1988 Ogilvie was awarded the Byron Kennedy Award for services to the film industry. Ogilvie added author to his long list of accomplishments when his autobiography, *Simple Gifts, a Life in the Theatre*, was published last year.

Nowadays, Ogilvie spends as much time as possible teaching young actors and says he enjoys the opportunity to pass on his experiences to students.

WAAPA graduates star at APEC concert

In what was a showcase of Australian talent, the final concert of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Heads of Government forum on Saturday 8 September at the Sydney Opera House featured eight WAAPA graduates.

Hugh Jackman was the Master of Ceremonies for the event; soprano Emma Matthews sang; and Musical Theatre graduates Amelia Cormack, Sophie Carter, Christine O'Neill, James Millar, Alexander Lewis and Ben Lewis all performed. They were in the excellent company of the Australian Ballet, Opera Australia and Bangarra Dance Theatre.



(from left to right) Amelia Cormack, Sophie Carter, Christine O'Neill, James Millar, Alexander Lewis and Ben Lewis



Hugh Jackman as MC at the APEC final concert

Images courtesy of APEC 2007 Taskforce

Ben Falle wins national drum award



Ben Falle

Ben Falle spent his early years in the South-West towns of Donnybrook and Bunbury dreaming of being a great drummer. Now, it seems, he has made his dreams come true.

On July 29, the 21-year-old

WAAPA graduate won the award for 'Australia's Best Up-and-Coming Drummer' in the open-age category at Drumtek's Australian Ultimate Drummers' Weekend (AUDW) in Melbourne.

After submitting a video entry, Falle was chosen as one of only three finalists from around Australia for the award. Chris Grant, another WAAPA graduate, also made the final three. The finalists then performed in Melbourne in front of a panel of judges made up of international and Australian drummers.

Falle's prizes include a \$2000 voucher from Yamaha, a Silver-level endorsement with Yamaha, Paiste and Vater and an interview for Drumtek's magazine *DrumScene*. He will also perform at the

opening of the 2008 AUDW and will feature on the 2007 AUDW DVD.

"I owe a lot to WAAPA, to Chris Tarr and the other drum lecturers," says Falle. "There's no question of where I'd be as a drum player if I hadn't been to WAAPA."

Falle, who was accepted into WAAPA at 16, graduated with a Bachelor of Jazz (Performance) in 2005. He currently performs gigs around Perth and teaches at The Drum Shop. However the young drummer has another ambition: he would like to take his expertise back to where he grew up, giving drum clinics down south.

Bronte masterpiece-turned-musical gets its Australian premiere at WAAPA

Jane Eyre: The Musical, with music and lyrics by Paul Gordon and John Caird, enjoyed its Australian premiere at WAAPA in August, performed by the 3rd Year Music Theatre students, supplemented by the 1st years under the direction of Leith Taylor.

"One can only applaud this talented cast in offering a stage experience that is not to be missed," enthused Karen Marais in her review in *The West Australian*. "The final uplifting duet between Jane and Rochester left hardly a dry eye in the audience." Marais also praised Leith Taylor for her brilliant direction.

Taylor has recently returned to Perth after a stint establishing an international acting course at the La Salle-SIA College of the Arts in Singapore. Of her experience directing *Jane Eyre: The Musical*, Taylor said it was



The 3rd Year Musical Theatre production of *Jane Eyre: The Musical*.

"exhilarating to be working with such a talented, passionate and hard-working group who represent the cream of Australia's drama students."

Friends lend a helping hand

For more than 20 years, the Friends of the Academy have been providing much-appreciated financial assistance to WAAPA and its students.

"Since its inception, the Friends of the Academy have given just over \$800,000 to WAAPA and its students," said Kevin Button, Chairman of the Friends. "That's not bad for a bunch of volunteers!"

This year alone, the Friends of the Academy have provided around \$36,000 worth of funding for various WAAPA initiatives.

In addition to assisting in the purchasing of a stage management desk for prompt corner in the Geoff Gibbs Theatre, the Friends have generously contributed towards this year's interstate and overseas tours. These include the Production & Design

students' recent trip to the Prague Quadrennial; the 3rd Year Music Theatre students' tour of *The Good Fight* to the New York Musical Theater Festival; the Jazz students tour to the Wangaratta Jazz Festival; and the annual end-of-year Showcase Tour to the eastern states. The Friends have also contributed to LINK, WAAPA's graduate dance company, and the Design students' exhibition at His Majesty's Theatre.

"Another important way in which we assist the students is by providing grants to help them find employment in their chosen fields," comments Button. "In many cases, without our help to supplement travel and accommodation, final year students undertaking work experience secondments would find it very difficult."

The Friends of the Academy now boasts nearly 1000 members. If you are interested in becoming a Friend, please contact the WAAPA Box Office on 618 9370 6443

Aboriginal Theatre upgrades its Certificate course



Aboriginal Theatre students and graduates with Ross McGregor.

In July, 12 graduates of the Certificate III in Aboriginal Theatre joined the current Certificate IV students for a three-day intensive course in acting for film and television conducted by Ross McGregor.

The course, which marked the completion of a reaccreditation process, gave the dozen former students the opportunity to upgrade from a Certificate III to a Certificate IV.

While the Certificate III graduates invited back to WAAPA had the opportunity to both refresh and upgrade their existing skills, the current students were able to work with graduates whose experience in the industry gives them additional knowledge relevant to the contemporary indigenous arena and beyond.

The course was so successful that it will be repeated next year from July 21-23. All interested graduates of the Certificate III course should contact Course Coordinator Rick Brayford on 9370 6527 or email r.brayford@ecu.edu.au



Gala Concert hits all the right notes

Hale School in Wembley Downs was the venue for a concert on Sunday 26 August showcasing the talents of WAAPA's vocal studies and opera students.

The Gala Concert featured a program of operatic and music theatre favourites, with a special guest appearance by internationally renowned baritone, Michael Lewis. Lewis was in Perth to play the title role of *Rigoletto* for the West Australian Opera.

Organised by Patricia Price, WAAPA's Coordinator of Vocal Studies, the concert gave the students an opportunity to put into performance the skills they are learning as part of WAAPA's new Classical Voice program.

Residencies, workshops and visitors

Choreographer **Claudia Alessi** collaborated with dancers of LINK and selected Senior ballroom dancers from local Perth dance clubs to devise an original dance theatre work. *Quickstep to Memories*, an attempt to communicate between generations by using dance, was performed at the Perth Town Hall in June for three performances and repeated at the Subi Centre in early October. Using music of the 1940s and 50s, this ambitious and unique work utilised the talents of the LINK dancers to rework the traditional ballroom dancing styles of the foxtrot, waltz and quickstep to give them a contemporary flair.

In August, Australian classical guitarist **Timothy Kain** gave masterclasses at WAAPA and performed in the Music Auditorium. When not touring with popular quartet Guitar Trek, Kain is Head of Guitar Studies at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Notes from abroad ...



Joel Bray graduated from WAAPA's dance program in 2005. Here Joel describes his first experiences in Jerusalem, where he is now based as a dancer.

So yesterday I stepped out of my gym in downtown Jerusalem. After about six steps, a Jewish evangelist in requisite black suit and long side locks tries to hand me a copy of the Torah. Eight more steps, I pass a twenty-something woman, covered in Dead Sea mud, strumming on a guitar with her straw hat out for coins in front of her. Shortly after, I pass a Chilean pan-piper/guitarist pumping out some Latin folk tunes into his microphone, and then an American Televangelist reading from the Old Testament, foaming at the mouth as he preaches into the camera for all the folks back in the United States. I pass a homeless man stretched out on a neon green blow-up mattress. Finally I get to the end of the plaza, where a dozen gays, lesbians and a drag queen wave rainbow flags and sing in protest against the government's attempt to ban the Pride Parade in the 'Holy City'.

All this in only 20 metres!

Welcome to Jerusalem ... the oldest, most fought-over, nuttiest place in the world.

In my neighbourhood, which I can walk around in 20 minutes, there are no less than 31 synagogues. As the Friday night sun sets, heralding the coming Sabbath, the whole area is filled with the discordant, jarringly inharmonious sounds of men chanting in Ancient Hebrew.

Saturday is the Sabbath, so the whole city shuts down. This means you can't turn a light on or off; elevators will stop at every floor so you don't have

to punch the button, which would be sinful; even your toilet paper is already separated so you don't sin by pulling it apart on the holy day.

Ah, but it's fun! I love Australia, I miss it heaps. But Australia is a charcoal sketch in contrast to the vibrant, full-colour oil painting that is Jerusalem.

The city is full of old winding streets, criss-crossed with washing lines, market vendors hawking sacks of vibrantly coloured spices, gallons of hommus in every shade and flavour, heavenly wines and olive oil from the Golan Heights. You can track down Arabic coffee-sellers by following the aroma through the labyrinthine covered alleys, there are Moroccan basket-weavers, Polish book-sellers, Romanian leatherworkers, Ethiopian weavers and Kurdish bakers all barking and arguing and laughing and praying and singing.

Then Saturday comes, and it's like someone hit the mute switch. You can virtually walk down the middle of the roads, and a hush sweeps over the whole city.

And this is where I work, and shop, and sit and drink coffee with friends. There's a fascinating fringe arts scene here: lots of jazzniks, experimental choreographers, Hassidic musicians, hole-in-the-wall fashionistas. I've even found some Aussies who I can drink actual beer with!

The dance company I'm with is great, work is ever-challenging and always interesting ... even if sometimes one doesn't want to get out of bed for it! We tour to Romania and Poland next week. I'm teaching Pilates part-time, my partner and I have even started our own studio, which is growing steadily and should be earning a nice steady income soon.



Dean Frenkel teaches WAAPA's newly-formed specialist voice group

In September, harmonic overtone singer **Dean Frenkel** visited WAAPA for a week of masterclasses and concerts. A performer, recording artist, instructor and author, Frenkel has mastered the skill of projecting multiple sounds, including extraordinary bell/flutey sounds, with his singular voice.

In 2005, Frenkel smashed the Guinness world record for the longest continuous vocal note on the ABC's *Enough Rope* with Andrew Denton. Frenkel held his note for 57 seconds, nearly doubling the previous world record (29.03 secs), and simultaneously achieved over 100 harmonic tonal changes alongside his record-breaking note.

Here he talks to Scarlet Billow about his most unusual skill.

When, and how, did you discover that you were able to do harmonic overtone singing?

On Jan 1, 1993 - I was camping on the Goulbourn River at a New Year's festival when, from a distance I heard Randall Robinson meditating his

harmonic voice between the two river banks. The angelic quality of the sounds completely stunned me. I tried to mimic him and found that I could just hear a bit of something. It just grew from there.

Can anyone do it, or do you have to have a certain physiology?

While some people have a natural gift, and certain particular mouth shapes can assist it, anyone can sing harmonics to some degree. All that's required is an ability to talk and to take instruction/or the flexibility to explore.

What do you enjoy most about being able to do this?

No amount of words can encapsulate it ... I love the feeling - the fine quality of the sounds - the sheer quantity of sounds - how different it is - how durable it is - how magnificently it connects with nature - its elements of surprise.

Your work must lead you into some very unusual performances and venues.

What has been your most memorable performance to date?

On a Virgin plane - by invitation - performing and teaching 133 passengers 30,000 feet off the ground ... singing to a giraffe which remained mummified and mesmerised, staring at me for 10 minutes ... singing to a million people on Andrew Denton's *Enough Rope*.

How did it feel when you smashed the Guinness world record for the longest continuous vocal note?

Despite achieving 57 seconds and given that my personal best was 84 seconds I was devastated that I had fallen short of 60 seconds - but I was much happier the next day.

Do you teach in Melbourne?

I teach regular weekly classes at Mia Mia Aboriginal Art Gallery in Templestowe and other sessions by appointment.

You gave a concert and conducted classes at WAAPA. What did you do in the classes?

I demonstrated a number of techniques - delivered some necessary explanations - attempted to draw out each person's individual ability - taught how to refine their voices - how to listen to harmonics - how to use the practice harmonics for meditation and as a bridge between moods.

What were your impressions of WAAPA?

I discovered WAAPA to be an outstanding teaching and learning institution - that its selection process for talent and attitude is remarkable, that its teaching staff, facilities and infrastructure are superb. All this was exemplified for the first time ever in an introductory class, where 100% of students successfully demonstrated the highly advanced 'LIIIII' technique (usually a 10% success rate). This happened with two music theatre classes.

Staff Cameos

Just a few of the ongoing achievements of WAAPA staff

Dr Maggi Phillips (Lecturer in Dance History and Creative Arts Research) presented a paper at the TARI 07 Festival, held in Malaysia from July 21-28, on "*Research Trajectories - Choreographing 'Doctorateness': Discovering Knowledge and Legitimacy*".

Tim White (Lecturer, Percussion) performed with the Australian Chamber Orchestra during the ACO's recent national tour, featuring the virtuoso Swedish trombonist Christian Lindberg.

Accolades

Just a few of the ongoing achievements of WAAPA students

DANCE

From July 21-28, the 3rd year Bachelor of Arts (Dance) students visited Malaysia to attend TARI 07, a festival of dance for Academies from the Asia-Pacific region. They were accompanied by Nanette Hassall, WAAPA's Coordinator and Senior Lecturer in Dance, and Dr Maggi Phillips, Lecturer in Dance History and Creative Arts Research. The dancers attended workshops and performed Rosalind Newman's work *Inner Voices*. Dancers Jessica Lewis and Jehane Lindley both described how exciting it was to meet and work with such a wide range of dancers from different cultures. "At the workshops, we learned so many completely different ways of moving," said Jessica. "There was traditional Indian dancing, Taiwanese fan dancing, a 'natural monkey' dance from Cambodia and a version of New Zealand's haka, to name just a few." Jehane described how the performances each evening were followed by a huge supper. "Think Hogwarts Hall, that's how long the tables were!" laughed Jehane. "It was a great way to mix with all the other dancers."

MUSIC

The 2007 Music Scholarship Presentation Concert was held on September 13 in the WAAPA Music Auditorium.

The Helen Court Scholarship for most outstanding classical musician was awarded to **Callum Moncreiff** (Percussion).

The Barbara Macleod Scholarship for most outstanding female final year student was awarded to **Annalisa Powell** (flute). Worth \$12,000, it offers a female student studying classical music at

WAAPA the opportunity to develop their skills by undertaking a short 4-6 week intensive course at another world-class institution.



(PIC: MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS) (CAPTION) Tba

The Melville Toyota Scholarship for most outstanding final year jazz student was awarded to **Konrad Paszkudzki** (Piano).

Adrian Yeo was awarded the Faith Court Scholarship for Violin for most outstanding 1st Year string student.

Sarah Mills was awarded the Cecilia Daff Scholarship for most outstanding 1st Year piano student.

Elena Perroni was awarded the Michelle Robinson Scholarship for most outstanding 1st Year vocal student.

Cellist **Ji Min Lee** was awarded the Faith Court Scholarship for most outstanding 1st Year Orchestral Instrument.

The EKCO Investments Chamber Music Scholarship for most outstanding chamber music group was awarded to the **WASTED Trio** (Tara Murphy – violin, Ryan Davies – piano, Alex Roberts – clarinet)

The percussion department is about to begin a big semester for **Defying Gravity**, with the ensemble celebrating its twentieth anniversary in October. They'll be kicking up their heels in a pair of evening concerts plus lunchtime performances, and they are bringing back Professor Gary France - the founding director of the ensemble - to conduct two works from the opening concert back in 1987.

Defying Gravity percussionists **Joshua Webster, Daniel Hall, Kaylie Melville** and **Catherine Betts** performed three concerts at the ABC's recent Open Day, demonstrating percussion instruments and illustrating the recording capabilities of the ABC's new studios in East Perth.

Suzanne Kosowitz (MLSHS Certificate IV Jazz) has won the Bayswater scholarship worth \$1200 for her compositions.

PRODUCTION & DESIGN

Caris Edwards completed her secondment with *Walking With Dinosaurs* in Sydney at Acer Arena from December 2006 - January 2007 as the secondment assistant stage manager. The arena spectacular was the most ambitious animatronic live show/project conceived in the world. Caris described her secondment, which allowed her to

work with some of Australia's elite industry stage managers, as 'an eye opening experience.'

Joshua Marsland completed his secondment as an assistant stage manager on the world premiere of *The Love of the Nightingale*, an original opera composed by Richard Mills and directed by Lindy Hume. In addition to assisting with stage management, Josh's role was to block a separate score to be used for touring to the eastern states. During production and performance week Josh was responsible for cueing mechanists for scene changes and assisting with quick changes.

3rd Year Stage Management student **Debbie Whiteley** completed her secondments with the National Ballet of Canada in Toronto and the Bell Shakespeare Company's season of *Macbeth* at the Sydney Opera House. Debbie enjoyed her time with both companies and feels ready to explode into the professional industry.

Applause

Just a few of the ongoing achievements of WAAPA alumni)

ABORIGINAL THEATRE

Marli Sharp (2001) is playing the lead role in the new ABC telemovie *Valentine's Day*, which was shot in Melbourne in July-August.

ACTING

Rhoda Lopez (2003) and **Bryce Youngman** (2001) are starring in the current SBS television series *Marx & Venus*. The series is 25 five-minute episodes, which can also be seen on www.sbs.com.au

Sun Park (2001) stars in *The Jammed*, a provocative feature film about the sex slave trade which opened in cinemas in August.

BROADCASTING

Amanda Greig has returned to WA after nine years working in the UK and the USA to take up the position of Media and Communications Officer at the City of Rockingham.

MUSIC

Defying Gravity percussion graduates **Holly Norman** (2006) and **Natasha French** (UWA) enjoyed a month-long European tour with the Australian Youth Orchestra. After performing their tour programs in the Sydney Opera House, the AYO flew to Europe and gave concerts in England, France and Germany. They especially enjoyed playing in the renowned Concertgebouw Hall in Amsterdam. In October, Holly

will join her favourite band, *The Cat Empire*, for a recording and performance project organised by the Australian Youth Orchestra.

Percussionist **Marcus Perrozzi** (2004) has won a full-time place in the Tetrafide Percussion quartet, following the retirement of Iain Robbie from the group. **Holly Norman** (2006) and 2007 graduating student **Fiona Digney** are also joining Tetrafide for a number of projects.

Music education and percussion graduate **Despina Prastides** (2005) will take on the co-ordination role for the School of Instrumental Music's percussion teaching program for the next six months.

Toni Johnson (2005) has been selected for the Young Artist Program at the West Australian Opera, starting in August 2007 and finishing in December 2008. This program gives young singers the opportunity to gain experience and develop their voice, languages, stagecraft and repertoire in a professional environment.

MUSIC THEATRE

Robert Bertram (2006) was profiled in the *Sydney Morning Herald* for his acclaimed new cabaret show *With a Wink and a Smile* which enjoyed a highly successful season at the El Rocco room at Bar Me in Sydney. The show featured some of Robert's own music theatre songs, for which he is already gaining considerable acclaim. From mid-September to November, Bertram will be on stage at the Sydney Opera House's Opera Theatre playing the lead role of Guiseppe in Opera Australia's production of *The Gondoliers*, starring Reg Livermore and Judi Connelli. Earlier in the year, Robert appeared on *Mornings with Kerri-Anne*.

Khan Chittenden (2005) had a lead role in the comedy film *Clubland*, starring Brenda Blethyn, which opened nationally in June. He also appeared in a low-budget indie film *West*, which opened on July 5. Chittenden will be seen in his first US film role next year in *Endless Summer*, a teenage comedy in which he will appear alongside rock legend Joan Jett.

Joel Elferink (2003) is playing Feuilly in the ensemble and understudying the roles of Marius and Enjolras in *Les Miserables* at London's Queen's Theatre.

Lisa McCune (1990) plays Lt Kate McGregor in Channel 9's television series, *Sea Patrol*, which premiered in July. In June, McCune starred in the Sydney Theatre Company production of the award-winning Broadway musical, *The 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee*.

Tiffany Wrightson (2004) is now living in New York City, after being offered a scholarship into a 1 1/2 year course at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Since then, she has played Velma in a regional production of *West Side Story* and Rita in a regional production of *White Christmas*.

Behind the Scenes

WAAPA acknowledges the very generous contribution of our partners.



Department of Education and Training



Qantas



Australia Post



303



Friends of the Academy



Sunday Times STM



Channel 10



Jon Green Photographer



Driftwood Winery



Selecon Lighting



For full details on the WAAPA 2007 program, go to waapa.ecu.edu.au or phone the Academy Box Office (08) 9370 6636

Billow Talk



Maggi Phillips

As Lecturer in Dance History and Creative Arts Research, Dr Maggi Phillips coordinates research and creative practice at WAAPA.

Trained at the National Theatre Ballet School in Melbourne, Phillips ventured into commercial dance with the Doriss Dancers (Doris Haug, choreographer of the Moulin Rouge, Paris), performing in theatres, casinos and circuses across Europe, the Middle East and South America.

She then explored contemporary dance in Darwin as a medium for education, community participation and professional performance. This led to the establishment of Feats Unlimited, a dance-in-education company that toured schools and communities throughout the Northern Territory and fostered local choreographic development.

In 1996 Phillips gained a doctorate for her thesis, *Storytellers, Shamans and Clowns: Postcolonial Engagement with the Supra-human in the Novels of R.K. Narayan, Nuruddin Farah, Bessie Head, Ben Okri and Salman Rushdie.*

Phillips' work at WAAPA allows her to pursue her "fascination with the body's production of knowledge/s within the complexity and infinite variety of cultural forms and promote the challenges of research through the practices of the creative arts as fundamental to understanding human experience."

What has been the highlight of your career?

Clinging onto Charlie Chaplin's hand in a caravan beside Lac Leman – that's the short answer.

The lowlight?

Apart from standing all night on over-crowded trains, swollen ankles, cholera epidemics, inescapable red dust and escaped monkeys, one of the worst couple of hours must have been an opening in Buenos Aires where, because music and sets still struggled for articulation, the show started one-hour behind the time. Once off and running, all manner of disasters intervened, including me falling over a bit of scenery that wasn't there on the rehearsal and cute terriers from the dog act cavorting in the midst of a romantic nude pas de deux. Post-show and quite arbitrarily, the airlines went broke, making our return tickets to Paris worthless, and the local agent scooted off with the dough.

Who has had the greatest influence on your career?

Ah, so many – Dumbo because he was a sad little elephant who learned to fly; one of my early ballet teachers, Madame Saranova, for her miniature grace and pop-up insteps; Stravinsky, Alvin Ailey; West Side Story; Marcel Marceau; Dostoyevsky; Paris; kids' laughter diving into the crocodile strewn waters of Beswick Falls, Northern Territory; and the many clowns I bumped into along the way.

What do you like doing in your down-time?

Experience the textures, accents, smells and pace of alternative worlds passing by or, if stuck in an old familiar place, gaining something of the same by burrowing into lots of novels.

If you could go anywhere in the world for a holiday, where would you go and why?

Maybe, I would start with Quito because I never did manage to catch up with the riot of sensations of a place which churns out four seasons every day with and around dignified (and generous) 'Indios' (South American Indians), not to mention bouncing blue cathedrals.

What's your favourite book?

Just maybe – though I could always be wrong – Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*. Then again, there's Dostoyevsky's *The Idiot*, Garcia Marquez' *100 Years of Solitude*, Vargas Llosa's *The War at the End of the World* etc, etc.

What music do you like listening to?

Anything that makes my heart want to dance – so I'm partial to rhythm and melancholy from anywhere.

Do you have a motto to live by?

Dreaming is absolutely necessary – if impossible.

What's on at WAAPA

Unaustralia

The world premiere of Reg Cribb's controversial new play based on the Cronulla riots.

Sat 20 Oct – Thurs 25 Oct @ 7.30pm; Wed 24 Oct @ 2.30pm
Subiaco Theatre

Transatlantic

LINK Dance Company present two works from renowned US choreographer Twyla Tharp, and a new work by Germany's Stephen Brinkman.

Thurs 1 Nov – Sat 3 Nov @ 7.30pm; Sat 3 Nov @ 2.30pm
The Geoff Gibbs Theatre

Just Before Falling

Classical and contemporary works performed by WAAPA Dance students, with Susan Peacock choreography by Margaret Illmann, Michael Whaites and guest choreographer, Germany's Terence Kohler.

Fri 16 Nov – Thurs 22 Nov @ 7.30pm; Sat 17 Nov @ 2.30pm
The Geoff Gibbs Theatre

Frankenstein and The Line of Nemea

WAAPA's Aboriginal Theatre students present their graduating play, written especially for them by acclaimed Western Australian playwright, David Milroy. The Frankenstein myth is revisited in a world where chaos reigns, the earth crumbles and the party goes on.

Fri 16 Nov – Thurs 22 Nov @ 7.30pm; Sat 17 Nov @ 2.30pm
New Theatre

Electrafide

Tetrafade Percussion collaborate with WA's finest electronic artists for an electrifying evening's entertainment.

Sat 1 Dec @ 7.30pm
New Theatre

Classical Graduation Recitals

Classical graduation recitals featuring the 2007 graduating honours and performance students, happening throughout November at WAAPA. Check the website for details.

Jazz Windows - Bob Sheppard (USA)

Acclaimed American Saxophonist Bob Sheppard performs for one night only with WAAPA's own Graham Wood, Freddie Grigson, Paul Pooley and Chris Tat.

Fri 25 Oct @ 7.30pm
Geoff Gibbs Theatre

Jazz Graduation Recitals - Jazz Composition & Arranging Majors

A week of graduation recitals featuring the 2007 graduating honours and performance students. A highlight of the Jazz Calendar the recitals showcase the graduating students arranging, composing and performance skills.

Monday 22 October

Marc Earley - 7pm, Michael Battersby - 8pm

Tuesday 23 October

Daniel Hart - 7pm, Konrad Paszkudzki - 8pm

Wednesday 24 October

Andrew Brooks - 7pm, Adam Springhetti - 8.15pm, Martin Wiecezorek - 9.15pm

Thursday 25 October

James Darnell - 7pm, Aaron Spiers - 8pm

Sunday 28 October, 7.30pm

Daniel Thorne - 4pm, Stephanie Shim - 5.15pm, Tilman Robinson - 7pm, Alice Humphries - 8pm, Bob Wylie Scholarship Presentation - 9pm

The Geoff Gibbs Theatre

Free Admission

If you would like to receive WAAPA's Scarlet Billows please send your email address to bravowaapa@ecu.edu.au.

Don't forget to send your WAAPA News to bravowaapa@ecu.edu.au

western
australian
academy of
performing
arts

