Young gun Sydney directors fire up WAAPA Shakespeare season

The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts is delighted to be able to present two of Shakespeare’s most enduring and popular plays in repertoire at the end of August, directed by two of Sydney’s up-and-coming directors.

Lee Lewis will direct the pastoral comedy As You Like It and John Sheedy will direct the historical drama Richard III. Both plays, which have been edited to an hour and a half long, will be performed by WAAPA’s 3rd Year Acting students in the Roundhouse Theatre on consecutive nights from Wednesday 26 of August until Thursday 3 September.

As You Like It follows its heroine Rosalind as she flees persecution in her uncle’s court, to find safety and eventually love in the Forest of Arden.

The Sydney-based Lewis, who is well known as a director of tough contemporary theatre, has worked as an actor and director on and off Broadway, as well as in Sydney with companies such as Theatre Nepean, B Sharp, Darlinghurst Theatre and New Theatre. Last year, she directed Love-Lies-Bleeding by acclaimed American writer Don DeLillo for the Sydney Theatre Company and was assistant director to Philip Seymour Hoffman for the Sydney Theatre Company’s world premiere of Andrew Upton’s play, Riflemind. 2007 also saw the publication by Currency Press of Lewis’s book, Cross-Racial Casting: Changing the Face of Australian Theatre.

Richard III follows the story of the short, bloody and brutal reign of Richard III as he manipulates and murders his way to become King of England.

Sheedy, a graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA), is renowned for his edgy and confronting directorial style. He received rave reviews for his direction of a previous WAAPA production, Love and Unidentified Human Remains, and has worked as assistant director for the Sydney Theatre Company on Ying Tong – A Walk with the Goons and Doubt. He has also directed Sink or Swim for B Sharp and The Lieutenant of Inishmore for Company B at Belvoir St Theatre, and Terrorism for Black Swan/Curtin University. *Contains violence and adult themes.

Performance Information: As You Like It and Richard III

As You Like It: 26, 28, 31 August and 2 September at 7.30pm.
Richard III: 27, 29 August and 1, 3 September at 7.30pm.
Roundhouse Theatre, WAAPA, Edith Cowan University, 2 Bradford St, Mt Lawley.
Tickets are $30 full/$22 concession. Bookings through WAAPA Box Office on 9370 6636.

For complimentary tickets to this production or for further information, interviews or photo opportunities, please contact:
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