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Plus
Scholarships, Awards and much more!
JAMES MACKAY WINS HEATH LEDGER SCHOLARSHIP

WAAPA class of 2008 acting graduate James Mackay has been awarded the 2013 Heath Ledger Scholarship

The scholarship, established in 2008 in memory of Australian actor Heath Ledger, gives talented young Australian actors the opportunity to establish themselves in the entertainment industry and reach an international audience.

The scholarship includes a return flight to Los Angeles, a 10-day Californian trip, one year of acting classes at the Stella Adler Academy of Acting and Theatre, a VIP casting package and $10,000 cash.

A founding member of Sydney’s Cry Havoc Theatre Company, Mackay first gained notice for his role in the company’s contemporary adaptation of Julius Caesar. He has since appeared in a number of film and television roles, including a role opposite Katie Holmes and Guy Pearce in the film Don’t be Afraid of the Dark, as well as the upcoming feature Singularity, starring Josh Hartnett.

“It’s impossible not to feel this is a game changer,” the 28-year-old said after the scholarship win was announced at the Australians in Film fundraising dinner held in Los Angeles in July.

“It’s a validation that you’re on the right path, and it’s thrilling beyond belief, but also very sobering. The significance is huge, the real scale of it has only begun to sink in since I’ve been over here [in LA],” he said.

“I want to do something good with it, and return that expression of trust by taking some good, strong steps with it.”

In addition to Mackay, four other WAAPA graduates were among the 15 finalists: Mackay’s fellow 2008 graduates Elizabeth Blackmore and Geraldine Hakewill, 2004 graduate Kate Jenkinson and 2011 graduate Alex Williams.

Previous recipients of the scholarship include Bella Heathcote (Dark Shadows), Ryan Corr (Not Suitable for Children), Oliver Ackland (The Slap, Cloudstreet), and Anna McGahan (House Husbands).

NANETTE HASSALL AWARDED ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

In June the Queen’s Birthday Honours List named WAAPA Dance Department Head Nanette Hassall a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the performing arts, particularly through dance education.

It follows Hassall receiving a lifetime achievement award at the 2012 Australian Dance Awards for her role in shaping the Australian dance industry.

With more than 40 years experience, Hassall has enjoyed an international career as a choreographer, performer, director and teacher.

After winning a scholarship to attend New York’s prestigious Juilliard School, Hassall joined the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, touring extensively in the USA and Europe.

Nanette Hassall performed, taught and choreographed for major companies in both Europe and Australia before founding and directing Danceworks, a full-time professional dance company in Melbourne between 1983 and 1990. She was appointed to her current position at WAAPA in 1995. In addition she continues her professional choreographic practice by conducting masterclasses nationally and internationally.

As a dance advocate Hassall has been a member of the Australia Council. She is currently chair of the Committee for Creation and Presentation (World Dance Alliance Asia Pacific) and chair of the Tertiary Dance Council of Australia. She was recognised nationally through an award for her Services to Dance Education in 2002.
**DURACK’S STAR TURN WINS HELPMANN AWARD**

On July 29 at a gala evening at the Sydney Opera House, musical stage star Lucy Durack was announced as the winner of the 2013 Helpmann Award for Best Female Actor in a Musical for her star turn as Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde the Musical*.

The musical won five prizes, including the Best Musical award.

Durack was ecstatic as she received her award. “Thanks to the *Legally Blonde* crew, who are the happiest, most hardworking group of people,” she said in her acceptance speech.

Durack, a 2002 WAAPA graduate, wrapped up her critically lauded leading role in *Legally Blonde* after its Australian run ended in Melbourne in July.

In 2014 she is due to reprise her role as good witch Glinda in the return season of *Wicked*, which opens in Melbourne at the Regent Theatre on May 10 as part of the smash hit show's 10th anniversary tour.

Durack played the role of Glinda in more than 1000 performances after landing the coveted part in 2007.

Durack played one of five ECU/VAAPA graduates nominated for this year’s Helpmann Awards, which recognise distinguished artistic achievement and excellence in the many disciplines of Australia’s vibrant live performance sectors.

Soprano Emma Matthews received her nomination in the category of Best Female Performer in an Opera for her title role in Opera Australia's *Lucia Di Lammermoor*.

Tristen Parr was nominated in the category of Best Musical Direction for the Barking Gecko Theatre Company production *Duck, Death and the Tulip*.

School of Communications and Arts graduates Chris Isaacs and Arielle Gray were nominated in the category Best Visual or Physical Theatre Production for the Perth Theatre Company Production, *It’s Dark Outside*.

**WAAPA IS THE WORD**

The new Australian production of *Grease*, which opened in Brisbane on August 20, showcases the talents of WAAPA’s Music Theatre graduates

2008 graduate Gretel Scarlett stars in the lead role of Sandy Dumbrowski, made famous by Olivia Newton-John in the film version of the musical.

Graduates Lucy Maunder and Francine Cain nabbed two of the Pink Ladies’ roles, with Maunder as Rizzo and Cain as Frenchy. Stephen Mahy is Danny’s sidekick, Kenickie.

Also in the cast are graduates Antoinette Issue, who plays Patty Simcox, and ensemble members Jessica White and Karla Tonkich.

After touring in *Breast Wishes* and *Mamma Mia*, Gretel Scarlett was cast in the ensemble for *Wicked* and understudied the lead role of Elphaba. She stayed with the show for its tour to Asia before auditioning for *Grease*.

Initially, Scarlett didn’t try out for the role of Sandy.

“I didn’t see myself as Sandy. I saw myself as one of the Pink Ladies,” she said.

“They kept asking me to come back and read for Sandy, so I thought maybe they were looking at me to understudy whoever got the part.”

Lucy Maunder was nominated for a 2011 Helpmann Award and a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her role as Lara in *Doctor Zhivago* opposite Anthony Warlow.


Stephen Mahy’s most recent theatre credit is as one of the Four Seasons’ crooners, Bob Gaudio, in *Jersey Boys*.
On August 5 two of the USA's finest music educators, Steve Massey and George Murphy, ran a workshop with the WAAPA Big Band, the Academy's 18-piece student jazz ensemble. They also treated WAAPA's jazz students to a one-hour Q&A session.

"Massey and Murphy worked closely with the Big Band to refine the music of Duke Ellington and Count Basie that the band has been working on extensively, and brought the music to life in a very engaging and exciting way," said Jeremy Greig, WAAPA Jazz Lecturer and Director of the Big Band.

The two educators, who were in Perth as artists-in-residence for a week at Hale School, are part of the highly regarded music faculty at Foxborough High School in Massachusetts, where Massey is Music Director and Murphy is Band Director.

In 1997 the Foxborough Jazz Ensemble under Massey's conductorship attended the Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition and Festival at Jazz at Lincoln Center for the first time and won the competition. They have since qualified for the finals 11 times, which is the most of any high school group in the country.

"That this is a national competition only underscores how impressive this achievement is, given that Massey's school is a suburban public school with the same funding issues as most public schools in Australia," said Greig.

On August 8, the WAAPA Big Band performed alongside the Hale School jazz students in a combined concert at Hale School. During the rehearsal process, Massey and Murphy encouraged the WAAPA students to work as mentors to the Hale schoolboys.

"That this is a national competition only underscores how impressive this achievement is, given that Massey's school is a suburban public school with the same funding issues as most public schools in Australia," said Greig. "They brought a unique and exciting perspective on what some consider 'old' style music to a new generation of future musicians."

"I have no doubt that many of the students have already listened to the albums they recommended, and in turn that they have changed their outlook on the traditional big band style. Steve and George are experts in their field and I was excited to learn as much about their teaching pedagogy as the students were to receiving it."

Tetrafide Percussion was co-founded by WAAPA graduates Neville Talbot and Iain Robbie in 1996. Currently the two other members of Tetrafide are Joshua Webster, who is completing a Masters degree at WAAPA, and UWA graduate Catherine Betts.

Described by The West Australian's music critic Neville Cohn as "percussion playing at the highest level", Tetrafide draws on an eclectic range of percussive styles and influences for its performances.

While in Canada, Tetrafide was invited by Daniel Lamarre, the CEO of Cirque du Soleil, to visit the company's headquarters in Montreal to discuss the possibility of the two companies working together.

Former Tetrafide member Marcus Perrozzi has been touring with Cirque's show Dralion for the last three years. His positive experiences have made the current Tetrafide members keen to pursue a collaboration in the near future.

The Victorian Opera production of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's Sunday in the Park with George, which opened in July for a short Melbourne season, featured a number of WAAPA graduates.

Directed by Stuart Maunder, the production starred 2004 graduate Alexander Lewis in the lead role of Georges Seurat and Christina O'Neill as Seurat's lover Dot. Lewis has been living in New York for the past three years working with the Metropolitan Opera. Graduates Dimitri Shepard, Noni Macallum and Matthew Macfarlane all appeared in the ensemble.

Arts Hub described Lewis' singing voice as "clear, ringing and effortless...Lewis is a major talent of the musical theatre scene and not to be missed" while O'Neill was deemed "a spirited and attractive Dot."
At the end of June, 26 WAAPA jazz students travelled to New York to attend a two-week Summer School at New York University.

The students received intense training via daily workshops and masterclasses, with ensemble and individual tuition by the world’s leading jazz exponents, including Kenny Werner, Stefan Harris, Peter Bernstein, Sy Johnson, Dafnis Preito and Wayne Krantz.

The students were formed into ensembles and, under the guidance of a faculty member, gathered a collection of tunes to record at the end of each week at the NYU studios. This then provided the students with the opportunity to work inside a professional recording studio with supervision from experienced musicians.

With the university residence and classrooms located in the south of Manhattan, just a short walk or train ride to most of the major jazz clubs, the students were able to meet up with WAAPA alumni such as Linda Oh and Troy Roberts, as well as previous WAAPA visiting artists, pianist Aaron Goldberg and drummer Ari Hoenig.

One of the most memorable performances was Wayne Shorter’s 80th birthday celebration, which was a triple bill performance from Shorter’s quintet, Esperanza Spalding and Linda Oh.

“The trip to New York was definitely the most beneficial and inspiring experience I’ve had in my time at WAAPA, not only because of the course we were doing but also because of the amazing musicians that we got to see on a nightly basis,” said 3rd Year piano student Gabriel Fatin.

“It was such a great experience,” agreed alto saxophonist Alana MacPherson. “Being given the opportunity of being able to learn from world class musicians was really valuable. Each day we attended theory classes, ensemble workshops and masterclasses. At night there was an opportunity for an ensemble to play at the Province Town Playhouse. One of the highlights of the trip for me was doing two recording sessions at state-of-the-art NYU studios.”

“A massive thanks to Jamie Oehlers for organising the trip—we all had such a great time and learnt lots too!”

OEHLLERS WINS ART MUSIC AWARD

On August 26, jazz saxophonist Jamie Oehlers was named the winner of a prestigious Art Music Award.

Oehlers, who is WAAPA’s Senior Lecturer in Jazz, won the Award for Excellence in Jazz for Recording, Touring and Educational Achievements in 2012.

Recognised as one of Australia’s leading jazz musicians, Jamie Oehlers was the winner of the White Foundation World Saxophone Competition at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland in 2003. He has won numerous awards in Australia, including the Australian Jazz Awards for Best Australian Jazz Artist and Best Contemporary Jazz Album. Oehlers has performed at venues and jazz festivals throughout the world; worked with many of the world’s most brilliant jazz artists; and has released numerous critically acclaimed CDs.

The Art Music Awards, presented by APRA and the Australian Music Centre, celebrate the works and achievements of the art music community. They consist of eleven national awards and various state awards across categories covering composition, performance, and outstanding contributions by individuals and organisations in Australian music, music education and regional music.

WAAPA Post Doctoral Research Scholar Dr Cat Hope was nominated for the Award for Excellence by an Individual.

COMPOSITION STUDENTS SUCCEED IN WASO PROGRAM

WAAPA 3rd Year student Leonard Madden and Honours student Suzanne Kosowitz recently completed the West Australian Symphony Orchestra’s 2013 Composition Project.

This unique program provides the opportunity for aspiring WA composers at a tertiary level to develop their skills in a professional environment and hear their work performed live by WASO musicians.

In addition to intensive workshops with the orchestra, the participants are given invaluable guidance and advice from the project’s director and tutor, James Ledger, who is one of Australia’s leading composers.

Together with UWA students John Barton and John Pax, Madden and Kosowitz were chosen to participate in this year’s program. The students were each required to compose a work for EChO, WASO’s 15-piece education chamber orchestra, which were then performed and recorded at Perth’s ABC Studios in June.

Cassandra Lake, Community Engagement Manager at the WASO, commented that Madden and Kosowitz “took the opportunity very seriously, were well prepared at every stage, and took advantage of the opportunity to learn from the WASO instrumentalists and James Ledger.”

“The achievements of [the WAAPA] students in this program this year cannot be under-rated.”

Leonard Madden described the learning experience on the project as enriching and invaluable.

“This has been the most rewarding experience of my life, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to undertake this project. It has changed everything for me, and given me renewed purpose and direction.”
New music ensemble Decibel was the ensemble in residence at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts for two weeks in June.

Formed in 2009, the six-member ensemble of WAAPA staff and graduates includes Cat Hope [artistic director, flute and electronics], Lindsay Vickery [reeds, programming and electronics], Stuart James [piano, percussion, programming and electronics], Tristen Parr [cello], Aaron Wyatt [violin, viola] and Louise Devenish [percussion].

The residency culminated in two performances of new electronic works composed by eight WA composers: Henry Anderson, Rachael Dease, Sam Gillies, Cat Hope, Stuart James, Johannes Luebbers, Chris Tonkin and Lindsay Vickery.

The residency allowed the composers to attend rehearsals and incorporate the distinctive acoustic qualities of the performance space into the music. The result was “a fascinating concert that revealed the breadth of creativity in the local new music scene,” wrote Rosalind Appleby in The West Australian.

“The two well-attended concerts demonstrated what many of us already knew: Decibel has become a vital institution in the generation of new music in WA.”

Soprano Sky Ingram completed a postgraduate degree at WAAPA in 2008, training with Patricia Price. That same year, she won a swag of awards at the Australian Singing Competition’s prestigious Mathy Awards, including the Guildhall School of Music & Drama Award. This took Ingram to London for a year’s postgraduate training at Guildhall with Kathryn Harries and Susan Waters. Since then, she has continued her vocal training at London’s National Opera Studio with Susan Waters, supported by Opera North. Here Sky tells us what’s in her diary for the months ahead:

My training at the National Opera Studio has now finished and I can happily say that it was truly an incredible experience. I learnt a remarkable amount of music and made many inspiring contacts during the year there. The highlights for me included residencies with the Welsh National Opera and Scottish Opera, a song project with Ian Burnside, and working with Keith Warner and Nicholas Cleobury on Contemporary Opera Scenes - where I was lucky enough to work with composer Jonathan Dove, who re-wrote the last two bars of one of his pieces for me to better suit the opera scenes!

I am now preparing to work as a principal soprano at Opera North as Helena in ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ in the Festival of Britten, and then again in 2014 as the cheeky Musetta in Puccini’s ‘La Bohème’.

I am also very proud to have signed with the agency Ingpen & Williams under Thomas Hull. We are filling the diary with some great engagements. The English National Opera has engaged me in a cover contract for 2014 – such a great opportunity!

Well, I’m off to Leeds in a week to settle into the Opera North team. It shall be a very exciting 12 months ahead!

Regards, Sky
A unique collaborative project that encourages some of the most isolated communities in WA to engage in dance is proving itself to be a winner.

Ausdance WA’s initiative, Future Landings, brings dance to remote areas by presenting local communities with the opportunity to work alongside regional choreographers and artists.

Future Landings 2013, which runs until October, is engaging with the regional communities of Broome, Karratha, Dampier and three towns in the Great Southern region.

The six-month collaboration allows a regional choreographer to work with a cast of local community members, who have little or no dance experience, to create and perform a dance work based on local issues.

Future Landings is the brainchild of Annette Carmichael, Regional Contemporary Dance Facilitator for Ausdance WA, and a WAAPA Arts Management graduate.

“I had been a dancer, was currently in the first year of a Business degree and was looking for a chance to combine the two,” explained Carmichael. “Arts Management was the answer!”

“The course has helped me in countless ways,” she continued. “It is so practical that I still use the knowledge I gained during my studies. Marketing, Management, Finance, Funding and even Art History have all helped me. The course gives me a really solid base that has given me the confidence to leap into some high-risk projects.”

The success of the Future Landings pilot program saw Carmichael awarded the 2011 WA Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Regional or Community Dance. It paved the way for funding for the 2013 program and beyond.

This year, the workshops in Broome will conclude with a production entitled ‘Because of You’, facilitated by choreographer Sandi Woo, which focuses on the subject of parenting.

In Karratha, choreographer Megan Wood-Hill led a men’s dance ensemble, made up of 16 local men, in ‘Men of the Red Earth’.

WAAPA dance graduate Aimee Smith is the choreographer for the final project ‘Wheels of Fortunes’, based around the towns of Ravensthorpe, Hopetoun and Jerdacuttup in the Great Southern region. The process has also included the development of a script with the support of writing facilitator, Nicola-Jane le Breton. The final performance will be held at Jerdacuttup’s gigantic wheat bin.

Carmichael hopes that Future Landings will not only allow artists to stay in their regional homes but will increase community engagement with contemporary dance.

“Empowering regionally based choreographers to make large scale dance works in their community – it is such an incredible opportunity for them, life-changing,” she said.

“I also love meeting the community participants of each project and the utter amazement they express after a performance, they normally can’t believe they actually did it! I just went to Karratha to meet the men participating in our Men of the Red Earth project and there was a real sense of daring and total commitment to dispelling the stereotype that men don’t dance.”

Charmene Yap has taken out the 2013 Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer, announced on August 5, for her performance in Sydney Dance Company’s 2 One Another.

Yap, who graduated from WAAPA’s Bachelor of Arts in Dance in 2006, won the award for her “exceptional precision, compelling vigour and outstanding virtuosity combined with a powerful theatrical presence”.

Among her co-nominees for the award was WAAPA Dance Lecturer Sue Peacock, nominated for her work in the Strut Dance’s Harakiri.

Music Theatre graduate Sian Johnson was nominated in the category of Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer in Commercial Dance or Musical, for her work in A Chorus Line.

The Australian Dance Awards recognise and honour professional Australian dance artists who have made an outstanding contribution to Australian dance.
LUKE ARNOLD SCORES GIG AS INXS SINGER

2006 Acting graduate Luke Arnold is playing the role of INXS frontman Michael Hutchence in the Seven Network’s two-part TV series Never Tear Us Apart: The Untold Story of INXS, which began filming in Melbourne in July.

He stars alongside the 2012 X Factor winner Samantha Jade as Kylie Minogue in her television acting debut.

The cast also includes 2011 WAAPA graduate Alex Williams as guitarist/ saxophonist Kirk Pengilly and Packed to the Rafters’ star Hugh Sheridan as bassist Gary Beers.

Directed by Perth-raised Daina Reid and co-written by former Perth musician Dave Warner, the telemovie chronicles the trials and tribulations of the rock group from their beginnings in the 1970s as a pub band to their fame in the ‘80s and Hutchence’s death in 1997.

SHOPPING ROLE AN EASY ASK FOR O’CONNOR

Francis O’Connor found her role as Rose Selfridge in the British period drama series Mr Selfridge, which aired in Australia in August, an easy one to research.

“I was a massive Selfridge’s shopper from the moment I discovered it,” the 1992 WAAPA graduate commented recently. “I have always loved shopping there, I spent so much money in that shop it was nice to play Mrs Selfridge. I had a lifetime of research shopping, especially at that shop.”

Mr Selfridge follows the fortunes of Harry Gordon Selfridge, who founded the now iconic London department store.

O’Connor, who lives in LA with her husband and fellow WAAPA graduate, Gerry Lepkowski and their son Luka, was happy to travel to London for the shoot.

“I really liked the character [of Rose], she is something I hadn’t played really, she’s quite a ‘still waters run deep’ kind of thing,” O’Connor said.

O’Connor has a string of film credits to her name, most famously Mansfield Park, Madame Bovary, A.I. Artificial Intelligence, The Importance of Being Earnest and the recent Australian film, The Hunter.

O’Connor will soon be seen in the horror film Mercy, based on the Stephen King short story ‘Gramma’, starring opposite Dylan McMerrett, and is due to shoot a second series of Mr Selfridge.

TAYLOR STARS IN MODERN-DAY WESTERN

Robert Taylor is what is known in the arts as a jobbing actor. Not well known, but never out of a job

His latest role, starring as the title character in the US crime drama series Longmire, seems set to elevate Taylor’s reputation to a new level.

Set in Wyoming, this modern-day Western revolves around Sheriff Walt Longmire, who is attempting to rebuild his life and career after the death of his wife. Also starring Katee Sackhoff and Lou Diamond Phillips, the first series debuted in June 2012 to become the A&E cable network’s most-watched original series premiere ever. The second series is currently showing on Gem.

Taylor, while well aware of the importance of playing the lead role in a new series, is not daunted by the task.

“The show’s called Longmire. If I mess it up, we’re all in trouble. So there’s a responsibility,” said Taylor in a recent interview. “I’ve played leads before in series and movies, but this one is a new show. I enjoy that type of pressure.”

Taylor graduated from WAAPA in 1986 and three years later successfully auditioned for a role in Home and Away. He resolved then that he would never again rely on a backup job.

“I decided I’m gonna make my living from this, or I’m not doing it,” he said. “The last time I had a job that wasn’t an acting job was ’88, and I’m quite proud of that.”

Since then, among his many acting credits, Taylor has played Father Vincent Sheahan in the BBC’s late-90s drama Ballykissangel, starred alongside Chris O’Donnell in the film Vertical Limit, featured in the Australian crocodile horror film Rogue and enjoyed lead roles in the movies Storm Warning and Coffin Rock.

However it for his role as Agent Jones in The Matrix that Taylor is best known internationally.

But perhaps Longmire is about to change all that.
In June and July, LINK Dance Company toured Europe for an intensive six-week program of performances, workshops, residencies and secondments.

The ten members of LINK – WAAPA’s pre-professional dance company – were accompanied on the tour by Artistic Director Michael Whaites and two production students, Troy Leenards and Rio Hall-Jones.

The dancers performed Moving Object in Belforth at the Centre Chorégraphique National de Belfort, at Mouvement Sur La Ville in Montpellier, at Maison de la Danse in Istres France and at the Openluchttheater in Amsterdam.

As well as performing, the company taught a repertoire workshop in Montpellier to dance conservatoire students and had the opportunity to watch performances from leading dance companies from Europe in the Montpellier Dance Festival.

In Istres, Whaites and the LINK dancers undertook a creative development to create a new dance work with French emerging dance professionals. These young French dancers will then travel to Perth next year to perform the work in one of LINK’s 2014 performance seasons.

In Amsterdam the LINK dancers were able to watch performances in the Julidans Festival and participate in workshops with world-renowned choreographers Akram Khan, Jiri Kylian, Emio Grecco and Damien Jalet.

At the end of the tour, the students were encouraged to travel independently throughout Europe to further their studies.

Here the LINK dancers share some of their experiences:

**Belfort, a small town in the north east of France, was the first stop on our overseas tour. For many of us it was our first time performing overseas and therefore our first time having to quickly adapt to different stages, different rehearsal spaces and working with people who speak different languages. We arrived in Belfort on Sunday afternoon, spent Monday rehearsing, had a technical/ dress rehearsal on Tuesday and then that evening performed our triple bill to a small but highly receptive audience. The amazing facilities at the Centre Chorégraphique and the lovely staff made our initiation to European touring exceptionally smooth. And despite the speedy transition from travelling by plane and train straight into performing, the dancers all worked safely and efficiently to put on a great performance. We even managed to make Michael [Whaites] cry with pride in ‘Zodiac Dialogues’!**

**Amsterdam: Straight off the plane and into a full-on week at the Henny Jurriëns Summer Intensive workshops, taking class and repertoire with international choreographers and dancers. On the evening of July 19 LINK performed our ‘Moving Object’ program to a large and constantly evolving audience at the Vondelpark outdoor theatre. What a strange feeling to be performing at 9:30pm but still in daylight and, as the performance was free, to have passers-by stop and watch the performance. With great technicians and other lovely dancers to share the night with, the Amsterdam performance went off without a hitch. The Company’s time in Amsterdam was simply wonderful – the hospitable people of the Netherlands, getting to share knowledge and dance with dancers from all over the world at the HJS workshops, and then to dance the finale performance of our European tour; Dank u wel Amsterdam, you were a treat!**

**Vienna, known for its cultural events, imperial sights, coffee houses with sachertorte, cozy wine taverns and the very special Viennese charm, becomes the centre of Europe’s contemporary dance world every summer. Thousands of dancers, choreographers and artists from all over the world come together to work together, for one month, at the Impulstanz Festival, to celebrate contemporary dance. They all use the opportunity to study the entire palette of dance with well-established teachers. Impulstanz is a truly inspirational and rewarding opportunity for any established or aspiring artist. It is a unique environment of leisure and hard-core dancing: you enter a three-hour intensive workshop and then walk out to a café, enjoy a live DJ and perhaps even a dip in the pool before on to your next workshop or to the theatres to watch contemporary dance professionals perform! All participants are open and friendly, no matter whether they are professional dancers or simply recreational ones. Everyone is there for the same reason: to enjoy dance!**

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**LINK IN EUROPE**

**LINK Dance Company returns home from its successful European tour**

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**Photo by Jon Green Photographer**

**Link Dance Company performance, Moving Object**

**LINK Dance Company backstage Belforth at the Centre Chorégraphique National de Belfort**
GRADUATES SHINE IN YIRRA YAARNZ

Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company's production of *Yirra Yaarnz* showcased a number of WAAPA graduates both onstage and behind the scenes.

Eight WAAPA graduates were involved in Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company’s production *Yirra Yaarnz*, which was performed at Perth’s Blueroom for NAIDOC week from July 9-13.

Graduates from WAAPA’s Aboriginal Theatre course included director Eva Grace Mullaley, and actors/writers Amy Smith, Shakara Walley, Matthew Cooper and Zac James. Current 3rd Year Lighting student Tegan Evans was the lighting designer and board operator, while WAAPA graduates Daniel Ampuero and Bec Garlett were set/costume designer and stage manager respectively.

The new play, mentored by award-winning playwright Hellie Turner, is a collection of monologues from emerging WA Aboriginal playwrights responding to the broad theme of ‘the river’.

Describing the production as “courageous and finely wrought”, The West Australian's theatre critic David Zampatti was enthusiastic in his praise: “If the production that closes the Blue Room’s first 2013 season is any gauge, the development of Aboriginal writers and performers in WA is in good hands. Seven young writers (four of whom also perform) have taken up the challenge of creating short theatre pieces with the overarching theme of the river, and the result — brought together as *Yirra Yaarnz* — is diverse, compelling and insightful.”

“The four actors, all graduates of WAAPA’s Aboriginal Theatre course, give clear, measured performances with much emotional subtlety.”

“[Shakara] Walley is magnificent ... [Amy] Smith is a sharp, alert actor with a neat playfulness that serves her well ... [Zac] James and the cast’s other writer/performer, Matthew Cooper, are convincing and charismatic in all their pieces.”

TALENT REWARDED

In June, 2nd Year Music Theatre student Ashleigh Rubenach was awarded the prestigious Bill Warnock Scholarship. The award was announced at the conclusion of the preview performance of WAAPA's mid-year musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at the Regal Theatre.

The scholarship, awarded to the most promising second-year music theatre student, honours Bill Warnock’s love of WAAPA performances and his passion for the WA performing arts community.

The award, nicknamed the “Golden Billy”, was presented to Ashleigh Rubenach by Bill’s wife, Diana.

Also in June, 3rd Year Acting students Grace Smibert and Nicholas Starte were named the winners of the 2013 Sally Burton Awards for best male and female performances at WAAPA.

Nurturing young artistic talent has long been a passion for Sally Burton, the widow of the great Welsh actor Richard Burton.

All students in 3rd Year Acting at WAAPA are invited to perform for the annual prizes – one for a male, one for a female – worth $2,000 each.

The students are required to perform a Shakespearean, Jacobean or Elizabethan text monologue or duologue. The judging is based on the ability to speak the verse, connect to the text, interpret the content and present the finished work.
In July, celebrated Australian actor Jack Thompson lent his expertise to the WAAPA’s Acting for Camera masterclasses and the WA Screen Academy’s Tool Box – Secrets of Filmmaking sessions.

The Acting for Camera masterclass focused on Thompson’s philosophy and practical skills to ‘feed the camera’ and maximise the impact of actors’ on-screen presence.

The Tool Box sessions screened a number of films in which the veteran actor has starred, including the acclaimed *The Assassination of Richard Nixon* (2004) and the multi-award winning short film *The Telegraph Man* (2011). Thompson discussed the process of collaborating with directors, actors and other members of creative teams and shared insights into his illustrious career.

Thompson, star of *Sunday Too Far Away*, *Breaker Morant* and *The Man from Snowy River*, has strong links to WAAPA, with his son Bill currently in his final year of the Acting course.

While in Perth, Thompson was also a guest presenter at the ECU sponsored WA Screen Awards on August 2.


Based on Colin Thiele’s Australian children’s book, *Storm Boy* boasts a number of WAAPA connections.

*Storm Boy* is directed by Barking Gecko’s Artistic Director, John Sheedy. Over the past few years WAAPA has been fortunate to benefit from Sheedy’s expertise as a visiting artist, most recently in March of this year when he directed the 3rd Year Acting students in *Hamlet*.

Perth-based youth theatre company Barking Gecko recently appointed Helen Hristofski as their new chief executive officer. Hristofski, a WAAPA Arts Management graduate, has extensive experience in theatre and arts education in Australia, having worked as Sydney Theatre Company’s education manager before taking up her new position.

Two of the creatives working on *Storm Boy* trained at WAAPA. The production’s sound designer was 1995 graduate Kingsley Reeve and 2012 dance graduate Michael Smith appears on stage as one of the play’s two dancer-puppeteers. Smith in particular is responsible for breathing life into the main pelican puppet, Mr Percival.

“The pelicans fly with all the joy of dance; Smith, in particular, is all long lines and elegance as he and the Boy’s beloved Mr Percival take their flight to freedom,” wrote Cassie Tongue in her review on AussieTheatre.com.

The production has been critically acclaimed with Diana Simmons from Stage Noise writing: “Barking Gecko and the STC have done a beautiful job of bringing this much loved story to yet another new generation”.

*Storm Boy* can be seen at Perth’s State Theatre from September 21 to October 5.

The stage version of Colin Thiele’s much-loved Australian children’s book *Storm Boy* boasts a number of WAAPA connections.
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A glimpse of what's been happening on stage at WAAPA

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