

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS unearths the world of archaeology and ancient cultures in more ways than one

A free public lectures series hosted by UTAS will delve into the vital role that archaeology plays in our understanding of ancient cultures.

The lecture series will commence tonight with Professor Frank Sear from the University of Melbourne speaking on the topic of *'Entertainment in the Roman world: theatres, amphitheatres and circuses'*.

Prof Sear is a pre-eminent Australian expert on Greco-Roman architecture, particularly Roman theatres.

His lecture will explore how amphitheatres and circuses were the choice entertainment by the wealthy elite in ancient Rome. Amphitheatres and circuses highlighted the distinction between classes and were also a place where funny things could happen when things did not always go to plan.

The public lecture series will also celebrate the introduction of Classical Archaeology to the UTAS teaching program from Semester 2, 2011.

Dr Geoff Adams from the UTAS School of History and Classics believed the public lectures and the new units in Classical Archaeology will spark interest from those curious to learn more about the ways archaeology enhances our understanding of ancient cultures.

"This lecture series is intended to promote the exciting introduction of archaeology to UTAS as an independent discipline in 2011/2012," Dr Adams said.

"The new units in archaeology will provide a great new opportunity for understanding not only the ancient world but also Tasmanian material culture in the future.

"A further two public lectures will provide an insight into the ancient cultures of Egypt and Pompeii as a result of archaeological evidence."

All lectures are free and will be held in the Stanley Burbury Theatre, UTAS Sandy Bay campus, Churchill Avenue.

Entertainment in the Roman world: theatres, amphitheatres and circuses by Professor Frank Sear, will be held tonight from 6pm.

For more information and media interviews, please contact: Dr Geoff Adams, Lecturer in Classics before 5pm on 0438 755 520.

Information Released by:

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Details about the following two public lectures:

Wednesday 20 April at 6pm:

Dr Malcolm Choat from Macquarie University will present: *From Tomb to Monastery: The use and reuse of Sacred Space in the Theban Necropolis*

Friday 13 May at 6pm:

Dr Geoff Adams will present: *Living in ancient Pompeii: space, luxury and décor.*