

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Theatre students perfect 1930s English humour in Noel Coward tribute

UTAS third year Visual and Performing Arts students will tackle the humour, complexity, timing and discipline necessary to deliver an evening of classic 1930s English humour, in a performance featuring selected works from Noel Coward's *Tonight at 8:30*.

In the Company of Coward is the graduation production by students who are finalising three years of study of the Bachelor of Contemporary Arts (Theatre) at UTAS.

During that time the students have grown from novice theatre practitioners into strong, independent, creative and passionate artists.

In keeping with what Time magazine called "a sense of personal style, a combination of cheek and chic, pose and poise," Noel Coward plays deliver a unique view of English society with a humour only Coward's language and timing can capture.

School of Visual and Performing Arts senior drama lecturer Peter Hammond said that the Coward material provided students with a huge challenge in the requirement for discipline and to be able to understand timing and the nuances of the language.

"It also introduced them to what some of us remember as class culture and a whole new world to them of pre-war culture, which demonstrates how far we have progressed as a society and how there has been a massive change of attitude," he said.

There will be five *In the Company of Coward* shows, directed by Shane Pike and Catherine Studley, performed over two seasons at The Annexe Theatre, Inveresk starting on Wednesday, October 17.

In the Company of Coward -

When:

Wednesday, October 17: Season 1 at 7pm

Thursday, October 18: Season 2 at 7pm

Friday, October 19: Season 1 at 11am, Season 2 at 7pm

Saturday, October 20: Season 2 at 2pm, Season 1 at 7pm

Cost: Single night: Adult \$15, conc. \$10, two-night pass: Adult \$25, conc. \$15

Venue: The Annexe Theatre, Inveresk, Launceston
Bookings: (03) 6324 4450 (Mon-Thurs. 9am-4pm)

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