

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Monday 23 June 2014

Next Stage brings *The Country* to the State

Experienced theatre practitioner Guy Hooper has arrived at the University of Tasmania's Inveresk campus to begin rehearsals for Martin Crimp's *The Country*, presented by Next Stage Theatre.

Next Stage co-ordinator Robert Lewis said that *The Country* explores the darker aspects of a 'tree-change' - the idea of escaping realities and their consequences, and "the attempts at re-starting our lives, our careers, our loves."

Guy Hooper, a graduate of the University of Sydney, is an exemplar of Tasmanians excelling as theatre professionals, having worked with a variety of theatre companies both in Tasmania and interstate teaching theatre and performance – most recently at the Salamanca Arts Centre.

He said that he is excited by the opportunity to work on a contemporary script by an internationally recognised playwright.

"It is rare to have the chance to work with this calibre of writing and this style of theatre in Tasmania and I am very keen to grapple with the demands it will make of my craft," Mr Hooper said.

"I am also very much looking forward to working with the University's Head of Discipline (Theatre), Dr Helen Trenos and the creative team in Launceston to explore and realise this production of *The Country*."

"Theatre collaborations between the north and south of the state are infrequent and this project will be another expression of the growing momentum for collaboration, skills-exchange and the development of a fruitful, vibrant creative Tasmanian theatre sector."

Next Stage Theatre, an initiative of the University of Tasmania's Tasmanian College of the Arts (TCotA) Theatre program, provides a platform for theatre research and collaboration between students, staff and professional theatre practitioners.

Following an intensive rehearsal schedule at Inveresk *The Country* will be performed at both the Annexe Theatre, Launceston and in Hobart's Theatre Royal Backspace.

THE COUNTRY

WHERE and WHEN: Annexe Theatre: July 10-12, 17-19.

Theatre Royal Backspace: July 24-26.

TICKETS: Through Theatre North, Launceston on 03 6324 4450 or Theatre Royal, Hobart on 6233 2299.

University of Tasmania
Private Bag 95
Hobart TAS 7001
T 03 6226 2999
media.office@utas.edu.au

utas.edu.au

CRICOS 00568B