

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Shakespeare revolutionised at Tasmanian College of the Arts

Taking crucial scenes from five of Shakespeare's most brutal plays and sewing them into one cohesive storyline, *CROWNS* focuses on the tragedy that is the human condition and its lust for power.

Greed and ambition are the major themes of this piece, set in an abstracted industrial zone, with all the characters weaving a complex tale of a battle for absolute power.

The script has been created using scenes from *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Richard III*, *King Lear* and *Titus Andronicus*, and also features original work by Lucy Pullen, a recent graduate of the theatre program and the show's stage manager.

Directed by Theatre and Voice Lecturer Dr Robert Lewis, this work is the major production for the second year students undertaking their Bachelor of Contemporary Arts (Theatre) at the University of Tasmania.

CROWNS is as much the performers' play and vision as it is the director's, with all cast members taking on a production role alongside their performative work.

Dr Lewis, who has directed multiple Shakespearean plays for the University's theatre program in the past, says that this particular production has presented unique opportunities and challenges for both himself and the cast.

Students have had the opportunity to completely take the reins as far as the overall design aesthetic of the show goes. Students were split into departments and given the chance to brainstorm ideas for everything, from costuming to set design.

This means that students are required to juggle multiple hats, including not only acting but work behind the scenes as well. This amount of responsibility and creative freedom has been a great learning experience for all students.

“*CROWNS* has been an amazing but extremely challenging task for us, not only as students but also as creative practitioners,” said cast member Georgia Purdon.

“It has pushed us all outside of our comfort zone and we feel as though we are creating something that is truly special. The rehearsal process so far has been really rewarding and I can’t wait to get to the theatre and share our story with Launceston.”

This work challenges and encompasses all facets of its performer's theatrical training, and will leave its audience with an image of human brutality that will not soon be forgotten.

‘The power of kings is in their crowns. Often taken and twisted by hungry hands. Our joy shall come of watching that which ensues when man is o’er come by ego.’

Where: The Annexe Theatre, Inveresk.

When: May 6th, 7pm. May 7th, 7pm. May 8th, 1pm & 7pm. May 9th, 7pm.

Tickets: \$10 general admission, TCotA Staff members/Theatre students/University College Program students’ entry free.

Bookings: 6324 4450 or at the TCotA front office. (Door sales available).

Information released by:

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