

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



On the hunt for the next generation of theatre stars

The University of Tasmania is on the hunt for the brightest young theatre enthusiasts Victoria and South Australia have to offer.

The University's School of Visual and Performing Arts (SVPA) is targeting prospective Bachelor of Contemporary Arts (Theatre) students for 2011 from regional Victorian areas like Gippsland, Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat, as well as Melbourne and Adelaide.

UTAS will hold two rounds of auditions in both Victoria and South Australia in coming weeks.

The SVPA's deputy head Peter Hammond said the course, based in Launceston in Northern Tasmania, had much to offer students from around Australia.

"The UTAS theatre course degree is a unique opportunity because it is a broad based course – meaning students study all forms of theatre," Mr Hammond said.

"It covers not only performance subjects like voice and acting, but also technical theatre like lighting and stage management, script writing and directing.

"That broader base gives greater employment opportunities to students once they graduate.

"I also think Launceston itself is a very attractive place to come and visit because it is large enough to offer choice without the overwhelming size of some larger cities.

"Our facilities at the School of Visual and Performing Arts are as good, if not better, than any theatre facility or training institution in the nation. They are top rate - many people who visit us from around Australia envy us for our facilities."

One current student, Matt Peavy, is originally from East Gippsland and said he had chosen the UTAS theatre course because it allowed him to develop a wide range of theatre knowledge and skills.

“I looked at some of the bigger name schools, but by enrolling at these universities I had to immediately indicate my preference or discipline,” Mr Peavy said.

“Was I interested in being a director, lighting technician, stage manager or an actor?”

“I had no idea.

“I knew that I wanted to try everything and experience all areas of theatre before making a decision.

“The School of Visual and Performing Arts at UTAS offered a course that covers all aspects of theatre and theatre production.”

Auditions will be held in coming weeks in both Victoria and South Australia:

The South Australian auditions will be held at the Adelaide Festival Centre in the Quartet Suite on November 11 and 12.

The Victorian auditions will be held at Melbourne’s Malthouse Theatre in the Shell Room on November 15 and 16.

Prospective students who would like to book an audition can contact Carol Searson on (03) 6324 4400.

For more information, or to arrange interviews with Mr Peavy or Mr Hammond, please contact Luke Scott at UTAS Media Office on (03) 6324 5019.

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