

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Launceston's theatre culture under the spotlight

Playing Launceston, an exciting new UTAS research project, will be launched tomorrow (Saturday 22 August) at the Annexe Theatre at Inveresk.

All of Launceston's leading theatre companies and artists have been invited to gather to take the first steps in researching and documenting the city's rich diverse theatre culture, past and present.

Dr Helen Trenos, chair of the Playing Launceston Committee, said the project will investigate the development of theatre in Launceston in connection with the evolution of the city.

"It will be a great opportunity for likeminded people to get together and share their experiences and stories of theatre in this city," she said.

"Don Wing MLC will open the afternoon and we will hear from individuals who have been prominent in the Launceston theatre scene."

Representatives from Launceston theatre companies have been invited to speak about their companies, reflecting on their core vision, their most memorable productions, the advantages and disadvantages of doing theatre in Launceston and why they continue to be successful today.

The day's programme will also include group discussions and an open forum.

Playing Launceston committee member, Professor Barbara Hatley said theatre is an integral part of Launceston's cultural history.

"We hope that the day will provide insight into why theatre has thrived here, from the point of view of those who are making, or have made, a direct contribution," she said.

"We expect that Playing Launceston will give rise to a number of individual projects both historical and contemporary and involve considerable community engagement, also working with local partners."

Playing Launceston is a collaborative project involving a committee of academic staff from a number of UTAS Schools including: Dr Robert Clarke (School of English, Journalism and European Languages); Mr Peter Hammond (School of Visual and Performing Arts); Professor Emeritus Barbara Hatley (School of Asian Languages and Studies); Mr Stuart King (School of Architecture and Design); Mr Robert Lewis

(School of Visual and Performing Arts); Dr. Helen Trenos (School of Visual and Performing Arts).

For more information/interviews please contact Dr Helen Trenos, ph. 6324 4427

Photo opportunity: Saturday 22nd August 1.30-2:15pm during opening and invited speakers, Annexe Theatre, Inveresk.

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