

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2007

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Class of '95

### THEATRE STUDENTS GATHER FOR LAUNCESTON REUNION

The first graduates of the first Bachelor of Performing Arts (Theatre) in Tasmania are gathering for a reunion in Launceston this week.

The School of Visual and Performing Arts Theatre Class of '95 are holding a reunion dinner at Launceston's Café Manfred from 7.30pm on Saturday 24 February 2007.

Many of the students have gone on to pursue successful careers, in the arts and education and everything else in between.

In attendance will be Cheryl Wheatley, who is set to embark on the World Premiere of her one-woman show, "Queen of the Snakepit" as part of the 10 Days on the Island festival. The reunion-goers will be treated to a short snippet of her travelling show, which will tour from Flinders Island, where Cheryl was born and raised, before heading to the Earl Arts Centre and concluding in Hobart. Cheryl has toured and performed with Hobart based IS Theatre in previous years and has recently graduated with a drama teaching degree.

Emma Braden, one of the reunion organisers, now works as the Venue and Operations Manager for Arts House in the City of Melbourne. Emma got her start with UTAS's very own Centr Stage as well as venue management experience at the Princess Theatre before heading home to the mainland. Emma says,

"The reunion will be absolutely hilarious with plenty of memories and a couple of performances thrown in for entertainment. We're all very excited to be returning to Lonnie – a place we love and hold dear in our hearts!"

Graduates also attending include local Brett Hopwood (now a Virgin Blue steward), Justin Marsden (one of Queensland's more successful real estate agents), Kristen Martin (a drama teacher in Adelaide) and Heather Tribolet who tours extensively with Victorian theatre in education troupes and performs regularly in Melbourne's fringe theatre scene.

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