

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Curtain raised on Northern historic homesteads

UTAS students from the School of Visual and Performing Arts in Launceston have triumphed with their first experience of on-site theatre in three northern historic homesteads.

Entally House has engaged them to perform there throughout the January/February tourist season after the popularity of their initial performances last weekend.

Peter Hammond, head of the Performing Arts program, says placing actors in historical homesteads is a new method of site interpretation. The project will hopefully be the first of many in which history comes alive and engages visitors with the properties on a cerebral and emotional level.

“All theatre can achieve an engagement that moves the spectator beyond the immediate, and transport us through time and place,” he said.

“The characters will guide small groups of audience members to selected locations in and around the homesteads, where site-specific scenes based on characters who once lived there will be performed.”

Students will perform **this weekend** in three of Tasmania’s historic northern homesteads: Clarendon, Entally House and Franklin House. (See dates and times below.)

At Entally the audience will be enticed into retreating to 1869, a year of marital scandal, frolicking behind closed doors, a man’s desperate attempt to perpetuate his lineage and a family forced into isolation.

At Franklin House students wound back the clock to serve and experience the regimented home life of the Hawkes Academy, reliving the devastating and ghastly adventures of 1844 – a time of scarlet fever, spirits and strained relations.

And at Clarendon House near Evandale in 1820, a family’s lineage hangs in the balance: shaky foundations, shaky relationships, sickly siblings, sassy servants and sheep, lots of sheep.....

Mr Hammond said that the performances will not only attract theatregoers but also people interested in the history, architecture and cultural heritage of the Tasmanian community.

“Theatre projects such as this enable us all to further appreciate the heritage and cultural richness that make Tasmania’s north such a diverse place to live and enjoy,” he said.

- **Clarendon House:** Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 8pm; Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1pm and 3pm.
- **Entally House:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1pm and 3pm.
- **Franklin House:** Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm and 3pm.

Please note: Photographs are available of the students in historic costume, and students are available for filming at one of the homesteads.

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