

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Embargoed until Thursday 27 September 2018

NEW \$30,000 FELLOWSHIP FOR EMERGING SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIRECTOR

The Helpmann Academy has partnered with the State Theatre Company South Australia (STCSA) and the State Opera South Australia (State Opera) to create the Helpmann Academy Emerging Director Fellowship.

The first of its kind in the country, the unique program will see one emerging artist take on a year-long paid internship with both the State Theatre Company and State Opera – working alongside artistic directors Geordie Brookman (STCSA), Stuart Maunder AM (State Opera) and a host of guest directors.

STCSA artistic director Geordie Brookman says the Fellowship is an investment in the artistic future of South Australia.

“This is an innovative and important investment in the artistic future of South Australia. By offering the opportunity to work across both fields this Fellowship will provide the successful candidate with a greater chance of building a viable, long term directing career. State Theatre Company is delighted to link with the Helpmann Academy and State Opera to create a unique partnership and development pathway that is unmatched anywhere else in the country.”

State Opera artistic director Stuart Maunder AM adds that the opportunity helps give an emerging director a leg-up in Australia’s changing arts landscape.

“We at State Opera are proud to be collaborating with Helpmann Academy and State Theatre Company to provide this unique opportunity to give a young director the chance to develop their craft in Australia’s ever-changing arts landscape. This chance to work alongside established directors, to observe the process from conception to completion, to be an integral part of the creation of new work in two art forms is a very rare and important step which will help to secure the future of some of our best and brightest young artistic talents.”

Helpmann Academy CEO, Jane MacFarlane said this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to engage with two of South Australia’s top storytellers.

“This is an incredible opportunity for an emerging artist from one of our partner institutions to gain hands on experience from two of the top storytellers in South Australia. The Helpmann Academy is excited to be joining forces with the State Theatre Company and the State Opera on this bold new Fellowship, designed to uplift the next generation of South Australian creators.”

The Helpmann Academy Emerging Director Fellowship is generously supported by the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation and is open to graduates within five years of graduation from Helpmann’s partner institutions Adelaide College of the Arts (TAFE SA), Flinders University, and the Elder Conservatorium (University of Adelaide).

Applications for the Helpmann Academy Emerging Director Fellowship will open on Friday 28 September and close on Friday 2 November at 11:59pm ACST. Further details about eligibility and applying can be found at > www.helpmannacademy.com.au

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PARTNER INSTITUTIONS



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INTERVIEWS

Interviews are available with Jane MacFarlane, Helpmann Academy CEO, Geordie Brookman, State Theatre Company South Australia Artistic Director and Stuart Maunder AM, State Opera South Australia Artistic Director.

For more information, interview requests or to arrange a photo please contact:

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JOURNALIST NOTES

ABOUT THE HELPMANN ACADEMY

The Helpmann Academy is the only organisation of its kind in Australia, empowering South Australia's most promising emerging creatives to realise their visions and build sustainable practices. Helpmann provides professional development opportunities including grants and awards, fellowships, mentorships, masterclasses and seminars, advisory services and international artist residencies, all tailored specifically for South Australia's higher education students, graduates and emerging artists.

The Helpmann Academy is a unique collaborative partnership, unifying the skills and resources of the state's universities and TAFE SA. Since 1994 the Helpmann Academy has been supporting emerging creatives, promoting South Australia as a centre for excellence in creative education, and contributing to the artistic community of the state.

ABOUT STATE THEATRE COMPANY SOUTH AUSTRALIA

State Theatre Company South Australia is the state's flagship professional theatre company performing an annual season of classic and contemporary Australian and international theatre works at its main performance home – the Dunstan Playhouse. The Company is a major community and cultural resource for all South Australians and is vital to artistic life in the state.

State Theatre Company also plays an important role in the bigger picture of the Australian theatre scene, contributing touring productions and providing employment and career opportunities for artists and technical and administrative staff. We are committed to the development of new works for the stage and to the development of South Australian artists through our creative fellowship programs.

ABOUT STATE OPERA SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The State Opera South Australia aspires to be the most exciting and innovative opera company in Australia, enhancing South Australia's reputation nationally and internationally.

Created as a Statutory Authority, under the State Opera South Australia Act in 1976, the State Opera South Australia was established to present, produce, manage and conduct theatrical and operatic performances that attract a diverse local, national and, potentially, international audience. It is a flagship arts organisation in South Australia and has made a huge contribution to the operatic arts, not just in South Australia, but at a national and international level, as well.

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