

Ashington Mentorship Scheme Launched

Laying the foundations for emerging artists' careers, the Helpmann Academy's mentorship scheme is going from strength to strength with its new major sponsor, Ashington.

The mentorship scheme enables Helpmann Academy partner school graduates in their first two years out of study to work with national and international professional artists to gain crucial skills for their arts practice and to develop vital networks.

Since 2002 the mentorship scheme has supported over 90 graduate artists in a mentorship relationship with an established artist.

As the new major sponsor from April this year Ashington Investment Management has taken on the naming rights of the mentorship program.

"Ashington has a business client and investor focus and like the Helpmann Academy we aim to add real value and gain strong returns, both presently and in the longer term, to stakeholders: young and emerging artists," said Kent Aughey, Managing Director, Ashington.

The Ashington Mentorship Scheme is also supported by thirty-two private patrons, Arts SA and the SA Premier's Partnership Fund (AbaF, Harris Scarfe and Arts SA).

The first round of mentorships for the 2008 Ashington Mentorship Scheme were launched last night at the Hyatt Regency with the following artists:

Emerging Artist

Ebony Addinsall
Thomas Brice
Kristel Britcher
Cathy Brooks
James Marshall
Robert Miller
Jude Rogers
Daniel Withey

Professional Artist

- Tom Rowney - Canberra glass artist
- Toby Richardson - Adelaide photographer
- Maureen Williams – Melbourne glass artist
- Dianne Longley - Adelaide printmaker
- Bianca Barling - Adelaide new media artist
- Vicki Reynolds - Adelaide printmaker
- Janet Laurence - Sydney installation artist
- Simon Scale - Adelaide illustrator

In 2007 Flinders University Drama graduate Noni Dunstone was mentored by well-known actor Noni Hazlehurst. Hazlehurst said of the program: "I'm enjoying mentoring Noni immensely. I wish I'd had someone looking out for me when I was starting in the business!"

Media Contact

Lynda Allen, Marketing & PR Manager, Helpmann Academy
(08) 8463 5015 / 0403 759 729 or email: lallen@tafe.sa.edu.au