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For immediate release

Helpmann Academy announces The Australian Ballet Costume Mentorship

The Helpmann Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts has augmented its Ashington Mentorship Scheme with the introduction of a new professional placement mentorship; The Australian Ballet Costume Mentorship 2009.

The Australian Ballet Costume Mentorship is a rare opportunity for an emerging costumer to experience a two-week placement at the centre of The Australian Ballet's operations at their headquarters in Melbourne. Emma Brockliss, a graduate of the Adelaide Centre for the Arts (tafeSA), will be the first to take part in this program and will join her mentor Jenny Howard, Wardrobe Production Coordinator at The Australian Ballet in March. During her placement, Emma will be immersed in the specialist world of costume and wardrobe at this internationally renowned company.

"This new mentorship is the first of its kind in Australia, where an emerging costume designer can become intimately acquainted with a performing arts company of such national and international significance," says Alison Dunn, Chief Executive Officer at the Helpmann Academy. "It will also place a graduate of the Adelaide Centre for the Arts - a Helpmann partner school - firmly on the national stage. Many schools and organisations vie for such coveted and rare opportunities with this company, so it is particularly thrilling to be sending a Helpmann Academy artist into such a privileged environment."

The Ashington Mentorship Scheme is one of the Helpmann Academy's most sought after opportunities, enabling emerging artists of all disciplines to be mentored by an artist or arts industry professional of their choice. Sponsored by Ashington and the South Australian Government through Arts SA, the mentorship scheme is also generously supported by private patrons.

The Helpmann Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts assists emerging artists to make the leap into professional practice by providing a range of programs and opportunities including exhibitions, awards, grants, mentorships and international exchanges. The seven partner schools that make up the Academy are the Adelaide Centre for the Arts and Vizarts O'Halloran Hill (tafeSA); Adelaide Central School of Art; Elder Conservatorium of Music (University of Adelaide); Flinders Drama & Screen Production (Flinders University) and South Australian School of Art (UniSA).

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