

SA Composer Awarded Helpmann Academy/ETSA Utilities Travel Grant

The Helpmann Academy/ETSA Utilities Travel Grant for 2006 has been awarded to outstanding emerging composer Alexander Mitchell. The grant will enable Alexander to travel to China to present work in Shifting Horizons, a world-class cultural exchange program.

Invited by the Shanghai Theatre Academy to represent Australia, Alexander will be one of the main collaborators at the Shifting Horizons event.

Shifting Horizons is an innovative performing arts cultural exchange by collaborators from China and Australia. Held in Shanghai from October to December this year, the program includes international workshops, lectures and performances.

The event is hosted by the Shanghai Theatre Academy, and facilitated by notable Chinese Film and Theatre Director Guy Yi An with Independent Choreographer Amanda Phillips from Australia. The program offers a melting pot of opportunity and artistic creativity, along with the development of cultural ties between the participants.

In awarding the grant, ETSA Utilities Chief Executive Officer, Lew Owens said: "We are a great believer in the youth of South Australia and this grant will allow a very promising artist to develop and display his skills on the international stage. We are pleased to be able to acknowledge this talent artist."

In 2005 Alexander graduated with First Class Honours in a Bachelor of Music (Composition) from the Elder Conservatorium of Music, University of Adelaide. He is currently completing his Masters in composition at the Conservatorium.

Alexander's ongoing focus on composing for theatre and dance has led him to create music for: *Manifest* during ADT's 2004 Ignition series, *My Unbelievable House* at Adelaide Centre for the ARTS and Cirkidz's *Up in Smoke* in 2005. This year Alexander composed music for the Adelaide Fringe Festival performance *Be Your Age*, in which he also performed live and was responsible for the arrangement. For the SALA Festival's Digital Sites program Alexander created the installation work *Found*.

Before leaving for China Alexander will work as composer/sound designer on *Crush*, part of the I Hear Motion program at the Golden Grove Arts Centre, and also *Crystal* by Caleb Lewis. For *Crystal* Alexander will develop rich musical textures live on stage through the use of melodic glasses, computer manipulation and sample based granular processes.

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