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For immediate release

Tina Mitchell participates in Helpmann Academy Emerging Director's Secondment

Adelaide director Tina Mitchell has been selected to undertake the inaugural Helpmann Academy Emerging Director's Secondment.

The Adelaide Festival Corporation and the Helpmann Academy for the Visual & Performing Arts have created a partnership to offer an emerging South Australian artist an Assistant Director's secondment during the 2010 Adelaide Festival of Arts.

During her secondment, Tina will be working with world-renowned directors Alex Ollé from the Spanish company La Fura Dels Baus and Valentina Carrasco on the Australian premiere production of *Le Grand Macabre*. Tina will attend all rehearsals and performances during the secondment, assisting the directors in all aspects of this large-scale production, including liaison between the directors, performers and the stage management staff.

"This is an amazing opportunity to be working with such a world renowned company as La Fura Dels Baus," says Tina about the secondment. "I will no doubt learn a great deal about their work and approach to theatre whilst making my first foray into the world of opera. *Le Grand Macabre* is going to be an event of epic proportions that will be an unforgettable experience for both myself and the Adelaide Festival audience. I can't wait."

Le Grand Macabre is considered to be a milestone in the history of opera and the only one written by Romanian composer György Ligeti. Sung in English for the 2010 Adelaide Festival, this production comes directly from the English National Opera Company using a breathtakingly clever and audacious staging by La Fura Dels Baus, the company that famously created the Barcelona Olympics opening ceremony.

Tina is a co-founder of the independent theatre company Chopt Logic and a graduate of the Adelaide College of the Arts. She has trained extensively with the SITI Company in New York, as well as with the Suzuki Company of Toga in Japan. As a director, Tina has been mentored by Anne Bogart, Artistic Director of the SITI Company, is directing *Live Fish* for Fringe 2010, was co-director of *Autobahn* at the 2009 Fringe, was assistant director to Michael Hill on *The Real Thing* (State Theatre Company of South Australia) and Creative Director for the Adelaide City Council.

The Helpmann Academy for the Visual & 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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