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**October 22**  
**Embargoed until 5:00pm**

## **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.

The successful applicant will work 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*. The Assistant Director 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.

*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. Premiering in Brussels in March 2010, the production has been to the Rome Opera and The English National Opera before coming to Adelaide. This will be the first time *Le Grand Macabre* has ever been staged in Australia and it is unlikely it will be performed again soon.

"Artists almost always learn their most valuable survival strategies and nuances directly from other artists, particularly when they have the opportunity to work together in a real-life context. This is why we are so committed to the highly successful Ashington Mentorship Scheme, as we know this kind of program makes a real difference to emerging artist careers," says Alison Dunn, Helpmann Academy CEO. "The Academy is delighted to be partnering with the Adelaide Festival 2010 to provide such an extraordinary opportunity for an emerging director – particularly in the context of an artform as multi-dimensional and demanding as opera. It's a potentially life changing creative experience for an emerging director during one of the world's most high-profile arts festivals."

The Helpmann Academy Emerging Director's Secondment is open to graduates (up to five years out) from a Helpmann Academy partner school. Written application forms can be downloaded from the Helpmann Academy website, [www.helpmannacademy.com.au](http://www.helpmannacademy.com.au)

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).

**For further information contact Chris Bull, Helpmann Academy Marketing Manager, on (08) 8463 5015 or 0425 615 233**