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For immediate release

Helpmann Academy's Ashington Mentorship Scheme awarded Good Practice Recognition in National AbaF Award

The Helpmann Academy's Ashington Mentorship Scheme has been awarded Good Practice Recognition for the Australia Council Young and Emerging Artist Award, a National AbaF (Australian Business Arts Foundation) Award.

The Australia Council Young and Emerging Artist Award is presented to successful partnerships between businesses and arts/cultural organisations that help to build skills, experience and opportunities for young and emerging artists. The Ashington Mentorship Scheme – a partnership between the Helpmann Academy and Ashington Investment Management - matches emerging artists from the Academy's partner schools with an experienced industry practitioner to offer them a kick-start in establishing their early career.

“Over the past ten years, this outstanding scheme has made a tangible difference to many emerging careers in the visual and performing arts,” says Alison Dunn, Helpmann Academy CEO. “This acknowledgement is recognition of the supportive relationship we enjoy with our wonderful sponsor Ashington, a relationship that has a lasting impact on the lives and careers of emerging artists in this state.”

“At Ashington, we look for businesses to invest in by mentoring in order to assist those businesses achieve their goals. The Helpmann Academy applies a similar process in helping emerging artists achieve their goals,” says Kent Aughey, Managing Director at Ashington. “The partnership is a perfect fit and it is a genuine privilege to be involved in a program that makes such a powerful contribution to South Australia's community, economy and identity.”

In 2006, the Helpmann Academy's mentorship program was recognised with the SA AbaF Giving Award.

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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