

2007 Keith Michell Performance Award Winner

Adelaide dancer Jay Robinson has been awarded the 2007 Keith Michell performance award.

The Keith Michell Award is given as an acknowledgment and encouragement of an emerging artist's work over the previous year and to assist towards their career development.

Dance educationalist Meredith Bowman will present Jay Robinson with the \$2,000 award at a reception at Waverley Homestead, Willunga on Friday 12 October.

27-year-old Jay Robinson graduated from the Bachelor of Dance Performance at Adelaide Centre for the Arts, TafeSA in 2006. Prior to his dance studies he also completed an Advanced Diploma of Arts (Acting) at Adelaide Centre for the Arts.

Beginning his Bachelor of Dance Performance with no prior dance instruction, Jay was able to progress through the course because of his high level of personal dedication and discipline. The Keith Michell Award recognises Jay's achievements as an independent dancer and the opportunities he has created for himself.

At this year's Adelaide Fringe Jay presented *Shelf Life* with Bare Bones Collective and from August he spent two months on an unpaid secondment with Dancenorth. The company then invited Jay to perform in their double bill *Dis-Integration*, a dance theatre piece created by international choreographers Paolo Castro and Jo Stone.

During November Jay will present *Four Faces*, a gritty, gutsy and funny dance performance as part of this year's Adelaide Feast Festival. The work explores what it means to be a gay man in 2007. Along with performing the piece Jay has also challenged himself to produce, direct, curate and manage the work.

Sponsored by Southern Theatre and Arts Supporters (STARS) and the Friends of the Helpmann Academy, the Keith Michell Award celebrates Adelaide-born Keith Michell's distinguished career spanning five decades as an international star of stage and screen. The award is open to dance and drama graduates from Helpmann Academy partner schools in their first year after graduation.

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