

Wednesday 25 November 2009

## Rising Stars light up the Grenfell Gallery as part of Art for a Cause

*women@minterellison is proud to sponsor and host the 7th annual Rising Star Awards, celebrating with a cocktail function in the Grenfell Gallery on Wednesday 25 November 2009*

The women@minterellison Rising Star Awards have a reputation for identifying and celebrating some of the best artistic talent South Australia has on offer and is one of the State's most coveted prizes for those beginning to make their way in the performing arts.

The annual Rising Star Awards recognise the achievements and the potential of four outstanding young women who are all selected by senior staff from the Helpmann Academy partner schools they represent.

An intimate gathering of female practitioners and support staff from Minter Ellison will join Helpmann Academy representatives and the families and friends of the award winners at the award ceremony in the Grenfell Gallery from 5.00pm this evening.

This year, the artists' work will be shown as part of the Art for a Cause Exhibition in the Grenfell Gallery on the ground floor of the Grenfell Gallery, from today until Wednesday 9 December 2009.

Further promoting the bond between business and the arts, **Adelaide Festival Chief Executive and Associate Artistic Director, Kate Gould** will be guest speaker at the awards ceremony. Kate will discuss the importance of corporate investment and support of the arts and give guests a taste of the recently launched 2010 program as the Festival enters its 50th year.

"We're excited to be able to profile our winning artists to the broader business community through the Art for a Cause program in the Grenfell Gallery," said **Sophie Doyle, Director Business Development SA/NT Minter Ellison**.

"The Rising Star Awards have contributed \$32,000 to emerging female artists since 2004 and we know these awards make a tangible difference to the graduates."

Each Rising Star Award winner will receive a \$1000 cash award to help her make the leap into a professional career, as well as an engraved Tiffany & Co trophy. Traditionally, the award winners have come from a range of disciplines within the visual and performing arts with dance, music and cinematographers being typical of our past winners. This year we also include the backstage theatre disciplines for the first time and will be awarding an outstanding young stage designer.

The 2009 winners include:

- Amanda Lovelock, Elder Conservatorium of Music, The University of Adelaide
- Lydia Nicholson, Drama Centre, Flinders University
- Rebecca Jones, Adelaide College of the Arts, TafeSA (Dance)
- Alia Guidace, Adelaide College of the Arts, TafeSA (Design)

"We are thrilled that Minter Ellison continues to support emerging artists, giving them that all important financial encouragement they need to pursue their dreams and embark on professional careers," said **Alison Dunn, CEO, Helpmann Academy**.

"The women@minterellison Rising Star Awards are well respected and highly sought after by our emerging young talent and many a successful artist can look back with pride and claim an award in their own portfolio. It really is a launch pad from which our graduates can build their careers."

The Helpmann Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts is the only organisation of its kind in Australia and it has assisted well over 1500 individual artists since it began its work fourteen years ago. The Academy includes seven partner schools from all creative disciplines across South Australian universities and other educational institutions.

*For more information, please contact:*

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