

For immediate release
September 29, 2008

QUEENSLAND'S CREATIVE HEARTBEAT

Youth Arts Queensland presents the YAMP Showcase – a must-see arts industry event profiling the of this year's Young Artist Mentoring Program

For young arts professionals, achieving a long-term career can be a daunting prospect. How do they develop their work, make the right contacts *and* pay the rent? Each year, **Youth Arts Queensland's Young Artist Mentoring Program (YAMP)** provides support to a group of emerging arts practitioners aged 18-26 who are on the verge of groundbreaking careers. Successful applicants receive 9 months of training, advice and funding whilst they embark on an exciting mentorship with an established arts professional of their choice.

This year, YAMP is supporting a diverse mix of 14 participants who will be entertaining, surprising and inspiring their audience at **YAMP Showcase**. The evening will feature live music, puppetry, film, clowning, photography, literature and visual art in a festival/cabaret style event to be held at the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts on Thursday, October 16 at 6.30pm.

Sarah Woodland, YAMP Program Manager, says: "Showcase is an opportunity not only for the artists to demonstrate their skills, but for the audience to celebrate a group of talented young people who are making their mark in their field of artistic practice."

Some of those emerging arts leaders include Elleni Toumpas, Mariam Arcilla and Clint Bolster.

Elleni Toumpas is a photographer who has recently returned from Los Angeles where she documented the recording of Kate Miller-Heidke's second album. Through YAMP, Elleni has been mentored by acclaimed photographer Russell Shakespeare and describes the experience as a pivotal stage in her career.

Emerging curator and artist, **Mariam Arcilla**, has used her experience as a mentoree to build her artist run initiative *Tinygold* and to develop *19 Karen* - a brand new artspace on the Gold Coast launched in late August this year³.

Annie Lee of the Kransky Sisters is mentoring actor, stilt-walker and clown **Clint Bolster**. Annie has been helping Clint to develop a solo clown show that will be performed in festivals, theatres and events nationally and internationally.

All 14 participants have gained a great deal of inspiration, practical knowledge and success through YAMP...

"It is a saviour – my creative practice finds purpose."

"YAMP is a fantastic motivation and means for the progress I am making." (YAMP Participants 2008)

Applications are now open for YAMP 2009. Applications and guidelines are available to download on www.yaq.org.au/yamp and will close on Friday, November 14. Applicants must be aged 18-26 at the time of application, be a resident of Queensland and not enrolled in full time study. For more information, please contact Sarah Woodland, YAMP Program Manager on (07) 3252 5115 or email yamp@yaq.org.au.

- Ends -

Event:	YAMP Showcase
When:	Thursday, October 16, 6 – 8.30pm
Where:	Theatre, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
Cost:	Free
RSVP:	by Friday, October 10 (essential): Sarah Woodland, (07) 3252 5115 or yamp@yaq.org.au

For further information, photographs, artist bios and interviews, please contact:
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