



announcement

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For immediate release

YAMP celebrates the diversity of Youth Arts in Queensland

Fifteen young people, fifteen approaches to contemporary art, and thirteen artforms – YAMP 2008 is again set to break ground with the innovation, experimentation and creativity of participants from across the state.

Now in its ninth year, the **Young Artists Mentoring Program (YAMP)** continues to acknowledge young artists and their diverse practises as invaluable contributors to Queensland's vibrant, ever-growing arts sector.

Amongst the young and emerging creatives participating in YAMP this year are **cinematographers, theatre-, dance- and performance-artists, musicians, curators, photographers and visual artists, puppeteers, writers, lighting designers, festival producers and arts marketers.**

From 13 to 15 February, **YAMP Induction** will be held at the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts bringing together the 2008 YAMPees and their mentors formally for the first time.

Throughout the next nine months, the group will participate in professional development opportunities and Youth Arts Queensland's accredited arts business training, **Navigation**. Every YAMP mentoree will have the opportunity to apply for project funding of up to \$4,750 and receive individual support and advice to further their career in the Creative Industries.

'YAMP has come to be known as a model for other arts mentoring programs across the state and nationally. Over one hundred partnerships have been supported thus far and we have secured another three years of funding to continue to do so,' says Youth Arts Queensland Chief Executive Officer, Cate Farrar.

YAMP is a nine-month mentoring program open to young Queensland arts-workers and artists across all art forms aged 18 to 26. Each young artist enters a partnership with a professional artist of their choice where both parties benefit from sharing ideas, networks and industry experience.

The Navigation accredited Arts Business Training has been developed by Youth Arts Queensland and aims to reduce the barriers young people experience when making the transition from education to employment in the arts and creative industries. The training covers units in project management and budgeting, working with and in communities, marketing, making presentations and pitching projects, OHS and risk management, and design essentials.

YAMP 2008 is funded by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations' *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* Initiative and proudly managed by Youth Arts Queensland.



Media & Photo Enquiries

All mentors and mentorees are available for interviews. For further details, refer to their enclosed profiles. High-resolution photographs are available from YAQ upon request.

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YAMP 2008 Participants

Mentoree: Mariam Arcilla (age 26, Mermaid Waters, Gold Coast)

Art form: Visual Arts - Curator

Mentor: Lorraine Pilgrim – Lorraine Pilgrim Galleries (Southport, Gold Coast)

Mariam an emerging curator and visual artist based at the Gold Coast. Her vision is to address the current lack of exhibition resources for Gold Coast artists by organising ongoing exhibitions at alternate spaces unique to the Gold Coast's geography. She founded *tinygold*, a non-profit artist run initiative, has experience in working in and with galleries and has a BA Hons (1st class) from Griffith University, Gold Coast. Her mentor is well-established art curator and consultant Lorraine Pilgrim.

Mentoree: Ashlie Bertwistle (age 20, Burpengary)

Art form: Film

Mentor: Tony Luu – Cinematographer (Carina, Brisbane)

Ashlie is an aspiring cinematographer from Burpengary. Ashlie's career goal is to become a successful versatile professional working in feature film, advertising, music videos and television productions with the eventual goal of running her own production company. She has made her own short films and worked with various emerging artists from the greater Brisbane area. Through her mentorship with well-known cinematographer Tony Luu, Ashlie aims to expand her knowledge of different system operations and extend her network within the film production industry.

Mentoree: Clint Bolster (age 22, Indooroopilly, Brisbane)

Art form: Theatre

Mentor: Annie Lee – The Kransky Sisters (Red Hill, Brisbane)

Clint is an emerging performance artists from Brisbane. He has already made significant strides, working overseas, touring secondary schools interstate, and performing in all kinds of environments. Over the next few years, Clint aims to either join an internationally renown company such as Cirque du Soleil or tour his own solo show. To build his skills set and further his training, Clint has the support of Annie Lee from The Kransky Sisters who will be his mentor throughout YAMP 2008.

Mentoree: Mitchell Humphrys (age 23, Norman Park, Brisbane)

Art form: Puppetry

Mentor: Jonathon Oxlade (West End, Brisbane)

Mitchell is a young emerging puppeteer who enjoys showcasing his creations through both film and on stage. I has a vested interested in becoming a part of the arts industry in order to create and promote new styles of puppetry which would take this art form to new heights on both stage and screen. His creative interests are frequently employed in his pursuits as an educator, and the melding of both Education and Puppetry is something he strives towards and would love to pursue further. Established puppeteer, illustrator, and theatre designer Jonathon Oxlade will mentor Mitchell during YAMP 2008.

Mentoree: Benjamin Law (age 25, New Farm, Brisbane)

Art form: Writing

Mentor: Matthew Condon – Q Weekend Mail (Brisbane)

Benjamin is an emerging writer from Brisbane with already extensive experience in the field. Over the past seven years, he has worked with different publications in a variety of roles including editor, designer, coordinator and writer. So far, his non-fiction writing has focus around youth and arts publications. During his mentorship, Benjamin plans to focus on broader social, cultural and political issues in Queensland and beyond, and expand his repertoire or creative non-fiction writing. Benjamin will be supported by his mentor, award-winning and nationally respected novelist and journalist, Matthew Condon.

Mentoree: Elise May (age 26, Holland Park West, Brisbane)

Art form: Dance

Mentor: Maria Verdaasdonk – Media Performance (Red Hill, Brisbane)

Elise is on e of Brisbane's emerging dance artists who has been actively involved in the local independent dance community over the past years. She identifies as a dance-based artist with and interest in

collaboration and interdisciplinary approaches to dance spanning visual art, video, installation and digital technologies. Elise has gained experience as a dancer in various performance-works over the past years including 'Churchill's Black Dog' by Clare Dyson in 2005. She was selected for the World Dance Alliance – Young Choreographer's Project and has received the Australia Council Take Your Partner Initiative. Elise has selected well-established dance and new media artists Maria Adriana Verdaasdonk to be her mentor for YAMP 2008.

Mentoree: Jonathan McBurnie (age 24, West End, Brisbane)

Art form: Visual Art

Mentor: Roderick Bunter (New Farm, Brisbane)

Jonathan is an aspiring visual artist pursuing a sustainable, innovative and culturally significant practice in the arts. Being formally educated at Griffith University's Queensland College of Art (Bachelor of Animation and Bachelor Honours Fine Arts), Jonathan has shown his work in several exhibitions around Brisbane and Queensland and has won the Queensland College of Art Excellence in Painting Award in 2006. Jonathan will be mentored by visual artist Roderick Bunter.

Mentoree: Scott McConnachie (age 23, Enoggera, Brisbane)

Art form: Music

Mentor: Elliot Dalglish – New Musique Australia (Spring Hill, Brisbane)

Scott is a saxophonist with a specific interest in improvisational and experimental music. Scott plays in various Brisbane-based bands including acclaimed experimental music collectives Collage Planning and Audiopollen Social Club as well as Ear Beard and has collaborated with many of the world's leading improvisers over the past few years. Scott wants to use his mentorship to further his work as a musician, music organiser and educator. Working with his mentor Elliot Dalglish will further his music practise artistically and expand his network within the music industry.

Mentoree: Simone Pitot (age 23, Kippa Ring, Greater Brisbane)

Art form: Music

Mentor: Caleb James (Salisbury, Brisbane)

Simone is an aspiring innovative singer songwriter from the greater Brisbane area with the goal to establish a sustainable arts practice. Through YAMP, Simone will be working with renowned producer Caleb James to produce a marketable and commercially viable product, an EP for digital release. Simone has gained experience in the industry through her own studies and teaching of Contemporary Music.

Mentoree: Zoë Porter (age 26, Paddington, Brisbane)

Art form: Visual Art

Mentor: Ian Friend - Art Bunker (Woolloongabba, Brisbane)

Zoë is a Brisbane-based emerging visual artist. In her arts practise, she utilised a wider range of media including digital and traditional photography, works on paper, soft sculpture and installation work. Her primary interest is working with watercolour on paper. Zoë has a Bachelor of Fine Arts with First Class Honours from Griffith University, Queensland College of Art and has shown her work in various exhibitions in Brisbane and overseas. Her mentorship with well-known artists Ian Friend will not only extend her skills and understanding of the medium of her choice but also expand her knowledge of how to build a sustainable career in this field.

Mentoree: Amy Robinson (age 22, St Lucia, Brisbane)

Art form: Arts Marketing

Mentor: Bronwyn Klepp (Brisbane)

Amy is an emerging Arts Marketer whose vision is to encourage a wide range of people to enrich their lives by participating in the arts and cultural industries. Amy has worked as marketing and publicity coordinator for Backbone Youth Arts' 2High Festival 2007, an annual Brisbane-based youth performing arts festival for you emerging artists aged up to 26. This experience gave Amy insights into working with sponsors, journalists and the community. Bronwyn Klepp, Marketing Manager for the Queensland Theatre Company, will support Amy as a mentor throughout YAMP 2008.

Mentoree: Elleni Toumpas (age 26, Wilston, Brisbane)

Art form: Photography

Mentor: Russell Shakespeare (Currumbin, Gold Coast)

Elleni is an aspiring photographer with extensive experience in music photography. Elleni has worked for Brisbane's Street Press including Rave and tsunami Magazine, online music sites including FasterLouder and Same Same, and has further freelanced for numerous Brisbane musicians including Kate Miller-Heidke, Brindle, Elation, and for nightclubs such as the Met. Through her YAMP mentorship, Elleni wants to expand her practise further and explore studio photography. She has chosen renowned Photographer Russell Shakespeare to be her mentor.

Mentoree: Melody Woodnutt (age 25, West End, Brisbane)

Art form: Visual Art

Mentor: Angela Gardner (West End, Brisbane)

As a contemporary visual artist, it is important to Melody to produce work that is current, significant and challenging to society's thought and its direction. Working primarily with oil on canvas, Melody is heavily influenced by abstract expressionism and creates work that encourages thought and dialogue through its social commentary and innovative processes. Melody aims to make her practice more accessible to the public and further her practice artistically through the support of her mentor, awarded visual artists Angela Gardner.

Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC)

Mentoree: Alexander Kelly (19, Coorparoo, Brisbane)

Art form: Sound and AV

Mentor: Mark Blacker (QPAC)

Alex Kelly is an aspiring Sound designer from Brisbane. He is interested in the creation of music and sound through digitalised mediums such as synthesisers and DAW based programs. Alex enjoys composing music using different computer softwares focusing on orchestral scores, sounds scapes for movies and TV. Through his mentorship, Alex aims to develop further skills in sound design through hand on experience at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

Brisbane Festivals

Mentoree: Yvette Walker (27, Albion, Brisbane)

Art form: Louisa Robertson (Brisbane Festival)

Yvette is an emerging actor, playwright and poet. Through her work, Yvette aims to bridge the cultural, regional and rural diversities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Yvette gained experience in her field through various engagements as an actor and has also worked for the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts (ACPA) and NAIDOC 2007. Through her mentorship with Brisbane Festival, Yvette aims to build on her skills and broaden her networks to established a sustainable career in the arts.