



# Girls will be boys

**Lord of the Flies gets an interesting gender twist from La Trobe University Theatre. DAREN POPE speaks with artistic director, Bob Pavlich.**

Student Theatre has never been afraid to rock the boat. While MUD festival is revving up at Melbourne University, La Trobe students are busy throwing themselves into an all female version of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. The production will be staged at Trades Hall, Carlton as part of La Trobe University's commitment to off campus theatre activities.

Artistic director, Bob Pavlich says the Trades Hall season is designed to increase the university's

profile while making student theatre more accessible to the general public.

"Latrobe is psychologically a long way from Melbourne and it's often hard to get the general public out to the Bundoora campus," he says.

Golding's *Lord Of the Flies* is the dramatic story of survival. A group of English schoolboys, plane-wrecked on an island, establish a brutal pecking order with fatal consequences. Peter Brooke's famous cinematic treatment was one of the more influential films of the 60s.

Given women are in the majority at La Trobe Student Theatre, Bob Pavlich says his radical departure in casting *Lord of the Flies* was pragmatic as much as it was provocative.

"I thought you either get 13-year-old boys to play the roles as Peter Brooke did

or you get performers to somehow represent them. It made as much sense to get a group of female students as male students. It just adds that extra dimension."

The cast for this gender bending production has undergone a rigorous physical training program in preparation. Pavlich says student theatre remains an important influence in Melbourne theatre culture.

"I'm a student from Melbourne University years ago and a lot of my contemporaries are quite happy to put on their CVs that their training was at Melbourne University theatre," he says.

*Lord of the Flies* will be performed in repertory with Orson Well's adaptation of *Moby Dick* from August 21 - September 2. For more information call 9479 1198.

*"Student theatre remains an important influence in Melbourne theatre culture"*



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