

# New talent on show



Exams are different for drama students at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA). The end of year VCA productions are a showcase for graduating drama students and the chance for the general public to get a glimpse of tomorrow's stars.

The 2007 season (dubbed The World Turned Upside Down) offers three shows: *Yes*, adapted from the *Sally Potter* film, *A Dollhouse* by Ibsen and *King Lear* by Shakespeare. The company of graduating actors perform as an ensemble in all three productions.

Taking on the

*"There's a lot of use of camera with scenes filmed live and projected onto a giant screen"*

plum role of King Lear is Ben Hjorth (pictured), who is painfully aware of the challenge in taking on such an iconic role.

"I've just thrown myself into it and I haven't had a chance to worry about the role," he says.

The VCA production of *King Lear* has been given a modern twist by visiting director, Brian Lipson. The setting for the drama about an aging king and his quest to hold onto power has been transposed into a corporate awards night.

"Brian (Lipson) is very interested in all that stuff around celebrity and reality TV."

[www.vca.unimelb.edu.au/dramabookings](http://www.vca.unimelb.edu.au/dramabookings)

**Daren Pope**

# Convict play


The Monash University Academy

of Performing Arts presents *Our Country's Good* at Chapel Off Chapel, Prahran.

Based on Thomas Keneally's novel, *The Playmaker*, this new production promises insight into the lives of the first Australian settlers.




Audiences are transported to a convict settlement in which Governor Phillip has decided that a play would be a better proposition for entertainment than popular hangings

*Our Country's Good* is written by Timberlake Wertenbaker and directed by Kate Cherry, well known to theatre going audiences as associate artistic director at Melbourne Theatre Company. It stars members of the Monash Graduate Ensemble. 

October 10-14, Chapel Off Chapel, Details: 8290 7000

Send your event pics to [there@utimes.com.au](mailto:there@utimes.com.au)

# Pilots and nurses party

Swinburne Aviation Club & Deakin Nursing Association Booze Cruise was held in September aboard the Victoria Star. Just over 250 nurses and pilots partied the night away. 

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