

SA's Top Award for an Arts Graduate

## **2008 Adelaide Bank Award Winner Announced**

**South Australia's top award for an arts graduate was announced on Friday 30 May at the Helpmann Academy's annual Maestros & Apprentices Fundraising Dinner.**

The 2008 Adelaide Bank Award, worth \$5,000, was presented to 21-year old Chris Aubrey, a Bachelor of Dance Performance graduate from TAFE SA, Adelaide Centre for the Arts.

Showing exceptional talent, Chris was an extremely dedicated, enthusiastic and committed dance student.

Chris' strong technique brought him to the attention of Garry Stewart, Artistic Director for the internationally acclaimed Australian Dance Theatre. Stewart was so impressed with Chris' talent as a dancer that he offered him a place in the company – to begin the same week he graduated. A role was then created for Chris in ADT's new performance of *G*, which premiered at this year's Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts.

Through its sponsorship of the Adelaide Bank Award, the State's top award for an arts graduate, Adelaide Bank aims to provide meaningful support for talented young South Australians seeking a career in the arts.

Jamie McPhee, Chief Executive, Wholesale Bank, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited said in presenting the Adelaide Bank Award, "Our partnership with the Helpmann Academy is to support young, talented artists to unleash their potential. Chris' journey has just begun and already his dancing career looks bright."

Chris is now looking forward to a year of touring overseas with Australian Dance Theatre.

The annual Adelaide Bank Award is chosen from seven outstanding 2007 arts graduates, from each of South Australia's major arts institutions: Adelaide Centre for the Arts, Adelaide Central School of Art, Elder Conservatorium of Music, Flinders Screen Production and Drama Centre, South Australian School of Art and Vizarts, O'Halloran Hill.

*With record guest numbers this year's Maestros & Apprentices Fundraising Dinner raised over \$130,000 for emerging artists from the Helpmann Academy's partner schools. These funds provide significant benefits to students and recent graduates by assisting with arts projects, facilitating visiting artists, travel grants, and creating performance and exhibition opportunities.*

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