

Tutu fabulous Ashington Mentorship Scheme augmented



In December last year the Helpmann Academy announced an extension to its Ashington Mentorship Scheme with the introduction of The Australian Ballet Costume Mentorship.

Adelaide Centre for the Arts graduate Emma Brockliss was selected as the first to take part in this program and offered the rare opportunity to experience a two-week placement at the centre of The Australian Ballet's operations at their headquarters in Melbourne during March.

"I have always had an interest in the ballet and have been doing freelance work making costumes for dance schools around Adelaide, including designing tutus for young girls," Emma says. "Going to Melbourne to work with The Australian

Ballet was something I never expected would happen to me, so when I was selected, I was over the moon!"

Working with her mentor Jenny Howard, Wardrobe Production Coordinator at The Australian Ballet, Emma was immersed in the specialist world of costume and wardrobe at this internationally renowned company.

"Because Jenny coordinates purchasing for The Australian Ballet, we went out and purchased fabric and other items for an upcoming show. The materials were to make replicas of costumes they had made 10 years ago, so finding similar fabric was quite a task. I also got to work very closely with the tutu master Maureen, who took me step by step through making a proper,

professional tutu for The Australian Ballet. I really enjoyed this experience, as I was able to see the different fabrics, patterns, measurements and processes they used to produce a tutu. Milliner Vikki Carr also taught me how to make a tiara. I hadn't done much wirework before, so it was exciting to learn something new."

This extension to the Ashington Mentorship Scheme is a wonderful opportunity for an emerging costume designer to become intimately acquainted with an Australian performing arts company of national and international significance. "The two-week placement also puts a Helpmann Academy graduate firmly on the national stage," says Alison Dunn, Helpmann Academy CEO. "Many schools and organisations vie for such coveted opportunities with this company, so it was particularly thrilling to send a costumier into such an excellent professional environment."

Emma says her time with The Australian Ballet – while only short – will have a lasting impact on her future endeavours as a costumier. "I just loved being surrounded by people with so much knowledge; their vast experience is such an inspiration to someone like me who is basically just starting out. This experience has opened my eyes to the possibilities of my craft. I have brought back to Adelaide some very helpful hints and tips, which will definitely help me with my freelance work. It has also given me a chance to see how such a large, successful company runs and the organisation involved. This is particularly important to me, as working for a company and working freelance for myself are two entirely different experiences."



Emma Brockliss at work.

Open house for the arts

The Adelaide Centre for the Arts and the Adelaide TAFE Campus will open their doors to showcase all education programs on offer during TafeSA's annual Open Day, on Sunday 16 August.

All areas of the Adelaide Centre for the Arts facility will be open, enabling school leavers

and those re-entering the workforce to review all courses available in the arts.

AC Arts will provide information sessions on specific programs for performance and visual arts. All studios and the Light Square Gallery will be open, featuring the SALA Festival exhibition *Matter*.

Student counsellors will be available throughout the building to offer helpful advice on the Creative Industries programs. For more information about the TafeSA Open Day, please ring 1800 882 661.