



MEDIA RELEASE

New theatre company bursts into Canberra's arts scene

The founders of Canberra Academy of Dramatic Art, James and Elizabeth Scott, are pleased to announce the launch of their new professional theatre company, Honest Puck.

"Honest Puck takes its name from Shakespeare's famous play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*," says Artistic Director, James Scott.

"Puck is a clever elf who weaves his mischievous magic throughout the play, and at the end, asks his audience for both forgiveness and applause," he said.

"Puck tries to portray himself as 'honest' in the final lines of the play - but we all know that's tongue-in-cheek."

The theatre company will also take a leaf out of Puck's book. Honest Puck's mission is 'to create profound theatrical experiences for its artists and audiences'.

"The works we produce may be comedic or tragic or both, but whichever genre they fall into, they'll be substantial works which are meaningful to audiences, and have great roles for actors to sink their teeth into," said James.

Having spent a number of years developing their drama school and training others for professional practice, the company is not only a vehicle for the creative talents of its directors, but also for the new graduates who have emerged from their school.

"We have some wonderful peers teaching in our accredited training programs, as well as some great talent coming through the school," James explains.

"We have access to some exceptional talent and now we want to put it to work!"

Honest Puck is not government funded, and the intention is that it will be self-sustaining.

"Sustainability is important to us - artistically, environmentally and financially," says Elizabeth Scott, co-founder and producer of Honest Puck.

"We are aiming to create a company that pays its way."

Elizabeth Scott was a finalist in the ACT Telstra Businesswomen's Awards in 2013 for her work with the drama school, which now has over 400 students participating in its weekly drama classes.

Honest Puck's first production, *Underneath The Lintel*, written by Glen Berger and directed by John Concannon, opens on April 16 at the CADA Theatre in Fyshwick.

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