



**Victorian College of the Arts
MEDIA RELEASE**

**VCA Drama – *ID/08*
POSTGRADUATE ANIMATEURS' SEASON
Friday 3 to Saturday 11 October 2008**

A performance response to Roland Barthes' book *Camera Lucida* ~ Realised by Leisa Shelton

"A text is like a city, you walk around in it, and you perceive what appeals to you." Helene Cixous

From Friday 3 October, VCA Drama will present *ID/08* a culmination of the year's training for VCAs Postgraduate Diploma in Performance Creation - Animateuring.

This collaborative project has been developed by postgraduate students in response to material provided by director **Leisa Shelton**. In *ID/08* the Postgraduate Animateurs have taken Roland Barthes' text *Camera Lucida* as the point of provocation to investigate both collaborative practice and questions provoked in the text surrounding identity, image, the taking of image, perception and truth.

ID/08 is devised and performed by Blake Barratt, Xanthe Beesley, Olivia Bryant, Amy Dwight, Rinske Ginsberg, Nicola Gunn and Anna Schoo, with Govin Ruben as Lighting Designer and Jared Lewis as Production/Sound Assistant.

Roland Barthes was a French literary critic. His book *Camera Lucida* (1980) was both an inquiry into the nature and essence of photography and a tribute to the author's late mother. At its core the work questions the notion and meaning of photography. Specifically the place photography plays in the observer's relationship to the person in the image. Along with Susan Sontag's *On Photography*, *Camera Lucida* is considered one of the most important early academic books of criticism and theorization on photography.

Leisa Shelton is one of Australia's most respected and exciting movement director/teachers and currently runs VCA Drama's Graduate Diploma in Animateuring course. Of particular interest to Shelton is the loss of identity and diminishment of photographic ID through 'identifiers' such as the barcode. Her interest in Barthes' *Camera Lucida* was sparked in her early 20s. The questions raised about photography paralleled her fascination with theatre and film – in particular the image and projection of 'self'. Her exploration of *Camera Lucida* is an ongoing, open and evolving project.

VCA Drama's **Postgraduate Diploma in Performance Creation - Animateuring** nurtures and develops arts practitioners who will contribute through leadership, research, performance development and/or pedagogy to Australian culture in the arts, in particular those aspects of culture and society that lie outside the dominant paradigms.

Animateuring involves the creation of new performances through the mobilisation of expressive, artistic and imaginative faculties in a variety of artistic and community contexts, the ability to work individually or in small groups, the capacity to work within and across art forms, community ownership of process and performance outcomes and collaboration within communities interested in developing and realising various forms of artistic performance. The animateur is a skilled performance artist with a central commitment to artistic leadership. He or she may be involved in various ways with the processes of creation, direction, facilitation, and performance. The role played is a pivotal one, with the success measured not only in artistic terms, but also by other indicators such as level of community support, participation, ownership and achievement of social and political goals.

Graduates of VCA Animateuring include Paula van Beek, Halcyon Macleod, Fernando Gallardo, Vanessa Pigrum, Andrea James, Karen Therese, Elizabeth Walsh, and Anna Tregloan.

Dates/Times Fri 3 – Sat 11 Oct at 6pm
Venue: Studio 45, VCA Drama, 45 Sturt Street, Southbank
Cost: \$15 Full / \$10 Concession
Bookings: www.vca.unimelb.edu.au/dramabookings or drama-info@unimelb.edu.au
Seating is very limited, please book in advance
Information: 03 9685 9234

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