



Victorian College of the Arts

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Ronnie Burkett to share his talents with the VCA

Internationally acclaimed Canadian theatre artist Ronnie Burkett will be guest teacher and lecturer at the Victorian College of the Arts from 19 – 30 March, 2007.

Ronnie Burkett is one of the world's leading and most provocative puppeteers and has created an unprecedented adult audience for puppet theatre. After recent critically acclaimed seasons in Sydney and New Zealand, this master puppeteer will be in Melbourne exclusively to conduct intensive workshops, with students in VCA Production and VCA Puppetry.

“Our students will have a unique opportunity to work closely with this one man virtuoso as he shares his talents as a writer, actor, performer, puppeteer, and visual artist,” said Peter Wilson, Head of Puppetry at the VCA.

“Burkett’s visit is a real coup for the VCA and in particular for our postgraduate Puppetry students who will have unprecedented access to one of the great puppetry artists of all time,” he said.

The public will also have the chance to hear Ronnie Burkett speak when he gives a lecture at the VCA’s Federation Hall on Wednesday 21 March, as a part of the *Artist in the World Lecture Series* presented by the VCA’s Centre For Ideas. Burkett will discuss his roles and responsibilities as a performing artist – particularly in the world of puppetry.

Captivated by puppetry since the age of seven, **Ronnie Burkett** began touring his puppet shows at fourteen and has been on the road ever since.

Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes was formed in 1986, dedicated to returning the puppet to the legitimate stage in theatre for adults. Since this time, the company has played to great critical and public acclaim in Canada and internationally (including at the Melbourne International Arts Festival in 2002 and 2004).

Burkett’s work minutely observes how humans behave, finding the best and worst in people, wrapping that up in a package that always includes large dollops of sentiment, anger, camp, and a fearless, frightening truthfulness. Ronnie Burkett lives in Toronto, and is presently working on two new productions – *Billy Twinkle*, *Requiem for a Golden Boy* and *Penny Plain*.

Public Lecture Details

Date: Wednesday 21 March

Venue: VCA Federation Hall, Grant Street (off St Kilda Rd), Southbank

Time: 10:30am-11:30am

Cost: Free

Peter Wilson, Head of Puppetry at the VCA is available for interview

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