

VCA PRODUCTION presents...

***LIVING THINGS - a murder mystery***  
Class of 2007 postgraduate puppetry students  
Thursday 8 to Saturday 17 November

Direction by Peter Wilson ~ Dramaturgy by Gilly McInnes  
Design by Richard Roberts ~ Lighting Design by Phil Lethlean  
Production Manager, Jess Keepence ~ Puppetry Administrator, Aleks Radovic

Puppeteers: Michael Bevitt ~ Jenny Ellis ~ Conor Fox ~ Beth McMahon  
Leonie Van Eyk ~ Christopher Willoughby

Production Students: Lauren Redpath ~ Megan Pinkerton ~ Phillip Okerstrom  
David Haidon ~ Christina Logan-Bell ~ Daniel Harvey ~ Stephen Luke ~ Raymond Hendra

The 2007 Spring Season at the VCA is a public showcase of the college's talented graduating Production and Puppetry students. VCA Production and VCA Puppetry present **LIVING THINGS - a surreal film-noir-inspired, classic murder mystery.**

From Thursday 8 November VCA Production's graduating Postgraduate Diploma in Production – Puppetry students will present **LIVING THINGS** a collaborative work directed by **Peter Wilson** with dramaturgy by **Gilly McInnes**.

Following a series of mysterious deaths the murderer is pursued. Think Agatha Christie, or Cluedo with a dash of Pink Panther and Alfred Hitchcock. Suspensions. Surprises. Appearances. Disappearances. Intrigue. Horror...

**LIVING THINGS** uses the timeless, specialist art of puppetry as the palette from which it is created. At the work's core is the mystery and illusion of giving life to the inanimate, furthermore the *taking* of life from the apparently, living thing. *Alive* or *dead*, within the world of the play, is a matter of perception.

Performed by VCA's Postgraduate Diploma in Production – Puppetry class of 2007, **LIVING THINGS** utilises black theatre, shadow play, the theatre of objects, Bunraku puppetry, video and projection to explore and illuminate the 'Mystery of Life' itself. **LIVING THINGS** employs the Puppeteer as Shaman, a mystical force that gives or takes life at will.

*"...the art (of puppetry) has reached critical mass in Melbourne...Doubtless the VCA postgraduate puppetry course has helped to fuel this spectacular rise."* **Cameron Woodhead, The Age 29.9.07**

The Postgraduate Diploma and Masters in Puppetry commenced at the VCA in 2004. The program, the only one of its kind in Australia, is housed within the discipline of Production and caters for students who wish to study and further develop their skills in the areas of writing, design, making and performance in puppetry. Puppeteer and director Peter Wilson, heads the program and teaches in the area of performance skills. Writer and director, Gilly McInnes teaches the writing and design component of the course with designer Richard Jeziorny. Al Martinez heads up the technical skills subject. Students work across all disciplines and are given the opportunity to create and present a solo work at the end of first semester. The course has attracted some renowned international guest artists in its first 4 years including Philippe Genty, I Made Sidia, Petr Matasek and Ronnie Burkett. Graduates have found their way into various areas of the industry whilst maintaining their strong connections to the teaching program at the VCA.

**Dates/times:** Evening performances/all 7.30pm: Wed 7 Nov (preview), Thurs 8 to Sat 10, Tues 13 to Sat 17.  
Matinees/both 2pm: Sat 10 & 17 November

**Venue:** Grant Street Theatre, VCA Drama, Grant Street, Southbank

**Cost:** \$15/10 Preview \$10/\$5

**Bookings/enquiries:** 03 / 9685 9256 or [vca-puppetry@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:vca-puppetry@unimelb.edu.au)

**Media Information, Images, Interviews:** Lisa Montague: 03 9685 9371 or [montague@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:montague@unimelb.edu.au)