



Victorian College of the Arts  
**Media Announcement**  
Wednesday 16 May 2007

## **EMBARGOED UNTIL FRIDAY 18 MAY 2007**

### **Announcing the 2006 and 2007 Richard Pratt Bursary Fund Winners for outstanding Acting students in their Second Year of Training (VCA DRAMA)**

VCA Drama is proud to announce the winners of the **Richard Pratt Bursaries** for **2006** and **2007**. The **2006** recipients are **Benedict Hardie** and **Meredith Penman**. Recipients for **2007** are **Zahra Newman** and **George Banders**. These students all received the top marks for their first year of study in the VCA's Bachelor of Dramatic Art (Acting). The bursary is intended to assist the students with financial support during the remainder of their study. The students were presented with their bursaries by **Richard** and **Jeanne Pratt** at their home 'Raheen' on **Thursday 17 May 2007**.

The prestigious **Richard Pratt Bursary Fund** provides assistance to outstanding acting students in their second year of training (VCA Drama). Two bursaries are awarded annually. The Fund was established to celebrate the seventieth birthday of Mr. Richard Pratt, the philanthropist, businessman and long time supporter of the Victorian College of the Arts, by his friends: -

Colleen & Kevin Bamford  
Felicity & Julian Beale  
Elaine & Bill Montague  
Atida & Michael Naphtali  
Ziva & Max Shavitsky

- ~ **BENEDICT HARDIE (NSW)** had worked as a professional actor and comedian in Sydney before coming to the VCA
- ~ Before studying at the VCA **MEREDITH PENMAN (NSW)** was involved in fundraising activities for the Arts, and she is thrilled to be on the other side of the transaction
- ~ **ZAHRA NEWMAN (QLD)** immigrated to Australia from Jamaica with her mother when she was fourteen. She had never been to Victoria before she began her studies at the VCA and has supported herself since the age of seventeen. This award comes at a time of extreme financial hardship and will help her tremendously in her ability to fund herself for the remainder of her study here
- ~ **GEORGE BANDERS (SA)** had aspired to the VCA since high school and feels that to have achieved this level of acknowledgement with such a prestigious award is a total honour

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For **Media Information** or **Interview** please contact: **Lisa Montague** on **03 / 9685 9371** or **0412 002 544**