

Girl lead singers outshine guys to win Falls gig



On the way to Marion Bay: Lead singer Leah Armond and guitarist David Lawson, members of the progressive metal band Infernal Outcry.



Set for the Falls Festival: Lead singer Katy Raucher and double bassist Blair Reardon from jazz/pop acoustic outfit Katy Raucher and the 3rd Row.

BY PETER COCHRANE

Two Conservatorium of Music bands led by Leah Armond and Katy Raucher will get their day in the sun at The Falls Music and Arts Festival beginning 29 December.

After hearing from nine bands of mostly males, the panel deciding on two bands to make Falls selected progressive metal band Infernal Outcry and jazz/pop acoustic outfit Katy Raucher and the Third Row.

A new sponsorship agreement between the festival management and Worif founder Graeme Wood means the Con can now showcase its emerging young talent at Marion Bay.

Nine bands drawn from the cohort of 43 students who enrolled in a special Falls Festival unit at the Con this year auditioned for the two spots. Each band was given 15 minutes to perform two songs in front of a live audience and a judging panel including rock studies tutor Dean Stevenson,

who doubled as MC, and Con director Dr Andrew Legg.

"Here's your chance to shine in the sun," Dean told the students before they hit the stage.

"Who's got a show?" he asked. "Falls audiences want not just to hear a band but to see a band."

Preparing for the auditions, students were treated to workshops by singer Maria Lurighi, veteran band manager Dario Phillips and former Badloves front man Michael Spiby.

The bands rising to the challenge straddled many genres and in the end two bands that couldn't be further apart musically got the nod.

Infernal Outcry, a progressive metal band whose lead singer, Leah Armond, was a welcome female presence on stage after five consecutive all-male groups got the first slot.

The second went to Katy Raucher's jazz/pop acoustic outfit.

Another crowd favourite was

"Craft is important but what I have tried to impress upon these students is that often performers who are at the top of their genre are not the most virtuosic. But they know how to put on a show."

the gypsy folk group Guerilla Zingari, which helped restore a gender balance in the second part of the evening and added variety to the sonic mix with double bass, piano accordion, harmonica and various exotic string instruments.

"The two bands selected will each have to engage a Falls audience with 10 tunes over 40 minutes," Dean said of the judging criteria. "They will need to converse and connect with that audience."

"Craft is important but

what I have tried to impress upon these students is that often performers who are at the top of their genre are not the most virtuosic. But they know how to put on a show."

Three days later Dean Stevenson, Andrew Legg, Maria Lurighi and Michael Spiby would combine with the Southern Gospel Choir to give a masterclass in both virtuosic performance and roof-raising showmanship. before a crowd of 4,000 at MONA.

In conversation



Professor Peter Rathjen
VICE-CHANCELLOR

Best wishes for celebrating 2012

Graduation ceremonies are always a source of joy, an opportunity to see the university's accomplishments through the eyes of delighted students and proud parents. Our achievements resonate throughout our communities.

Our Strategic Plan, *Open to Talent*, recognises that by building a world-class university for Tasmania, we create opportunity and unleash talent. We must be global in our aspirations, hosting research programs that contribute to the most pressing issues for humanity and illuminate our reputation, providing curriculum and experience that enable our students to stride the world stage with confidence.

2012 brought welcome recognition of our teaching quality. We achieved significant national peer recognition of programs and teachers, competitive grant success and recognition of discipline scholars. By these measures at least, we can claim to be Australia's leading teaching university.

Several indicators, including the prestigious Academic Ranking of World Universities, now position us around the top 10 Australian universities for research. We've nearly doubled our performance in national competitive grants and achieved dramatic improvement in outcomes from the ERA analysis of Australian research with 11 discipline areas at UTAS now national leaders.

Investment in infrastructure positions us for the future. This week we were able to announce the \$75 million Academy of Creative Industries and Performing Arts (ACIPA), a statewide initiative that will position Tasmania on the global stage for cultural education and research. NBN-enabled connectivity will connect ACIPA with other major cultural institutions worldwide, enabling us to deliver a curriculum that transcends geography.

Our National Rental Affordability Scheme initiative, \$100m to build 770 affordable student apartments, proceeds steadily, with plans to locate the majority of the apartments in the CBD of major Tasmanian cities. In partnership with the Tasmania University Union we have invested substantially to improve student support, catering and the vitality of clubs and societies.

Key to our achievements is, of course, our people; as the Chancellor often observes, it is debatable whether our staff or our students are our greatest assets. End-of-year functions provide an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the university and the work of colleagues, and to farewell those who leave us. Their work is much appreciated. 2013 will see an ambitious recruitment drive, bringing at least 50 new academics to UTAS from around the world.

Finally, our Chancellor of six years, Damian Bugg, has stepped down from the University Council. UTAS has prospered under his stewardship and I would like to extend the best wishes of all staff to Damian and Jen for the next phase in their lives. Damian's passion for this university will see him stay in close touch with us as 2013 unfolds.

With best wishes for a relaxing Christmas.

Peter Rathjen
Vice-Chancellor

www.utas.edu.au/vc