

media release

5 July 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



TSO collaborating with Risdon Prison inmates on Convict Monologues performance project

The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra is collaborating with staff, volunteers and inmates from Risdon Prison on a unique creative writing and performance project, *Convict Monologues*. Over the course of ten months inmates will research, write and perform a series of monologues inspired by the life and times of convicts from the age of early Australian colonisation, exploring how they overcame adversity and forged successful lives in Tasmania post transportation.

The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra has commissioned composer Chris Williams, a two time graduate of the elite Australian Composers' School, to compose incidental music for the performance, which will take place Wednesday 8 November at Risdon Prison to an invited audience of family, friends, fellow inmates and officials. Six TSO musicians will perform live and record the musical score for inclusion in future performances of *Convict Monologues*.

The aim of *Convict Monologues* is to engage, educate and inspire inmates through an ongoing series of classes coordinated between February and November 2017 by playwright, author and ABC Hobart content-maker Paul McIntyre and Risdon Prison Sport and Recreation Officer Natasha Woods. Over the duration of the program, inmates will have the opportunity to work through a process of professional script development as well as attending presentations by guest tutors including, from the University of Tasmania, Alison Alexander, Nicola Goc and Professor Stefan Petrow, among others.

The project seeks to benefit inmates in a number of ways, including developing written and oral communication skills, translating historical settings into a theatre script and developing interpersonal skills of creative collaboration, teamwork and problem solving.

A long-term aspiration of the project could see *Convict Monologues* submitted to professional theatre companies for performance, the royalties used to further fund Arts Programs in Prisons and Victims of Crime organisations.

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