

PREMIER RANN'S TEAM TO TEACH, TOUR AND PROVIDE ADVICE

It's the thinking cap brigade



By State Political Reporter
GREG KELTON

FOUR experts in fields ranging from the brain to telecommunications technology will be Premier Mike Rann's first "thinkers in residence".

Each of the experts will spend between three and six months in the state teaching, touring and providing advice to the community in their area of expertise. They will start visiting from May this year as part of the \$500,000, two-year program.

The Thinkers will be co-sponsored by private organisations. They are scientist Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield, urban renewal expert Charles Landry, environmentalist Herbert Girardet, and media performance company Blast Theory.

Mr Rann unveiled the first "thinkers" on the anniversary of his Government's first year in office.

Professor Greenfield is an expert on the human brain and will come to Adelaide in 2004-05 for six months to help develop strategies for managing degenerative diseases of the ageing.

Mr Landry, an expert in urban renewal and development, will begin a 12-week residency in June, concentrating on making Adelaide "a more vibrant, creative city" with emphasis on the connection between the city and

By Education Reporter
NHADA GOODFELLOW

JACK Taylor is 13 and already contemplating God's existence, the meaning of time and whether life is a dream.

The St Johns Grammar School Year 8 student, who hopes one day to be Australia's foreign affairs minister, is among about 40 per cent of the school's 420 students studying philosophy.

St Johns is believed to be the only school in the state where the subject is compulsory in Year 7, and is among only a handful of schools offering it at SACE level for the first time this year.

"I like talking about things in school and listening to what other people think, and discussing what's morally right and what's morally wrong," Jack said yesterday.

St Johns philosophy teacher and director of curriculum David Rawnsley said philo-

sophy helped develop students' higher-order thinking skills.

"It emphasises reasoning skills and gives students a grounding in reasoning, argument, identifying assumptions, and critical examination of ideas," he said.

Year 12 philosophy student Gabriel Ash, 17, said ethics topics, such as cultural relativism, were not only interesting to learn about but were also important current issues.

"It says that no culture is right or wrong," he said.

"I like it because we don't really seem to deal with it... We think Western views are right and other views are wrong... we need to change."

Mr Rawnsley encouraged other schools to consider making philosophy compulsory in early secondary years.

"It would be great to see as many students studying philosophy as possible," he said.

LEARNING SKILLS: St Johns Grammar philosophy students Jack Taylor, left, Louise Victorsen, Jemma Duthy-Gates and Gabriel Ash with, inset left, scientist Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield and environmentalist Herbert Girardet; inset right, urban renewal expert Charles Landry with Blast Theory's Ju Farr. Main picture: MARK BRAKE

northern suburbs. Mr Girardet is a specialist in making cities sustainable and will start his eight-week appointment in May to concentrate on helping Adelaide become a "green city".

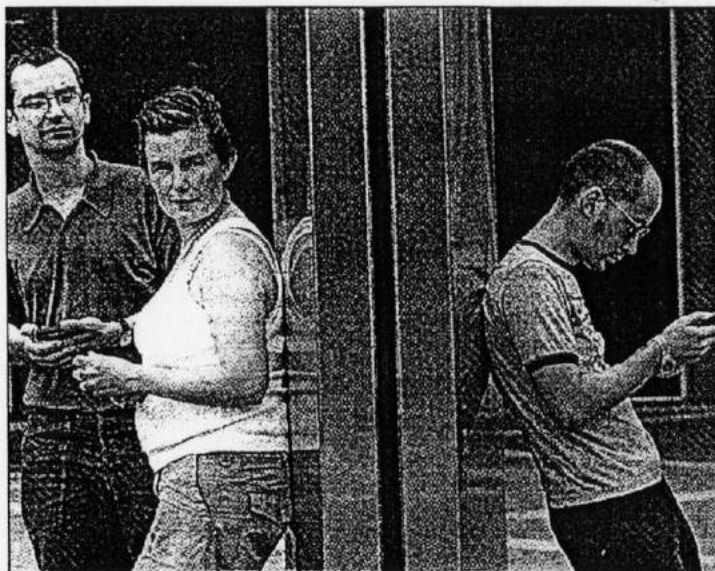
Blast Theory - Matt Adams, Ju Farr, and Nick Tandavanti - is known as one of the world's leading new media performance companies and will help the state develop expertise in emerging industries of content development for computer gam-

ing and remote telecommunications networks. Their residency will run from January to March next year.

More than 230 candidates nominated by SA community leaders were considered for the residencies first proposed by Mr Rann while in Opposition two years ago. "The Thinkers will end up not only maintaining links with SA but they will act as ambassadors and champions for the state," Mr Rann said.

The Advertiser

Wednesday
7 January 2004,
pg6



ONLINE: Matt Adams, Ju Row Farr and Nick Tandavanitj hot on Frank's trail in the city.

Throwing Net over Adelaide

By LOUISE NUNN

EVERYONE will be looking for Frank at the 2004 Fringe Festival. Frank is the central character in a giant game using mobile phones and played on the streets of Adelaide. But his identity is a puzzle, and he will be hard to pin down, his creators say.

"It's his game, so Frank has orchestrated the whole thing," says Matt Adams, a member of leading British new media artists group Blast Theory. "As you look for him, you find out who he is, but he's an enigma really."

Blast Theory - Adams, Ju Row Farr and Nick Tandavanitj - have arrived in town as Adelaide Thinkers in Residence and a major drawcard of the Fringe, which runs from February 20 to March 14. They will spend the next few weeks creating the world's first mixed reality game using 3G

mobile phones. The phones have constant connection to the Internet.

Called *I Like Frank in Adelaide*, the game will involve members of the public searching for Frank in city streets while others try to track him down on the Internet.

Participants will be able to play on their own or assist one another.

"Our work is all about thinking about what these new devices can do and the social possibilities they present," Adams says.

"What happens when you can be contacted anywhere, any time? What happens when your boss can ring you at the beach on the weekend, or you take a highly personal call on the bus and you are aware that people can hear you?"

"How does that affect our social relations and how does it affect the structure of our cities?"

These and other questions will be posed in *I Like Frank in Adelaide*, and discussions Blast Theory has with South Australian leaders in Government, industry, education and the arts during its three-month stay under the State Government's Thinkers in Residence program.

Also visiting from Britain are members of the University of Nottingham's Mixed Reality Lab, who will provide technical support on *I Like Frank in Adelaide*, only the second Blast Theory artwork to involve the public.

The first, *Uncle Roy All Around You*, was a big success when it premiered in London in June.

"What's special about Uncle Roy and Frank is the public element," Row Farr says.

"In our previous work, it was just performers but here the public has the technology at both ends of the equation and can interact with one another. We're removed from the process."

After spending a few days becoming acquainted with the city, Blast Theory is about to start setting the boundaries for the game zone in streets around Adelaide University and the North Terrace precinct.

"Adelaide is a great place to travel around on foot when it's not really hot, so it's very nice in that respect," Adams says.

The group will also research local history and culture. "We want to get under the skin of Adelaide," Adams says.

I Like Frank in Adelaide will premiere for the Fringe on March 1.

Blast Theory will give a Thinkers in Residence public lecture at Adelaide Town Hall on March 16.

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WED 10.30, 12.15, 2.15,
6.45, 9.30pm

COLD MOUNTAIN (M)
WED 11.40, 3.40, 6.15, 7.15pm

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE (M)
WED 2.20, 4.25, 6.50pm

LOVE ACTUALLY (M)
WED 10, 12.45, 2.40, 3.40, 7.40, 9.30pm

MASTER & COMMANDER
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8223 5000

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WED, THUR, FRI
WED 9.45 + 11.30am,
1.30, 3.15, 5.30, 7.30 +
9.15pm

ELF (G)
WED 12noon, 1.50, 3.45 +
7.30pm

LOONEY TUNES
BACK IN ACTION (G)
WED 10.30, 1.15, 3 +
7.15pm

MATRIX REVOLUTIONS (M)
WED 4.45, 9pm

STEP INTO LIQUID (PG)
WED 12.15, 2.30, 3.45,
5.30, 7.45, 9.30pm

CASIN FEVER (M)
FRI WED 5.40, 9.30pm

STARTS THURSDAY
SOMETHING'S

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BRUNTON RD. BRUNTON PL.
8431 5080

LOVE ACTUALLY (M)
ENDS SOON!
WED, THUR, FRI
2.40, 7.20pm

PETER PAN (PG)
ENDS SOON! WED, THUR, FRI
10am, 12noon

STARTS THUR 10pm
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plus CALENDAR GIRLS (PG)

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6.10 & 8.10PM NICOLE KIDMAN IN
COLD MOUNTAIN

WED 11.40AM, 1.40 & 5.10PM THURS 12.30 & 8.10PM
FRENCH COMEDY IN BARCELONA
SPANISH APARTMENT

WED 10AM, 2PM, 8.40 & 8.50PM THURS 12.20,
4PM & 7PM BRITISH COMEDY AT ITS BEST
BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS

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CALENDAR GIRLS

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1.30, 3.15, 4.15, 8.40,
4.10, 8.10, 8.20, 9.00pm

SPY KIDS 3-D
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WED 9.30AM, 11.30, 1.30,
3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30pm

LOVE ACTUALLY (M)
NO FREE OR DISCOUNT OFFERS
WED 1.00, 2.50, 8.40, 9.30,
9.30pm

COLD MOUNTAIN (M)
WED 11.50, 2.50, 5.50, 8.50,
9.15pm

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE (M)
WED 11.45, 2.30, 7.00, 9.20,
9.30pm

PETER PAN (M)
WED 9.30AM, 11.45, 2.30, 7.00, 9.20,
9.30pm

SCARY MOVIE 3 (M)
WED 9.30, 9.30pm

MASTER AND

TEA TREE
Cintra Line Code: 572

Selected sessions in
CINEMAX

LORD OF THE RINGS
Return of the King (M)
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WED 9.30AM, 11.30, 1.30,
1.30, 3.15, 4.15, 8.40,
7.30, 8.15, 9.00pm

SPY KIDS 3-D
NO FREE OR DISCOUNT OFFERS
WED 9.30AM, 11.30, 1.30,
3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30pm

LOVE ACTUALLY (M)
NO FREE OR DISCOUNT OFFERS
WED 1.00, 2.50, 8.40, 9.30,
9.30pm

COLD MOUNTAIN (M)
WED 11.50, 2.50, 5.50, 8.50,
9.15pm

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE (M)
WED 11.45, 2.30, 7.00, 9.20,
9.30pm

PETER PAN (M)
WED 9.30AM, 11.45, 2.30, 7.00, 9.20,
9.30pm

SCARY MOVIE 3 (M)
WED 9.30, 9.30pm

MASTER AND

SALISBURY
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CINEMAX

LORD OF THE RINGS
Return of the King (M)
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WED 9.30AM, 11.30, 1.30,
3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30pm

SPY KIDS 3-D
NO FREE OR DISCOUNT OFFERS
WED 9.30AM, 11.30, 1.30,
3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30pm

LOVE ACTUALLY (M)
NO FREE OR DISCOUNT OFFERS
WED 1.00, 2.50, 8.40, 9.30,
9.30pm

COLD MOUNTAIN (M)
WED 11.50, 2.50, 5.50, 8.50,
9.15pm

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE (M)
WED 11.45, 2.30, 7.00, 9.20,
9.30pm

PETER PAN (M)
WED 9.30AM, 11.45, 2.30, 7.00, 9.20,
9.30pm

SCARY MOVIE 3 (M)
WED 9.30, 9.30pm

MASTER AND

The Advertiser

Saturday 10 January, 2004, pg 74

Swiftly 'Coot

WHEN you switch on *Mamma Mia!* now running at Festival Theatre, you are booting up a complicated piece of machinery that is the last word in slick stage work. That might explain why a technical glitch on the matinee preview on December 28 didn't just leave the onstage performers adlibbing their way around it. No. The production stopped, the curtain came down and the problem had to be fixed before the show could go on.

CHEREE Thamm has come back from her Christmas holidays as Cheree McEwin. The Adelaide Festival Centre's publicist married Hamish McEwin and skipped off to the Maldives for a honeymoon.

THE National Gallery of Victoria had a bit of a setback this week following its \$168 million renovation and reopening last month. An exterior glass panel on the roof shattered, showering public spaces in glass. Swiftly is going to tread carefully in future.

THE three members of British artist group Blast Theory are definitely operating on the same wavelength. Matt Adams and Ju Row Farr say the hi-tech game they are creating for the Adelaide Fringe, *I Like Frank in*

Adelaide, is not named after their six-week-old baby, Frank. Third Blast Theory member Nick Tandavanitj suggested the title before the other two told him they had the same name in mind for their son.

BLAST Theory members get down to business next week when they hold a three-day masterclass for the Australian Network of Art and Technology developing content for *I Like Frank in Adelaide*. Five South Australians in the class – Bianca Barling, Elendil, Annemarie Kohn, Justin McGuinness and Aaron Stafford – will go on to work with the Blast Theory artists on the project.

WRITERS' Week organisers weren't too surprised when tickets sold out well in advance for an evening with Clive James, Isabel Allende, Ruth Rendell and Jeanette Winterson at Elder Hall on March 2, but eyes did widen when they found a wanted ad in *The Advertiser* classifieds for two tickets to the event. After all, the authors are speaking for free at Writers' Week during the day.

THE other ticketed session on March 1 with Margaret Atwood, Christian Bok, Roy Foster and Reginald Hill is 70 per cent sold.

Ready for a high dive into the Fringe



LAUNCHED: The Aquafillies and Harold Holt Experience got the Adelaide Fringe launch off to a wet start yesterday. Picture: TAIT SCHMAAL

By TIM LLOYD
and LOUISE NUNN

ADELAIDE'S massive rush of comedy, theatre, music and art was launched with a splash yesterday.

The biennial Adelaide Fringe unveiled a program of about 450 events to be held from February 20 to March 14.

They are all listed in the 88-page *Fringe Guide*, which is

inserted into today's *Advertiser*. The strong international line-up includes artists from New Zealand, the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Russia, Korea, Japan, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Tanzania, India, Hong Kong, Germany, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and all states of Australia.

The Fringe appears in good shape to continue on its way as

the second largest fringe event in the world, after the huge annual Edinburgh Fringe.

It is also the biggest ticketed arts event in Australia, with more than 330,000 tickets sold in 2002.

Launching the program, Arts Minister John Hill said that total attendances at the three-week Fringe in 2002 were greater than at all the home-game Crows and Port Power matches in 2002.

"Today we are launching a program that is set to break all the records," he said.

Crowds at yesterday's launch, on the Barr Smith Lawns of the University of Adelaide, were treated to a synchronised swimming competition in paddle pools by two tag teams, the Aquafillies and the Harold Holt Experience.

FringeTix, the Fringe box office, opened in Ebenezer Place off Rundle St East yesterday.



PERFORM: The 2003 Edinburgh Fringe sell-out act Pluck.

NEW FACES AT THE FRINGE

PANDORA 88: A small box is the performance space for two men from Germany's Fabrik Company in this Edinburgh Fringe award-winner.

MIXED DOUBLES: Leigh Warren and Dancers join with exciting young Sydney ensemble the Tankstream Quartet in a new work about romance and tennis.

I WAS HERE: Compiled from women's bathroom graffiti, this US theatre performance asks audience members to arrive early and add their own piece of toilet philosophy.

PLUCK: A 2003 Edinburgh Fringe sell-out, this British music group argue, scheme, fight and dance while playing some of the world's greatest music.

I LIKE FRANK IN ADELAIDE: Mixed reality game played on the internet and in the streets from British artist group Blast Theory.

KRAMER ON SEINFELD: Kenny Kramer was *Seinfeld* co-creator Larry David's neighbour and the inspiration for the *Seinfeld* character.

DANIEL KITSON: British comedian and Edinburgh Fringe 2002 Perrier Award Winner.

21 COMEDY GALA (Fringe). Talk about comic cross-pollination. Eight international stand-up comedians – who are playing it straight in the Festival's dramatic production of *12 Angry Men* and have four Perrier Award nominations between them – swap over to the Fringe for a late-night dose of what they do best.
Scott Theatre, March 6 and 12.

22 LANO & WOODLEY IN THE ISLAND (Fringe). As much a part of the Fringe as beer and viros, Australia's best slapstick duo have been around since well, since they were a trio called Found Objects. Directed by Neil Gladwin from that other famous comic duo, Los Trio Ringbarkus, it is billed as their most ambitious show yet, complete with murder, revolution and chaos.
Royalty Theatre, February 24-March 6.

23 ROCKET AND ROXY'S STUNT SHOW (Festival). New York's Daredevil Opera Company mixes pyrotechnic explosions, flame-shooting torches and juggling chainsaws to create an extreme mix of adult-only clowning and circus spectacle.
At Universal Playground, March 2-7.

24 DAVE HUGHES – HIGH VOLTAGE (Fringe). See story on this page.

SPECIAL EVENTS

25 FRINGE OPENING NIGHT PARADE AND PARTY (Fringe). Colourful floats, freaky performers, outrageous artists and raucous musicians take to the streets. Bring your own torch and something to hit, shake or scrape out a beat and join the throng as it winds along a new route via Rundle Rd, East Terrace and North Terrace to the FringeHub at Adelaide University. Then dance to the sounds of Brown Hornet, Trentwood, DJ Josh and more.
February 20.

festivities ahead. Then the party shifts across the road to Universal Playground at the Torrens Parade Ground, with free entry for the first night of music, dancing and entertainment.
February 27.

27 UNIVERSAL PLAYGROUND (Festival). Flaming towers, hot DJs, guest acts and giant video projections – get ready for the return of the Festival club. The Torrens Parade Ground will be transformed into a meeting place for drinking and dancing all night, every night. It's the place to swap gossip, compare notes on performances and events and watch the artists at play. Program details will be revealed next week but be assured that where there's a crowd, there'll be a party.
February 27-March 14.

28 I LIKE FRANK IN ADELAIDE (Fringe). Become part of a new interactive game on the streets of Adelaide, created by UK multimedia group Blast Theory using video phones, global positioning systems and other wireless computer technology. Details on how to play and tickets to take part are available from FringeTix, at the FringeHub or online.
March 1-14.

29 ALL-STAR JAM (Womadelaide). It really doesn't matter whether you know who's on the program or not – the global voyage of discovery is what makes Womadelaide so wonderful. Most exciting of all is the cultural cross-pollination which takes place at the final Sunday night concert as collaborations which have been forged between artists over the weekend are aired on stage.
Botanic Park, March 7.

30 ISABEL ALLENDE (Writers' Week). Peruvian born and raised in Chile, the author of the sensual and exotic *Portrait in Sepia*, *Daughter of Fortune*, *Of Love and Shadows* and *The House of the Spirits* is bound to set pulses racing at the normally relaxed outdoor setting of this pre-eminent literary event.
West Tent, Pioneer Women's Memorial Gardens, 10am (free) and Elder Hall at 8pm (sold out) on March 2.

remembers. "I felt the pressure of years of thinking I could be a comedian and I didn't really have any jokes. I went back the next week and I managed to keep my cool, but didn't get any laughs."

When he finally came back – to the same club six months later – "I felt I really had the audience (that night) and in my head I felt I was getting huge laughs".

Hughes had plenty of "failure" material to work with, thanks to his various odd-jobs and struggles to make ends meet on the dole.

"I was known for my dole routines," he says. "The irony is they ended up making me a lot of money."

Having set sales records at the last five Melbourne Comedy Festivals, he is set to unleash his humour on an Adelaide audience when he performs *High Voltage*, for two nights at the Fringe.

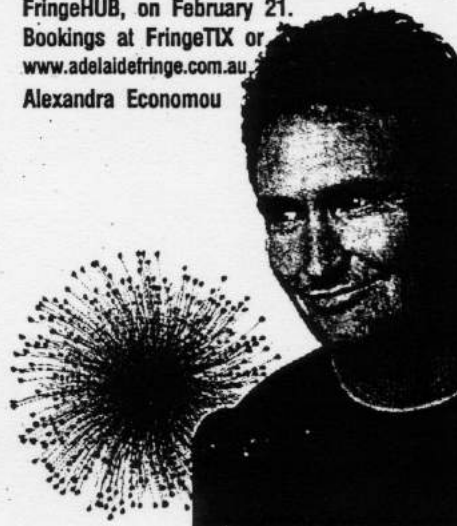
Life is certainly rosy for Hughes these days and yes, he even has a girlfriend – journalist Holly Ife.

However, he still finds room for references to his past. "I still rip out an old story occasionally," he says. "It's just not as easy to believe."

□ Dave Hughes plays at Scott Theatre, at FringeHUB, on February 20 and 21, and Union Hall, FringeHUB, on February 21.

Bookings at FringeTIX or
www.adelaidefringe.com.au

Alexandra Economou



Reviews

FRINGE

Frankly, intriguing

By SAMELA HARRIS

I AM not sure that I like Frank. He is decidedly hard to find. But one is forced to declare one's liking for Frank when one commits to the playing of the Thinkers in Residence Festival Fringe special, *I Like Frank in Adelaide*, or to put it in proper Internet parlance, *likefrank*.

It's a techie-type game developed by a group called Blast Theory and scientists from the University of Nottingham.

ON THE STREET: With \$5 ticket in hot little hand, one swans along to the Hub's WP Rogers Room where it is all very cool and professional. Prim little waiting room. Pleasantly impersonal uniformed staff. They take all your belongings. I was allowed to keep my water bottle and my notepad and pen and I was given a state-of-the-art phone unit which showed a map of Adelaide CBD on its screen. A weeny joy stick moves a "me" on the map around the screen and lets other players know where you are. "Press this to make a phone calls to online players. You will get instructions as you move around. The screen may be hard to see in the sun," I was told. And I was on my own, scurrying towards North Terrace.

Yes, the screen was hard to see in the sun. I contorted wildly to see better. "Is it hot out there, Samela?" came a message. Hmm, should phone a response? How do I know to whom I am directing it? There are about six names on the screen. Hunched in the shade to see what I'm doing, I make the call and tell them it is damned hot. It takes a bit of time fiddling with the keypad.

But what of Frank?

Messages are popping up fre-



STREET PLAYERS: Blast Theory artist Bianca Barling, right, in a mixed-reality computer game with Karly Lake, far left. Pictures: TOBY ZERNA

quently. Some are lyrical and quietly poetic - nostalgic ramblings which make one gaze upwards at the cityscape. A clue? No. Some tell me which way to go. I hasten up to town, turning the phone this way and that to get a clear image and report on my location. More online messages. "Follow me, Samela" says one. "Come to me," says another. Who should I believe? I follow the phone instructions and go down alleys and into buildings. A man asks me for a password and then gives me a postcard. Hmm, I look for other players. Ask people if they are players? People look at me oddly. Some likely lads ask me

where I got the phone and would I sell it to them. Is this a clue? Are they in the game? Why is the phone telling me to go back to that lane again? OK... maybe I missed a clue. I've sweated off my sunscreen. Time is running out. The game is 40 minutes - 25 have elapsed. "Meet me at coffee bar," comes a message. Bloody traffic lights. Find shade to see the screen. Attempt third phone call. Ooops, the phone has changed its settings. No, I don't want to play a different game. Retrieve map. Mark my location and ask the people around me if they like Frank. They think I'm nuts. Look for landmark. I know I am getting

close. I am getting a feel for the phone controls. I am starting to enjoy myself. And then the phone goes dark. Game over.

ONLINE: www.likefrank.com

It's the latest Shockwave world. No good on Mac OSX. Not much chop on dialup.

Queued to play, it all seems less rushed online, but no less mysterious. With the arrow keys one guides one's little figure around the virtual streetscape. The Street Players are red and the Online players are white. One may chat on screen with the Online players, compare notes and discuss outcomes. One may also send mess-

ages to the Street Players who can respond by voice. Their photos show when one clicks on their names. Interaction between street and online is spasmodic. One understands why after one has been chasing the clock on the street. Online players trundle around the "city", their locations being identified by the photo postcards they encounter.

It is pleasant, communal city exploration. And from another former Street Player online, I learned yet more of the elusive secrets of Frank's whereabouts. But, of course, I'm not telling. Go play. It is surreally interesting.

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Following threads of mythology

By LOUISE NUNN

AN extraordinary journey from Montreal to the Greek island of Santorini and Melbourne has brought a five-star show to the Adelaide Fringe.

Talya Rubin is presenting *Ariadne's Thread*, a one-woman performance which is based on poems Rubin wrote during 10 months living alone in a "cave house" on Santorini. The house dug into the earth became a retreat for Rubin after a relationship break-up in her home of Montreal.

"The show is semi-autobiographical and in it there is a story of love gone wrong, and that is quite accurate," Rubin, 29, says.

"I wasn't exactly fleeing Montreal but Greece did become like a healing place, but the fact it was stunningly beautiful, and someone offered me a place to look after, also held me there."

In exchange for the house, Rubin cared for the owner's animals - a dog, a cat and a donkey.

Animals are among the 12 characters she plays in *Ariadne's Thread*, which incorporates "archeology, geography, mythology and personal experience".

In Greek mythology, a magic ball of thread enables Theseus to enter a labyrinth to slay the Minotaur. He marries Ariadne but then deserts her. "The Greek myths in the play parallel the young woman's story," Rubin says.

"Ariadne realises what's happened to her and she's able to move on."

Rubin grew up in the theatre in Montreal.

Her mother was an actor and Rubin started in the profession early, working in film, theatre and radio. She also wrote and in her early twenties decided that she really wanted to be a writer.

She has had one-act plays performed in Canada and her Greek poems won her an award for most promising unpublished Canadian poet under the



MOVING ON: Talya Rubin in *Ariadne's Thread*.

age of 35. After her Greek sojourn, she visited friends in New Zealand and during a stop-over in Melbourne fell in love with the city and decided to stay. She co-devised *Ariadne's Thread* for a Melbourne season last year and has remounted it herself for the Fringe.

With a five-star review in *The Advertiser*, the season at Adelaide University has been extended to include this weekend.

After three years living in Australia, Rubin recently moved to the coast outside Melbourne with her Australian filmmaker partner.

Ariadne's Thread will be performed in the North South Dining Room, Adelaide University, at 10.30pm tomorrow, 3pm and 10.30pm on Saturday, and 3pm on Sunday.



Is there more to count than the thought, Rann is asked

By MELISSA KING

THE State Government has been asked to provide evidence that its Thinkers in Residence program is more than "window dressing".

Independent MLC Terry Cameron is seeking information on whether any of the Thinkers' recommendations to the state have been accepted or rejected, and if any will be implemented.

The program was announced by Premier Mike Rann in March last year.

At the end of their terms, ranging from one month to six months, 12 Thinkers will either present a report or some other outcome on their tenure.

The first four experts selected are scientist Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield, urban renewal expert Charles Landry, environmentalist Herbert Girardet and the current Thinkers in Residence, performing arts company Blast Theory.

Mr Cameron said the Government had promised the program would provide strategies for Adelaide's development.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet was covering half the cost and had set aside \$500,000 a year in its budget.

"While I support the Thinkers in Residence concept... I would like to know if the Government is intending to act on any of them, or is this program simply



LECTURE: Thinkers in Residence participants, Blast Theory – Matt Adams, Ju Row Farr and Nick Tandavanitj.

window-dressing?" Mr Cameron told the Legislative Council.

He also asked whether the Government planned to provide an annual progress report, or any report on the scheme.

Agriculture Minister Paul

Holloway undertook to seek a reply from Mr Rann.

□ The current Thinkers in Residence, Blast Theory, will take part in the Fringe Festival and give a public lecture on Tuesday, March 16 at the Adelaide Town Hall.

Economic strategy in final stage

By State Political Reporter
GREG KELTON

A KEY element of the Government's future economic plan for the state is now before State Cabinet.

The strategic plan, which will map out the Government's economic targets over the next decade, is expected to be finalised within weeks.

The plan is expected to address major issues such as population growth, boosting exports, attracting new industries and the continued development of existing industries.

Preparation of the plan began soon after the economic summit in April last year and elements of it are likely to be unveiled at the first anniversary of the summit in April this year.

Primary Industries Minister Paul Holloway confirmed the plan had gone to Cabinet in answer to a question from Opposition Leader in the Legislative Council Rob Lucas.

The Opposition has been pressuring the Government since late last

year to produce the plan saying the state's economy needed direction.

Mr Lucas had asked if ministers in key portfolio areas such as transport and housing had been told they could not proceed with strategic planning in their areas until the economic plan had been finalised.

"The state strategy is currently being considered by Cabinet and, consequently, I am not at liberty to discuss the matter further," Mr Holloway said.

Mr Holloway admitted in answer to further questioning from Liberal MLC Angus Redford that there could be changes to the plan as a result of the ongoing Cabinet discussions.

Opposition Leader Rob Kerin said yesterday it was "about time" the report had gone to Cabinet.

"From what I can understand, very little was done until really late last year and then when we raised it on the last day of Parliament last year there was a bit of a flurry to get it going," he said.

TRY SKYY BLUE

Animal



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AND NEVER LET THEM GO"

HERALD SUN



NOW SHOWING

Net gives Fringe the edge

THE Adelaide Fringe is turning into a technological monster with an explosion in its Internet registrations, Internet bookings and website services.

Now the biggest festival of its kind in the southern hemisphere, and the second-largest Fringe in the world after Edinburgh, the

Fringe is gearing up to meet the challenge of the 2004 event with the help of its major sponsor, Adelaide-based Internet company Internode, which will be working around the clock to help the Fringe stay on top of its technological demands, which include artist registrations, ticketing

and merchandising via the Fringe website.

In 2002, Fringe audience numbers exceeded 850,000 and its online ticket sales grew by 317 per cent, chief executive officer Jodie Glass says. This year, the Fringe expects to sell one in three tickets online.

In 2000, the Fringe

received more than 525,000 hits on its website - in 2002 the number blew out to more than 3.5 million, she says.

Meanwhile, the Fringe's customised online artist registration service takes registrations from anywhere in the world.

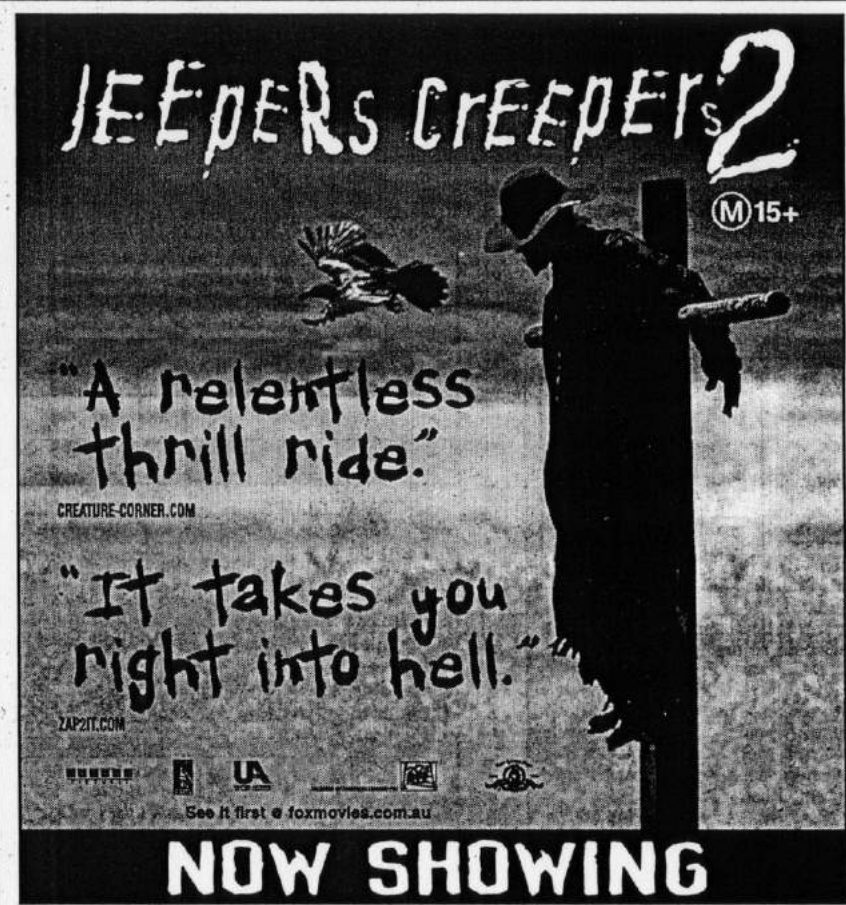
"The ability to access this information from a live database makes artist co-ordination, programming, venue co-ordination and marketing significantly easier and more accurate," Glass says.

She says Internode is giving the Fringe the broadband access, quick responsiveness and fast downloads it needs for its online systems.

"Whether the online user is an artist or potential audience member, they can engage from anywhere in the world to register, buy merchandise or buy tickets," she says.

Internode will also be involved in the state-of-the-art virtual reality game *I Like Frank in Adelaide* by UK performance group Blast Theory. The interactive Fringe show played online and in the streets with wireless notebooks and hand-held computers will rely on high-level connectivity.

Louise Nunn



NOW SHOWING

The Advertiser

Sunday Mail

THE LORD OF THE RINGS



PIN COLLECTION
18 PINS TO COLLECT IN TOTAL

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THE ADVERTISER, TUES FEB 10, 2004

PREMIER RANN'S TEAM TO TEACH, TOUR AND PROVIDE ADVICE

It's the thinking cap brigade



By Education Reporter
NHADA GOODFELLOW

JACK Taylor is 13 and already contemplating God's existence, the meaning of time and whether life is a dream. The St Johns Grammar School Year 8 student, who hopes one day to be Australia's foreign affairs minister, is among about 40 per cent of the school's 420 students studying philosophy.

St Johns is believed to be the only school in the state where the subject is compulsory in Year 7, and is among only a handful of schools offering it at SACE level for the first time this year.

"I like talking about things in school and listening to what other people think, and discussing what's morally right and what's morally wrong," Jack said yesterday.

St Johns philosophy teacher and director of curriculum David Rawnsley said philos-

ophy helped develop students' higher-order thinking skills.

"It emphasises reasoning skills and gives students a grounding in reasoning, argument, identifying assumptions, and critical examination of ideas," he said.

Year 12 philosophy student Gabriel Ash, 17, said ethics topics, such as cultural relativism, were not only interesting to learn about but were also important current issues.

"It says that no culture is right or wrong," he said.

"I like it because we don't really seem to deal with it... We think Western views are right and other views are wrong... we need to change."

Mr Rawnsley encouraged other schools to consider making philosophy compulsory in early secondary years.

"It would be great to see as many students studying philosophy as possible," he said.

LEARNING SKILLS: St Johns Grammar philosophy students Jack Taylor, left, Louise Victorsen, Jemma Duthy-Gates and Gabriel Ash with, inset left, scientist Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield and environmentalist Herbert Girardet; inset right, urban renewal expert Charles Landry with Blast Theory's Ju Farr. Main picture: MARK BRAKE

By State Political Reporter
GREG KELTON

FOUR experts in fields ranging from the brain to telecommunications technology will be Premier Mike Rann's first "thinkers in residence".

Each of the experts will spend between three and six months in the state teaching, touring and providing advice to the community in their area of expertise. They will start visiting from May this year as part of the \$500,000, two-year program.

The Thinkers will be co-sponsored by private organisations. They are scientist Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield, urban renewal expert Charles Landry, environmentalist Herbert Girardet, and media performance company Blast Theory.

Mr Rann unveiled the first "thinkers" on the anniversary of his Government's first year in office.

Professor Greenfield is an expert on the human brain and will come to Adelaide in 2004-05 for six months to help develop strategies for managing degenerative diseases of the ageing.

Mr Landry, an expert in urban renewal and development, will begin a 12-week residency in June, concentrating on making Adelaide "a more vibrant, creative city" with emphasis on the connection between the city and

northern suburbs. Mr Girardet is a specialist in making cities sustainable and will start his eight-week appointment in May to concentrate on helping Adelaide become a "green city".

Blast Theory - Matt Adams, Ju Farr, and Nick Tandavanti - is known as one of the world's leading new media performance companies and will help the state develop expertise in emerging industries of content development for computer gam-

ing and remote telecommunications networks. Their residency will run from January to March next year.

More than 230 candidates nominated by SA community leaders were considered for the residencies first proposed by Mr Rann while in Opposition two years ago. "The Thinkers will end up not only maintaining links with SA but they will act as ambassadors and champions for the state," Mr Rann said.

Culture

in Review



2004
Fringe
Preview

The game of progress

The latest Thinkers in Residence are a surprise Fringe attraction, as **David Sly** reports.

TO dwell on The Fringe is to take risks, pushing the limits of artistic endeavour to engage audiences with challenging ideas. This is why Adelaide's latest Thinkers in Residence will stage a performance season during Adelaide Fringe 2004.

UK new-media collective Blast Theory has forged a stellar international career by challenging perceptions about interactive technology and its common uses. Ju Row Farr, Nick Tandavanitj and Matt Adams have forged a 15-year partnership in testing the theory of new media in artistic performance environments. In essence, they introduce cutting-edge technology through interactive games – a strategy designed to present broad audiences with new scientific, artistic and social possibilities.

Adams admits that Blast Theory comes to South Australia's continuing Thinkers in Residence program from an oblique angle; still, common themes of taking risks in areas of new opportunity voiced by previous "Thinkers" Charles Landry and Herbert Girardet resonate in Blast Theory's objectives. And beyond simply delivering reports, the UK trio will engage in a tangible project with Adelaide technicians and artists.

"This is what we do, put theory into practice," says Adams. "There is an empirical process to what we do; we and others learn by doing things. We push to find the break-

ing point in new, leading-edge technology."

This is the way Blast Theory has worked at Nottingham University over seven fruitful years: set up a hypothesis then see if it works, to test the merging of real and virtual spaces. This isn't science fiction. It's already present in mobile phones with cameras – the real-time illusion of being there when you're not actually there. And this will be a major component of the Fringe game being created by Blast Theory, *I Like Frank in Adelaide*.

The fulcrum of this Fringe performance, being staged from March 1-12, will be the use of G3 handset wireless technology, allowing great volumes of digital information to be transferred in real time across broad bandwidth. Blast Theory has previously used other wireless technologies with success but wants to push more recent innovations in Adelaide rather than take a safe, proven path.

Such bravery has built a cult of Blast Theory supporters – likely to form a keen global audience of online players for their Adelaide game – though there is no guarantee the ambitious project will work.

"Yes, it's terrifying, because we have to deliver" said Adams, soon after arriving in Adelaide to commence an intense eight-week construction of the game. "We can't just theorise. Our outcomes have to entertain and delight people. Our work can't be dull and uninspiring,

And it's only really complete once the public engage with it, so we don't know how good or useful or successful our idea and work is until it is used in public.

"That's what innovation is all about; risk. We like that area, but it's critical to have an environment where failure isn't going to mean the end of our career – even though we are desperately concerned not to make a mess of what we do. We try to find ways around the limitations of working technology; we try to resolve the area where technology breaks."

The game will engage up to 20 online players (they log in for free via a web site) with 10 street players (they buy a ticket and get a handset which issues instructions) and their mission is to find "Frank" on the streets of Adelaide. Completing the game should take players about one hour, though it will not simply be a matter of solving clues; solutions will depend on how real and online players react and communicate with each other as they roam a real/virtual space between the Adelaide University campus, North Tce and Rundle St.

"To play this game, you don't need to be a techie," says Adams. "We work at the intersection of art with technology, drawing opinion away from the narrow assumption of a what a computer does."

As such, the implications of what Blast Theory presents are more than a game. They pull focus on the pos-

sibilities of technology and its implementation, and, looking at the wider social implication of mobile phone technology, they raise issues of copyright protection for new-media ideas, how far privacy limits stretch, even what policing limits should apply. All these social by-products of advances in technology are in an amorphous state and Blast Theory is determined to include them in the progressive technology debate.

This reflects the trio's wider work as part of the Thinkers in Residence program. In addition to building and presenting the game *I Like Frank in Adelaide*, they have conducted technical masterclasses, engaged five local technicians/artists in their project – and drawing people to their work base in the EDC Technology School of the Future at Hindmarsh has highlighted the significant growth of technological learning facilities in SA. Indeed, Adams says an objective of Blast Theory's visit is to show that it's not physical location that influences opportunity but imagination and a will to innovate.

"We have to ask how you harness the potential of the changes to technology, not just in terms of revenue and commerce, but socially – how they change the way we behave and interact with each other. You don't have to be in London to do that; we're doing it in Adelaide and our results will be examined around the world."

THE Fringe program is a maddening labyrinth of pleas and promises. Many artists come to trial new shows, many more arrive on the strength of their reputations, others aim to cause a sensation. Compelled by swelling attendances at previous Fringes, more than 400 artists come to feed off a crowd seemingly inspired by the volume of choices – and The Fringe's policy of open access to all players means the shape of the event is most unwieldy.

As critics, we can only speculate as to the merits of most performances. Essentially, it's a gambler's paradise. Take a punt and tell your friends of the horrors or delights over a beer afterwards.

The real battle for Fringe patronage isn't in the tiny performance venues where artists ply their wares; it's at big outdoor meeting places, where famous names perform late into the night while beer and vodka coolers flow freely as cash passes briskly through the till.

Curiously, Fringe organising bodies have struggled in recent years to create their own successful Fringe club; they've been usurped by interstate promoters. However, shrewd planning will see the Fringe transform Adelaide University into a busy hub of venues. In addition to shows in Union Hall and surrounding buildings, a new venue will transform the Barr Smith Lawns into a Fringe Lounge for music and cabaret from sunset, then into the Fringe Club for late-night music and revelry.

They aren't the only ones to get organised. Adelaide Festival director Stephen Page has created the Universal Playground (a funky Festival late-night meeting place) at Torrens Parade Ground, while Melbourne's finest rock'n'comedy'n'funky cabaret will come to the East Parklands. This won't feature the Famous Speigelent (the portable tavern is being repaired) but a ring of canvas tents, harbouring everything from rock stars in the Regal Tent (Dave Graney, Joe Camilleri, The Blackeyed Susans, Stephen Cummings) to sideshow freaks (contortionists at the Happy Sideshow). This array of key late-night venues should encourage a flow of pedestrian traffic between the sites, though Fringe crowds are notorious for staying put. What to do? Pore through the program – and take a few tips from our critics on the following pages.

David Sly

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