

## **Tasmania's IHOS Opera blazes trail to the Helpmann Awards**

### **Media Release**

#### **For immediate release**

Tasmania's trail-blazing opera company, IHOS Opera, has been nominated for a Helpmann Award in the category of Best Opera for the work *The Barbarians*, which premiered to critical and audience acclaim at the 2012 MONA FOMA..

The small company, which has survived the vagaries of arts funding, global financial crises and the challenges of bringing cutting edge opera and performance art to new audiences, has recently celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

Artistic Director Constantine Koukias, who originally founded the company with fellow Hobartian Werner Ihlenfeld, is currently in Amsterdam where he has been teaching a course in contemporary performance and completing new commissions, including one for the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

*The Barbarians* has already achieved recognition, with the production design by Liminal Spaces architects Peta Heffernan and Elvio Brianese, receiving a National Commendation for Installation Design and Best of State Commercial Design Award in the 2012 Australian Interior Design Awards. The partnership between Liminal Spaces and IHOS has also been nominated for a 2012 Australian Business and Arts foundation (AbAF) award.

The Helpmann Awards will be announced on Monday, 24 September at a gala event at the Sydney Opera House. MONA FOMA, which commissioned *The Barbarians*, was also nominated in the Best Contemporary Music Festivals category.

For more information on IHOS Opera or the Helpmanns, please visit

[www.ihosopera.com](http://www.ihosopera.com) and the site of the Helpmann Awards

<http://helpmannawards.com.au/>

**Ends**

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