Embers

Charles Parkinson, Campion Decent, Les Hume, HotHouse Theatre Company

In 2003, the North East of Victoria was decimated by the worst bushfires in living memory. The entire region was affected either directly or indirectly by the bushfires and their aftermath. The Upper Hume Community Health Service carried the responsibility to try to help heal some of the emotional scars left by the bushfires and associated events.

The UHCHS approached HotHouse Theatre with a view to some kind of project in the North East community that might help residents to find ways of expressing their feelings about the fires and the subsequent damage to their communities.

The result of the collaboration between HotHouse Theatre and UHCHS was Embers, a verbatim play by Campion Decent.

Presenters

Charles Parkinson is the Artistic Manager of HotHouse Theatre. He trained at Flinders University Drama Centre and has worked in Australia and the United States as a director, lighting designer, actor and arts administrator. He has directed shows for the Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne Festivals and was Artistic Director of the Flying Fruit Fly Circus for five years. He was Artistic Director of Breadline Theatre and CIRKIDZ and General Manager of Mainstreet Theatre. He has also worked for Sydney Theatre Company, Nimrod, The Theatre of the Deaf and Zootango Theatre. Charles has been a member of the Australian National Playwrights Centre's Artistic Advisory Panel, the Regional Advisory Panel for La Trobe University, the Chair of the Regional Arts Fund and an executive member of Murray Arts.

Campion Decent is currently a member of HotHouse Theatre's artistic directorate and the NSW Arts Advisory Council, which advises the NSW Government on matters of arts policy. He has worked in the arts sector for 15 years, with direct experience in community arts, festival direction, government policy, regional theatre, theatre for young people, and writing for performance. Previous appointments include Chair of the Australian National Playwrights' Centre (2001-04), Literary Manager at the Sydney Theatre Company in 2003, artistic director of the Victorian multi-artform festival for young people, Next Wave in 2000 and festival director for the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in the mid-90s. He holds a Bachelor of Creative Arts from the University of Wollongong and a Master of Arts (Theatre Studies) from the University of NSW and is a graduate of the NIDA Playwrights Studio. His work as a writer includes Embers (HotHouse Theatre and Sydney Theatre Company), Shootings (ABC Radio), Baby X (Mardi Gras/Playbox), Three Winters Green (Mardi Gras) and the Judi Connelli one-woman show Back to Before (New York/ Australian tour). He is currently adapting Embers for ABC Radio.