

# Media Release



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## TV PERFORMER WILL COACH CHINCHILLA STUDENTS

Actor and director **Sean Dennehy** leads Opera Queensland's *Moving Opera!* team which visits Chinchilla next week to coach local school students in opera, musical theatre and performance skills.

An actor and director, whose credits include *Home and Away* and *All Saints*, Sean will direct the *Moving Opera!* program alongside sopranos **Dania Cornelius** and **Anna Peterson**, bass-baritone **Darian Johns** and music director/pianist **Raymond Lawrence**. Sean's involvement in the program highlights that *Moving Opera!* is not just about opera – it also coaches students in general performance skills and integrates music and drama.

**The workshop will run from 1 to 5 June and will be held at the Chinchilla Cultural Centre (Heeney Street, Chinchilla). Friday's concert, also at the Cultural Centre, will commence at 6.30pm. Admission is by gold coin donation and all funds raised go towards music education at the participating schools.**

The *Moving Opera!* program was last presented in Chinchilla in 2007. This year, collectively some 30 performing arts students from Chinchilla State Primary and High Schools, St Joseph's and Chinchilla Christian School will participate in the workshop, thanks to the generous support of CS Energy.

Comments such as "Awesome", "Fab" and "They rock!" was just some of the feedback from Chinchilla students who participated in the 2007 program.

The *Moving Opera!* program focuses on the creative process of making opera and music theatre. It provides opportunities for creative, literacy and personal development to secondary school students by giving them the unique opportunity to work with five professional artists from the performing arts. Program participants not only have fun, they also achieve a level of personal growth, especially confidence and self-esteem, which affects all areas of their lives.

CS Energy's Kogan Creek Power Station Manager Ivan Mapp said CS Energy was excited to bring *Moving Opera!* back to Chinchilla after hearing the positive feedback from the 2007 program.

"We support this program because it gives local students the chance to grow as performers and work with some of the state's leading opera singers," said Mr Mapp.

### For further information:

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