MEDIA RELEASE
14 February 2012

DUNSTAN WAS AWESOME! WHO IS AWESOME NOW?

Don Dunstan Foundation is showcasing Young Awesome People such as…

*Chris Raine who founded Hello Sunday Morning to support young people control their binge drinking;*

*Tessa Henwood-Mitchell who founded and funded orphanages in Bolivia whilst only 23 years of age;*

*Alysha Herrmann who is the creator of Pressurelands which explores the concept of pressure and how it shapes the lives of young people in the Riverland;*

*Khadija Glba who is a peer educator for Women’s Health about genital mutilation, and is working to give women, minorities and young people a voice…*

…and a van full of more YOUNG AWESOME PEOPLE (YAPs) as they tour South Australia from Port Lincoln to Mount Gambier.

Aiming to inspire and motivate high school students, YAP will be showing in Adelaide at the Norwood Concert Hall, in Elizabeth and Noarlunga, and in regional venues throughout March.

YAP is part of the Adelaide Fringe Youth Engagement Program (YEP).

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**Young Awesome People working to make the world a better place.**

Aiming to inspire and motivate high school students, YAP will be showing in Adelaide at the Norwood Concert Hall and in a selection of outer metro and regional venues, throughout March. YAP is part of the Adelaide Fringe Youth Engagement Program (YEP).

Nearly 60 years has passed since Don Dunstan was elected to South Australian Parliament at the age of 26. According to a survey undertaken by the Sunday Mail, Dunstan remains one of the most popular South Australians today, despite his death 13 years ago. Even as a young man prior to his election to the seat of Norwood, Dunstan had a reputation as something of a maverick – but he made South Australia a kinder and more vibrant place.

The Don Dunstan Foundation is showcasing the achievements of some of today’s young people who work in Australia and overseas to make the world a better place. Though they were born after the Dunstan Decade, like Don Dunstan, the Young Awesome People (YAPs) are working in a wide range of areas of social justice and community leadership.

Taking place during the Adelaide Fringe as part of the Youth Engagement Program and touring all over the state free of charge for high school audiences, the YAPs will share their stories and experiences with thousands of teenagers throughout South Australia in theatres, cinemas, music venues and halls across the state.

YAPs such as Chris Raine from Hello Sunday Morning who works to support young people give up binge drinking, Tessa Henwood-Mitchell from TIA International who founded and fundraises for orphanages work to improve situations of children and young people living in poverty and inequality in Bolivia; Alysha Herrmann producer of Pressurelands, a project highlighting how stress shapes the lives of young people in the Riverland; Greg Nelson from VoRTCS a volunteer refugee support service; and a van full of others who will inspire and motivate young people to think about the ways that they can make the world a better place.

The events, from Port Lincoln to Mount Gambier, Noarlunga to Elizabeth and destinations in between, will share stories by the YAPs about how they got started and achieved their goals to change the world for the better: Whether it’s been to tackle homophobic bullying in schools; reduce binge drinking and challenge the dominant Australian culture of alcohol dependence; establish orphanages in Bolivia, teach English to refugees, or use theatre to achieve social change.

Each event will have different speakers but will include a combination of mini-documentaries, theatre, panel discussion and informal meet and greet. A Teachers’ Resource Kit ensures that the events have longevity, and the issues arising can be taken back to the classroom and expanded upon as part of the SACE Personal Learning Plan.

**WHAT:** YAP (Young. Awesome. People.) Showcase and Tour as part of the Adelaide Fringe’s Youth Engagement Program

**WHERE:** Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Kadina, Elizabeth, Norwood, Renmark, Bordertown, Mount Gambier, Noarlunga

**WHEN:** March 5th to March 16th 2012

**WHO:** Speaker bios available on request

**TO BOOK:** General public through [www.adelaidefringe.com.au](http://www.adelaidefringe.com.au), tickets start at $7. SCHOOLS through yep@adelaidefringe.com.au or 8100 2011

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