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Press release from the Chairman of the South Australian Theatre Company

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN THEATRE COMPANY

19.7.72

One of Australia's leading theatre directors, Mr. George Ogilvie, has been appointed artistic director of the South Australian Theatre Company, the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. Colin Ballantyne, announced tonight.

Mr. Ogilvie, 39, produced "The Alchemist" staged by the S.A.T.C. at the Adelaide Festival earlier this year. (He has produced many plays at the Melbourne Theatre Company where he has been an associate director. He will produce Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband" for that company before taking up his new appointment.

He has recently directed two plays for the Old Tote Theatre Company in Sydney, one of which, Chekhov's 'Uncle Vanya', is still running.

"We have been fortunate indeed in securing for South Australia the service of a director of Mr. Ogilvie's distinction."

"He is truly one of Australia's most outstanding artists and, under his artistic direction we can confidently expect the S.A. Theatre Company to establish an international reputation for excellence", Mr. Ballantyne said.

The Company has recently been made a statutory body by legislation and is to be restructured with its permanent home, early in 1974, in the new Performing Arts Centre.

Mr. Ballantyne said Mr. Ogilvie, born in Goulburn N.S.W., had been selected from a large number of applicants, including some from overseas.

"Mr. Ogilvie had been able to persuade some of Australia's leading actors and designers to join him in reforming and strengthening the Company".

The new Artistic Director has plans for special creative classes and rehearsal workshops for actors in which several plays are worked on simultaneously and are later brought into repertoire.

The Premier, Mr. Dunstan, tonight applauded Mr. Ogilvie's appointment as "an excellent matching of man to challenge".

"It means we can look forward to the raising of theatre standards to new and exciting levels."

"Mr. Ogilvie's creative drive and very great talents guarantee South Australia a top standard of play presentation on a continuing basis".

"Such standards had hitherto been achieved or seen only occasionally in South Australia", the Premier said.

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