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**Riverland Youth Theatre welcomes new Artistic Director**

Riverland Youth Theatre welcomes recently appointed new Artistic Director, Christopher Bond. Christopher replaces Celeste Cody, Artistic Director since late 2014.

Celeste said "I have had such an excellent three and a half years with Riverland Youth Theatre and as a member of the Riverland community. Thank you so much to everyone who has made my time here wonderful. I really feel as though I will always have a home in the Riverland. I wish Chris all the best with his new position and am confident that he will be a fantastic artistic provocateur for the region! The Riverland is rich with creative energy and talented young people and I am looking forward to following the amazing work the RYT will continue to do.'

'It was with much sadness the RYT Board accepted Celeste's announcement that after three and a half years with the company, she was relocating to Melbourne. Over the past three and a half years Celeste's passion, skills, expertise and ability to expertly engage with children and young people has through her artistic program led the company to growth and change. We look forward to potential artistic collaborations with Celeste and wish her the best for her future artistic endeavours.' said Cathy Schier, Chairperson, Riverland Youth Theatre. 'We are extremely fortunate to employ Christopher as our Artistic Director. Christopher has recently completed his Master of Fine Arts (Directing) at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA).

Christopher said: 'I'm truly ecstatic to begin my time as Riverland Youth Theatre's new Artistic Director. After graduating from NIDA I moved back to South Australia looking to work with theatre companies with strong ties to their communities. RYT is a beacon of artists working with and within their community and I'm honoured to be a part of that. The warmth and generosity that welcomed me into RYT and the Riverland as a whole has been amazing, from Danyon (our Company Manager) to the Company Board, to those who I've met out in the community, everyone has been open and kind. I can't wait to take RYT further on its artistic journey. Feel free to call into the office and meet me.'

Christopher can be contacted on 85863437, M.0401865661 or call into RYT office Renmark Institute, 54 Ral Ral Avenue, Renmark.

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