



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 30 March 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Premier's Drama Award

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.43 am): Last week I announced the finalists of the biennial Premier's Drama Award. A record 51 scripts were entered in the third round. The three finalists have written exciting and inspiring scripts which explore different facets of our Queensland cultural experience, history and people. This is part of our Smart State Strategy.

I'm sure all Members will join me in congratulating Antony Funnell for *The Tram*, Michael Riordan for *String*, and David Brown for *The Estimator*.

As finalists, they will each receive a six-month internship at the Queensland Theatre Company where they will collaborate with leading artists and have the opportunity to develop their scripts for final judging.

The internships are much prized, and the three scripts that come out at the end will feature in *The Works*—a festival of play readings produced by Queensland Theatre Company in August.

The finalists are already winners in many respects, with the chance to now work with some of the best in the theatre business at QTC, as well as have their scripts on show to an audience.

This award is the only one of its kind in Australia that guarantees a full production of the winning script, which after selection by a judging panel, will be premiered by Queensland Theatre Company during next year's Queensland Week celebrations.

Administered by the Queensland Theatre Company on behalf of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Queensland Premier's Drama Award is supported by \$230,000 in funding.

Along with the Queensland Government's strong support, the Award is sponsored by BDO Kendalls and Griffith University, and I thank them for that support.

This is a wonderful opportunity to nurture some home-grown talent and I look forward to seeing the finished product from the winner.