

AN UNFORGETTABLE TEN DAYS

Sea Flowers, by Sandra Lancaster, in the estuary at Bridport at the Isle Of Plenty.

Festival a flagship of island culture

By DANIELLE BLEWETT

TASMANIA'S flagship celebration of island arts wound up yesterday, living up to its hope of producing a programme with something for every taste.

Under the stewardship of Elizabeth Walsh the fourth instalment of Ten Days On The Island was the most far-reaching.

For the first time the festival mounted extensive regional tours of theatre productions.

It went to 50 centres across Tasmania, including Branxholm, Bridport, Lillico, Swansea and St Marys.

The biennial festival brought to Tasmania artists and companies from all corners of the globe, including Cape Verde, Sardinia, Ireland, Newfoundland, Manhattan, Japan, Denmark, Torres Strait and the Canary Islands.

Bridport was part of community arts commission Isle Of Plenty, where large scale, site-specific artworks by leading Tasmanian artists formed centrepieces against natural backdrops

and married with local food and cultural traditions.

Also in Bridport, Simona Salis performed her repertoire strongly influenced by her native Sardinia.

Other Isle Of Plenty locations were Cygnet in the Huon Valley and Lillico, near Devonport.

"The foundations for the next festival have been firmly built this year and I look forward to again welcoming artists from around Tasmania and from islands around the globe to share their stories when Ten Days On The Island returns from March 27 to April 5, 2009," Ms Walsh said.

Ten Days finished yesterday at Longford with Strung Out.

The Longford programme of free and ticketed events featured some 15 classical string ensembles performing in a variety of venues around the town and culminated with 200 performers at a concert on the town's village green.

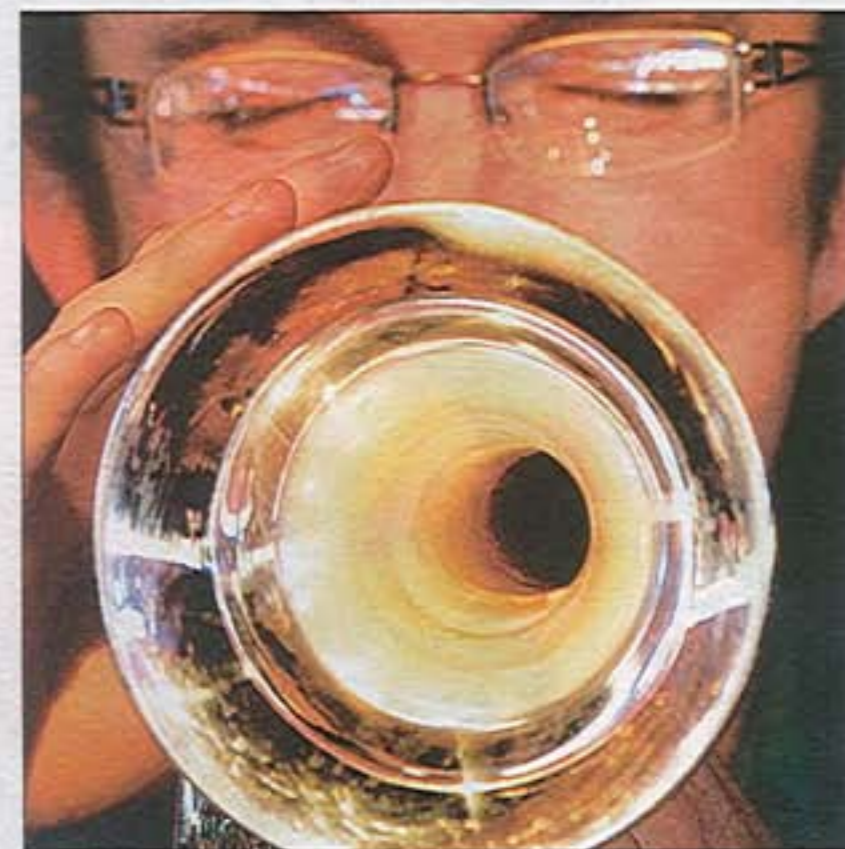
Ms Walsh said she hoped audiences embraced the spirit of the festival.



Exhibitor Di Allison, from Hobart, models to effect the fine lines of Simon Ancher's coffee table titled Launceston 2007 at the Free Range exhibition at Hobarts Mawson Place.



Justus Neumann and Owen Lasko, in the world premiere of Dream Masons, played along the iconic facade of Salamanca Place Hobart.



Patrick Boyle, trumpeter in the Duane Andrews Band, from Newfoundland, Canada.