

Heartening tribute to 'shining beacon'

A Double Bill of New Works

Olegas and As If Electronically Controlled
IHOS Music Theatre Laboratory
Playhouse Theatre

Olegas, a heartening story illustrating Olegas Truchanas' resilience, employs multiple elements of sound and vision. A work in progress, the excerpts presented show promise of an extraordinary operatic tribute to the man who became a "shining beacon" for Tasmania's beauty.

Act 1, three scenes sung in Lithuanian with English subtitles, depicted Lithuania's peaceful lakes, forests, and family life before the turmoil of invasion. Original music by Con Koukias had traditional tunes merging to plaintive, insistent sounds.

This was enhanced by competent singing and sensitive playing from a talented ensemble conducted by Jean-Louis Forestier.

REVIEW

The program continued in English. Act 2, in one brief scene, typical IHOS attention to industrial site detail, superimposed sounds of the Zinc Works over visuals.

A scene from Act 3 included the audience as guests at one of the famous Town Hall slide shows.

Goran Jordanov, as Olegas, delivered a moving song, as we viewed original slides. I eagerly await the completed version.

As If Electronically Controlled is a thought-provoking work by Christopher Williams. Related disturbing texts from Ulrike Meinhof and others confronted us with the impact of imprisonment on identity, particularly loss of control and degradation.

ELIZABETH RUTHVEN