Gary Higgins
Minister for Arts and Museums

No dreamin’ here – Mary Anne Butler takes out prestigious award

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Arts and Museums Minister Gary Higgins says Darwin playwright Mary Anne Butler shown local talent can shine bright with her success in winning of one of Australia’s most prestigious literary awards.

The talented playwright took out the Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards with her play *Broken* winning Best Drama as well as the overall award.

“Mary Anne Butler is an amazing writer and the award is a testament to the work she puts into her field,” Mr Higgins said.

“I wholeheartedly congratulate her on this amazing achievement – a well-deserved award for a well-deserved artist.

“And this is just another example of a local showing the rest of Australia how the Territory has some first class talent in the arts arena.”

This is the first time in the Award’s history where the $100,000 Victorian Prize for Literature has been awarded to a work of drama.

*Broken* premiered at Brown’s Mart Theatre in Darwin in March last year and starred Rosealee Pearson, Matt Edgerton and Ciella Williams. It was directed by Gail Evans, presented by Knock-em-Down Theatre and Brown’s Mart Productions.

The Northern Territory Government, through Arts NT, supported the production with a $15,000 Presentation and Promotion grant in 2014-15.

“*Broken* has also received a 2014 Northern Territory Literary Award (through the Northern Territory Library,” Mr Higgins said.

Mary Anne Butler

- Mary Anne Butler is a Darwin-based playwright. Her feature screenplay Hopetown won the 2012 NT Literary Award Birch Carroll and Coyle Screenwriting Award, and Dragons won the 2010 Darwin Festival Best Script Award.

- Mary Anne’s play Highway of Lost Hearts (Currency Press) premiered at the 2012 Darwin Festival to a sold-out season, a 2013 return season, and 2014 three-month national tour funded by playing Australia.
Mary Anne is a 2014 Churchill Fellow, member of the Australian Writers' Guild Playwrights' Committee and peer advisor to the Australia Council for the Arts. She holds a Masters of Philosophy (Creative Writing) from the University of Queensland, and a Masters of Arts Education (Theatre in Education) from UNE.

Mary Anne’s development as a playwright was further assisted by Arts NT and the Australian Government through the Australia Council through a Regional Arts Fund (RAF) Activating Artists grant in 2013, which saw dramaturg Louise Gough work with Mary Anne on her play.

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