

# Light in the darkness

**MUSIC:** The dark glasses, the talking CD player and an accidental bump into the coffee table at his city home are the giveaways of Tony Doyle's blindness.

Otherwise he makes light of the degenerative eye disease that he was born with.

Mr Doyle, 61, has combined his impairment and love of music to help improve the lives of others with physically or intellectual disabilities.

In 2003 he set up his own company Tony Doyle Visions, and has since staged 30 events including art shows, theatre productions and concerts, as well as 250 or more workshops to involve the disabled in mainstream society.

"I was the director of an organisation called Arts in Action for 12 years and that's where I really got into the disability arts field," he says.

"During that time it changed my view of disabilities from shame to pride."

One of his earliest projects was the High Beam Festival in 1998 - as he remembers it, a pioneering disabled arts festivals which "inspired others around the world".

A musician himself, Doyle says his most "salient" feat was the Somersault Project, a six-year scheme ending this year, which involves workshops at residential care homes and community events.

He also runs a monthly gig at the Governor Hindmarsh hotel called Music Works, featuring performance by disabled musicians, and plays various instruments each Thursday night at the Brecknock Hotel.

"I never went suddenly blind so I don't know who I'd be if I could see. It's certainly shaped my life, it's a different angle on the same world."



**INSPIRATION:** Tony Doyle wants to improve the lives of others with disabilities. HCG24007

## TONY DOYLE

- Directed Arts in Action, SA's peak arts and disability organisation, 1990-2002
- Set up and directed the High Beam Festival, 1997-2002
- Won an Australia Council for the Arts fellowship to research and develop models of disability integration in 2002
- Awarded a Governor-General's Centenary Medal in 2003 for services to Australian society through the arts
- Won a Churchill Fellowship in 2003 to research the global disability culture movement

- Launched Tony Doyle Visions in 2003
- Member of the Disability Advisory Council to the state Minister for Disabilities, 2004-06
- Set up Music Works, a monthly gig for people with intellectual disabilities and their care workers, as well as Rainbow Sessions, a weekly acoustic music session
- Received an Australia Day award for service to local communities from Port Adelaide Enfield Council

# Music no disgrace for this composer



**North Adelaide composer Graeme Koehne wrote the score for the movie *Disgrace*.** HF430719

**OUR PEOPLE:** Having an actor the calibre of John Malkovich play your music in a film was certainly different, says North Adelaide composer Graeme Koehne of his score for *Disgrace*.

"Usually the music is written after the film is shot but for *Disgrace* I had to have most of it done before filming so it could be incorporated into the shoot," Koehne says.

"It's an exciting thing to see a fellow like John Malkovich playing your music on screen.

Koehne's score has been nominated for a 2009 Screen Music Award, to be announced on November 2.

*Disgrace* is based on the Booker Prize-winning novel by J.M. Coetzee.

For the full story, visit [citymessenger.com.au](http://citymessenger.com.au)



## Brush strokes for East End

**GOING GREEN:** East End shoppers and passersby now have a striking new mural to feast their eyes upon. Messenger Community News photographer Sam Wundke recently snapped Adelaide artists Matt Stuckey and Joel Van der Knapp painting the environmentally-themed mural on a blank wall on the corner of Union St and Ebenezer Place.

It appears alongside another eye-catching mural by internationally-renowned art collective Everfresh.

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