



Media Release
13 March

5th Adelaide Festival of Ideas, 5 – 8 July

Firth joins Ideas Line-up

Leading satirist and comedy writer **Charles Firth**, author of the best selling *American Hoax* and founding member of the multi-logie award winning comedy team *The Chaser* has joined the speakers line-up for the **5th Adelaide Festival of Ideas** (FOI 07) to be held from **5 - 8 July 2007** at venues along North Terrace in Adelaide.

Charles, who will be joined at the Festival by Chaser colleague *Jullian Morrow*, is currently the US correspondent for *The Chaser's War on Everything* (2006-7). He was a presenter and writer on CNNNN (2002-3), *The Chaser Decides* (2004) and *The Election Chaser* (2001). With the team, he has also written five Chaser Annuals and produced 89 editions of their satirical newspaper, *The Chaser*.

Aside from his Chaser work, Firth has co-written (with Andrew Hansen) the Short Film *Garbage Man* (2005), which won a Tropfest Award and also an award at the Ohne Kohle Film Festival in Vienna. On more serious topics, Charles Firth has also written articles in a number of publications including *The Monthly*, *GQ*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *Griffith Review*, *Limelight*, *HQ*, *Sunday Life*, *Madison* and, best of all, *The Australian Worker Magazine*.

Charles has been living in the United States for the last couple of years, and has decided to adopt the Robert Hughes Method of Being Pretentious Ex-Pat. This will lend him a silent air of superiority over everyone else at the Festival and you can expect him to "tsk" every time someone mentions Australia's refugee policy.

The theme for FOI 07, is **Which way to the future?** with around forty leaders in their fields across the disciplines of science, economics and environment, religion, human rights and journalism coming together to discuss and think with the public on major topics of concern today including **global warming**, **China** and **India's** growing economies, **migration**, **terrorism**, **health**, **trade**, **modern working life**, **obesity** and **whistle blowing**. The carbon neutral FOI 07 will comprise fifty-four free public sessions and four paid evening sessions.

A free program of events with information on all sessions and participating speakers will be available from June 2007 through selected bookstores. A list of stockists is available on the Festival's website: www.adelaidefestivalofideas.com.au

The Adelaide Festival of Ideas is a biennial event, which was first conducted in July 1999. Since it began FOI has opened debate on leading issues of our times. FOI has become hugely popular harnessing ideas, experience and intellect and attracting attendance from all states of Australia and from overseas.

Media Information : Neil Ward Publicity 08 8361 3577, 0438 095 580,
neil@neilwardpublicity.com.au <http://www.neilwardpublicity.com.au>