



# Magic of *Moth*



Dan Kennedy hosts *The Moth*.

**T**EN years ago, a group of friends gathered at novelist George Dawes Green's New York living room to tell stories.

Since then, "a craving" for storytelling has led to the creation of *The Moth*, which from that humble beginning has gone out to reach 35,000 people with 1500 stories.

*The Moth* creative director Lea Thau said it was a small idea that had grown rapidly. The Perth International Arts Festival will be the first time it leaves American shores and already it is a success, with the Perth event sold out.

"It has grown very organically by word of mouth – in a way it was something people connected with and craved," she said.

"It's success in Perth is a little surprising. This is a whole new frontier for us so we're very excited. Hopefully, we can whet your appetite."

*The Moth* is a not-for-profit-arts organisation dedicated to storytelling. Each event has a theme and five or six storytellers

each tell a 10-minute story.

There are no scripts or notes but each person tells a well-crafted first person narrative with a story structure.

Ms Thau said the success of the project illustrated how personal and important story telling was, allowing strangers to connect in a personal way.

"A good story has universal appeal and when you start to think about the stories, you uncover broader human themes," she said.

"I think people long for that connection, especially in big cities where people live among millions but live more isolated lives," she said.

"We live in a world of communication gadgets, which mean we never have to be in the same place as the person we're talking to – people want real communication."

*The Moth* also uses that strength to reach out to students and marginalised adults in New York City, encouraging them to shape their life experiences into well-crafted stories and strengthen their communication skills."