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KANE YOUNG | June 30, 2011 <http://www.themercury.com.au/>

IF singing is a sport, then world-renowned vocal coach, composer and performer Moira Smiley is taking it one game at a time, firing on all cylinders and set to give 110 per cent when she makes her Australian debut in Hobart's Festival of Voices next week.

"If you compare singing to sport, it's like running -- most of us can do it, right?" Smiley said yesterday.

"You can just walk out your door and do it. You don't need to buy an instrument, or play with other people. You can make music with your voice and body anywhere, no matter what. And I like that."

Los Angeles-based Smiley travels the world creating new work for dance, theatre and film, and performing with her group VOCO, voted best a cappella group in the US in 2007.

She will be one of the stars of the show when the FoV gets off to a spooky start with Ghost Story at MONA next Wednesday night.

Based around the novels of Tom Gilling, Cate Kennedy, Heather Rose and Danielle Wood, Ghost Story will be narrated by The Castle and Packed to the Rafters star Michael Caton.

Smiley will also perform in the Big Wide Song concert at the Peacock Theatre and run Stomp, Holler and Sing workshops from next Wednesday to Sunday.

"I want people to leave the workshops with a bigger sense of what their voice can do, how many different colours they can get," Smiley said. "I want people to learn about and appreciate singing in different cultures, because singing in Bulgaria is really different than singing in America, or here, or in Ireland."

For more details, go to www.festivalofvoices.com

