



4 November 2010: For Immediate Release

Perth Festival Launches 2011 Program

PERTH INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL ARTISTIC DIRECTOR SHELAGH MAGADZA ANNOUNCES HER FINAL PROGRAM

Joyous and celebratory, thought provoking and poignant, cutting-edge and contemporary – the 2011 Perth International Arts Festival program offers a feast of culture for arts lovers of all ages and persuasions. For almost four weeks, the city will thrill to the voices of more than 800 performers from Australia and abroad who help create the unique buzz of Perth at Festival time. We welcome back old friends and invite new audiences to join us for Western Australia's premier cultural event.

On Wednesday, 3 November, Perth Festival Artistic Director Shelagh Magadza announces the final program in her four-year term at the Festival. The incredibly rich 2011 program features international artistic luminaries like Belgium's **Les Ballets C de la B**, Argentina's **Tomas Saraceno**, the UK's **Kneehigh Theatre**, Germany's **Schaubuhne** and Canada's **Martha Wainwright** among hundreds of artists who will transform Perth by giving audiences the chance to see the best of what Australia and the world have on offer.

Shelagh Magadza's term as Artistic Director has so far seen unprecedented growth in audience numbers with more than 800,000 West Australians connecting with the Festival last year. The Perth Festival is cherished by audiences as the premiere cultural event in WA and enjoys the largest audience per capita of any multi-arts festival in Australia.

Shelagh Magadza said: "Festival time is always a special time in Perth, and this program has an air of celebration about it. It brings some of the world's most distinguished artists to Perth, but also recognizes the tremendous talent within our own community.

"From the timeless beauty of ancient art forms to the world premieres of new Australian work, it is a program that reflects our unique place in the world and the cultures within it.

"It is a program that invites everyone to come out and play this summer, and to be part of the wonderful experience that is the Festival."

The Perth Festival is Australia's longest-running multi-arts festival and offers the largest program in terms of scope, covering all genres including theatre, dance, music, visual arts, literature and film. The \$14.4 million 2011 Festival continues our commitment to a celebration of international excellence in arts practice as the core of the Festival program; to provide a platform for Western Australian artistic voices; to represent Australia's Indigenous culture and to explore the city landscape by transforming our urban environment through art.

This year the Festival offers not one but two jaw-dropping, large scale outdoor shows for all the family. The Lotterywest Festival Opening kicks off the three-and-a-half weeks of Festival with a spectacular free performance of **Transition** by German masters Pan.Optikum, featuring amazing acrobatics, live music and fireworks. The action moves between two stages and custom-built islands located within the crowd and will engulf the audience in a feast of sights and sounds. Another highlight of a full program of free and family events is the Lotterywest Festival Celebration: **Les Girafes**, from France's Compagnie Off. Giant naughty red giraffes will shake up a Friday night in the City centre – don't miss the madness!

-continues-



Exclusive to the Perth Festival is Australian premiere of the magical **Donka: A Letter to Chekhov**. Switzerland's Teatro Sunil and associates invite you into a spellbinding world of acrobats, clowns and jugglers who take inspiration from Anton Chekhov's plays and diaries to create a world of beauty to delight all audiences.

For those who love theatre at its most innovative comes the unmissable Australian premiere of **Trust** from Germany's Schaubuhne. This bold collaboration between director Falk Richter and choreographer Anouk van Dijk is a blistering look at contemporary life in a hyper-capitalist society, expressed in a new theatrical language in which performers interweave text, dance and music.

The Red Shoes is Kneehigh Theatre's twisted take on Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale of a young girl and her magical red shoes. Using mime, music, dance and a dose of the devilish, this vibrant, witty and dark tale reminds us to be careful what we wish for.

For an intimate, powerful theatre experience **Aftermath** offers a transformative and touching performance. The masterful storytelling of award-winning writers **Jessica Blank** and **Erik Jansen** is based on the firsthand accounts of Iraqi citizens who fled the violence and chaos of their country following the arrival of the Americans in 2003. The result puts a human face on the Iraqi invasion, its effect on the lives of ordinary people and the heartbreak and hope of survivors.

Perth Festival is proud to present two world premieres by local companies in our ongoing commitment to supporting Western Australian theatre makers. From Black Swan comes a Festival commission, **Boundary Street**, by award-winning playwright Reg Cribb and featuring original music composed and performed by Australian jazz great James Morrison. And from Yirra Yaakin comes one of Australia's first all indigenous musicals **Waltzing the Wilarra**, starring Trevor Jamieson, Kelton Pell, Ursula Yovich and, for the first time on stage since Bran Nue Dae almost two decades ago, Ernie Dingo.

This year's dance program features **Out of Context: for Pina**. Choreographer Alain Platel's homage to Pina Bausch marks the return of Belgium's legendary **Les Ballets C de la B** for the first time in more than a decade. Pioneering Dutch choreographer, **Anoujk van Dijk**, brings her totally original technique to the stage in the collaborative dance theatre work, **Trust**. **Lucy Guerin** presents the world premiere season of a Perth Festival co-commission **Human Interest Story**. And the **West Australian Ballet** performs the Australian premiere of Jiri Kylian's *Un Ballo* in its ever-popular **Ballet at the Quarry**.

Music lovers will revel in the range of aural delights on offer. The opening weekend kicks off with the dazzling celebration of **The Manganiyar Seduction**, 43 Indian musicians who present an uplifting night of sitars, horns, drums and voices. The Festival once more brings the very best in fine music to Perth with one of the world's finest period-instrument ensembles, the **Academy of Ancient Music**. Known for their energised, passionate performances, they perform two very special concerts, JS Bach's Brandenburg Concertos and Haydn's The Creation. At the other end of the fine music spectrum comes **Bang on a Can All-Stars**. Combining the energy of rock stars and the precision of classically trained musicians, they blur the lines between classical and pop in an unmissable series of concerts.

Our visual arts program and its core **ART:CITY** events present an array of exciting projects throughout the city bringing together the work of significant contemporary artists from across the globe. In 2010, keynote speaker **Andrew Shoben** invites us to share his passion for public art as a means to transform the environment. And in a real coup for the Festival, we present for the first time in Australia one of the world's most highly sought after artists, Argentina's **Tomas Saraceno**, who will create **Cloud City** especially for Perth. This large-scale Festival commission is designed to challenge the boundaries of earthly living.

The work is an ambitious massed form of white modules encapsulating the architectural precision and the poetically utopian ideal that is the hallmark of one of the most exciting artists working today.

-continues-



But there's no need to wait until February to enjoy the magic of the Festival. From November 29 the **Lotterywest Festival Film** season brings you the best in world cinema in two beautiful venues: the Somerville auditorium and at the Pines in Joondalup. Lotterywest Festival Films 2010-2011 features 26 first releases, exclusive films from 17 countries - the most films ever programmed over its five month duration.

Season highlights at both cinemas include the winner of the Sydney Film Prize at this year's Sydney Film Festival, Xavier Dolan's achingly stylish **Heartbeats**; Todd Solondz' **Life During Wartime**; and from Danish director Susanne Bier (Open Hearts, Brothers and After the Wedding) comes the Australian premiere of Bier's latest powerful offering, **In a Better World**.

The Festival's heart once again will beat to the rhythm of the awesome artists at **Beck's Music Box**. At Perth's hottest meeting place for music lovers, party-goers and artists, we're thrilled to kick off the 2011 season with the legendary **Roy Ayers** spreading love and lifting spirits through his upbeat rhythms and trademark vibraphone sound. For 23 nights of the Festival enjoy bands, world music, jazz and plus some big names and special events, including **Martha Wainwright's** moving tribute to two great women of song: Edith Piaf and Wainwright's mother, Kate McGarrigle; New York cabaret-drag-performance artist extraordinaire **Taylor Mac**; one of the brightest stars on the indie-folk scene **Joanna Newsom** in her long-awaited Perth debut; the global pop star from Syria **Omar Souleyman** and his infectious dabke and Jhadi techno hit our shores; and a closing night to remember with just-reformed Tropicalia pioneers **Os Mutantes** who bring us Brazil's finest beats. This year at Beck's sees the return of Sunday Sundowners and After Parties. And as part of our commitment to working towards making our Festival more environmentally sustainable, we invite you to flash your BMB ticket for free travel to the concert and back on any Transperth train or bus, compliments of the Perth Festival.

And finally, the **Perth Writers Festival** is the hub of Festival discussion and discourse. Save the long weekend in March (Mar 4 - 7) to join other readers and writers in this celebration of the written word. The Writers precinct at the University of WA includes extended cafe facilities, areas for picnicking, a Festival bookshop and exhibition spaces. Just a handful of this year's stars include: **Annie Proulx, Armistead Maupin, Tariq Ali, Andrew O'Hagan, Tim Flannery, Les Murray, Pat Conroy, Jeff Lindsay and Joanne Harris**.

For kids aged 1-13 and their families Sunday, March 6 is the **Perth Writers Festival Family Day** which once again features a host of great activities, family fun and the finest children's authors including **Bernard Beckett (NZ), Brian Falkner (NZ), Ursula Dubosarsky, Melina Marchetta, Wendy Orr, Margo Flanagan, Anthony Eaton, Ron Brooks** AND MANY MORE!

Check the Perth Festival website for a full list of authors from December. The full program of Perth Writers Festival events will be announced on January 27, 2011.

Shelagh Magadza says "We are so lucky to have this Festival in Perth: it is a precious opportunity to connect to the world and to come together as a community. I urge you all to take full advantage of what is on offer in this program - your life will be richer for it".

For full program details, see **perthfestival.com.au**, pick up a copy of the 2011 brochure from any BOCS outlet, your local library, or call the Festival Info Centre on (08) 6488 5555.

To get the most out of your Festival, join us at:
myspace.com/perthfestival
twitter.com/perth_festival
facebook.com/perthfestival

-continues-



Sign up for eNews at perthfestival.com.au

The Perth International Arts Festival runs from February 11 to March 7, 2011.

For further information, interviews or images please contact:

Rania Ghandour

+61 8 6488 8618 / 0403 025535

rghandour@perthfestival.com.au

Joanna Trilling

+61 8 6488 8637 / 0421 351 379

jtrilling@perthfestival.com.au

Perth International Arts Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, the Perth International Arts Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For over 50 years the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with over 800,000 people each year.

Shelagh Magadza is the Artistic Director 2008-11.

-ends-