

MEDIA RELEASE

THE DIRECTOR'S CUT GRAEME MURPHY

Sydney Dance Company is pleased to announce **The Director's Cut**, Sydney Dance Company's 2006 Premiere Season in the Opera Theatre of the Sydney Opera House, premiering on 30 May, 2006, ahead of seasons at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Brisbane and the Arts Centre, Melbourne.

The Director's Cut encapsulates the spirit of Graeme Murphy's 30-year reign at Sydney Dance Company and takes us full circle to the birth of an artistic vision so clearly enunciated in 1976. As a 26-year-old choreographer he was appointed, along with Associate Director Janet Vernon, to the helm of a company still searching for its identity. Together they shared a bold outlook for what might be achieved for dance in Australia. Murphy spoke passionately to the media about a vision, a philosophy and a quest to define the Australian psyche through contemporary dance.

"We should be developing more of our own culture...creating something that is Australian in feeling - works by Australian composers and Australian choreographers that express our own culture."

Graeme Murphy quoted in The Age September 1976.

Now, in 2006, this vision is celebrated in **The Director's Cut** - an evening of dance that draws upon each of the long ago stated aspirations.

Glimpses is a timeless gem from the '70s in which Graeme Murphy harnesses the world of Australian artist Norman Lindsay and the music of Australian composer Margaret Sutherland, whose *Haunted Hills* is an aural painting of the landscape.

"Glimpses is clever (undoubtedly so), wry, bawdy, orgiastic, comical, pastoral, historical and whimsical.....Taking his inspiration from the famous Norman Lindsay prints of the nymphs and satyrs...Murphy has created an adult dance pantomime.."

William Shoubridge, Theatre Australia, 1977

Gossamer is influenced by the still botanical photography of Karl Blossfield, whose work celebrates the exquisite detail of ordinary things. Choreographer and Film-maker Narelle Benjamin, the recipient of the 2005 Hepzibah Tintner Fellowship for creative artists, is a widely admired dancer whose creative spirit is aligned with the unseen energies of yoga and the flow of energy its discipline generates through the human body.

And lastly, **CUT** a work that is both new and revisionist. As a choreographer whose imaginative vocabulary can appear limitless, Murphy now looks back and looks forward simultaneously to explore movement, to respin and recut. Drawing upon signature phrases, idiosyncratic leitmotifs within his existing work, Murphy creates a surprising melange, passionately interpreted by a company of dancers whose grasp of his signature style has never been more definitive.

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The essence of **The Director's Cut** has been captured by photographer **Stephen Ward** and brought to life in a striking advertising campaign designed by Creative Director **Vince Frost** of **Frost Design, Sydney**. Frost furthers the exciting collaboration with Sydney Dance Company as he creates the set for **The Director's Cut**, his first foray inside the theatre.

The Director's Cut sees the return of collaborators Paul Healy, Jennifer Irwin and Damien Cooper. Australian composer Paul Healy returns to Sydney Dance Company as Music Director for **The Director's Cut**. Costume Designer, Jennifer Irwin, also rejoins Sydney Dance Company as does Lighting Designer Damien Cooper.

Directly following the Sydney Opera House season **The Director's Cut** will be presented in June at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in Brisbane and in July at the State Theatre at the Arts Centre, Melbourne.

BOOKING DETAILS

SYDNEY

Previews: 27, 29 May

Premiere: 30 May

Season: Saturday 27 May – Saturday 17 June

Venue: Opera Theatre, Sydney Opera House

Bookings: Sydney Opera House Box Office
02 9250 7777 / www.sydneypoperahouse.com

Tickets: \$29 - \$69

BRISBANE

Season: Wednesday 21 June – Saturday 1 July

Venue: Playhouse, Queensland Performing Arts Centre

Bookings: Qtix 136 246 qtix.com.au

Tickets: \$32 - \$57

MELBOURNE

Season: Friday 7 July – Saturday 16 July

Venue: State Theatre, the Arts Centre

Bookings: Ticketmaster 1300 136 166
Groups 03 9685 2477 ticketmaster.com

Tickets: \$29 - \$65

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