

MEDIA RELEASE

CDT APPOINTS A NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FOR 2010

This year Liz Lea becomes Artistic Director of Canberra Dance Theatre (CDT), which celebrated its 30th birthday in 2008 with a major site specific performance at the NGA. She will also be working as one of three Associate Directors at the highly acclaimed QL2 Centre for Youth Dance. A performer and choreographer, Liz Lea trained at London Contemporary Dance School and Akademi in London and Darpana Academy in India. She specialises in the field of contemporary and classical Indian dance and martial arts, and is quickly becoming recognised as one of the most exciting choreographers in the cross-cultural field. Her movement is strikingly fresh, intelligent and dynamic. Liz bases her work in both the UK and Australia and in recent years has also worked in Korea, Bulgaria, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Lithuania, Germany, Ireland, Russia, India, Brazil, Nigeria, Canada, and the USA.

In 2009 Liz was a guest tutor and choreographer for CDT, was Artist in Residence at QL2, and during this time she also undertook research at the Australian National Library and the Australian Film and Sound Archives on the early Australian tours of Anna Pavlova.

In 2008 Liz performed at British Dance Edition and ran residencies in Liverpool, London and Edinburgh and visited India, following the footsteps of the 1923 Anna Pavlova Company tour. There she was inspired to create a work based around the Ajanta Caves. During that year Liz also participated in Dialogue, an intercultural residency in Florence, Italy, and performed in Liverpool for Streets Ahead. Working with a group of international artists she was in Residence at Cove Park in Scotland and she performed in the River Lea Festival. She also taught a Masterclass and gave a Performance Presentation at the 2008 World Dance Alliance Summit in Brisbane, Australia, and then performed in the Handover Ceremony from Beijing to London in the Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games as one of the Royal Opera House dancers. She finished the year working with Laurens Postma in Johannesburg on the solo 'Ajanta', and filming a documentary in India of the 1926 Ruth St Denis 1926 tour there.

In 2007 Liz premiered a new work, *eros eris* which was commissioned by The Royal Opera House, London and participated in Dancelines, a course for choreographers, mentored by Kim Brandstrup. In August she worked in Seoul with digital artist Hyojung Seo, supported by the Australia Council. In November she ran a research project in Mackay, Queensland, developing material for a full length work in Europe for 2008/09.

In 2006 she toured Australia, the UK, Europe and the US with her solo show The Blue Tour. Between June-July 2006 she worked on Accented Body, an internationally faceted multimedia project based in Brisbane for the Brisbane Festival, 15-17th July.

In 2005 Liz undertook a three month UK and European tour and premiered 'Bluebird' at The Royal Opera House, London. The work was commissioned by MDI and supported by ROH2 and NORPA, Australia. She also toured the UK with Sankalpam Dance Company

In 2004 she created works for the Mavin Khoo and Intoto Dance Companies, UK and WSDA, Australia and the inaugural Place Prize competition, London. In 2003 she received a Choreographic Fellowship from the Choreographic Centre, Australia and won two awards for her solo Inland at the 6th Solo-Tanz Competition, Germany.

"I have been working on projects in Canberra for 10 years and delighted to be based here for 2010, working with two wonderful organisations, Canberra Dance Theatre and QL2. I am delighted to have been offered this opportunity and look forward to working with a broad range of fabulous dance artists and the community here in Canberra." said Lee on the eve of her taking up residence in the ACT.

END, 25.1.2010

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR INTERVIEW PLEASE CONTACT:
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