‘Earth D’Air’ showcases WAAPA dance for 2008

Earth D’Air, the finale of the 2008 dance season at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, boasts new works by two Sydney choreographers, the remounting of a work by Spanish choreographer Nacho Duato, and the restaging of one of the world’s best-loved classical ballets.

Showcasing the talents of WAAPA’s 2nd and 3rd Year dance students, Earth D’Air will be performed in the Geoff Gibbs Theatre from Monday 17 until Saturday 22 November.

The eclectic program for Earth D’Air gets underway with contemporary pieces created for the WAAPA dance students by two of Australia’s most in-demand choreographers, Sue Healey and Anton.

Sue Healey’s work is entitled Not Entirely Human, with music by Darrin Verhagen and Loren Nerell.

Healey is a choreographer, educator and dance film-maker based in Sydney. Among her many career credits, Healey was a founding member of Melbourne’s Danceworks Company and was Artistic Director of the company, Vis-à-vis Dance Canberra. Over the last six years, Healey has worked extensively in dance-film and video production, with her Niche series 2002-03 and more recently the In Time series 2004-07.

Anton, also a Sydney-based dancer, choreographer and teacher, has created Here and Now for the WAAPA students. The piece uses music by critically acclaimed American experimental rock band, Battles and a new commissioned work by Australian guitarist/singer/songwriter Matt Cornell.

These contemporary pieces will be juxtaposed with two classical works: Kim McCarthy’s remounting of Jardi Tancat by Nacho Duato, and a reworking of Act II of Giselle by Sherilyn Kennedy.

Kim McCarthy, WAAPA’s Coordinator of Classical Dance, worked for many years in Spain with Nacho Duato at the Compañía Nacional de Danza, firstly as principal dancer and later as full-time ballet master. Since then, McCarthy has staged Duato’s choreographies around the world. This remounting of Jardi Tancat is an exciting opportunity to see the work of this Spanish master in the hands of his gifted disciple.

Giselle, with its apparitions from another world hovering through a graveyard glade, is the quintessential Romantic ballet. Sherilyn Kennedy, now a Classical Dance Lecturer at WAAPA, is well qualified to recreate the ballet’s wildly dramatic Act II, with its theme of undying love. During her 21 years at the Sadler’s Wells Royal Ballet in London, Kennedy danced all the major classical ballet roles, and just two years ago she assisted in the restaging of Giselle for the Royal New Zealand Ballet.

With its mix of both contemporary and classical pieces, Earth D’Air promises something for all lovers of dance.

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**Performance Information: Earth D’Air**

Monday 17 – Saturday 22 November at 7.30pm, Matinee Saturday 22 November at 2.30pm.
The Geoff Gibbs Theatre, WAAPA, Edith Cowan University, 2 Bradford St, Mt Lawley.
Tickets are $20 full/$15 concession. Bookings through WAAPA Box Office on 9370 6636.

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