



May 1, 2006 – Media Release

Contemporary Dance Opera Sheds New Light on a Scientific Genius

Leigh Warren & Dancers and the **Adelaide Vocal Project** – in association with the **State Opera of South Australia** – will premiere the highly anticipated production of ***Einstein on the Beach – Parts 1&2*** - an experimental blend of contemporary dance, opera and scientific theory - this **June** at the **Adelaide Festival Centre**.

Einstein on the Beach is the first work in a trilogy of operas by legendary American composer **Philip Glass**. The *Portrait Trilogy* draws its subject matter from three historical figures who revolutionised the world through the power and scope of their ideas. The trilogy comprises ***Einstein on the Beach*** (1976) – focusing on Einstein as the man of science, ***Satyagraha*** (1980) – inspired by Gandhi, the man of politics and finally ***Akhnaton*** (1983) – exploring the unconventional Egyptian pharaoh and man of religion.

Einstein on the Beach – Parts 1&2 will be the third time Leigh Warren's company has partnered with Adelaide Vocal Project to present Glass' work in this fashion and under the musical direction of acclaimed Adelaide composer, Timothy Sexton. The first collaboration was in 2002 on ***Akhnaton*** (the final piece in the trilogy). This production was performed to sell-out crowds in both Melbourne and Adelaide. In 2004, the partnership garnered equal critical acclaim with ***Einstein on the Beach – Parts 3&4***.

Last year, Warren (artistic director & choreographer), Sexton (musical director) and Jo Pike (Adelaide Vocal Project's co-producer) traveled to Melbourne to meet Philip Glass. Having seen the production of ***Parts 3&4*** – Glass gave his blessing to the new interpretation of ***Einstein on the Beach***.

The original ***Einstein*** opera was so immense that Warren and Sexton chose to present it in two productions.

"As it was conceived, the work runs for over four hours – it's a huge piece," Sexton says. "It was Leigh's decision to present the second half of *Einstein* [Parts 3&4] first – mainly because it was this section of the music that first drew him to the opera."

After exploring the properties and mysteries of the 'Fifth Element' - light, in ***Parts 3&4, Parts 1&2*** explores mass relativity and balance.

"This is a metaphorical look at Einstein in his varying guises - scientist, humanist and musician," says Warren.

Einstein on the Beach – Parts 1&2 opens at the Dunstan Playhouse at the Adelaide Festival Centre on Thursday June 1 and will feature all seven dancers from Warren's company, plus 14 singers and a five member instrumental ensemble – with Sexton again conducting on stage.

The production re-unites Warren and Sexton with celebrated set designer, Mary Moore and innovative lighting designer, Geoff Cobham – who both worked on the two earlier award-winning productions*.

It is Warren and Sexton's intention to eventually present the entire trilogy of Glass portrait operas. Work on the final opera ***Satyagraha*** will commence later this year.

Einstein on the Beach - Parts 1&2 - Performance Details

WHEN:

7.30pm: June 1, 2 and 3

3.00pm: June 4

WHERE:

The Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide Festival Centre

TICKETS:

\$45 per person (\$38 concession)

BOOKINGS:

Book at BASS on 131 246 or www.bass.net.au

Previous Award Wins:

Akhnatn:

- 2003 Green Room Award – Best Dance Ensemble
- 2002 Adelaide Critics Circle Award – Commendation – awarded to conductor Timothy Sexton, choreographer Leigh Warren and designer Mary Moore for their joint contribution to the production.

Einstein on the Beach – Parts 3&4

- 2004 Adelaide Critics Circle Award – Individual Award (Leigh Warren)
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***Issued for Leigh Warren & Dancers by Foster Workshop PR.
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