



OCTOBER 5, 2005 – Media Release

## STRENGTHENING THE CULTURAL BONDS BETWEEN ASIA AND AUSTRALIA

### Leigh Warren & Dancers Head to Japan to Develop an Innovative New Production

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FOLLOWING the critical success of September's premiere Adelaide season of **Petroglyphs-Signs of Life** – a landmark collaboration between SA's Leigh Warren & Dancers and Indigenous choreographer Gina Rings – the company's artistic director, Leigh Warren and two company members have headed to Japan to work with one of Asia's most distinguished choreographers on another cross-cultural production.

**Wanderlust** (working title) sees Leigh Warren & Dancers team up with celebrated Japanese director and choreographer **Uno Man**, talented visual designer **Tetsutoshi Tabata** and several Japanese dancers. The production will form part of the celebrations throughout 2006 – to mark the anniversary of the establishment of cultural relations between Japan and Australia.

Initial creative development on the production commenced this month with Leigh Warren and dancers **Jo Roads** and **Deon Hastie**, travelling to Yamaguchi (on Japan's Honshu Island), to work with the Japanese contingent until October 16.

The final production of **Wanderlust** will feature Roads and Hastie – along with two Japanese dancers – and is scheduled to debut in October 2006, with performances in Tokyo and Yamaguchi and shortly afterwards, in Australia.

The initial creative development of **Wanderlust** is a Neon Rising project, an **Asialink Japan Dance Initiative** – funded by the **Australia Council**, the Federal Government's arts funding and advisory body and **Arts SA**.

#### **Background on Uno Man (choreographer/director)**

*Uno Man's dance, first influenced by Tatsumi Hijikata's Butoh, has been transformed by performance. Today he has established his own world of dance that can no longer be classified as Butoh. Uno Man's unique style began to take shape around 1985; he expresses pathos and humour in his dramatic structures through oriental movements. Uno Man joined Dai Rakuda-Kan, led by Akaji Maro in 1974. He performed in all of the company's works until 1980 – when he left to start solo activities. In 1982 he formed "Budo-Dan" - forerunner of Uno Man + Company. While presenting over ten works, Uno Man was energetically engaged in "School of Human's Mind and Body". With the company's tour to the USA, Mexico and Canada in 1992 the company name was changed to Uno Man + Company and has been internationally active ever since. His recent works include: Hot Key (1992), Henbai (1994), Megami-N (1995), Shizuku (1997), Doc/Co (1999), Mure no Ao (2000), To be (2001) and Manma (2002).*

#### **Background on Tetsutoshi Tabata (visual design/screen media)**

*Originally from Osaka, Tetsutoshi Tabata initially worked in editorial graphics and game design. From the early 1990s, he began working as an installation artist projecting computer graphics onto large kinetic sculptures. Studying the Japanese dance form butoh with Yoshito Ohno and Akiko Motofuji from 1992- 1996, he became deeply involved with dance performance and stage art. In 1994, he co-founded "performance unit 66b" as a result of work combining body movement and multimedia. In 1995, he set up the visual and sound component of the group*

*under the name, "media drive unit cell". Cell uses real time and pre-recorded computer graphics and animation to create different, textures, lighting and kinetic effects. Since 2001, cell and 66b have been developing wearable motion sensor devices to synchronise body movement to the visual and sound media. Tetsutoshi's more recent work involves the design and image creation for PIGI system large format slide projectors. Presentations and performances include the media arts festival Ars Electronica, the Japan Virtual Reality Society, the Adelaide Festival and the Seoul International Dance Festival.*

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***For more information, interviews or images – please contact Skye Murtagh  
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