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A Cultural Collaboration Comes Up Trumps for Leigh Warren & Dancers at the 2005 Adelaide Critics Circle Awards

The creativity of celebrated choreographers **Leigh Warren** and **Gina Rings** was acknowledged last night at the prestigious **2005 Adelaide Critics Circle Awards** – with the pair picking up the **Independent Arts Foundation Innovation Award** - for their collaboration on the landmark production, *Petroglyphs-Signs of Life*.

An alluring work melding Aboriginal culture with contemporary Australian dance, music and visual art, *Petroglyphs-Signs of Life* premiered to critical acclaim at Adelaide's National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Tandanya - in September.

The production was a collaborative effort between **Warren** (artistic director of South Australian contemporary dance company, **Leigh Warren & Dancers**); **Rings** (an Indigenous choreographer, aspiring film maker and formerly of Bangarra Dance Theatre) and **Tandanya**. It featured performances by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous dancers, together with singers from the central desert and sought to articulate the continuing relevance of Aboriginal culture through the ages. The production was not confined to one stage area - but literally moved its way through the venue. The performance space featured a spectacular exhibition of artworks from artists such as Ian Willding, Yhonnie Scarce and Joel Birnie – which had been specially commissioned to embrace the language of signs and symbols.

For Warren – last night's win capped off an amazing year which began with the company working with renowned choreographer **Antony Rizzi** on the April production - *Like No-one is Watching*. In October, Warren and several dancers headed to Japan for preliminary work on another cross-cultural piece - *Wanderlust* (with celebrated Japanese director and choreographer **Uno Man** and talented visual designer **Tetsutoshi Tabata**) and last month the highly entertaining, *A Dancing Life* premiered at the Adelaide Feast Festival.

"I was thrilled to receive this award with Gina," said Warren. "Working with her was inspirational and the whole experience unique. Both of us drew inspiration from the artworks on the walls of the gallery and experimented with how to best utilise the space itself. The result was a moving feast of visual and performance art."

Leigh Warren & Dancers will head to the US in March next year to tour their award-winning production – *Quick Brown Fox*.

The 2005 Adelaide Critics Circle Awards were presented at the Bakehouse Theatre in Adelaide last night (December 5, 2005).

For details on all award winners, visit: <http://www.adelaidecritics.com/html/theawards.html>

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Issued for Leigh Warren & Dancers by Foster Workshop PR.
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