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Leigh Warren & Dancers make their US Debut in March!

Instead of lining up at the polling booths next month – the members of South Australia's leading contemporary dance company - **Leigh Warren & Dancers (LW&D)** - will be casting some magic on audiences in the US – as they head across the Pacific on March 11 to embark on their **first American tour**.

The company will present its smash-hit production – **Quick Brown Fox** – across three states - **California, Oregon** and **Arizona** from March 14 to 25 - and **Artistic Director, Leigh Warren** is looking forward to establishing a reputation in the enormous US market.

"This is a great time for us to be performing in America," said Warren – who last month attended the world's biggest performing arts market (APAP) in New York, as part of *Dance Down Under* - an Australia Council for the Arts initiative aimed at profiling and promoting Australian contemporary dance to the US market. *Dance Down Under* placed the spotlight on nine Australian dance artists and companies over the four days of the conference.

"The reception we received at APAP was so encouraging. There's a real buzz about Australian dance in the US right now and the potential for future tours is huge. It's fantastic that I can get back to the States so soon – this time with the whole company in tow – and actually present a full-length production in three cities."

An award winning work (taking out three prestigious Green Room Awards in its premiere season), **Quick Brown Fox** fuses the company's trademark dazzling speed and over-extended movements with **Leigh Warren's** own elegant lines and mischievous humour.

Taking its creative inspiration from a well-known typing drill where a single phrase which contains every letter in the alphabet – *'The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog'* - is repeatedly typed as a learning exercise, the work was commissioned by Australia's Melbourne Festival in 2001. **Warren** took his Adelaide-based dancers over to Germany at that time to work with **William Forsythe** and the famous **Ballett Frankfurt**. The two companies combined in a workshop process that explored their unique dance vocabularies and built a foundation for this most inventive and challenging work.

The production premiered at the 2001 Melbourne Festival in a sold-out season, toured to the eastern states & was performed in Adelaide for the first time in 2003. The show itself incorporates a series of set sequences & what Warren describes as "structured improvisation" – with the dancers themselves dictating the flow of much of the movement. While Warren and Forsythe worked together on the concept – it was Warren with his dancers who later created the movement, music collage and conceived the imaginative costume and set design.

Internationally, LW&D has previously taken to the stage in Japan, Holland, the UK, and throughout Asia including Korea, Singapore and Indonesia. The company's American debut marks a new chapter in its touring history and creates opportunities to establish strong links with fellow artists in this diverse country.

On its return to Adelaide, the company will begin rehearsals for a brand new production – the highly anticipated ***Einstein on the Beach (Parts 1 & 2)*** – which will **premiere on June 1** at the **Dunstan Playhouse (Adelaide Festival Centre)**. *Parts 3 & 4* met with critical acclaim in 2004.

USA 2006: Quick Brown Fox Tour - Performance Details

14 March 2006 Mandeville Auditorium
University California San Diego

19 & 20 March 2006 **La Jolla, California**
Virginia G Piper Theatre
Scottsdale Centre for the Arts
Scottsdale, Arizona

23, 24 & 25 March 2006 Lincoln Hall
Portland State University
Portland, Oregon

Choreography: Leigh Warren - based on a theme by William Forsythe
Music Collage Arranged by Leigh Warren
Costume/Set Design Stuart Crane and Leigh Warren
Screen Media Peter Nielson
Dancers: Michael Carter, Lisa Griffiths, Deon Hastie, Kynan Hughes, Gala
Moody, Jo Roads and Adam Synnott

-ends-

*Issued for Leigh Warren & Dancers by Foster Workshop PR.
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