



Media Release: July, 2007

POETRY IN MOTION
***Leigh Warren & Dancers' New Production – Wanderlust - to Premiere
in Australia in October***

This October the curtain will finally go up in Australia on the highly anticipated new production, *Wanderlust* - an exquisitely conceived, cross-cultural collaboration between two masters of contemporary dance – South Australia's own award-winning choreographer, Leigh Warren & celebrated Japanese choreographer/director, Uno Man.

A work of rare poetic beauty, *Wanderlust* will have its Australian debut in Adelaide from October 3 – 6 at the Dunstan Playhouse - as part of the Adelaide Festival Centre's inaugural OzAsia Festival and within its Pivot(al) dance program. It will then be performed at the Canberra Theatre Centre on October 11 & 12.

Over two years in the making, *Wanderlust* draws its inspiration from the classic text '*The Narrow Road to a Far Province*' - by acclaimed haiku poet, Basho. It brilliantly combines Uno Man's unique style of expressing pathos & humour through Butoh-based movements with Warren's poetic imagery & technical virtuosity. A fusion of modern screen media & technologies, the production has been artistically fulfilling for its creators.

"Uno Man and I first met in 1996 when we worked together on a production for the Hakushu Art Camp," says Warren. "The seeds of *Wanderlust* were sown in the early conversations we shared about each other's dance styles and techniques and discussions we had about the distinct and rich cultures of our two countries."

The fact that Uno Man and Warren reside in two different hemispheres certainly presented the pair with some distinct challenges in the production's initial creative development stages.

"The entire production team was only physically in the same studio together for two rehearsal periods – but somehow, we managed to overcome both the geographical hurdles and the language barrier – and in many ways – those challenges pushed us even further creatively," says Warren.

Wanderlust was first performed in Japan in October last year – as part of the 2006 Australia Japan Dance Exchange – attracting critical acclaim. The Australian production will star Deon Hastie & Jo Roads from Leigh Warren & Dancers and Japanese artists Mako Kawano, Tomohiko Tsujimoto & Uno Man himself – and enlists the skills of a stellar creative team comprising three immensely talented Adelaidians: multi-instrumentalist Stuart Day (composer); India Flint (costumier) & Nic Mollison (lighting design) and – from Japan - the brilliantly innovative, Tetsutoshi Tabata (visual design/screen media).

"Tetsu is a pioneer in his field," says Warren. "He studied Butoh dance theatre before getting involved with dance performance and stage art. He's a genius with multi-media and the use of computer graphics and animation to create a myriad of textures, lighting and kinetic effects."

Between the performances of Wanderlust in Adelaide and Canberra, the production's creative team will head to Melbourne for a two-day program of creative exchange and workshops at Melbourne's Dancehouse on October 8 & 9.

Wanderlust – 2007 Adelaide Performance Details – TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

WHEN:

8.00pm: October 3, 4, 5 & 6, 2007

WHERE:

Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide Festival Centre

TICKETS:

\$38 per person; \$28 concession

BOOKINGS:

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

Wanderlust – 2007 Canberra Performance Details – TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

WHEN:

8.00pm: October 11 & 12, 2007

WHERE:

The Playhouse, Canberra Theatre Centre

TICKETS:

\$40 per person; \$35 concession; \$25 U27, \$22 ClubT/Child (16 years & under);

\$15.00 per person School Groups (minimum numbers apply)

BOOKINGS:

Canberra Ticketing on 02 6275 2700 or www.canberratheatrecentre.com.au

Further Information about OzAsia Festival & Pivot(al)

Presented by the Adelaide Festival Centre, the OzAsia Festival is a national celebration of the diversity and richness of our Australasian culture. OzAsia is built on twin key guiding principles: the contribution of Australian artists that identify with an Asian cultural heritage and the constant stream of cultural collaboration between Australia and its regional neighbours. The result is a festival that's as exciting and as varied as the cultures it represents, with strong performing and visual arts programs, a two-day cultural symposium and an enormous Moon Lantern parade.

For more information about Wanderlust, and the whole festival, go to www.ozasiafestival.com.au

The Wanderlust performance is part of Pivot(al), a season of the world's best dance presented by the Adelaide Festival Centre. Pivot(al), is just one stream in a year-long festival of theatre, dance and music to ensure the Festival Centre reclaims its rightful place as the creative heart of South Australia. A bolder, more exciting and extensive range of performances and activities is being presented by the Festival Centre to attract more people, more often.

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***Issued for Leigh Warren & Dancers by Foster Hill PR & Marketing.
For more info, interviews or images – contact Skye Murtagh on 08 8231 3555.***