



Media Release – 30 October, 2006

'SATYAGRAHA'

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF A TRUE PILGRIM OF PEACE

Rehearsals have commenced at the inner-city studio of Leigh Warren & Dancers today - in preparation for the February 2007 Australian premiere in Adelaide of *Satyagraha* – a profound and moving opera inspired by the legendary Indian peacemaker, Mahatma Gandhi and his life-long search for truth through non-violent means.

Presented by Leigh Warren & Dancers, Adelaide Vocal Project and the State Opera of South Australia – in association with State Theatre Company of South Australia - *Satyagraha* is the second work in the *Portrait Trilogy* – a trio of operas by renowned American composer Philip Glass, celebrating the life of three historical figures who revolutionised the world through the power and scope of their ideas – Albert Einstein (*Einstein on the Beach*) – the man of science, Mahatma Gandhi (*Satyagraha*) – the man of politics and Akhnaten - the unconventional Egyptian pharaoh and man of religion.

A mystical, magical & revolutionary journey, *Satyagraha* will be sung in Sanskrit with text from the ancient Bhagavad-Gita episode of the Mahabharata. The opera's powerful & dramatic musical climaxes, coupled with its sensuous lyricism, ensure it will be an uplifting final instalment to Glass' *Portrait Trilogy*.

Satyagraha will be the fourth time Warren's company has partnered with Adelaide Vocal Project to present Glass' work under the musical direction of acclaimed Adelaide composer/conductor, Timothy Sexton. The award-winning team previously presented the *Akhnaten* opera in 2002, while *Einstein on the Beach* was presented in two sections over 3 years (Parts 3&4 in 2004 and Parts 1&2 in June 2006). As with the first three productions, *Satyagraha* will see Warren and Sexton team up with celebrated set & costume designer, Mary Moore and innovative lighting designer, Geoff Cobham.

Satyagraha opens at the Dunstan Playhouse at the Adelaide Festival Centre on Tuesday February 20, 2007 until Saturday February 24, 2007 and will feature all seven dancers from Warren's company, plus more than 14 singers and four keyboard instrumentalists. Sexton will conduct the combined company in this premiere of the new performing edition of the opera he has created with Philip Glass' approval.

It is Warren and Sexton's intention to eventually present the entire trilogy of Glass portrait operas in a unique, single instalment.

***Satyagraha* – 2007 Performance Details – TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW**

WHEN:

7.15pm: February 20, 21, 22, 23 & 24, 2007

WHERE:

Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide Festival Centre

TICKETS:

\$48 per person (\$42 concession)

BOOKINGS:

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

Satyagraha

By Philip Glass

Original orchestral score arranged for synthesizers by Timothy Sexton

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