

JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Media Release
Tuesday 15 June 2010

JUMP IN BED WITH MADONNA AT THIS YEAR'S REELDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

The Judith Wright Centre Presents

6TH REELDANCE INTERNATIONAL DANCE ON SCREEN FESTIVAL NATIONAL TOUR 2010

The Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts is thrilled to host the 6th ReelDance International Dance on Screen Festival this July, the largest event celebrating the collision of art, dance and film in Australia.

This biennial event presents cutting edge film and video from diverse dance genres created by Australian, Indigenous and international directors and performers.

"We are thrilled with the calibre of this year's work and the response to the Festival theme of 'Space' from the very best talent in this art form from all corners of the globe," ReelDance Director Tracie Mitchell said.

Brisbane highlights include *The Imaginings of Shelly Love*, celebrating the lush and visually poetic artistry of acclaimed UK director Shelly Love, and *Deep in Vogue*, a double feature examining 'Vogue' culture in New York's underground drag scene and Madonna's controversial *Blond Ambition* tour.

"ReelDance still presents the only opportunity for Australian audiences to catch this international line-up," Mitchell said. "From the deadly serious to the seriously whimsical, this year's festival has something to offer everyone."

"The ReelDance Festival covers virtually every possible definition of dance in cinema, and this is its strength." - The Age

ABOUT REELDANCE |

ReelDance is an internationally recognized arts organization supporting innovative creative practice that works across disciplinary boundaries at the cutting edge of dance, film and new media art. ReelDance aims to provide a forum for dance screen culture, developing and defining this artistic field of practice in Australia and New Zealand and promoting local work both nationally and internationally. The biennial ReelDance International Dance on Screen Festival and its allied tour across Australia and New Zealand is ReelDance's flagship event.

Other activities include professional development for those working in the field of dance screen through workshops and forums, creating distribution opportunities for Australian dance filmmakers, and operating the soon-to-be-launched ReelDance Library, a collection of dance screen works on VHS and DVD. ReelDance also runs a series of casual screenings through the Cinemoves touring circuit, and curates and consults on programs of single and multi-screen works for exhibitions, broadcast and other festivals. ReelDance is the Australian representative within the international Media and Dance network of dance screen organizations.



Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts 420 Brunswick St Fortitude Valley Q 4006
p +61 7 3872 9000 f +61 7 3872 9001 w judithwrightcentre.com
The Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts is a Queensland Government initiative operated by Arts Queensland



JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS -

DEEP IN VOGUE

A blockbuster double feature exploring the evolution of 'Vogue' culture from queer 'balls' in Harlem in the '80s to Madonna's Controversial *Blond Ambition Tour*.

1. **PARIS IS BURNING – Jennie Livingston**

Winner Best Documentary - Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize 1991 |

Paris Is Burning is a poignant documentary revealing New York's minority community of drag queens, and gay black and Latino men who cross-dress and invent the dance style of 'voguing', imitating the fashion poses on the covers of *Vogue* magazine. As director Jennie Livingston discovers, her subjects band together into family-like 'houses' for protection, taking the same surnames and competing in drag balls where awards are given out for authenticity or 'realness', as well as other categories like 'evening wear' and 'executive wear'. Both an embracing and a refutation of the world of high fashion, the balls become the social focus of this underground society of outcasts defiantly refusing to be ignored by a world that scorns them. *Paris is Burning* won the Los Angeles Film Critics' and the Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury awards for best documentary. Made over a three-year period for \$375,000, *Paris is Burning* reveals a group of people under siege triumphing with wit, style and love.

About Director Jennie Livingston |

Jennie Livingston is an independent filmmaker and the director of *Paris Is Burning*, *Through the Ice*, *Who's the Top?* and the upcoming feature *Earth Camp One*. Educated at Yale, Livingston has taught at Brooklyn College, Yale, and the School of Film and Television in Munich. She has spoken about her work at dozens of American and international festivals, universities, and cultural institutions. Her films have received awards from the Sundance Film Festival, the New York and Los Angeles Film Critics' Associations, The Independent Feature Project, The Berlin Film Festival, and the Toronto International Film Festival, and have been seen on every continent, in theatres and on television.

****Screening at the Judith Wright Centre 7:15pm Saturday 17 July 2010****

2. **IN BED WITH MADONNA – Alek Keshishian**

From the rain of Japan, through threats of arrest for 'public indecency' in Canada, and a birthday tribute to her father in Detroit, this documentary follows Madonna on her 1990 *Blond Ambition* concert tour. Filmed in black and white, with the concert pieces in glittering MTV colour, it is an intimate look at the work of the music performer, from a prayer circle with the dancers before each performance to bed games with the dance troupe afterwards.

About Director Alek Keshishian |

Alek Keshishian is a Harvard-educated director of music videos (Bobby Brown's *My Prerogative*, Elton John's *Sacrifice* and Vanessa Williams' *He's Got the Look*) selected by pop diva Madonna to helm a feature-length documentary about her four-month *Blond Ambition* tour. *Truth or Dare: On the Road, Behind the Scenes, and In Bed with Madonna* (1991) marked Keshishian's feature debut. Given complete access to the star's most intimate moments, he fashioned a controversial yet intelligent film that aroused curiosity about its sexually explicit exhibitionism even before its debut at the 1991 Cannes Film Festival.

****Screening at the Judith Wright Centre 9pm Saturday 17 July 2010****

JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

THE IMAGININGS OF SHELLY LOVE – Shelly Love

With his last breath, The Ringmaster breathes life back into his circus. Suspended somewhere between worlds The Forgotten Circus perform to no audience. *The Forgotten Circus* mixes circus, physical theatre, and dance to create a surreal world that floods the imagination and seeps under the skin. Shelly Love was commissioned by British circus arts school Circus Space to devise and direct *The Forgotten Circus* using their second year students as performers. The film is lush and atmospheric and features 16 second year students and actor Gerard Bell. Running backwards throughout, the film harks back to the roots of circus performance, with superb photography by Stein Stie. Music for the film was composed by Jamie McDermott and performed by his alternative baroque orchestra The Irrepressibles.

About Filmmaker Shelly Love |

Shelly Love is an award winning prolific artist and director. Originally trained as a dancer, she worked as a physical performer and choreographer before turning to filmmaking. In 2002-2004 Love became 'Artist In Residence' at The Place in London. There she undertook supported research into movement for the screen, specialising in 'Backwards Motion'. Since her first short film in 2001 she has received much attention and acclaim. Her films have been broadcasts on channel 4 and screen regularly on the international film festival circuit.

****Screening at the Judith Wright Centre 6:30pm Friday 16 July 2010****

YOU'RE NOT FROM HERE ARE YOU TOO? – International Shorts

This program, curated by ReelDance Artistic Director Tracie Mitchell, features a unique and varied selection of dance on screen shorts from around the globe. Experience a range of short films from the deadly serious to the highly whimsical from participating countries South Africa, Finland, Mexico, New Zealand, China, Germany, Argentina, USA and UK. Featured artists include Cao Fei, Back to Back, Daniel Belton, Dance North, Ballet Russes and UK artist Tim Shore.

****Screening at the Judith Wright Centre 8pm Friday 16 July 2010****

DOUBLE FEATURE – Daniel Askill and Australian & New Zealand Awards

1. WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO DIE – Daniel Askill

We Have Decided Not to Die is a modern day allegorical triptych. Three figures undergo transformation through three rituals: Birth, Between and Rebirth. Though not a story in any conventional sense, *We Have Decided Not To Die's* visual poetry captivates just the same, evoking a surreal ritualistic world, whose characters appear to float free of space and time.

"Ten minutes to die for. A breathtaking, burnished triptych, it evokes a surreal, ritualistic world whose characters appear to float free of space and time." - Sydney Morning Herald

About Filmmaker Daniel Askill |

In 2001 Daniel returned to Sydney from London to co-found film & design collective COLLIDER, directing work for clients including MTV, Virgin, Warner Music while developing award winning personal film projects. His music video for Groove Terminator was nominated for 'Best Australian Music Video' at the MTV VMAs in New York. He has completed Music Videos for UNKLE feat, Ian Brown, Sia of Zero 7 fame and an Olympic film for Panasonic.



JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

2. AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND AWARDS – Shorts

Celebrating Australia and New Zealand's finest examples of current dance on screen work, this program presents the finest examples of dance on screen activity in Australia and New Zealand for 2009 selected from 159 entries.

Program Duration: 80 mins

1. *Moths*, Matthew Cormack and Paul Zivkovich, 7 min
2. *Sixteen*, Matthew Cormack and Kat Worth, 7 min
3. *Necessity*, Matthew Cormack and Tuula Roppola, 8 min
4. *Reading the Body*, Sue Healey, 6 min
5. *Tap Hop*, Soda_Jerk, 2.5 min
6. *San Sebastian*, James Welsby, 4.5 min
7. *Motel Deception*, Nancy Jones and Chrissie Parrott, 4 min
8. *Strand*, Siobhan Murphy, 9 min
9. *Shadow in Blue*, Zoe Scoglio, 3.5 min
10. *Tank Man Tango*, Deborah Kelly, 5 min

****Screening at the Judith Wright Centre 5pm Saturday 17 July 2010****

Event	6 th ReelDance International Dance On Screen Festival
Date	Friday 16 – Saturday 17 July 2010
Time	Visit judithwrightcentre.com for session times and information
Venue	Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
Tickets	From \$15
Bookings	07 3872 9000 or judithwrightcentre.com

- ENDS -