

GROUNDBREAKING BLEND OF DANCE AND JAZZ IS “STUNNING”

Expressions Dance Company, Judith Wright Centre and Misinterpretato present

WHILE OTHERS SLEEP

CHOREOGRAPHED BY NATALIE WEIR WITH MUSICAL DIRECTION BY SEAN FORAN

Audiences will be treated to a “stunning” blend of contemporary dance and jazz when the groundbreaking world premiere of **While Others Sleep** plays Judith Wright Centre from Thursday 12 to Sunday 22 August, 2010.

Expressions Dance Company (EDC) Artistic Director Natalie Weir says the cutting-edge combination of contemporary dance by EDC and live jazz by acclaimed local band Misinterpretato will be “simply stunning”.

“**While Others Sleep** is brimming with intensely physical and highly emotional contemporary dance, which is performed to a live jazz soundtrack by acclaimed local band Misinterpretato,” Ms Weir said.

“This is a show that invites the audience to peek into a world that reveals the sensual and slightly sinister ways people behave behind closed doors, and what better way to explore this than through dance and jazz,” she said.

“I am excited about the possibilities of what will happen; I have the most beautiful six dancers in the world and I think the addition of live jazz is going to be striking, sophisticated and simply stunning,” she said.

Inspired by three evocative photographs of people in their hotel rooms, **While Others Sleep** exposes the secret identities and dualities that surface behind closed doors in the late-night.

Each inspirational photograph is used as a springboard to present three dynamic vignettes that unfold in different corners of the stage.

After coming across a book of contemporary photography, *While Others Sleep*, by Griffith University photography students in the Queensland Art Gallery Bookshop, Natalie conceived the idea of the dance work by the same name.

Collaborating with a jazz band has been a goal for Natalie Weir since her appointment as Artistic Director for Expressions Dance Company in October 2008.

The Artistic Director describes jazz as a “perfect fit” for **While Others Sleep**, and says she is excited to be working with acclaimed local jazz band, Misinterpretato.

“I love the aesthetic of jazz; it’s deeply evocative and instantly sets a mood, place and time,” Ms Weir said.

“**While Others Sleep** is seductive with a forbidding edge, and jazz seemed like the perfect choice to extend the window into the late-night hidden world – particularly as jazz is a notorious ‘music of the night’,” she said.

“I am really excited about working with Misinterpretato; the band is highly renowned, exciting and accessible with a broad repertoire, and I imagine the interaction between the dancer and musician will be a very human experience,” she said.

“The combination of dance and jazz also means that there is something for everyone: music lovers, dance lovers and particularly young people,” she said.

Working with designer Greg Clarke and Misinterpretato to finalise the show concept, Natalie will delve into two weeks of rehearsal with the musicians and dancers for creative development followed by another six week rehearsal leading up to the season’s premiere.

While Others Sleep takes place in an intimate cabaret setting and draws the audience into the action that unfolds in the corners of the room where the vignettes are taking place.

-ENDS-

Date	Thu 12 – Sun 22 August 2010
Venue	Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
Bookings	Tickets available in January 2010

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
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JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

WHILE OTHERS SLEEP – BIOGRAPHIES

NATALIE WEIR – ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Natalie Weir is an internationally renowned choreographer who has been choreographing professionally for more than 20 years. In that time she has created over 150 works. She was a founding member of Expressions Dance Company and was offered her first choreographic commission by EDC at age 18. She has since created at least 8 works for the company. Natalie has worked extensively throughout Australia, creating many works for most of the country's major classical and contemporary dance companies. Natalie has also created works for international companies such as American Ballet Theatre, Houston Ballet, Singapore Dance Theatre and Hong Kong Ballet. "I am thrilled to lead this company through this exciting transitional year and into a new era. The future is unwritten – I look towards it with great optimism. I have a great passion and belief in dance and its ability to move us."

GREG CLARKE – DESIGNER

Greg has over 20 years experience designing sets and costumes for Drama and Dance. His recent credits includes designs for LaBoite Theatre's adaptation of Andrew McGahan's *The White Earth*, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, *Kitchen Diva* and *The Narcissist*, the later also playing at the Drama Theatre, Sydney Opera House as part of the STC's 2008 season. His design for Queensland Theatre Company's production of *The Glass Menagerie* was awarded a 2008 Matilda Award. He has had a long association with new and innovative work having designed the premiere productions of *Who's Afraid of the Working Class* (Melbourne Worker's theatre), *One Woman's Song*, *The Family* and *On The Whipping Side* (QTC), *Rio Saki and Other Falling Debris*, *Way Out West* and *Sex:Cubed* (LaBoite), *The Ingkata's Wife* (Browns Mart), *Risk* (Umber Productions). He has also designed numerous dance-theatre works for both Expressions Dance Company and Tasdance, which have toured extensively both nationally and internationally. He teaches Visual Theatre at QUT. Greg has designed several works for Natalie Weir including *The Insider* and *Proofsheet*.

JASON GLENWRIGHT – LIGHTING DESIGNER

Since graduating from QUT after a three-year Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Technical Production, Jason's most recent theatre engagements as a Lighting Designer include: *The Kursk* (La Boite/Critical Stages Tour/Metro Arts), *The Tempest* (Zen Zen Zo), *Macbeth-The Contemporary Rock Opera* (Dianne Gough Productions), *The Truth About Kookaburras* (Metro Arts/Pentimento Productions), *The Passion* (aSpire Theatre Arts), *Dead Cat's Don't Bounce* (Hot Tin Roof), *The Pillowman* (23rd Productions/Metro Arts), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Awfully Big Adventures of Peter Pan*, *A Midsummer Nights Dream* and *The Sound of Music* (Harvest Rain), *Cake* and *The Shining Path* (JUTE/Tropic Sun), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Oscar Theatre), *Bronte* (Three Sisters Productions/Metro Arts), *Beautiful* and *The Ghost Writer*. Jason worked as Lighting Design Assistant to Matt Scott on QTC's production of *The School of Arts*. Jason has also designed productions for: DeBASE, CIRCA, Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble, Backbone Youth Arts, Metro Independents, QUT, Ben Knapton, Dan Santangeli, Spangled Drongo and Plague Theatre. In 2009, Jason was nominated for a Matilda Award for the lighting design of Harvest Rain's *A Midsummer Nights Dream*. This will be Jason's first commission with Natalie Weir.

RICHARD CAUSER – DANCER

Richard is a graduate of QUT and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) degree. Richard was a member of EDC Dance-in-education team for two years. He joined the main company in 2007 performing in the Brisbane Season of *Memory* and *Jigsaw*. In 2008 Richard performed the principal role of 'the voyager' in Maggi Sietsma's *On Thin Ice*. Since joining the company, Richard has embarked on several Queensland tours, as well as, international tours to Guangzhou (China) and New York (USA) and most recently Korea, the Busan International Dance Festival with EDC as well as performing in The Dance Makers season in Brisbane and with its regional tour of Queensland under the new directorship of Natalie Weir.

RYAN MALES – DANCER

Ryan began his professional dance training in 1993 at the Adelaide University and the Sydney based McDonald College under the directorship of Alan Cross and Josephine Jason where he received a scholarship. Since joining EDC in 2001, Ryan has performed in the company's Brisbane seasons, nationwide tours and international tours including Singapore, China, Germany, Mexico, New Caledonia, Macau and the USA. In 2007 he performed in Katie Noonan's video clip, "Time to Begin" choreographed by Natalie Weir.

ELISE MAY – DANCER

Elise is a Brisbane based dance artist who has worked as a performer, teacher and choreographer with Expressions Dance Company Dance in Education and QUT. In 2008 Elise was part of the *Young Artist Mentorship Program* run by Youth Arts Queensland. This allowed Elise to work with mentor Mariana Verdaasdonk on the development of *Close Proximity* investigating movement, sound, video, design and installation. Also in 2008, Elise was commissioned to choreograph a new work, *End Up*, for EDC 'Core Borders' program and joined the company as a dancer in April 2008. Most recently Elise performed at the *Busan International Dance* festival with EDC as well as performing in *The Dance Makers* season in Brisbane and with its regional tour of Queensland under the new directorship of Natalie Weir.

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RIANNON MCLEAN – DANCER

Riannon graduated from the New Zealand School of Dance in 2000, and in 2001 joined the Merenia Gray Dance Company. In 2002 she joined Dance North and under the direction of Jane Pirani, performed throughout Queensland in 2002-2003. Riannon joined EDC in 2007 and toured the USA performing in *Virtually Richard3* and *Score!* In 2008, Riannon performed in Maggi Sietsma's *On Thin Ice* travelling with the company on its 2008 China and Queensland Tours. Most recently Riannon performed at the Busan International Dance Festival in South Korea with EDC as well as in The Dance Makers season in Brisbane and with its regional tour of Queensland under the new directorship of Natalie Weir

SAMANTHA MITCHELL – DANCER

Samantha joined EDC in January 2008 performing in the world premiere of Maggi Sietsma's *On Thin Ice*. She previously graduated from the New Zealand School of Dance, where she gained a Diploma in Dance Performance in 2007. Since joining EDC Samantha has embarked on a Queensland tour with Sietsma's *On Thin Ice*, as well as international tours to China, performing at the Guongdong Modern Dance Festival, and New York performing Sietsma's *Score!* Most recently Samantha performed at the Busan International Dance Festival in South Korea with EDC as well as performing in *The Dance Makers* season in Brisbane and with its regional tour of Queensland under the new directorship of Natalie Weir.

ANTHONY TROJMAN – DANCER

Anthony graduated from Queensland University of Technology (QUT) with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, and has since been working with a group of independent dance artists in Brisbane. Anthony has worked with Natalie Weir, Csaba Buday, Sarah-Jayne Howard, Sue Street and others. Anthony has performed in China at the Guangdong Modern Dance Festival. Anthony has performed in music video-clips and in musical theatre. He recently performed with Tasdance in the *Ten Days on the Island Festival* and the tour of *One for Sorrow, Two for Joy*. He has performed and toured with Leigh Warren and Dancers. 2010 is Anthony's first year with EDC.

MISINTERPROTATO

Featuring Sean Foran (piano), John Parker (drums) and Pat Marchisella (bass)

"Australia's most forward thinking jazz trio" – Timeoff Magazine

Misinterprotato is one of Australia's most inventive contemporary music ensembles. So much more than a traditional jazz trio, this group expands the capacities of the classic piano/bass/drums combination with elements of the avant-garde and a fresh attitude they bring to their music. Truly captivating for a variety of audiences, Misinterprotato skillfully blend dense, exciting improvisations and delicate atmospherics, conjuring up sounds of modern jazz, ambient music, avant garde rock, free improvisation and contemporary classical music.

HANNAH MACKLIN - VOCALIST

Hannah Macklin performs regularly both in Brisbane and around Australia, having toured the country several times. Having made a name for herself as a voice to be reckoned with, possessing "A dexterous set of vocal cords" (Rave Magazine) and "A very likeable stage persona" (Courier Mail), Hannah is quickly becoming one of the state's top jazz performers. A winner in the 2009 QSong Awards Jazz Category, and a finalist in the APRA Professional Development Awards for Songwriting, Hannah is also a gifted composer; she both writes for and performs in the "Macklin & Newcomb Duo", "Hannah Macklin & the Teapotter Party", and "The West End Composers Collective". With a contemporary attitude to both singing and composing, and a keen interest in new sounds and improvisation, Hannah's talent has allowed her to perform alongside musicians such as Jamie Oehlers, James Muller, The Jazzgroove Mothership Orchestra, Kristin Berardi, Sam Anning, Ben Vanderwal, Will Vinson, Phil Stack, James Sherlock, and Jim Pugh.

RAFAEL KARLEN – SAXOPHONIST

Born in Stockholm, Sweden, Rafael has spent the majority of his life in Australia. Coming from a very musical family, Rafael only felt the need to take up the saxophone when he was thirteen. He went on to complete a Bachelor of Contemporary Music Performance (saxophone) at the Qld Conservatorium of Music in 2004. Rafael includes the late master saxophone/composer Tony Hobbs, Elliot Dagleish, Mal Cunningham, Ken Stubbs as his primary teachers and role models in performance and composition. Rafael has performed at various Jazz and music festivals throughout Australia and has been a key composer and performer of the Brisbane based ensemble the West End Composers Collective. In late 2007, Rafael was awarded funding to record his original compositions the Collective. The albums have received much acclaim. Recently, he was commissioned to compose a piece for the the Q150 Celebration. In 2008, he was a finalist in the APRA/JMO National Big Band competition in Sydney and Q Music's Q song writing competition.

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