MALTHOUSE THEATRE

Media Release
25 NOVEMBER – 29 NOVEMBER 2009 MERLYN THEATRE

MALTHOUSE THEATRE PRESENTS
A LUCY GUERIN PRODUCTION

STRUCTURE AND SADNESS

DIRECTOR LUCY GUERIN
CHOREOGRAPHY LUCY GUERIN WITH
THE DANCERS
DANCERS FIONA CAMERON, KYLE KREMERSKOTHEN,
LINA LIMOSANI, BYRON PERRY, HARRIET RITCHIE
LEE SEARLE
COMPOSER GERALD MAIR
ADDITIONAL MUSIC CHILDREN OF THE
RAVE REVOLUTION/ COMPOSED BY M
CULLMANN AND M HACH PUBLISHED BY
EMI/ HELLO MR WILSON CRIMSON AND
CLOVER/ COMPOSED BY T JAMES AND
P LUCIA/ PUBLISHED BY EMI MUSIC
PUBLISHING AUSTRALIA
MOTION GRAPHICS MICHAELA FRENCH
SET AND LIGHTING DESIGN BLUEBOTTLE:
BEN COBHAM AND ANDREW LIVINGSTON
COSTUMES PAULA LEVIS
DRAMATURGE MARYANNE LYNCH
PRODUCER MICHAELA COVENTRY AND ANGARAD WYNNE-JONES

Malthouse Theatre presents the return season to Lucy Guerin's critically acclaimed dance work, Structure and Sadness. Based on Melbourne’s Westgate Bridge disaster of 1970 in which 35 men died when the span collapsed, the work reaches deeply into the stresses of the physical structures and to the grief of those near it.

Since its world premiere during the 2006 Melbourne International Arts Festival this Helpmann award winning production has toured to Frankfurt, Ludwigsberg and Dublin.

Structure and Sadness is a complex and arresting dance work, which examines the impressionable human body contending with the unyielding inanimate world that surrounds it. It explores an event in recent history not as a factual narrative, but as a physical, emotional and visual response to a devastating accident.

Choreographer Lucy Guerin takes the collapse of Melbourne's Westgate Bridge as a starting point. The piece bases its unique movement vocabulary on the engineering principles of
compression, suspension, torsion and failure. The bridge's concrete and definable form contrasts with the unknowable grief and chaos brought about by its failure. On stage, the performers construct a precarious world teetering on the point of collapse. The work shifts between practical building of supportive structures and the impressionistic portrayal of disintegration and sorrow.

Guerin collaborates with motion graphics designer Michaela French along with Scottish composer Gerald Mair and set and lighting designers Bluebottle. *Structure and Sadness* was awarded a Helpmann Award for Best Dance Work, Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Performance by a Company and a Green Room Award for Choreography. Lucy Guerin is one of the most prolific choreographers in the Australian contemporary dance scene. She has been commissioned by both local and international companies including JCDN (Japan), Dance Works Rotterdam, Chunky Move and Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project, and her works have toured throughout Europe and the USA. Recently, her works presented in Melbourne, Corridor, and Untrained, have received wide acclaim.

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"AN EMOTIONAL HIGH...ANYONE WHO THINKS DANCE IS A TULLE-WRAPPED FAIRYTALE WILL CONSIDER THIS A DISCOVERY...AN UNEXPECTEDLY BEAUTIFUL DANCE PIECE." SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

"STRUCTURE AND SADNESS REMINDS US THAT WE WALK UPON THE BACKS OF THE DEAD, AND THAT THE PAST IS A FORCE WE CAN NEVER TRULY MASTER." JOHN BAILEY

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Season info:
Merlyn Theatre, The CUB Malthouse
25 November – 29 November 2009
Opening night: Wednesday 25 November at 7.30pm
Tickets: $16 - $38
Season: Wednesday – Friday 7.30pm, Sunday at 5pm. Matinee Saturday 28 November at 2pm.

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