



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION PRETORIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Acclaimed Australian choreographer collaborates with South African dancers

Young and emerging South African dancers in Durban, Johannesburg and Pretoria are collaborating with acclaimed Australian dancer and choreographer Liz Lea.

Liz Lea is spending five weeks in Durban to choreograph a new cross-cultural dance workshop and teach a two-week dance residency. She will also conduct a number of community outreach workshops in collaboration with local organisations such as Siyakhula, Durban Children's Home, Ubuhle Bezintu, Musa Hlatshwayo's Movement Laboratory, Jarryd Watson's Dance Movement and the Minette de Klerk Dance Academy. Ms Lea will also conduct workshops in Johannesburg and Pretoria.

The Australian High Commissioner to South Africa, HE Ann Harrap, said in Pretoria today that the Australian High Commission was extremely proud to be able to support Liz Lea's visit to South Africa, together with the National Arts Council of South Africa and KZN DanceLink.

"We are particularly pleased that Liz's dynamic dance styles are being showcased to a South African audience and that through her workshops, residencies and outreach activities, Liz is contributing meaningfully to the professional development of young South African dancers," Ms Harrap said.

Ms Lea's trip to Durban will culminate in a dance production at the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre from March 28 to April 1, where her work will share the stage with the award-winning African contemporary dance troop, Flatfoot Dance Company, led by Lliane Loots. The show is called 'South-South' in celebration of the meeting of two formidable women choreographers from the southern hemisphere. Ms Lea's work, entitled 'A Free Mind', gathers its inspiration from the life and writings of anti-apartheid activist Ahmed Kathrada.

Ms Lea has developed an international reputation for her cross cultural contemporary dance style, which includes a fusion of classical Indian dance and martial arts. She is currently the Artistic Director of Liz Lea and Co, the Director of Canberra Dance Theatre and Associate Director to QL2 Centre for Youth Dance. For further information, see www.leadance.com

Media representatives are welcome to attend a performance by Liz Lea which will be held at the University of Pretoria on 30 March. To obtain details of the performance or for general media enquiries, please contact Natalie Mendelsohn, email natalie.mendelsohn@dfat.gov.au or telephone 012 423 6183.

Please see www.kzndancelink.co.za for further details about Ms Lea's workshops in Durban. Tickets for 'South-South' are available through Computicket.