



Performing Lines WA

media release

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CHOREOGRAPHER CHRISSIE PARROTT AND HER 100 MUSIC BOXES CREATE UNIQUE CANVAS FOR WA'S TOP VISUAL ARTISTS



Image: Geoffrey Drake-Brockman in his Studio

When choreographer Chrissie Parrott handed a humble music box to Dalkeith artist Geoffrey Drake-Brockman and asked him to re-construct it in any way he wanted, he didn't stop at small. He created a life-size ballerina using a body scan of leading dancer, Jayne Smeulders.

Since May, a number of WA's leading visual artists have lent their talents in sculpture, electronic arts, fashion and painting, and transformed a collection of music boxes into one-off artworks to raise funds for the creation of *The Garden* - a site-specific dance theatre performance directed by the illustrious Chrissie Parrott.

Eighteen artists ranging from Marcus Canning who recently won the Saint Georges Cathedral Sculptural Project, to Phil Gamblen who was awarded an Honorary Mention at the world's prestigious Prix Ars Electronica, were also asked by Parrott to re-clad and re-imagine music boxes into extraordinary works of art which will be on auction at the Holmes a Court Gallery this August.

The remaining artist lineup includes; Fran Cassidy, Sara Drake, Karmen Frantic, Simon Gilby, Paula Hart, Malcolm McGregor, Deborah Mckendrick, Louise Morrison, Colonel Mustard, Angela Rossen, Amanda Shelsher, Trish Schuttler, Don Walters, Virginia Ward and Valeska Wood.

Funds raised from the auction will go directly to staging *The Garden* which will premiere this November at the Moores Building Contemporary Art Gallery. The newly adorned music boxes will form sound and design elements of the performance work as well an installation and exhibition component which can be viewed during gallery opening hours.

More details about *The Garden* performance and installation will be released in September.

For all media enquiries including high resolution images, please contact:

Sarah Rowbottam, Communications Manager

Performing Lines WA

sarah@performinglines.org.au

Tel 08 9200 6212 Mob 0421631822

About Chrissie Parrott

Chrissie Parrott's distinctive choreographic style draws equally upon her foundations in classical dance and the richness of the 20th Century contemporary dance vocabulary.

She has created a repertoire of over 80 works - most particularly within the context of the Chrissie Parrott Dance Company [CPDC] which include *Terra, Life Love & Beauty, Tower, Terminal Velocity* and *Deco Dance*. Choreographic commissions include works for WA Ballet, Australian Dance Theatre, Queensland Ballet, Sydney Theatre Company, Tasdance, Sinfionetta de Lorraine France, Theater Vorpommern in the Baltic city of Stralsund and Tanz Forum Cologne touring to the Avignon festival in France.

Chrissie danced with the West Australian Ballet, One Extra Company - Sydney where she was also Assistant Director, Festival Ballet Nicic de Monte Carlo – Basel, Switzerland, Kent Opera Ballet, Crameer Balletten – Stockholm, and Tanz Forum – Cologne.

Chrissie's outstanding contribution to contemporary dance-associated arts has been significantly acknowledged by the presentation of the Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award, Swan Gold Award Sounds Australia Award, Western Australian Citizen of the Year 2000, and a Centenary Medal. In 2005 she was nominated for a Green Room award for her stage design for *Swimming the Luna Sea*. She was nominated by Live Performance Australia for best choreography for *A Midsummer Nights Dream* that in 2006 won the Ausdance award for outstanding choreography.

About Jambird

Jambird a small and easily transportable performance company making hybrid work which crosses traditional boundaries using concepts and techniques from one area and applying them freely in another - in new and unusual ways. Jambird is a partnership between co-founders Chrissie Parrott and Jonathan Mustard. Past work includes the award winning *Metadance in resonant light, dis-patch, Baroqoda, and Swimming the Luna Sea*.

About Performing Lines WA

www.performinglineswa.org.au

Performing Lines WA produces the work of Jambird and other selected West Australian independent dance and theatre artists through the Managing and Producing Services (MAPS) initiative of the Australia Council and the Department of Culture and the Arts. Performing Lines WA supports the production and touring of new West Australian work nationally and internationally, and provides a range of services from financial management to marketing and audience development.

Jambird is supported by Managing and Producing Services (MAPS) which is an initiative of the Department of Culture and the Arts and the Australia Council for the Arts. *The Garden* is produced by Performing Lines WA.



About the artists

Marcus Canning <http://www.sculptureproject.org.au/submissions/view/canningdevietri>

Prolific performance artist and experimental film maker, current Artistic Director for Artrage, and recent winner of the St Georges Cathedral Sculptural Project.

Geoffrey Drake-Brockman DALKEITH www.drake-brockman.com.au

Creates works merging the fields of art, science, robotics and technology.

Phil Gamblen FREMANTLE www.symbiotica.uwa.edu.au/residencies/residents2/phil_gamblen

Currently an artist in residence at SymbioticA (art science lab), his art practice is in the area of kinetics and the study of motion. Recently awarded an Honorary Mention at the world's prestigious electronic arts event in Austria, Prix Ars Electronica.

Sara Drake

<http://interactive.artsource.net.au/apps/WebObjects/Artsource.woa/2/wo/JRjG0ttqC2bKlb6r3Eut80/0.1.26>

Simon Gilby FREMANTLE <http://www.simongilby.com.au>

Creates extremely articulate sculptural works examining notions of what it may mean to 'be human' a 'be not human'.

Paula Hart COOLBINIA

<http://interactive.artsource.net.au/apps/WebObjects/Artsource.woa/1/wo/vkps5B5tsQnbUnRdlyUHnM/0.1.26>

Multidisciplinary artists, who focuses mostly on printmaking and textiles, has participated in the Visual Arts Foundation artists in residency program for the past 10 years, and been regularly involved in community events and festivals including AWESOME.

Malcolm McGregor MT LAWLEY

<http://interactive.artsource.net.au/apps/WebObjects/Artsource.woa/2/wo/aFYqV2ga5tU2tuOD19AcZw/0.1.26>

A sculptor who uses metal, wood and cement to create large outdoor sculptural pieces.

Deborah Mckendrick <http://www.velvetsushi.com.au>

Freelance designer with the main focus on Costume Design and Theatre Arts, and founder of the iconic fashion label 'Eldorado', based on King Street.

Louise Morrison BEACONSFIELD <http://louisemorrison.com.au>

An emerging artist whose practise ranges from making large, collaborative public artworks to small assemblages and wooden works.

Angela Rossen <http://www.ca.com.au/~arossen/home.htm>

A painter who explores the Australian outback; cattle stations, race days and views of mountain ranges, the ocean and coast; beachscapes, mangrove coastal inlets, and underwater scenes; flora and fauna.

Amanda Shelsher INGLEWOOD www.amandashelsher.com

Makes handmade sculptures using clays, stoneware, paper clay and porcelain. Her intimate works celebrate the intricacies of human nature; they look for an understanding of self and the world around us.

Don Walters EAST FREMANTLE <http://www.donwaltersart.com>

Creates large sculptural works using simple forms and geometric shapes. His work is predominantly abstract but an underlying sense of the figure is always apparent.

Virginia Ward MOSMAN PARK www.virginiaward.net

Has exhibited for the past 20 years and has work in major collections at the Art Gallery of WA, Kerry Stokes Collection, Lawrence Wilson Gallery, and ANZ Bank (VIC).