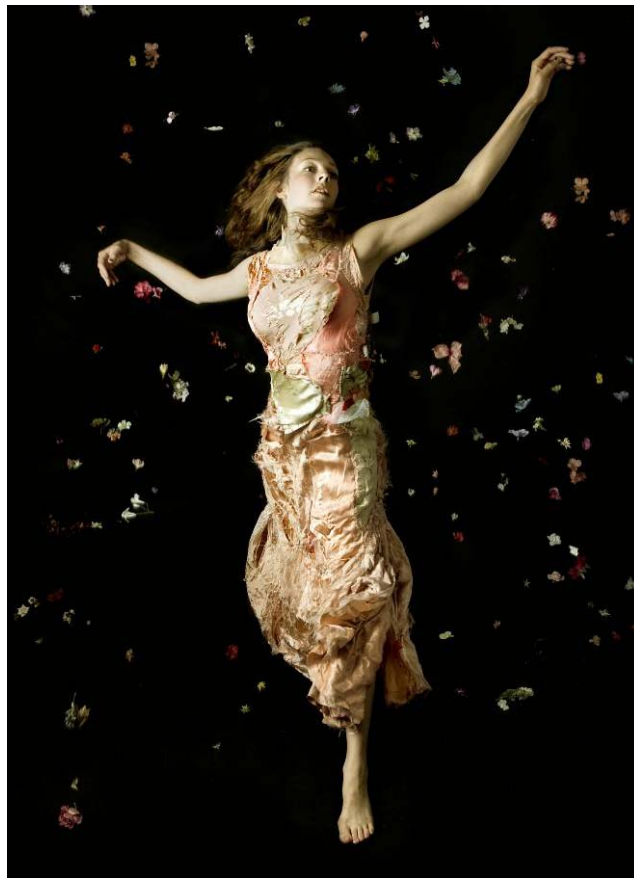


# media release

Thursday, September 24, 2009

## CHRISSIE PARROTT'S *THE GARDEN* TRANSFORMS THE ENTIRE MOORES BUILDING INTO AN IMMERSIVE INSTALLATION & PERFORMANCE



**Dancer:** Quindell Orton **Image:** Eva Fernandez

There's a garden growing inside the Moore's Building.

This November, the creative minds behind hybrid performance company Jambird - Chrissie Parrott and Jonathan Mustard, will transform the entire Moores Building Contemporary Art Gallery into a dark secret garden filled with the sound of one hundred music boxes.

Stepping outside the traditional theatre space, Parrott and Mustard have decided to follow the site-specific path, and plan to convert the entire six galleries into an immersive installation and performance as part of the 2009 Fremantle Festival.

According to Parrott, the Moores Building is one of the last spaces in Perth usable for creating site-specific performance work. *"I used to make a lot of work in warehouses and abandoned buildings – large in space and depth. I now go to the Moores Building to spend time sitting and dreaming up the possibilities of the space. The high vault of the main gallery offers exceptional potential– which is rare. It's beautiful and inspiring."*

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For *The Garden*, Parrott will collaborate with a number of artists from different disciplines – visual, theatre, dance and music. As she explains, “*what makes The Garden distinctive is that it’s more like performance art than a regular dance work. The audience will engage as they wander through an installation filled with music boxes which have been altered and adorned by some of WA’s top visual artists.*”

Under a patchwork sky, beautiful and enigmatic characters lead the audience through a series of beguiling stories where absurd machinery of an overzealous bureaucracy flings the performers into a complex web of intrigue.

For *The Garden*, Parrott is returning to a choreographic style which permeated through many of her earlier works such as *Terra Tower* and *Swimming the Luna Sea*, a personal style which sprang from her earliest choreographic foundations in German expressionist dance. As she explains, “*I want to be shifted when I go to the theatre. I want to experience work which has an internal logic and a deep theatrical root.*”

*The Garden* is about unlocking the doors to imagination: encouraging viewers to engage rather than sit back and watch. “*I’m not putting any restriction on where this piece may go theatrically*” says Parrott.

**Choreographer** Chrissie Parrott **Composer** Jonathan Mustard **Performers** Quindell Orton, Jonathan Mustard, Leanne Mason, Rhiannon Newton, Jacqui Claus, Tom Penney, and Russell Leonard

**The Garden Performances:** 8pm 4 - 8 Nov, 8pm 11 Nov, 9pm 12 - 14 Nov, 8pm 15 Nov

**Installation:** can be viewed daily 10am - 5pm (free)

**Artist floor talks:** 4pm 8 & 15 Nov (free)

**Moore's Building Contemporary Art Gallery**  
46 Henry Street, Fremantle

**Tickets on sale October**

**Online** [performinglineswa.org.au](http://performinglineswa.org.au)

**Phone** +61 89335 5044 **In person** 1 Short Street Fremantle, Mon – Fri 9-5pm

On the door unless sold out prior to event.

### **About Jambird**

Jambird is a small and easily transportable performance company determined to break traditions. Integrating concepts and techniques from dance, music and theatre, and applying them in new and unusual ways with new media technology, they create hybrid works which go beyond formal choreographic techniques. Jambird was co-founded in 2001 by Chrissie Parrott - a highly prolific, multi-award winning dance choreographer, and Jonathan Mustard - an experienced composer, working with computer music, mixed media and visual arts.



**Image:** Eva Fernandez

### **Chrissie Parrott, Choreographer**

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), Festival Ballet Nicic de Monte Carlo (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.

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**Jonathan Mustard**, Composer

Jonathan Mustard has been placing the performer at the centre of electronic music since 1991, bringing a heart and liveliness to a medium often accused of lacking these very qualities.

Whether he is using dancers, or musical instruments to manipulate sound and video in real-time, there is a strong commitment to the fundamentals we value in live performance and a unique approach to his often-quirky sonic and visual materials.

Since collaborating with choreographer Chrissie Parrot, ongoing from 2003, he has extended his crossover into visual arts, making video and animation for and about dance. This, now rich partnership continues to explore new territory in the collision between sound, dance, technology and visual media. Mustard is active in the field of audiovisual installation, theatre and education as well as composing for traditional instrumental and vocal ensembles. He has been widely commissioned in Western Australia and his work is regularly presented overseas.

**About Performing Lines WA**

[www.performinglineswa.org.au](http://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.**



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