

MEDIA RELEASE

TUESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2008

SIX ARTISTS SELECTED FOR NEW INDEPENDENT DANCE AND THEATRE INITIATIVE

Performing Lines WA is proud to announce it will work in creative partnership with six of Western Australia's most dynamic independent artists to create ambitious new works.

This has been made possible by the new initiative, Managing and Producing Services (MAPS), established by the Australia Council for the Arts and the WA State Government through the Department of Culture and the Arts.

Jambird (Chrissie Parrott and Jonathan Mustard), *pvi collective* (Kelli McClusky and Stephen Bull), *Marrugeku Theatre Company* (Dalisa Pigram and Rachael Swain), *Steamworks Arts Productions* (Sally Richardson) and independent choreographers Danielle Micich and Sue Peacock have secured contracts with Performing Lines WA, who will foster the development of innovation-focused works from concept through to production and touring.

Performing Lines founding General Manager Wendy Blacklock said: "This exciting initiative by the Department of Culture and the Arts means we can nurture innovative performing arts in Western Australia, recognise creativity, provide artists with access to broader audiences, and contribute to the enhancement of a distinctly Australian culture both at home and overseas."

Producer Fiona de Garis has been chosen by Wendy Blacklock to manage the new Perth based organisation Performing Lines WA located at King Street Arts Centre in the CBD. Performing Lines WA will work in collaboration with the selected artists and provide management, marketing, fundraising, touring and production support.

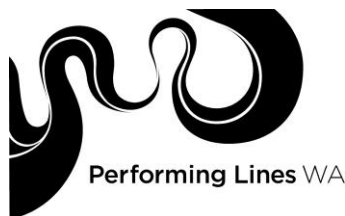
Ms de Garis said: "These artists were selected on their track record and potential to make a significant contribution to the development of West Australian performing arts practice over the next three years."

In the coming week Performing Lines WA will announce their premiere show scheduled for February 2009.

For further information, images or interviews please contact:

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About the Artists

Jambird

Is 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*, recently nominated for a 2009 Australian Dance Award, *dis-patch*, *Baroquoda*, and *swimming in the luna sea*. The company is currently in development for a major new work.

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 a considerable repertoire of over 60 works commissioned by Australian and European dance and theatre companies.

Jonathan Mustard has gained a reputation as one of Perth's most innovative composers writing works for mixed media, as well as traditional instrumental and vocal pieces for dance, theatre, concert and stage.

pvi collective

Founded in 1998, pvi are a collective of independent artists based in Perth, Western Australia. Members of the group have backgrounds in visual art, film theory, new media, performance, psychology and live art. Each of them contributes their skills towards creating tactical media artworks for galleries, public sites and alternative spaces.

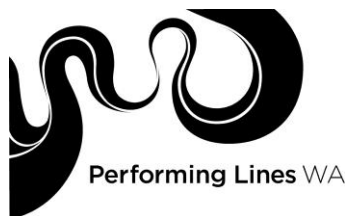
pvi have a long standing pre-occupation with producing artwork that investigates issues of privacy, surveillance and its impact on social codes of behaviour in the public realm, responding to trends in local and global surveillance and increases in national security. The creation of most of their artworks respond directly to a city, town or site; investigating it's fears, hopes and concerns about personal freedoms, and often offering up darkly humorous survival tactics for living in a panoptic 21st century . pvi often engage the public within their artworks - activating viewers through eccentric acts of intervention, on the streets, on-screen and in any other spaces they can get away with...

Marrugeku Theatre Company

Marrugeku is an intercultural company creating contemporary dance theatre works in regional and remote communities. The company is committed to the notion that contemporary Indigenous identity is a nexus of highly local as well as global influences and that contemporary Indigenous performance reflecting this belief will grow from a distinctive local engagement as well as an exposure to international performance influences. The company is based in Broome, Western Australia.

Since Marrugeku's inception, commissioned into existence by the Festival of Perth in 1994, each of the works have followed their world premiere seasons in WA, (*Mimi* 1996, *Crying Baby* 2001, Perth Festival commissions and *Burning Daylight* in Broome 2006), with significant touring lives. Marrugeku's works have been presented by multi arts and dance festivals as well as community events in carefully chosen cultural and environmental sites in Broome, Perth, Kunbarllanjana, Maningrida, Elcho Island, Yirrkala, Brisbane, Uluru, Sydney, Canberra, The Philippines, The Netherlands, New Caledonia, Belgium, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland and Brazil.

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Steamworks Arts Productions

Steamworks Arts Productions is a vibrant and dynamic Western Australian based organisation with projects currently underway across Australia. Steamworks create, produce and present original, imaginative and inspired contemporary performances and events that evoke multiple responses, reactions, and engagement with diverse audiences.

Diversity is at the core of the company's activities which extend through the performing arts in the areas of creation, direction, consultancy, dramaturgy, project and production management. Steamworks continues to initiate, promote and support WA creative talent through presenting artists and touring productions locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Artistic Director Sally Richardson is currently directing *The Promise* for the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, which will premiere in the 2009 Sydney Festival, and *Rhapsody* at the National Institute of Circus Arts which opens on 2nd December 2008 in Melbourne.

Danielle Micich

Danielle Micich is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (University of Melbourne), independent dancer, choreographer and videographer based in Perth. She was Artistic Director of West Australia's youth dance company *STEPS* for four years. During her time with *STEPS* she produced 11 new dance works, and in 2007 won "Outstanding Achievement for Choreography" at the West Australian Dance Awards for *dash*.

Danielle has choreographed or performed for Darc Swan Dance Company, Buzz Dance Theatre, WA Opera Company, Perth International Arts Festival, *STRUT* dance, and several *PICA* seasons. Overseas, she performed with international multi-art group *SQUINT* in Singapore and the USA, and in 2007 toured to China in Steamworks Arts Production's dance theatre work *The Drovers Wives*. She has worked on large-scale projects as co-producer on Artrage's dance festival *Crossfire*, travelled to New Delhi, India to produce choreography for a large-scale dance drama with Dhvani Dance Company and in 2006 won the award for "Dance Film Technology within Dance" as *dashvisual* co-producer for visuals created for *The Drover's Wives (Perth Festival)*.

Currently Danielle is a lecturer at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. She has been commissioned to make a new multicultural dance work by Ausdance WA and also recently set the first choreography on behalf of the Curriculum Council for WA secondary school dance students. *Shiver*, her new full length work, is currently in development.

Sue Peacock

Sue Peacock danced with the Australian Dance Theatre for eight years, performing both in Australia and overseas. She has also performed with Limbs (NZ), 2 Dance, (now BUZZ) Helen Herbertson, One Extra Dance Co., Fieldworks Performance Group, Chrissie Parrott, Co.Loaded and ID339 Dancegroup. In addition to independent projects, Sue has made commissioned works for a number of Australian dance companies and tertiary training institutions. She is a founding member and Artistic Program Manager of *STRUT*, a lecturer at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts and a panel member for Asialink. Sue was a 2002/03 Churchill Fellow and in 2004 received a Creative Development Fellowship from ArtsWA. In 2005, she was voted Best Female Dancer in the inaugural AusdanceWA Dance Awards and in 2006 was awarded for *Services to Dance*. In 2006 Sue presented three new works, *Hoofas*, *Crow* and *If only he could see what she was looking at...* and *Adrift* was performed by the third year WAAPA students at the 2006 Hong Kong Dance Festival.