

## MEDIA RELEASE

7 February 2012



### **Australia's premier regional contemporary dance-theatre company comes to the Coast**

With intense choreography, a compelling original soundscape and breathtaking physicality, **Dancenorth's MASS** will enthral audience members on **Saturday 10 March** at The Arts Centre Gold Coast.

The premiere season of *MASS* was a sell-out and commanded standing ovations at every performance. This powerful contemporary dance-theatre piece captures the tumultuous emotions of people dealing with natural disasters and other profound communal experiences.

Inspired by the art work of contemporary Brisbane artist Rosemary Laing, **Artistic Director Raewyn Hill** has designed a three-walled set and covered the floor with artificial turf. With the white walls giving the impression of a simulated gallery space and the turf an outside environment, the setting pays homage to surrealist art which was instrumental to the initial development of *MASS*. There are no doors on the set – each dancer must enter and exit by climbing over the walls.

*MASS* is an international collaboration that includes a commissioned score by acclaimed **Spanish composer Micka Luna**, vocals by the UK's **Jocelyn West** and digital imagery from **Mariona Omedes** (2011 winner of the Spanish National Award for Culture).

With a cast of some of Australia's leading exponents of dance theatre, *MASS* is a physically challenging performance, pushing the limits of the company dancers. Dancenorth continues to lead the way in Australian dance, with the company being a model for making international quality art in a regional setting. A celebration of community, *MASS* is a brilliant, new contemporary dance theatre experience not to be missed.

#### **ABOUT THE COMPANY**

Based in Townsville, Dancenorth has enjoyed local, national and international success since their inception in 1985. In 2010, Dancenorth was the first Australian company to be invited to a **two week residency at the Baryshnikov Arts Centre in New York**, where they performed for dance great Mikhail Baryshnikov himself. Over the years Dancenorth has enthralled audiences in **London, Germany, Japan, China and around Australia**.

**Continued overleaf ...**

[www.theartscentregc.com.au](http://www.theartscentregc.com.au)

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MASS has recently been nominated for **Best New Work, Most Outstanding Choreography, Most Interesting Australian Dance Group** and **Dancer to Watch** in the **Dance Australia Critic Survey**.

#### **ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHER**

**Choreographer Raewyn Hill** has received numerous awards and endless accolades from critics and audiences throughout Australasia during her 18-year performance career. She trained in classical ballet at the **New Zealand School of Dance** and established her own dance company in 2001, touring many works including her solo show to the **Sydney Opera House Studio** in 2004.

Raewyn has appeared as a guest teacher and choreographer for a number of institutions including Royal New Zealand Ballet, New Zealand School of Dance, Bei Jing Dance Academy, Western Australia Performing Arts, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and the **Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Moscow**.

In 2009, Raewyn was the inaugural New Zealand recipient of an **Artist in Residence at the Cite International des Arts in Paris**, returning again in 2011. In 2010, she created a work for **New York's prestigious performing arts conservatoire The Juilliard School**.

*...there is no doubting the company's physical and intellectual dedication.*  
THE AUSTRALIAN

*MASS deserves a sell-out season.*  
TOWNSVILLE BULLETIN

DATE: Sat 10 Mar, 7.30pm  
SUITABILITY: Contains adult theme and some partial nudity  
VENUE: Arts Theatre  
CALL: 5588 4000  
WEB: [www.theartscentregc.com.au](http://www.theartscentregc.com.au)  
COST: Adult \$46.00, Concession \$41.00, Subscription 4+ shows \$38.00, Student \$25.00

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