

## Australian Dance Theatre – Company Profile

Australian Dance Theatre is the pre-eminent contemporary dance company in Australia and has been producing consistently extraordinary new dance since it was formed in Adelaide in 1965.

Under the artistic direction of Garry Stewart since 1999, the company has embarked on a distinctive artistic trajectory that has won the company numerous accolades praising Garry Stewart's choreography and this formidable ensemble.

ADT dancers train in a number of specific physical disciplines. As well as contemporary dance techniques and classical ballet, they are coached intensively in ashanta yoga, martial arts and gymnastics. As a result ADT enjoys an enviable national and international reputation and currently regarded as one of the most distinctive and exciting dance companies touring the globe today.

ADT has developed new works created by Garry Stewart, including the highly acclaimed *Housedance*, *Birdbrain*, the multi-award winning *The Age of Unbeauty*, *Nothing*, *HELD* and *Devolution*. *HELD* was a critical and popular success in its debut season at the 2004 Adelaide Bank Festival and has since won six national awards, including the prestigious 2004 Helpmann Award for Best Choreography in a Ballet or Dance Work. *Devolution* won the 2006 Helpmann Award for Best New Australian Work and Best Lighting Design.

The company tours extensively, having performed several seasons at the Sydney Opera House along with seasons at Melbourne International Festival, Brisbane, Canberra and Darwin. International tours have seen the company perform at the Galway Arts Festival (Ireland), the Seoul Arts Festival (Korea), the Singapore Arts Festival, the National Centre for the Arts (Ottawa), Harbourfront Theatre (Toronto), Queen Elizabeth Hall (London), the Joyce Theatre (New York) and the Holland Dance Festival. In November 2005 ADT became the first Australian company invited to perform at Theatre de la Ville in Paris. Considered the best dance venue in Europe, this break through performance of *HELD* sold out three weeks in advance.

In 2004 / 2005 the company toured throughout Europe, the UK and the US, taking in 45 venues with 68 performances which were seen by over 40,000 people. When ADT returned to Australia it joined with Restless Dance Company to develop *Vocabulary*, a collaborative work that astounded Adelaide audiences with its two part exploration of words and meaning. *Nascent*, the film created by Gina Czarnecki and choreographed by Garry Stewart, debuted at the 2005 Adelaide Film Festival, won the Ausdance Australian Dance Award for Dance Film.

Following the world premiere season of *Devolution* in March 2006, the company joined other leading Australian companies for *Unified*, a dance gala for UNICEF at the Sydney Opera House.

Garry Stewart's **G** debuted as work in progress at the 2008 Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts to critical acclaim. **G** toured throughout Europe between October and December, 2008 with sell out shows in London, Paris and Barcelona.

ADT actively promotes audience development and diversification, offering attractively priced tickets to ensure access and equity across the board. It also firmly believes in the importance of a strong youth policy as exemplified by the company's annual season of Ignition and youth dance workshops.

## **Australian Dance Theatre Awards**

Since 2002, ADT has received 26 major industry awards.

### **2008**

South Australian Export Award winner (Arts & Entertainment category)

Australian Dance Awards

Outstanding Achievement in Choreography – Garry Stewart for *Honour Bound*

### **2007**

Australian Cinematographer's Society National Awards:

Commercials Retail - Highly Commended to Chris Herzfeld (*Devolution*)

### **2006**

Helpmann Awards: *Devolution*

Best New Australian Work – Garry Stewart, Louis-Philippe Demers & ADT

Best Lighting Design – Louis-Philippe Demers

Australian Dance Awards: *Devolution*

Outstanding Performance by a Company – Garry Stewart & ADT

Ruby Awards: Innovation Category (*Devolution*)

Australian Cinematographer's Society SA Branch Awards:

Commercials Retail - Gold to Chris Herzfeld (*Devolution*)

Corporate Productions - Gold to Chris Herzfeld (*Devolution*)

ReelDance: *Nascent*

Best New Australian or New Zealand Dance Film or Video

SA Business Export Awards – Highly Commended in the Channel 7

Arts & Entertainment Category

### **2005**

Australian Dance Awards: *Nascent*

Best Dance Film: Gina Czarnecki, Garry Stewart and ADT

IMZ Dance Screen: *Nascent*

Delegates' Award: Gina Czarnecki, Garry Stewart and ADT

SA Great Awards: Winner of the Arts Category

## **2004**

Helpmann Awards: *HELD*

Best Choreography in a Ballet or Dance Work – Garry Stewart and ADT Dancers

Best Male Dancer in a Ballet or Dance Work – Ross McCormack

Best Female Dancer in a Ballet or Dance Work – Larissa McGowan

Australian Dance Awards: *HELD*

Outstanding Performance by a Company – ADT

Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer – Paul Zivkovich

Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer – Larissa McGowan

SA Business Export Awards – Highly Commended in the Channel 7

Arts & Entertainment Category

## **2003**

Green Room Awards: Best Female Dancer – Larissa McGowan (*The Age of Unbeauty*)

## **2002**

Australian Dance Awards: *The Age of Unbeauty*

Outstanding Performance by a Company – ADT

Outstanding Achievement in Choreography – Garry Stewart

Outstanding Achievement by a Male Dancer – Dean Walsh