

JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Media Release
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AWARD WINNING DANCE THEATRE WORK COMES TO BRISBANE

Judith Wright Centre presents Force Majeure's

THE AGE I'M IN A DANCE THEATRE PERFORMANCE DIRECTED BY KATE CHAMPION

WINNER: "OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A COMPANY" 2009 DANCE AWARDS

'...one of the best things I've seen this year' The Sun-Herald

'You laugh, wince and could even weep at times for the poignancy of the points it makes.' Sydney Morning Herald

Direct from a successful international tour and sell out seasons at Sydney and Adelaide Festivals, Force Majeure's award winning dance theatre work, **The Age I'm In**, plays the Judith Wright Centre from Tuesday 4 to Wednesday 5 May 2010.

Internationally renowned director Kate Champion says **The Age I'm In**, featuring interviews with more than 80 Australians aged 15 – 80 who share their thoughts on growing old, re-imagines the traditional dance format to explore the way we inhabit age.

"**The Age I'm In** goes beyond the usual (and often necessary) youthful, fit 25 - 35 demographic of a dance theatre piece to authentically represent a wider range of "life experience" on stage," Champion said.

"As much as we have some highly skilled dancers in the show I also wanted to make sure we weren't only representing how dancers age, which I think can be quite different to how the rest of the general population ages," she said.

"Energy and athleticism (or lack of) reflect the truth of how someone of a particular age moves; if you have a performer who is 80, you have to work with how an 80-year-old moves, and the same goes for a teenager or someone with cerebral palsy," she said.

The Age I'm In takes a fresh, humorous look at generational clichés, family, friendship, love and the aging process.

Under Kate Champion's direction, **The Age I'm In** weaves dance, theatre, filmmaking, music and multi-media using hand-held screens pioneered by Force Majeure co-founder Geoff Cobham.

Forging a prolific choreographic career, Kate Champion was a founding member of Dance North, has garnered critical acclaim for her work in London and Germany, choreographed the world premiere of *Dirty Dancing* (2004) and has collected myriad awards including a Helpmann Award, Green Room Award and MO Award among others.

Supported by the Australia Council, Playing Australia and toured by Performing Lines, the national tour of **The Age I'm In** signals Force Majeure's own 'coming-of-age'. Established in 2002 Force Majeure works with actors, dancers, designers, writers, visual artists, composers and filmmakers who are committed to creating stimulating movement-based theatre.

Making its European premiere at the prestigious Lyon Biennale de la Danse in 2006, Force Majeure has since received major national gongs including Green Room and MO Awards.

Embarking on a national tour, **The Age I'm In** plays the Judith Wright Centre from Tuesday 4 to Wednesday 5 May 2010.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; Arts NSW and the Keir Foundation.

-ENDS-

Date	Tuesday 4 to Wednesday 5 May 2010
Time	7.30pm
Venue	Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
Tickets	Full \$35, Concession \$30
Bookings	07 3872 9000 or judithwrightcentre.com

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
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ABOUT FORCE MAJEURE

Force Majeure produces award-winning dance theatre works that reflect upon contemporary life and explore the issues that affect us all. Established in 2002 and led by Artistic Director Kate Champion with Artistic Associates Geoff Cobham and Roz Hervey, Force Majeure strives to break down boundaries between different art forms. Each production is based around a collective of multi-disciplined artists including dancers, actors, writers, visual artists, composers and filmmakers. The result is challenging and relevant works that combine striking imagery with theatricality and immediate impact. Since 2002, Force Majeure has produced three critically acclaimed major stage works, the most recent being *The Age I'm In*. The company has also undertaken collaborative works and has produced a short film series. In 2006 Force Majeure premiered in Europe with *Already Elsewhere* at the Biennale de la Danse in France. In 2008 *The Age I'm In* performed a season at CarriageWorks and was presented at both Sydney Festival and Adelaide Festival of Arts. In 2009 the company toured internationally with *The Age I'm In* to Ireland, Canada and Korea, as well as collaborating on a forthcoming co-production with Sydney Theatre Company. In 2010, Force Majeure's new production, *Not In A Million Years*, will premiere at CarriageWorks.

Company Awards:

- Robert Helpmann Award for Best Physical or Visual Performance, *Same, same But Different*, 2002
- Australian Dance Award for Most Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer, Roz Hervey, *Same, same But Different*, 2002
- Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Performance by a Company, *Already Elsewhere*, 2005.
- Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Performance by a Company, *The Age I'm In*, 2009

CREATIVE TEAM – BIOGRAPHIES

KATE CHAMPION: DIRECTOR

At the age of 16, Kate joined the Iwanson Dance Company in Germany, returning to Australia in 1981 to join the One Extra Company. After then studying in New York, she again returned to Australia and became a founding member of Dance North, before moving to the Australian Dance Theatre. In 1992, Kate worked with DV8 Physical Theatre in London. In 1996, she was awarded the Robert Helpmann Scholarship for Choreographic Excellence. That same year, she created and performed her solo work *Face Value*, which earned her a 1998 Green Room Award and a MO Award. She rejoined DV8 in 1998, working on *Enter Achilles* and *The Happiest Day of My Life* and in 2000 on the DV8/Olympic Arts Festival production of *The Cost Of Living*. In 2002, Force Majeure's first work, *Same, same But Different*, won the Helpmann Award for Best Visual or Physical Theatre Production and Kate won the Helpmann Award for Best Female Dance for *About Face*. In 2003, Kate performed her two solo shows *About Face* and *Face Value* together in *face 2 face*, and in 2004 she choreographed the world premiere of *Dirty Dancing*. In 2005, she directed Force Majeure's second major work, *Already Elsewhere*, for the Sydney Festival. *The Age I'm In* premiered at the Sydney and Adelaide Festivals in 2008.

GEOFF COBHAM: DESIGNER

Geoff has worked as a Production Manager, Lighting Designer, Set Designer, Event Producer and Venue Designer. His recent Set & Lighting designs include *The Age I'm In*, *Already Elsewhere*, *Same same But Different* (Force Majeure), *Construct* (Tanja Lietke), *Plop* (Windmill), *La Voix & Bastien Bastiena* (State Opera), *Hickory Dickory & Emily loves to Bounce* (Patch Theatre), *448 Psychosis* (Brink), *HELD* (Australian Dance Theatre), *Future of the Species* (Vital Statistics), *The Caretaker* (Brink). His recent lighting designs include *Wizard of Oz* (Windmill), *G* (Australian Dance Theatre), *Burning Daylight* (Stalker), *Metro Street*, *Attempts On Her Life*, *Night Letters*, *The Goat* (State Theatre Company), *Cheeseboy & Wolf* (Slinsby), *This Uncharted Hour & Drums in the Night* (Brink), *Impulse*, *Satyagraha*, *Einstein on the Beach*, *Quick Brown Fox & Akhnaten* (Leigh Warren & Dancers), *Cake* (Vitalstatistics), *Here Lies Love* (David Byrne), *Translations* (Flying Penguin), *Vocabulary* (ADT/Restless), *Beetle Graduation*, *Drums in the Night* (Brink), *Dinosaurs* (Australian Museum), *Anzac Hall* (National War Memorial).

ROZ HERVEY - ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE

Roz is a dance graduate of the Centre for Performing Arts. Over the last 23 years she has worked for numerous dance and dance theatre companies including; One Extra Company, Sydney Front, Dance North, Theatre of Image, Sue Healey, Meryl Tankard Co, DV8 and Force Majeure. With these companies she has toured extensively throughout Australia, Europe and South East Asia. In 2002 she won the Ausdance 'Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer' award for her performance in Force Majeure's *Same, same but Different*. She has taught physical theatre for numerous performing arts colleges and youth theatre companies and is currently the Movement Co-ordinator at Flinders Drama Centre in Adelaide. Roz has also worked as an event co-ordinator on Adelaide Festival 2000 Late Night Club and Opening Night Concert, Comeout 2001 Opening and Parade. She was Artistic Director for; SA day 1999, Bundaleer Weekend - Sunday Walks 2003 and co-director on the Comeout 05 Opening. In 2009 she continues her role as Associate Director with Force Majeure.

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