

Welcome to the Touch Compass March 2009 newsletter.

After a short break over the holiday season, Touch Compass is back in full swing and busily preparing for performances at the Art of Difference Deaf and Disability Festival in Melbourne.

TOUCH COMPASS PERFORMS IN MELBOURNE

The Company is currently rehearsing *Harmonious Oddity* and *Grotteschi*, ready for the Melbourne performances. Touring gives a season a new lease of life and we have taken great pleasure in resurrecting, questioning and enhancing the choreography. These two pieces along with Touch Compass film *Picnic* will be presented as a triple bill at Gasworks Arts Park, 8pm on Tues 10th, Wed 11th and Fri 13th March. Also traveling with Touch Compass to Melbourne is Auckland choreographer Sean Curham. Along with Touch Compass dancer Suzanne Cowan, Sean will present his art house work *Bedrock* in Melbourne's Federation Square. For more details for the Art of Difference Festival, go to www.gasworks.org.au

BEDROCK IN AUCKLAND

Congratulations to those who were lucky enough to snap up a free seat to see Sean Curham's *Bedrock* in Auckland before it heads over to Melbourne. About 50 people came to see the free performance, supported by Touch Compass and the Lion Foundation. The performance was followed by a Question and Answer session with the artists.



Sean Curham and Suzanne Cowan in *Bedrock* at Coronation Hall, Auckland

GROTTESCHI AT AUCKLAND FRINGE FESTIVAL

Grotteschi is an enthralling duet by Touch Compass dancers, Suzanne Cowan and Adrian Smith, alias Ava the Spiderwoman and Argyle the Mantis Man. It is a saga of seduction that explores hybridity and pushes physical boundaries. *Grotteschi* was named as a stand out highlight of the Tempo 08 Dance Festival by The NZ Herald.

Duration: 20 mins

When: 7.30pm on Tues 17th and Wed 18th March 2009

Where: The Basement, Lower Greys Ave, Auckland City

Ticketing Website: www.the-edge.co.nz

Ticketing Box Office: Aotea Box Office

Ticketing Phone: 309 2677

Ticket Prices: Full: \$10 Child: \$5 Concession: \$5 Group 6+: \$5

LUSI FAIVA

Congratulations to Lusi Faiva who has been granted some funding from the Cerebral Palsy Society to assist with the costs of attending a weekend performance improvisation workshop with Andrew Morrish in Melbourne. Lusi is performing with Touch Compass in *Harmonious Oddity* at the Art of Difference Festival and will then stay on in Melbourne to take part in the weekend workshop and other dance events. To support Lusi with her training plans, email info@touchcompass.org.nz with LUSI in the subject bar.

TIM TURNER

Congratulations also to Tim Turner on been accepted to attend a DanceAbility Teacher Certification workshop in Finland led by Alito Alessi in June and July this year. Tim is currently fundraising for this opportunity, and has just secured the first part of the funding he will need from the CCS Jubilee Trust. To support Tim with his fundraising, email info@touchcompass.org.nz with TIM in the subject bar.

SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND ADVISORS

We are still seeking new Touch Compass board members, and advisors who we could call on now and again for advice. If you have a background in business, law, commercial property leasing, arts management, or another skill which you would be willing to share, please contact us! It may be that we just need to contact you occasionally for some specialist advice, to assist the board with decision making.

JOIN THE TOUCH COMPASS FORUM - WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

There are currently three forums active on our website www.touchcompass.org.nz - on topics of General Discussion, Harmonious Oddity, and Workshops. Once you join up you can use the forums anytime. We love to hear feedback from everyone, so if you've seen a show or been to a workshop, or if you'd like to chat about anything else related to Touch Compass, please do!

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Term 1 workshops are running smoothly at Grey Lynn Community Centre, and we are now planning for term 2.

We will be running a series of 8 workshops in term 2 2009, Saturday afternoons at Grey Lynn Community Centre between 2.30pm - 4.30pm. We also plan to run a series of after school children's integrated dance workshops one afternoon during the week (dates yet to be confirmed). Details will be on our website soon, or email Rachel at info@touchcompass.org.nz to register your interest.

STUDIO FOR TOUCH COMPASS

We are working with real estate agents, riggers and advisors to find a suitable venue for Touch Compass. As you know we have been looking for a year now. With our access and rigging needs it has proven quite challenging to find the right space. We really need something purpose built but as we know this can take years, so in the meantime we are looking to secure something suitable until that very exciting option develops. We are currently looking at a building in Takapuna very close to the motorway so will keep you posted as the decision-making progresses. If anyone has any suggestions or perhaps some spare land in central Auckland please let us know.

Best wishes,

Catherine Chappell - Artistic Director

If you do not wish to receive further information about Touch Compass please reply by email with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line.