



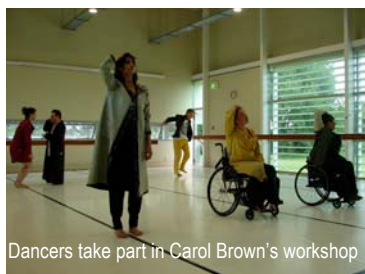
Kia ora

It's been an incredibly exciting and productive year for the company with many major developments. Our primary focus on developing infrastructure has seen the team establish a permanent office, employ people full time, carry out community, children's and company dance workshops, deliver choreographic LAB projects as well as professional development for dancers. The team acknowledges, and is sincerely grateful to Creative NZ for its investment grant, and to our anonymous donor's contributions. These injections of funds have been absolutely vital to the ongoing development and growth of the company. Many thanks to our dedicated dancers, tutors and supporters, there certainly is much to do and look forward to in 2010. From the Touch Compass team have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

## CHOREOGRAPHIC LAB PROJECT

**Carol Brown 16 November – 4 December 2009**

**Jeremy Nelson 10 – 16 December 2009**



Dancers take part in Carol Brown's workshop

Over the last two weeks, international choreographer Carol Brown has led a choreographic LAB project at TAPAC. There was an enormous amount of interest in the project and unsurprisingly the morning classes that were offered to the dance and disability sectors were taken up within days of being advertised. The classes have given participants the unique opportunity of working along side long standing Touch Compass company dancers Suzanne Cowan, Dan King, Alisha McLennan, Emilia Rubio, Adus Smith, Jesse Johnstone-Steele, Kerryn McMurdo and Julia Milsom. Carol has taken an inquisitive approach to movement with a focus on “*probing*

*unexpected places and making curious connections*” as dancers create material for next year's new season. Jeremy Nelson begins his LAB workshop on December the 10<sup>th</sup>, again at TAPAC.

Carol and Jeremy will be working with the company early next year in preparation for the proposed new work to be premiered in August 2010. Thanks to Creative NZ funding towards this project.

If you would like to register your interest in attending next year's LAB project, contact Susie Tate 021 296 3849 or email [info@touchcompass.org.nz](mailto:info@touchcompass.org.nz)

## TAKAPUNA GRAMMAR DANCE STUDENTS ATTEND LAB



Alisha McLennan shows Takapuna Grammar students the techniques of aerial

This week Takapuna Grammar dance students had an exclusive opportunity to attend Carol Brown's choreographic LAB. The visit was organised by Takapuna Grammar dance teacher Juliet Cryns who along with special education teacher Michelle Brooke aim to introduce integrated dance in the school. The visit to TAPAC was the first step towards that goal and will be followed by a workshop where students can practically explore their own creativity and movements based on what they saw in the rehearsal. From term 1 2010, the same group of students will receive 6 weekly workshops to further their creative dance skills and which will end in a sharing of their work.

## COMPANY CLASS

**Company class, 7.30 – 9.00pm, St Columbus Church Hall, Grey Lynn**

The open company dance class has continued to grow and participants have enjoyed sessions led by a range of dance artists: Wilhemeena Monroe focused on Skinner Release, Kristian Larsen explored improvisation techniques, Carol Brown offered release technique and movement exploration and Ai Fujii looked at composition.

The classes are subsidised by Touch Compass and aim to offer the professional dance community a chance to work in an integrated setting alongside experienced Touch Compass dancers. For further information about 2010 classes contact Susie Tate 021 296 3849 or email [info@touchcompass.org.nz](mailto:info@touchcompass.org.nz)

## COMMUNITY CLASSES



Catherine Chappell leads the children's workshop



The community class on performance night

### Saturday and Tuesday classes

The term ended with another energetic and much enjoyed performance from both the Saturday and Tuesday community classes which included a performance by company dancers Adus Smith and Dan King. Along with young participants from the children's class the show was inspirational for participants and audiences.

Thanks to Sue Cheesman, Susie Tait, Catherine Chappell, participants, support tutors and caregivers who made the workshops such a success. If you would like to register your interest in workshops for 2010, contact Susie Tate 021 296 3849 or email [info@touchcompass.org.nz](mailto:info@touchcompass.org.nz)

## WHO'S WHO IN TOUCH COMPASS

### Sue Cheesman, dance tutor

Working as a tutor, stage manager, rehearsal director, administration support and choreographer Sue Cheesman has had a long and multifaceted relationship with Touch Compass. Her work for the company includes choreography of *Playing Society's Level Fields* a work within the 2003 Acquisitions season, rehearsal director for *Lighthouse*, and as a mentor and choreographer for many Lab projects and workshops.

Sue has an eclectic background having gained her MA in dance studies at the University of Surrey, England. After returning to New Zealand in 1993 Sue worked as a dance lecturer at the University of Otago and Auckland College of Education, and most recently as professional development manager for Arts Online. Sue's own choreography includes youth work commissions, *Curiously Quirky* and solo's *Oh So Very Nice*, *Bloom* and *The Sophisticated Woman*.

### Julie Gillan, administrator



The company warmly welcomes Julie Gillan who has taken over from Rachel Helsby as administrator. Julie has a strong background in office management and sales. Julie was working for a Devonport IT company but was looking for fresh challenges. Julie says the role certainly has met her expectations and she is enjoying the fabulous view from her desk at the Wilson Centre. Julie's other full time job is managing a large family with 5 teenagers, playing flute in her church music group, working out at the gym and being captain of the netball team that all her family are in! Quiet times are spent walking her Labradoodle, Pippa and enjoying a glass of wine at the end of the day.

## TUTOR TRAINING IN WELLINGTON

Touch Compass is delighted to announce that thanks to Max Riddle's hard work and tenacity funding to hold a teacher training weekend in Wellington has been successfully secured – well done Max! The training will take place at the end of February/early March 2010 with an aim to continue to develop future training and workshops in Wellington.

## CONGRATULATIONS CATHERINE AND LISA CHAPPELL

### Rangitoto College Alumni – Arts Achievement

As past pupils of Rangitoto College, Touch Compass artistic director, Catherine Chappell and the company's patron, Lisa Chappell have been inducted onto the Rangitoto Arts Honours Board. As two of the first ten recipients of the honour they were invited to attend the schools awards evening where current arts students were also acknowledged for their achievements.