

INDEPENDENT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR WINS NATIONAL AWARD FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE AUSTRALIAN ARTS IN ASIA

Federal Arts Minister, The Hon Tony Bourke MP honoured the contribution that Annalouise Paul, Artistic Director of Theatre of Rhythm and Dance, had made to the positioning of our national arts product within the Asian marketplace at the inaugural AUSTRALIA ARTS IN ASIA AWARDS.

Ms Paul received the Dance Award for the **Game On** tour at **INTERFACE Festival** in India in September 2012. *Game On* was awarded for its innovation and excellence and outstanding community engagement with Indian audiences, featuring **Aria Award® winner Bobby Singh** and contemporary dancer, **Miranda Wheen**.

The calibre and 'breakthrough' nature of Ms Paul's work was recognised alongside the renowned **Bangarra Dance Theatre** who, with their production *Spirit*, were presented with a joint Dance Award.

Ms Paul was nominated in four categories; Dance, Community Engagement, Individual and Small to Medium Arts Organisations, the Dance Award presented by **Ako Kondo, The Australian Ballet**.

Theatre of Rhythm and Dance is the first Australian dance company to be invited to **INTERFACE** performing in **Kolkata, New Delhi and Bangalore**. This was the first international tour for the independent grass roots company and was supported by **AusIndia Council DFAT** and **Arts NSW** and delivered in partnership with **Sapphire Creations Dance Company** and **Arts Forward in India**.

Paul acknowledged that the trip had been a 'life-changing' experience with Indian press taking great interest in her personal journey in India publishing over 25 reviews, articles and interviews including a five-page interview in this month's issue of **Society Magazine**, and Award winning documentary makers, **Piyaly Productions** filmed her work and are currently in planning scheduled shoots of future performances in Kolkata later in 2013.

Game On premiered at **The Studio, Sydney Opera House** in 2011 receiving excellent and critical reviews from Sydney and Indian press for its innovation, virtuosity and uniqueness.

An innovative intercultural dance-music work, *Game On* explores traditional and contemporary values and deeper communication between cultures using classical Indian tabla and western contemporary dance languages in non-verbal communication to highlight the commonalities between Australians and Indians.

Ms Paul has also attracted the attention of independent Australia production company **Red Chair** who are working with Ms Paul on the final creative development stage of her trilogy, ***Conversations in Rhythm and Dance*** and future presentation and touring of the works.

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More Information/Media Links

ABC ONLINE PRINT & TV

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-08-02/an-australian-arts-in-asia-awards-feature/4862304>

THE AUSTRALIAN

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/arts/ground-breaking-tours-recognised-in-australian-arts-in-asia-awards/story-e6frg8n6-1226690132603>

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Re: Annalouise Paul – Game On - AUSTRALIA ARTS IN ASIA AWARDS

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