

Press Release: 2 pages

Shaun Parker & Company - *Happy as Larry*

NATIONAL TOUR – 16 September to 22 October 2011

Oxford, Northampton, Nottingham, Truro, Poole, Coventry, Brighton, London, Salford and Newcastle

Dance Touring Partnership proudly presents the first ever UK visit by critically acclaimed **Shaun Parker**, one of Australia's foremost Director/Choreographers. The UK premiere of *Happy as Larry* at **Oxford Playhouse** on 16 September 2011 marks the start of a national tour that visits 10 English venues.

Shaun Parker's *Happy As Larry* is a funny, playful, poignant and intelligent investigation into what makes us happy, featuring an ensemble of nine performers - with nine very distinctive personalities - who individually, and collectively, explore the elusive nature of happiness.

Adept at creating choreography driven by human emotion, personalities and psychological idiosyncrasies, **Parker's** Inspiration for the cast of characters in *Happy as Larry* was developed from the *Enneagram* - an ancient Greek model of human personality that has been developed in modern times as a psychological system that maps nine personality types: the Perfectionist, the Seducer, the Performer, the Tragic Romantic, the Observer, the Devil's Advocate, the Optimist, the Boss and the Mediator.

Using a free-flowing mix of ballet, roller-skating, contemporary dance and break-dance, each performer constructs a unique movement expression for their character. Powerful, highly physical and layered with intricate gesture *Happy as Larry* is accompanied by a vibrant electro-acoustic score from **Nick Wales** and **Bree van Reyk**.

Shaun Parker has fast made a name for himself as one of Australia's innovative choreographers/directors. He has worked both nationally and internationally as a dancer and counter-tenor and across music, dance and theatre, appearing with Australian Dance Theatre, Force Majeure, The Song Company, Chunky Move, Sydney Theatre Company and State Theatre Company of South Australia. Internationally, Parker has worked with Sasha Walz in Berlin, Meredith Monk in New York and Compagnie ALIAS in Switzerland. Parker has appeared on stage as well as in the feature films *Book of Revelation*, *Edge of the World* and *Moulin Rouge*.

"Happy as Larry is brilliantly choreographed, flawlessly and joyously performed, and thoroughly entertaining from start to finish. I literally sat on the edge of my seat." - **Australian Stage**

"Shaun Parker's 'dance' hit is so cutting edge it actually wanders off the edge of any single-word definition... Parker is a genius." - **Australian Daily Telegraph**



<u>Dates</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Box Office Number</u>
16 & 17 Sept	Oxford Playhouse	01865 305305
20 & 21 Sept	Royal & Derngate, Northampton	01604 624811
23 & 24 Sept	Nottingham Playhouse	0115 941 9419
27 & 28 Sept	Hall for Cornwall, Truro	01872 262466
30 Sept & 1 Oct	Lighthouse, Poole	0844 406 8666
4 & 5 Oct	Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry	024 7652 4524
11 Oct	Corn Exchange, Brighton Dome	01273 709709
14 & 15 Oct	Peacock Theatre, London	0870 737 0337
18 & 19 Oct	The Lowry, Salford	0843 208 6005
21 & 22 Oct	Northern Stage, Newcastle	0191 230 5151



www.happyaslarrytour.co.uk

UK tour is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Happy as Larry

Director/Choreographer: **Shaun Parker**

Music Director: **Nick Wales**

Composers: **Nick Wales** and **Bree van Reyk**

Designer: **Adam Gardnir**

Lighting designer: **Luiz Pampolha**

Performers: **Anton, Jana Castillo, Matt Cornell, Dean Cross, Robbie Curtis, Ghenoa Gela, Melanie Palomares, Adam Synnott, Joshua Thomson & Miranda Wheen,**

Dance Touring Partnership

Dance Touring Partnership (DTP) is a network of theatres working together to bring exciting and engaging dance to audiences around the UK. The network aims to build audiences for dance, increase the range and diversity of work available and encourage new attendees into dance. Since 2004 DTP has toured Ultima Vez, Australian Dance Theatre, Jasmin Vardimon, Renegade Theatre, Stan Won't Dance, Theatre Rites & Arthur Pita, Fabulous Beast, Hofesh Shechter, Tanja Liedtke's Twelfth Floor, Bounce Street Dance Company and most recently, Danish Dance Theatre.

DTP Core Members. Danceworks UK & Sheffield Theatres: Dome & Corn Exchange, Brighton: Hall for Cornwall, Truro: The Lowry, Salford: Lighthouse Poole: Northern Stage, Newcastle: Nottingham Playhouse: Oxford Playhouse: Sherman, Cardiff and Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry.

Further media information:

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