



For Immediate Release

**SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY
ANNOUNCES NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
*31-year-old Tanja Liedtke succeeds Graeme Murphy***

Sydney Dance Company announced today (May 3), the appointment of Tanja Liedtke as its new artistic director. The 31-year-old Liedtke succeeds Graeme Murphy, who had served in that position since 1976.

“Tanja meets all of the attributes the Board sought in the successful applicant—an original choreographic voice, a clearly defined creative spirit and the energy and commitment to take Sydney Dance Company forward into the future,” said Sydney Dance Company’s Board Chairman Tom Dery.

Ms. Liedtke had been chosen after a worldwide search for an artist who possesses the unique Australian creative spirit and energy as well as a global view of the art form. Ms. Liedtke’s background embodies both qualities.

German-born Tanja Liedtke began her dance and theater studies in Madrid, and later graduated from the Ballet Rambert School before taking up residence in Sydney in 1996. Ms. Liedtke was a member of Australian Dance Theatre for four years, touring Australia, Asia, the United Kingdom and North America. She joined Lloyd Newson’s DV8 Physical Theatre in 2003, dancing throughout Europe in Mr. Newson’s “The Cost of Living” and “Just for Show.”

Ms. Liedtke also choreographed works for Australian Dance Theatre’s Ignition Seasons (receiving Dance Australia Critic’s Choice for most promising choreography in 1999 and 2000); Tasdance, De Anima Ballet Contemporaneo (Brazil); Akademie des Tanzes (Germany); Taipei Idea (Taiwan); and David Hughes Dance Company (Scotland), among others.

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In 2004 Ms. Liedtke created her first full-length work "Twelfth Floor." Following a sold-out season at The Performance Space in Sydney and critical acclaim, the work was nominated for numerous Australian Dance Awards, receiving the 2006 award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography. Ms. Liedtke will premiere her new work "CONSTRUCT" at the South Bank Centre in London on May 11.

Ms. Liedtke today said of her new position: "I am absolutely ecstatic to be appointed Artistic Director of Sydney Dance Company. I am thrilled at the opportunity to continue creating new dance works with Australian artists. It is a privilege to be chosen to lead Sydney Dance Company into a new era and an honor to be the successor of Graeme Murphy: an icon of Australian dance."

Preserving SDC's emphasis on creativity and originality in all aspects of the art form, Ms. Liedtke will create new dances for the Company and initiate collaborations with Australian and international artists in the fields of choreography, music and design.

Graeme Murphy, former Artistic Director of Sydney Dance Company, who assumed the position as the Company's artistic director at the age of 26 and spearheaded the troupe's international reputation with works of startling theatricality, stated: "The Board made an excellent choice in selecting someone on the cusp of a really interesting career—someone young, who will grow in the role in the way that I had the chance to grow in the role from a young age. What is going to emerge from this will be a new era in dance, which is as it should be. A new adventure is about to unfold."

Tanja Liedtke will formally take over SDC on October 2, and will program the 2008 season for the Company. Sydney Dance Company will announce its plans for the 2008 program later in the year.

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