

WORLD PREMIERE
ARTS HOUSE & ROS WARBY PRESENT

ROS WARBY

TOWER SUITES

ARTS HOUSE

ARTS HOUSE
NORTH MELBOURNE TOWN HALL

WED 22 – SUN 26 FEB 2012

Post-show Q&A: Thu 23

DURATION: 50 minutes

CAST/CREATIVE

Creation: **Ros Warby** in collaboration
with **Helen Mountfort**, **Margie Medlin**
and **Ria Soemardjo**

Choreography and Performance:

Ros Warby

Light, Projection and Set Design:

Margie Medlin

Composition, Cello and Performance:

Helen Mountfort

Voice and Performance:

Ria Soemardjo

Cinematography: **Ben Speth**

Film Editing: **Martin Fox**

Tabla: **Sam Evans**

Photographer: **Calista Lyon**

Costume Design: **Harriet Oxley**

Film Crew

Production Manager: **Calista Lyon**

Camera Assistant: **Geoff Skilbeck**

Grip: **Richard Turton**

Production Management: **Bluebottle**

Stage Manager: **Bronwyn (Samsara)**

Dunston

Lighting Operator: **Nick Wollan**

Chair Design Consultation:

Richard Montgomery

Management and Administration:

Moriarty's Project/Kara Ward

roswarby.com

ARTISTIC NOTE

The spaces we inhabit can frame our experience. How we see, and relate to each other and the world, inspire what we imagine, create, build and destroy. Hierarchies exist, however small, and we navigate them daily. And the body seems to tell all.

Tower Suites is dance work that lends itself more to a musical reading than a theatrical one. Having such a long-standing creative team has allowed us to develop rapport, trust and curiosity between the choreography of dance, sound and film. **Tower Suites** utilises this work and plays on the subtleties of relationship, exposing underlying nuances of interaction.

Ros Warby

ARCHIVAL FILM CREDITS

Earthquakes: lesson of a disaster

Produced: 1971. Prod. Co: Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Producer/Director: Bert Van Bork

Britain Now

Prod. Co: Anglo-Scottish Pictures. Producer/

Director: Stuart Legg. Director: John Spencer

The Debate Continues

Produced: 1950. Prod. Co: British Broadcasting

Corporation Film

Royal Road

Produced: 1940. Prod Co: British Movietone News

The Task Before the Building Industry

Produced: 1950

The Destruction of St. Patrick's College 1971

Produced: 1971

A is for Architecture [edited version]

Produced: 1959. Prod. Co: National Film Board

of Canada. Producer/Director: Robert Verrall.

Director: Gerald Budner

Mediaeval Castles

Produced: 1949. Prod. Co: Gaumont-British

Instructional Films

Renaissance Architecture

Produced: 1948. Prod. Co: United World Films

Organism

Produced: 1975. Prod. Co: Phoenix Films.

Producer/Director: Hilary Harris

Tower Suites has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria; and the City of Melbourne through Arts House

Image: **Calista Lyon**

BIOGRAPHIES

Ros Warby
Choreographer/Performer

Ros Warby has been creating and performing solo dance since 1990 and her award-winning work has been presented in Australia, Europe and the USA. She has also performed with companies and artists including Dance Works, Dance Exchange, Lucy Guerin and the Deborah Hay Company. Recognised for her unique performance work, Warby has received the Robert Helpmann Award for Best Female Dancer (*Monumental*, 2007), Green Room Awards for Best Female Performer (*Monumental*, 2000/2007) and Best Solo Performer (*Solos*, 2001), *The Age* Critics Commendation Award (*Monumental*, 2006), an Australia Council Fellowship (2002-04), and the Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award (2007).

The creation of Ros Warby's work has benefited from the rapport nurtured with her creative team of 20 years, designer Margie Medlin and composer Helen Mountfort. Together they create an elaborate interplay and dialogue between dance, film, sound and light: these forms coexisting in a manner rarely achieved in multi-disciplinary work.

Ros Warby's critically acclaimed *Solos* (2001) and *Swift* (2003) have toured to major Australian festivals and to the USA, the UK and Budapest. Her award-winning *Monumental* premiered at Melbourne International Arts Festival in 2006 and toured to the USA, Venice Biennale, London's Dance Umbrella, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and Sydney Opera House. Warby and Medlin's cinematic version of *Swift* (2006) was televised in 2007 on ABC-TV and has been screened at international festivals worldwide.

Ros Warby continues to work occasionally with US choreographer Deborah Hay; most recently on the Forsythe Company's *Motion Bank* project in Frankfurt. In 2012 she will be visiting research scholar in the department of World Arts and Cultures/ Dance at UCLA, while continuing to tour and perform.

Margie Medlin
Designer

Working in the field of dance and the moving image, Margie Medlin has for 25 years designed lighting for live works and produced film and video works, scenographies and new media works. As a producer/director of dance films

and video works her most recent credits include the film of *Swift* with Ros Warby, and *Morphing Physiology*, a documentary about the Quartet Project.

Margie Medlin has been a Special Research Fellow in Lighting Design at Yale School of Drama (1989); has studied Scenography at Central Saint Martins School of Art and Design, London (1991) and Advanced Computer Applications for Theatre Design at Central School of Speech and Drama, London (1992); holds a Master of Arts in Interior Design, Australia (1999); and has been Artist in Residence at the ZKM Institute for Art and Media, Germany (1999-2001), where she produced the media installation *Miss World*. In 2005 she received a Science and Art production award from London's Welcome Trust. She became Director of Australia's choreographic research centre, Critical Path, in August 2007.

Helen Mountfort
Composer/Performer

Helen Mountfort is a classically trained cellist and composer originally from New Zealand. Moving to Melbourne in 1986, she joined Not Drowning, Waving, with whom she toured and recorded for a decade. In 1989, she and singer/pianist David Bridie formed My Friend the Chocolate Cake, which has performed extensively over 20 years both locally and internationally. She is also a member of Cosmo Cosmolino, Fine Blue Thread and the David Chesworth Ensemble.

Helen Mountfort has collaborated for 20 years with Ros Warby, producing two major works, *Swift* and *Monumental*, both of which have toured extensively. She also writes music for film, television and dance and is in demand as a session musician.

Ria Soemardjo
Vocalist/Performer

Born in Melbourne of Australian/ Indonesian descent, Ria Soemardjo draws on her deep respect for Javanese music tradition in her songwriting and collaborations. Her distinctive vocal style and ability to absorb diverse musical influences have led to collaborations with performers and composers including Helen Mountfort, Anne Norman, Tim Humphrey, Madeleine Flynn and Adrian Sherriff. Dance collaborations include work with Ros Warby, and the Tony Yap Company. She performs original compositions with her trio Fine Blue Thread.

Performing highlights include Melbourne Recital Centre, Singapore Performing Arts Showcase and the Biwako Biennale (Japan, 2007) with the Tony Yap Company. She was a featured artist at the Melbourne Festival (2006/2007) and her performances at the Iwaki Auditorium have been broadcast on Radio National's *Music Deli*. She is also trained as an Alexander Technique teacher. Currently the only female exponent of the Javanese classical vocal style, she has trained in central Java and performs regularly with gamelan groups around Australia.

THANK YOU

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ARTS HOUSE

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Arts House presents contemporary arts in programs encompassing performance, exhibitions, live art, residencies and other activities that nurture, support and stimulate cultural engagement. We value work in which artists at different stages of their careers, as well as our diverse audiences and communities, are actively involved in creating an imaginative, just and environmentally sustainable global society.

Arts House's programs include two curated public seasons of multidisciplinary work each year. From 2013, approximately half of this work will be selected through a new Expression of Interest process. We seek artists who are responding to the urgent issues of our time in imaginative and surprising ways, taking artistic risks and offering multiple ways for audiences to engage with or co-author their work. For more information, please contact us on (03) 9322 3720 or visit artshouse.com.au.

ARTS HOUSE



Arts House is a City of Melbourne
contemporary arts initiative