

# HOMELAND

- A Legs on the Wall production -

*'One of the most athletic, awe-inspiring, gob-smacking performances of the Games.'*

**Sydney Morning Herald, 2002**



Home Land is a spectacular large scale outdoor show about migration and refugees, the struggle to enter and be accepted into a new and alien society, and the building of a multicultural society. Performers descend the side of an 80-110m building, which is transformed into a massive performance space upon which highly skilled performers and huge projected images collide.

The performers are suspended 100 metres above the audience – the ultimate in danger, it would seem. But the acrobat's daring is a perfect metaphor for the courage needed by those who take the plunge and leave their home for a new one, never more so than today.

The vertigo of aerial performance, likewise, for the experience of having left all that is known and familiar behind. The stark face of a skyscraper becomes a huge no man's land, an ocean which must be crossed by migrants seeking to build a new life in a strange new country. Set to the delightful resonating sound of Bulgarian song and music by Australia's leading world music ensemble - Mara! - and the Martenitsa Choir, Homeland is an unforgettable experience.

## COMMENTARY

*'It begins with a lone figure on a long march down the windowless wall, a powerful image of the human being against the metropolis, epic in its daring and poignant in its contrast of scale... Frail bodies suspended by ropes and pulleys catapult off the building and connect mid-air before expertly crash-landing against it once more. This is not just a circus stunt. The piece is driven by a strong narrative thread about the often hazardous and heroic journeys that migrants make to this country, illustrated by a series of projected images depicting immigration papers, gangways, suitcases, and faces peering out of windows.'*



**The Australian, 11/12/99**

*'The performance lasted three quarters of an hour and not a soul in the audience had moved. These rowdy Olympic partiers were suspiciously quiet. Legs on the Wall's performance has that hypnotic effect on people. It is so incredible and unlike anything we'd ever seen.'*

**www.epinions.com, 19/10/00**

*'One of the most athletic, awe-inspiring, gob-smacking performances of the [Manchester Commonwealth] Games.'*

**Sydney Morning Herald, 3/8/02**

*'On behalf of the whole literaturWERKstatt team involved in the Poesiefestival Berlin 2003, we would like to warmly and sincerely thank you for your wonderful commitment and enthusiasm that made such an amazing project like "Homeland" possible: it was for all of us a once-in-a-lifetime experience to enjoy the show in Berlin!'*

**Dr Thomas Wohlfahrt, Director of the literaturWERKstatt berlin, 2003**

## Production History

- City of Sydney Streets Alive Event, 1998
- ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) Millennium broadcast, 1999
- Sydney Olympic Arts Festival, 2000
- Brisbane Festival, 2000
- Cultureshock Festival, Manchester Commonwealth Games, 2002
- literaturWERKstatt Festival, Berlin, 2003

## Artistic Team

Director	Nigel Jamieson
Music	Excerpts from Sezoni suite performed by the Mara! ensemble and the Martenista Choir
Lighting Design	Damien Cooper
Co-devisors	Beth Kayes, Brendan Shelper, Gavin Robins, Debra Batton

## Production Information

Touring Company	13 (4 performers, 6 riggers, lighting designer, director, safety officer)
With live music and choir:	Optional live band (7) and 2 – 3 principals of choir to rehearse with local choir
Venue	Multi-storey building in suitable location, 80 – 110m high Walls must not be fully glassed Rigging points on roof Active co-operation of building management including access to engineering specifications is essential Adjacent viewing area for audience
Capacity	5,000 – 10,000, depending on viewing area
Set	None. Minimal props.
Technical Notes	Advance site visit by director and rigger essential This is a complex large scale production requiring a major commitment by the presenter
Set-up	3 days set-up (depending on extent of preliminary work by presenter) plus 3 days rehearsal on site
Duration	30 minutes

## **Booking information / Technical specifications / Quotations:**

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