



Celebrate Australia 2002
4th China Shanghai International Arts Festival
10 – 17 November

MEDIA RELEASE

SYMPOSIUM: Art, technology, and the new performer: the use of digital technology in live performance

Monday 11 November to Saturday 16 November 2002
Shanghai Theatre Academy

As a part of *Celebrate Australia 2002* at the 4th China Shanghai International Arts Festival, The Drama Centre of Flinders University of South Australia and the Shanghai Theatre Academy will convene a week long symposium entitled *Art, technology and the new performer: the use of digital technology in live performance* at the Shanghai Theatre Academy from November 11-16.

The symposium will introduce Chinese performing arts practitioners; academics, critics and students to Australian artists who are integrating live performance and digital technology. The symposium will demonstrate the technical innovation and cultural diversity of the Australian performing arts industry and will build on-going research collaborations between Chinese and Australian leading and emerging artists.

Stelarc, will show how prosthetics, robotics, Virtual Reality systems and the internet can explore alternate, intimate and involuntary interfaces with the body.

Mary Moore, one of Australia's leading theatre designers, will present aspects of her research into the wrapping of the performing body in video and computer generated imagery. Together with her video artist collaborator, Richard Back, she will convene a workshop with design staff and students from the Shanghai Theatre Academy.

Wojciech Pisarek, puppet theatre director and digital artist, will demonstrate the results of his research into the real time performance of digital characters, through a Chinese language performance of Samuel Beckett's *Come and Go*, incorporating digital masks. The acting students of the Shanghai Theatre Academy will perform the on-stage characters and will animate the digital character masks.

Hellen Sky and John McCormick, co-founders of Company in Space, will focus on their latest research into real time motion capture and the creation of shared performance spaces for live bodies and computer generated avatars.

William Yang, photographer and performance artist, will perform extracts from his celebrated 'slide-show' monologues, which combine personal journeys and still photographic images projected through a computer controlled system.

The symposium will present a series of forums and discussions with Chinese artists and academics.

Celebrate Australia 2002 is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia International Cultural Council an initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in partnership with the Australia Council for the Arts. Other partners include the Australia-China Council, the Australian Film Commission, Austrade, the Australian Tourist Commission and State Governments of New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

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