



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

MEDIA RELEASE

skadada to open CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA 2002

4 performances, Sunday 10 November to Wednesday 13 November 2002
Shanghai Circus World

skadada will officially open *Celebrate Australia 2002*, on Sunday November 10, with its breathtaking production *Electronic Big Top*, at Shanghai Circus World, which takes dance to new heights.

Electronic Big Top premiered at the 1999 Sydney Festival and then went to the 1999 Perth Festival. Both seasons attracted critical acclaim and sell-out houses.

"*Electronic Big Top* is wonderful... dancer athletes who can both dance and fly and musicians who are equal partners to the dancers. . . This is an overwhelmingly clever production, meticulously thought out and rehearsed to silky smoothness . . . The dancing is marvellous, vigorous and accomplished . . . and the aerial work is all that it should be." *The Australian*, January 1999

skadada is one of Australia's most exciting performance companies. Based in Western Australia, the company is unique as it combines dance, text, martial arts, aerial dance, interactives, puppetry, video and original sound scapes of electronic and sampled sound to create extraordinary and unique performance.

Its productions have toured throughout Australia and Asia to wide critical and public acclaim, including Taipei, Taiwan and to New Delhi and Mumbai in India, as part of the Federal Government Australia/India New Horizons project.

skadada directed the Creative Section of the Opening Ceremony of the 2001 Arafura Games in the Northern Territory. The Creative Section of the Opening Ceremony involved over 1000 performers - skydivers, over 100 dancers, large scale puppets with 100 puppeteers, a specially commissioned score, video and live percussion from percussion group Drum Drum.

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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