

Media Release
August, 2006

WORLD PREMIERE

The Victorian College of the Arts and DasArts (Amsterdam) in association with
Melbourne International Arts Festival present

Navigators

If the great seamen were the navigators of earlier centuries, opening up new territories for exploration and control, perhaps it is to the young artists we should now look to be the navigators of the 21st century, to revisit our history; re-dream our possible pasts' create cultural memories, navigate our possible futures?

From 19 October at **Victorian College of the Arts, Studio 45**, Melbourne International Arts Festival will present ***Navigators*** — an extraordinary work of cross-cultural artistic collaboration.

By Australian director Richard Murphet and a Dutch director Jan van den Berg, with 24 young artists from around the globe, the inspiration for ***Navigators*** was the arrival in Australia of a tiny Dutch ship, the *Duyfken* ('Little Dove'), over 150 years before the Endeavour. 'Little Dove' was sent from the Dutch East Indies settlement in Java to find King Solomon's gold in the territory known as Nova Guinea but unknowingly it headed south to a new continent and the mouth of the Pennefather River on Cape York, Australia. This journey and arrival, which has largely been forgotten in the official story of Australia, was the first encounter between white Europeans and, Indigenous Australians.

Both an interrogation and, celebration of 400 years of cultural interaction, ***Navigators*** will be a unique and moving event: part performance, installation, multi-media spectacle, part exhibition, social experiment, "***Navigators*** is an act of creative imagining, of rekindling the spirit of voyaging into the unknown," explained Richard Murphet, Postgraduate Co-ordinator at the VCA.

"In late August 2006, we set out with 24 VCA and DasArts postgraduate students to the place where the *Little Dove* landed and we'll journey across the ancient landscape of Cape York. We then travel back to Melbourne for two months to create this indelible work that expresses their perspective on this little remembered but iconic moment in the modern history of Australia, interacting with the local communities and terrain, and experiencing a journey that will dislodge any of their comfortable anchor points."

Venue: Victorian College of the Arts, Studio 45
45 Sturt Street
Southbank

When: Preview Wed 18 October
Thu 19 - Sat 21 Oct at 7.30 pm
Sat 21 October at 2.30 pm
Sun 22 Oct at 5pm
Tue 24 & Wed 25 Oct at 7.30 pm
Wed 25 Oct at 1.00 pm (Schools Performance)

Duration: 2 hr no interval

Prices: Full \$28 Conc. \$23

Bookings: Ticketmaster 1300 136 166
9685 9233
www.melbournefestival.com.au

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