

Victorian College of the Arts  
**Media Release 2007**  
Thursday 5 July

The Victorian College of the Arts presents:

## ***Song of Ourselves: A Meditation on Reconciliation*** Thursday 19 to Sunday 22 July

Designed and directed by Margie Mackay  
Musical design and collaboration by Tania Bosak and Gus Macmillan

*Song of Ourselves* is an inspiring new performance work by Margie Mackay, experienced theatre designer and masters student in VCA Production. At its core *Song of Ourselves* embraces the concept of reconciliation, and will feature Indigenous and non-Indigenous performers in a kaleidoscopic multimedia display of visual art, dance and movement, puppetry, percussion, pyrotechnics and song.

Audience members will be invited to wind their way through a labyrinth of passages and vignettes, step-by-step becoming implicated in the visual design, whilst being drawn deeper and deeper into the quest for a rekindling of reconciliation. From here both audience and performers must navigate the future together.

**“In creating a ritual that is a meditation on reconciliation, I hope to trigger in both audience and performers the very deep need we each harbour for reconciliation in our own lives,” Margie Mackay.**

For over fifteen years **Margie Mackay** has worked as a designer, freelance artist, production manager, performer and artistic director on a variety of major arts events and productions, often deeply rooted in ceremony, celebration and themes of transformation and renewal. From 1992–2003, she was a core member of Neil Cameron Productions, working on large scale, outdoor, theatrical events at festivals and in communities throughout Australia. *Song of Ourselves* represents the culmination of her studies in Master of Theatre Design (by Research) at VCA Production, and is her principal performance and assessment piece.

While developing her performance ideas Margie found a source of inspiration in September 2006. She was asked to be involved in *Navigators*, a unique VCA project involving 23 young artists from around the globe and run in collaboration with DasArts (Amsterdam) and the Melbourne International Arts Festival. *Navigators* brought Margie and her colleagues to northern Cape York, QLD where they worked directly with Indigenous communities and elders in areas not normally open to the public. The experience sparked in Margie a period of reflection about relations between white and Indigenous Australians and about reconciliation. These issues have become the driving force behind her masters studies.

**Dates/times:** Thursday 19, Friday 20 & Saturday 21 July at 7pm, Sunday 22 July at 5.30pm  
**Cost:** By donation  
**Bookings:** 03/ 9387 3687 / margoire@hotmail.com  
**Venue:** Please gather in the foyer of VCA Drama, 28 Dodds Street, Southbank, 15 mins prior  
**Guests are asked to wear very warm clothing, ‘sensible’ footwear, at least one item of red clothing, bring a small cup and to strictly avoid long flowing hemlines and synthetic fabrics.**  
**Media enquiries:** Lisa Montague, Communications Manager: 03/ 9685 9371 or 0412 002 544