

Annabelle Bonnery

Geet Frank writes of the work of Annabelle Bonnery, guest artist for this year's Artrage Festival.

The Artrage Festival this year brings to fruition a partnership which began with a chance meeting between Australian choreographer Chrissie Parrott and her French counterpart Annabelle Bonnery at the Festival d'Avignon in 2001.

One of France's most respected contemporary dancers, Annabelle Bonnery co-founded the Compagnie L'Ane a Belles in 1999 and has built a career blending classical and contemporary dance forms to create innovative, experimental works.

The inter-relationships between choreographers, dancers and their work are major focal points for Compagnie L'Ane a Belles, "The continuous exchange between my own research and that of other choreographers defines my dance universe," said Annabelle.

Her personal choreographic style is driven by an acute observation of movement in everyday settings, "All kinds of human relations draw my curiosity. A sudden change of posture or attitude... always mirror an inner unease, anxiety, fragility."

In addition to her company activities Annabelle is guest teacher at Conservatoire de danse in Grenoble, company Norrdans in Sweden, New Danish Dance Theater in Copenhagen, and at the Charleroi Danse Cie in Brussels.

Perth is the latest city to benefit from Annabelle's passion for marrying cultural and stylistic differences from a range of dance forms. Her past collaborations include the creation of the quartet *On the Edge* for the dancers of the Scottish Dance Theatre in 2003 and two major works in partnership between the dance collective Groupe Zoile and Portugal's Rui Horta Company.

In addition to performing her signature solo work *9mm*, she will spend two whirlwind weeks creating a brand new piece with twelve West Australian dancers.

Annabelle, who describes *9mm* as the "seeking of risk and the awareness of limit," was inspired by the simplicity of body language when she created *9mm*, an intimately personal work exploring fragility and nakedness.

Chrissie Parrott, well known to Perth dance audiences as one of our leading choreographers, played a vital role in bringing Annabelle to Perth as part of an ongoing

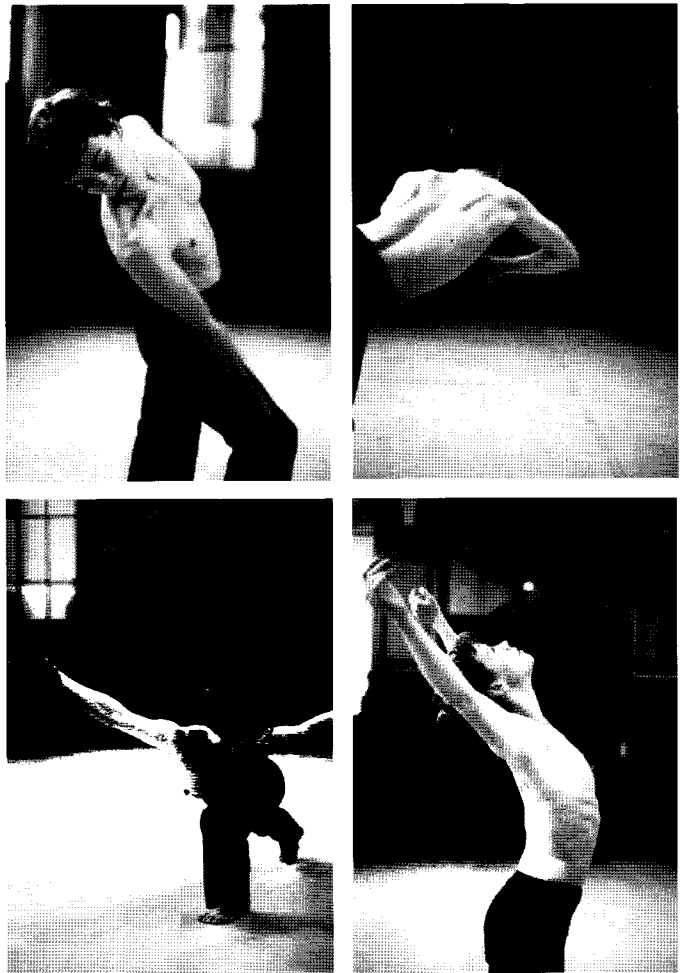


Photo: Annabelle Bonnery

cultural exchange program. In addition to her role as co-ordinator for Annabelle's performance, Chrissie will restage the new work at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts after Annabelle's departure.

"I've always been interested in cultural exchange. It facilitates an amazing exchange of styles, ideas and inspirations across different art forms," Chrissie said. "For local dancers, it's an opportunity to gain exposure to international stages and audiences."

A long-time Artrage collaborator, Chrissie began dancing and choreographing Artrage-commissioned works in the festival's fledgling years in the 1980's, served for a period on the Artrage Board, and most recently presented *Dispatch* at The Bakery Artrage Complex last year with her company Jambird.

See Annabelle Bonnery perform at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, 10 – 11 October, 7.30pm. Tickets from BOCS, call (08) 9484 1133. Annabelle Bonnery is presented by Artrage in association with Alliance Française, Ausdance WA, Tura, WAAPA and PICA.