

Media Release 5 April, 2011

SHAUN PARKER & COMPANY APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

The Board of Shaun Parker and Company today announced Olivia Ansell as the new Executive Producer.



It is with great enthusiasm that the Board announces the appointment of Olivia Ansell as Executive Producer for the newly formed Shaun Parker & Company. Olivia brings a wealth of experience in Arts Management and producing for the performing arts industry and has an extraordinary track record and absolute passion for presenting high quality contemporary dance and theatre for both Australian and International audiences.

Olivia has a strong dance background, having worked as Director of Western Sydney Dance Action for over two years and founding Festival Director of the Short, Sweet and Dance Festival from 2007- 2010. Her achievements in these roles have been remarkable, creating a thriving dance program in Western Sydney, featuring over ten full length works by leading NSW independent choreographers to date and successfully launching *Shorter+Sweeter Dance*, a 'best of' touring model, funded by Playing Australia and Arts NSW and will see ten short works and six independent dancers tour across three states.

Olivia co –produced the music and dance education collaboration *Thinking About Forever-* with The Australian Chamber Orchestra and youMove company for Sydney Festival's Inside Out program and co-founded the Cultural Performing Arts Network in South Western Sydney.

Shaun Parker & Company aims to create new Australian work where the fusion of music and dance is pivotal in distinguishing its unique character and brand. The 2011 Artistic Program includes an impressive schedule of national and International touring including Shaun's latest work **Happy As Larry** playing at Melbourne's Dance Massive before embarking on a European tour to 9 venues, including Sadlers Wells, via the United Kingdom's Dance Touring Partnerships (DTP) Network .

Happy As Larry, recently nominated for an Australian Dance Award for Most Outstanding Production, was created through the Australian Major Festivals Initiative -with 2010 seasons presented by Sydney Festival, Perth Festival, Brisbane Festival and the New Zealand International Arts Festival.

2011 will see further development of Parker's new work **AM I** – and premiere season of **The Yard**-a self devised theatre work inspired by William Golding's Lord Of The Flies about life in the Australian yard. Commissioned by CAPTIVATE –the Catholic schools diocese of Parramatta, **The Yard** has been developed over three years - engaging with thirty untrained, talented and gifted performing arts students across Western Sydney and will be presented by The Seymour Centre May 26-28.

The Board of Shaun Parker & Company is delighted that Olivia Ansell has accepted this important role as Executive Producer in the company's inaugural year of operations and we look forward to an outstanding year ahead.

For more information and media contact: Tory Loudon-Board Member of Shaun Parker & Company. tory.l@carriageworks.com.au

Shaun Parker & Company are supported by Communities Arts NSW, the Australia Council for the Arts and are residents of the Seymour Centre's Arts Bunker- an initiative that has been proudly supported by City of Sydney Council.



Communities
arts nsw

CITY OF SYDNEY

