

DUBLIN, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2001

# THEE IRISH TIMES

## Reviews

### Song and dance from the bush leaves audience spellbound

#### Arc Dreaming

Meeting House Square,  
Dublin

**V**ISION of a Nomad's *Arc Dreaming* was the most exotic, unusual and popular of Diversions Asahi Live on the Square performances featuring dance. On Friday, the large audience not only forced an encore but wanted to keep the performers there all night.

Composer, musical director and multi-instrumentalist Michael Cuming and co-producer and percussionist Sylvana van Dijk operated from either side of the stage behind banks of instruments and surrounded by eucalyptus branches which, in the darkness intensified by spotlighting the performers, turned the stage into a semblance of the Australian bush. Their blend of didgeridoo, guitar, harp, keyboards, singing and various percussion instruments in a fusion of classical, jazz, traditional and contemporary styles made exciting and varied listening.

Like an Aboriginal *seanchai*, Samuel (Koobî) Bong, with white body paint and red costume and headband, told stories from his indigenous culture. Tales of kangaroos, emus, snakes, crocodiles, honeybees, hunters and fishermen were illustrated in mime and dance by Peter (Gnulan) Ross, sometimes aided by additional costuming, such as a kangaroo skin worn as a cloak. The basic dance movement was the knocking of knees together from a *plié* in second position, accentuated by the white V-shapes painted on the dancer's legs. Occasionally, Ross told the story and Bong illustrated it, but both men always danced the energetic rhythmic finale to each tale.

I was sorry that Sharman Derani Parsons only appeared twice, for not only did she move with extraordinary grace, but her combination of the turns and jumps of contemporary dance with traditional Aboriginal movement made me wish for a whole dance piece on the *Dreamtime*, making some use of this blend of styles.

Carolyn Swift





**ASAHI Live on the Square** events are ticketed. See information page for details. Events are subject to change. Check press advertisements for confirmation of performance dates and times.



**The Cuban Masters of Rhythm (Cuba + Spain)**  
**CUBA LINDA!**  
August 31

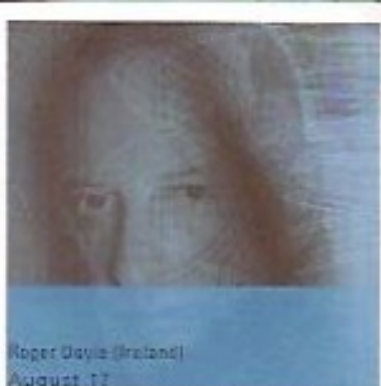
*Like an unending love, the rhythms plunge down the stairs - slow but sophisticated, urgent yet also, somehow, lazy.*  
**The Irish Times**

Cuban Master percussionist Juan Guiso Castellanos brings together a spectacular team of Afro-Cuban Jazz musicians and dancers directly from Havana, joined by two of Spain's most talented Flamenco musicians Daniel Casares and Chico Jorges, appearing for the first time in Ireland. This promises to be unforgettable evening as it creates the atmosphere of a night out in downtown Havana surrounded by the rhythms and melodies of Andalusia.



**Neil Rowell (UK)**  
**SAFETY LAST**  
August 24

Pianist Neil Rowell has been accompanying silent films for over 15 years, regularly at the National Film Theatre on London's South Bank and increasingly at film festivals and special events throughout the world. He is considered one of the finest exponents of improvised silent film accompaniment in the world, and for *Divisions*, he will perform live to a screening of Howard Haydn's film *Safety Last*.



**Roger Doyle (Ireland)**  
August 17

A lot of experimental music composers are just so dense - they should all bow deeply to Roger Doyle. His music is warm, funny and richly elaborate - a polished! Grandest magazine, Sweden

Roger Doyle has long been Ireland's foremost exponent of 'electro-acoustic' music and experimental composition. In 1999 he released 'Rebel', celebrating musical language in all its diversity. Each track corresponds to a 'hour' within a giant tower city. In this concert he presents some new work together with works by the next generation of composers working with technology, multimedia and live electronics.



**CandaCo (UK)**  
**THRASHER THROUGH MY DEATH SCENE TO CATCH YOUR LAST ACT\* (SUNSHINE)\*\***  
July 12, 13

CandaCo reinvented the lexicon of dance by proving that seriously smart' evolved to the state of mind. They perform work of poignant grace and shocking physical beauty. They also strayed disability art of six last vintage of political correctness.  
**The Guardian, UK**

Founded in 1991, CandaCo Dance Company produces and performs contemporary dance theatre of the highest quality with physically disabled and non-disabled performers. They will perform a double bill of shows on Meeting House Square, choreographed by two highly acclaimed and inventive creators of movement, Doug Elkins\*\* and Javier de Frutos\*.



**Doug Elkins Dance Company (USA)**  
**WHOLLY MATRIMONY**  
**LAST TRAIN TO PHILLY**  
July 18, 19, 20

Choreographer Doug Elkins made it all look so easy.  
**Philadelphia Weekly**

*Wholly Matrimony*, a commission from SummerJazz at Santa Barbara, and *Last Train to Philly*, commissioned by the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, will be performed by the tenacious and dynamic Doug Elkins Dance Company. Elkins is the recipient of numerous choreographic awards, including a Jessie New York dance and Performance award in 1997, and makes his debut Irish performance on the Meeting House Square stage.



**Vision of a Nomad (Australia)**  
**ANC DREAMING**  
August 3

As part of Australia Week, a celebration of Australian culture in Temple Bar, Brisbane-based group Vision of a Nomad will perform *ANC Dreaming on Meeting House Square*. *ANC Dreaming* is an expose of traditional, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Contemporary western music and dance. *ANC* encapsulates the unique and sacred culture of the indigenous Australian peoples through song and movement.  
Supported by the Australian Embassy



**The Michael Buckley Quartet (NY/USA)**  
August 10

Arguably the finest saxophonist in the country.  
**The Irish Times**

Rising star of the Irish jazz scene, horn player and composer Michael Buckley will be accompanied on stage by the highest pedigree of fellow jazz musicians including acclaimed young pianist Jason Moran from New York, in his debut Irish performance, drummer Darren Beckett, Ronan Guilfoyle on bass and Mike Nielsen on guitar. A truly compelling line up.





THEATER



Hagar Peeters

LITERAIRE VELDSLAC

Een kruising tussen de Nacht van de Poëzie en het Boekenbal, maar dan jong, wild en vooral Utrechts. Dat is in één zin de omschrijving van de eerste editie van Singel Singel Schrijfnagjes, vorig jaar. Een keur aan schrijvers en dichters uit de Domstad maakte duidelijk dat niet alle interessante literatuur uit Amsterdam komt. Dit jaar gaat het festival een stapje verder, maar Amsterdam staat nog steeds buitenspel. In een heuse wedstrijd wordt uitgemaakt in welke stad het nu écht het leukst schrijven (en lezen) is: Den Haag, Groningen of Utrecht zelf. In de stoottroepen onder andere: dichtende kok en 'televisiepersoonlijkheid' Pierre Wind, performer Adriaan Bontebal, de explosieve Dichters uit Epibreren, striptekenaar Barbara Stok en dichteres Hagar Peeters. Met een muzikaal randpro-

gramma dat om oordoppen vraagt. Schrijver Jack Nouws, een geïmigreerde Brabander, presenteert. Na afloop dansen met echte schrijvers.

Wanneer: 9 september.  
Waar: Tivoli (Utrecht).  
Beschikbaarheid: station Utrecht CS, van daaruit op Isoaantal.  
Informatie: 030-2301451.

DROMEN MET DE DIDGERIDOO

Op elke straathoek is tegenwoordig wel een didgeridoo-speler te horen. Maar wat weten we eigenlijk van de voorspronkelijke Australische cultuur? In de voorstelling ARC Dreaming vertellen de Aboriginal dansgroep



Nunukul Kanjail en muziekgroep Bi Maku Murrie's over de dramatische geschiedenis van het gekoloniserende Australië. De didgeridoo speelt een hoofdrol. Het instrument woagt

zich ook aan klassieke stukken, jazz en pop.

Wanneer: t/m 30 september.  
Waar: 14-25 september Theater aan het Spui (Den Haag); 29-30 september Chasse Theater (Breda).  
Informatie: 070-3460200.

WILDE MEIDEN

Alles aan Boo en Mary is heftig. De twee thuisloze meiden trappen lol, scoren vriendjes, worden dronken en gaan met hun gang de straat op. Als een van de twee wordt uitgedaagd een rivaliserende bendeleidster een lesje te leren, loopt alles uit de hand. De ander neemt de schuld op zich en verdwijnt achter de tralies. Hun eens zo hechte vriendschap krijgt een ander gezicht. Wild Girls werd geschreven door Rebecca Prichard (27). Voor haar stuk deed ze onderzoek in de vrouwengevangenis Bullwood Hall in Essex. Zelf zegt ze met Wild Girls op een realistische manier te willen laten zien, hoe jonge mensen gevormd kunnen worden door hun omgeving. In Nederland wordt de voorstelling gespeeld door toneelgroep ZEP. Regisseur en vormgever Peter Fluymakers had vorig najaar groot succes met de Nederlandse versie van Trainspotting.

Wanneer: t/m 23 oktober.  
Waar: te theaters door het hele land.

onder andere 27-29 augustus Festival Lowlands (Flussveld), 8-11 september Theater aan het Spui (Den Haag), 17 september Goudse Schouwburg (Gouda); 23-25 september Theater Ballieus (Amsterdam).  
Informatie: 020-6266330. Internet: www.v44.nl/e/zep



SNEL FESTIVAL

Beeldende kunst, dans, theater, film en muziek: het jaarlijkse Triple X Festival valt moeilijk in een hokje te plaatsen. De organisatie probeert in elf avondvullende programma's zoveel mogelijk grenzen te overschrijden. Wat dat oplevert? De Brits/Nederlandse groep PTPP maakte een stuk over het niemandsland tussen theater en realiteit. Het kunstenaarsduo Harrison & Wood brengt ultrakorte video's over het menselijk lichaam. En beeldhouwster Anya Gallaccio werkt met vergankelijke materialen. Snel gaan kijken dus, voor het weg is.

Wanneer: 18 t/m 29 augustus.  
Waar: Westergaatsfabriek (Amsterdam).  
Beschikbaarheid: station Amsterdam CS, tram 2, bus 19, 25 en 38.  
Informatie: 020-4203376. Internet: www.triplex.nl



## [Visions Of A Nomad]

# VISIONS OF THE WORLD



**Music in all its diversity has an immense power to speak to the masses. It has the power to inspire and evoke. It also is a path of learning about other cultures.**

Through the music of Brisbane's Visions Of A Nomad, the world's many cultures are brought to life in a spirited and enlightening manner. Michael Cuming, the composer, arranger and musical director of the now three piece band has led the most fascinating life. Through his nomadic travel throughout the world, he has spent years within many cultures learning what makes them thrive. He discovered the key was music. Musically, it's impossible to categorise the sound of Visions Of A Nomad. With an expansive smorgasbord of musical flavours, stretching from jazz, latin, indigenous Australian, middle Eastern and even classical, each member shows all their musical skill by playing a variety of instruments, sometimes simultaneously. "We play around with a lot of contemporary rhythms, hip hop, acid jazz, everything really. We do some nice cross over stuff", says Michael. Visually, it's an experience. A stage packed with instruments which are saturated with history are

played with obvious emotion, energy and passion. Though Michael Cuming is multi-talented when it comes to playing such a variety of instruments, he believes even they don't matter that much. "I dabble with different instruments, I love sitars, violas, trumpets. I play anything I can get my hands on. With music after a while the medium doesn't matter that much, technique is important, but what really matters is what you have to say through music." Visions Of A Nomad according to Michael is in its second incarnation with many other performers coming and going and leaving their dramatic imprint. Now there's the three of them, Michael Cuming, Sylvana Van Dijk and Charles Thornhill-Cole.

Looking at Brisbane through the eyes of someone who's travelled extensively and seen what the world has to offer, this city has a long way to go before it develops creatively. As Michael puts it, "Brisbane is a very little locality in the world which has been isolated and very held back. It's been very retarded by the politics here. It's a little bit behind and unfortunately it's missing out on that real edge energy. It's not a great place to be artistically inspired, it gives me the feeling that I always want to go from here, and that's a shame. And I will, it's not a matter of do I, I will because places like New York, Tokyo beckon me, where I will meet people who are doing things far more outrageous than what I'm doing."

"I get criticised for what I'm doing, and I think basically what I'm doing is quite conservative". Michael even believes Brisbane more of an infinity with latin and calypso music. "It has more in common with calypso because it's got that tropical feel to it and it has more in common with latin music yet we're doing that and we're getting ostracised. But we're taking that risk", says Michael. And good on 'em!

**Anita Caruso.**





We are the Champions • A Tribute To Freddie Mercury

THE KING AND HIS ROCK LEGENDS ARE ALIVE ...

**Rockin' on Heaven's Door**

A musical show that is more than a tribute to what many claim are the four greatest Rock & Roll artists of all time. Backed by 6-strong band, the stage is sequentially taken by Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison, Buddy Holly and Eddie Cochran. In both appearance and vocal skills, the resemblances are uncanny.

**WynjaQue Showtimes:** Sat 22 Oct 8:15 pm €27,70 **UTpass €38,20**

**Dr. A. Phil's special:** Sun 23 Apr 8:15 pm €27,50 **UTpass €34,50**

THE LEGENDARY QUEEN SOUND!

We are the Champions •

**A Tribute To Freddie Mercury**

*We are the Champions* is a spectacular show, featuring one of the greatest rock bands of all time, Queen, and its famous band leader, Freddie Mercury. More than 10 years after his death, Mercury's classic success story is central in a show that features more than 25 great hits, steeped in that special, legendary Queen sound: *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Bicycle Race*, *Who Wants To Live Forever*, *Radio Ga-Ga*, *Crazy Little Thing Called Love*, *Killer Queen*, *We Are The Champions* or *The Show Must Go On*.

**WynjaQue Showtimes:** Fri 18 Nov 8:15 pm €34,70 **UTpass €35,20**

A LEADING ROLE FOR THE DIDGERIDOO

CultureBank • **Arc Dreaming**

The colourful group CultureBank, which includes members of the aboriginal group Nunukul Kanjeil, introduces traditional Australian culture. In a spectacular



Shaolin Monks • The Four Seasons

show, painted dancers and musicians depict dream-time stories of the past, the present, and the future of the Australian continent. Tradition, sacred music and dance are linked to western contemporary music such as jazz, funk and classical music, with a glowing centre stage role for the uniquely Australian didgeridoo.

**Theater a/h Special:** Sat 11 Feb 8:30 pm €17,50 **UTpass €18,00**

THE COMPLETE JAZZ SPECTRUM

**InterpretationZZ**

A cast featuring 11 international top dancers, a magnificent female vocalist, and a compelling DJ who commands your attention, every step of the way. InterpretationZZ covers a spectrum of music and dance styles, inspired by the golden classics of Afro-American culture, including songs of Louis Armstrong, Billy Holiday, Nina Simone and Ella Fitzgerald.

**Theater a/h Special:** Tue 21 Feb 8:30 pm €15,00 **UTpass €15,20**

KUNG FU

Shaolin Monks • **The Four Seasons**

The monks from the Shaolin Monastery in Henan (China) are world-famous for their inexhaustible stamina, age-old choreographies, relentless discipline, and infinite concentration. In *The Four Seasons* they demonstrate that Kung Fu is not just a show.

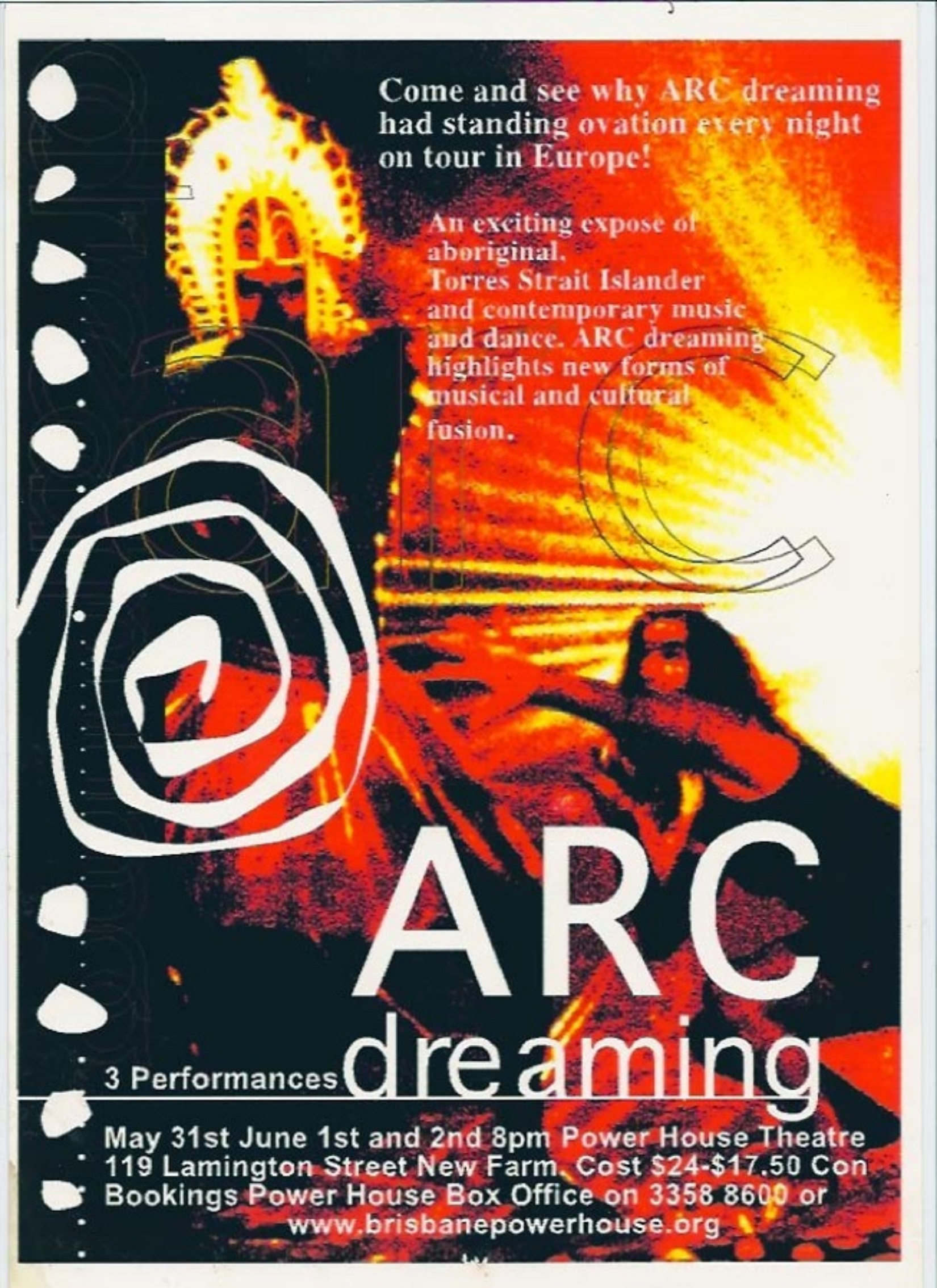
The philosophy on which it is inspired is the thread that connects this performance.

The original scenes and costumes are from the Shaolin Monastery in Henan.

**WynjaQue Showtimes:** Sat 18 Mar 8:15 pm € 22,70 **UTpass € 21,20**

**Theater a/h Special:** Thu 30 Mar 8:30 pm € 12,50 **UTpass € 16,00**



The poster features a vibrant, abstract background with a color palette of reds, oranges, and yellows, suggesting a sunset or fire. On the left side, there are several white, hand-drawn circular and spiral patterns. In the upper left, a glowing, abstract figure resembling a person or a spirit is depicted. The overall aesthetic is dynamic and artistic.

Come and see why ARC dreaming  
had standing ovation every night  
on tour in Europe!

An exciting expose of  
aboriginal,  
Torres Strait Islander  
and contemporary music  
and dance. ARC dreaming  
highlights new forms of  
musical and cultural  
fusion.

# ARC dreaming

3 Performances

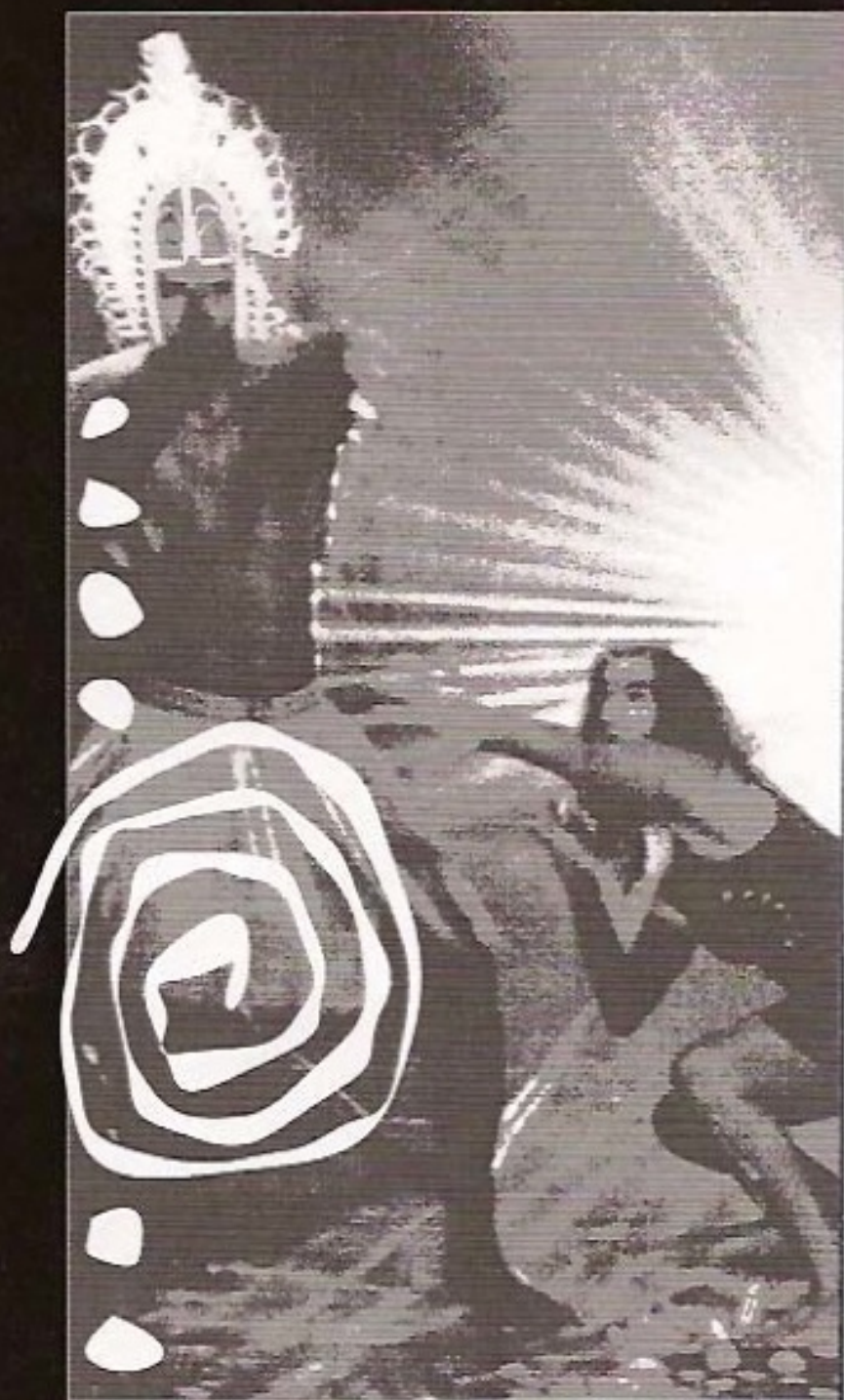
May 31st June 1st and 2nd 8pm Power House Theatre  
119 Lamington Street New Farm. Cost \$24-\$17.50 Con  
Bookings Power House Box Office on 3358 8600 or  
[www.brisbanepowerhouse.org](http://www.brisbanepowerhouse.org)



# DÄR festival

presents CULTURE BANK's

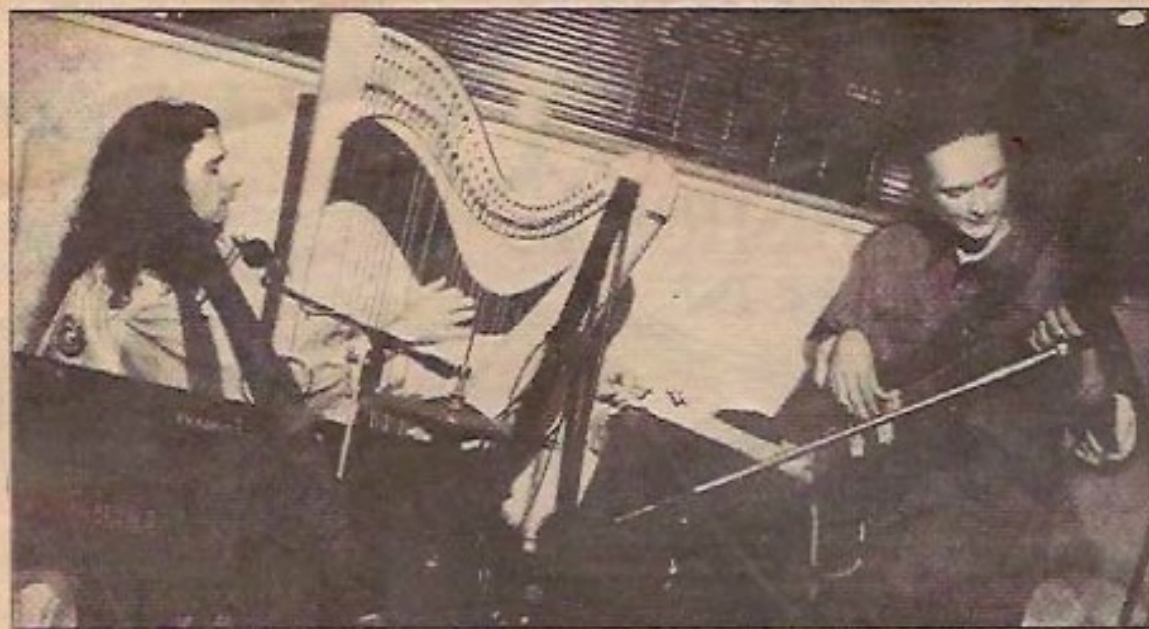
**ARC** dreaming











Tribal jazz fusion group Visions Of A Nomad are currently playing the pub circuit.

## Sounds of a nomad

**MULTI-instrumentalist Michael Cuming sees himself as a bit of a nomad.**

His travels have taken him from the deep rhythms of Africa to Aboriginal tribal life in Arnhemland and life in Japan, Europe, and Thailand.

Cuming's band Visions Of A Nomad boasts a diversity which stretches the imagination.

The sound could be compared to anything from the vast instrumental sounds of Gondwanaland to the more controlled boundaries of classical music, pop, funk and Latin Jazz.

It has a strong gipsy essence, drawing on the nomadic principal in music, a multi-cultural fusion or, as Cuming likes to put it, "neo-geo/tribal jazz".

The sound is best described as

"a contemporary trip around the world".

He said the music pursued the idea of a 'cultural jigsaw'.

"Worldwide, the borders are becoming very fine. Communication and access to information is becoming more accessible and I wanted to do something with this idea of cultural fusion.

"There's a lot of philosophy in that. If we bring cultures together musically, that could be the forerunner to it all. There's so much to be gained from cultural fusion," he said.

Although a three piece line-up, the band boasts an unusually big set up.

The self-taught musician explores instrumentation as a cartographer maps the world.

With the exhausting set up of keyboards, guitar, didgeridoo, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, harmonica, stringed harp, percussion and vocals, the musician describes mastering his entourage as "a lot of hard work".

"From travelling I found a lot of different music and I found that jazz was very stale," he said.

Taking the term multi-instrumentalist to such an extreme may be a feat in itself, but Cuming is known to play two or three instruments at once, using his feet for percussion while playing his main instrument and singing or playing harmonica.

Cuming's musical history dates back 15 years of solid playing and experimentation.

From an early age, he found self expression in poetry, song writing and painting.

In 1981, he formed the Dreamtime Theatre company and continued musical interests winning the National Basking Title.

Formed in 1989, Visions Of A Nomad has performed at major folk festivals and arts projects along coastal Queensland and in Sydney.

Together with Sylvana Van Dijk on drums, percussion and vocals and Charles Thornhill-Cole on bass, trumpet and percussion, the group expresses high energy and diversity.

Visions Of A Nomad perform at The Chill Bar this Wednesday, July 14, and on July 28; every Thursday next month at Her Majesty's (from July 29); and will do a special performance with contemporary Aboriginal dancer at City Hall tomorrow night, Friday, July 9.



# Zingen en dansen om te overleven

DOOR JORINDE BENNER

Vogels die de dood van een familie lid aankondigen, het bezingen van dieren om ze in leven te houden en een scheppingsverhaal dat in grote lijnen lijkt op dat van het christendom, maar waarin de mensen grotendeels van dieren stammen. Voor nuchtere Hollanders lijkt het geloof van de traditionele Australische stammen soms vergezocht.

Voor de oorspronkelijke bewoners van Australië, zoals de Aboriginals, is dit echter absolute waarheid, verzekeren de dansers en musici van ARC Dreaming. Dit Australische gezelschap komt in een dynamische show de komende weken Den Haag kennismaken met traditionele Australische cultuur.

De naam betekent letterlijk Aboriginal Reconciliation Company Dreaming: een 'verzenningsbedrijf' uit Queensland dat een brug wil slaan tussen de rijke Europeanen en de oorspronkelijke stammen in Australië. Een kloof die volgens ARC Dreaming in de hand wordt gewerkt door de rechtse regering van Queensland. Het is een bontgekleurd gezelschap. Artistiek leider Sylvana van Dijk, Nederlandse van origine, en Mi-

chaël Cuins zijn westers, drie groepsliders stammen af van de Bi Malu Murrie's; eilandbewoners van Torres Straat. De overige drie 'ARC Dreamers' stammen van de aboriginal groep Nunukul Kanjeil. Gezamenlijk dragen ze één boodschap naar buiten. Eén van eenheid, maar waarin de geschiedenis en cultuur van Australië een belangrijke rol spelen.

In een spectaculaire show (met vuurceremonie) vertellen beschilderde dansers en musici over het verleden, heden en de toekomst van het continent. Traditie, de heilige muziek en dans, is het uitgangspunt, gecombineerd met westerse hedendaagse muziek als jazz, funk en klassieke muziek. Hoofdinstrument is de typisch Australische didgeridoo. "Hoewel de achtergronden van de veelal beladen dansen niet op het podium verteld worden, zijn de grote lijnen van het verhaal zelfs de nuchtere Hollanders snel duidelijk", denkt Joshua Walker, zanger en danser van de groep. Zo opent de voorstelling van ARC Dreaming met een welkomstdans, waarin ze de Nederlanders, net als bij de traditionele stammen in Australië, om toestemming vragen om op hun land te dansen. De meeste dansen zijn bedoeld om de voorou-



FOTO SYLVANA VAN DIJK

**ARC Dreaming: 'Wanneer wij stoppen een dier te bezingen en zijn dans te dansen, sterft hij uit'.**

ders te eren. De voorouders van alle mensen zijn volgens het traditionele geloof de kraanvogel, pelikaan en koalabeer. Zij waren enkele van de eerste bewoners van de aarde. De dieren die goed leefden en niet hebzuchtig of egoïstisch waren, zoals de kraanvogel, pelikaan en koalabeer, veranderden in mensen en brachten de wereldbevolking voort.

Voor verschillende heilige dansen, zoals haaiendans, hebben de dansers toestemming nodig van de familie die van het dier afstamt. "Het kennen van deze dans en de bijbehorende muziek is namelijk een enorme

verantwoordelijkheid", vertelt Joshua. "Door deze dieren en daarmee een bepaalde familie te bezingen en hun dans te dansen, roep je een enorme kracht aan. Zonder zingen is er geen bestaan voor ons. Wij geloven dat wanneer we stoppen een dier te bezingen en zijn dans te dansen, het uitsterft. Zingen en dansen is voor de aboriginals overleven".

#### THEATER AAN HET SPUI

ARC Dreaming. Van dinsdag 14 tot en met zaterdag 18 september en van dinsdag 21 tot en met zaterdag 25 september. Aanvang: 20.30 uur.