

09 December 2011

GYPSY PATHWAYS WORLD PREMIERE BRINGS FIRE, PASSION AND FLAMENCO TO QPAC

Celebrating the epic nature of the great gypsy migration, **Flamenco Fire** will premiere its spectacular new production *Gypsy Pathways* with four performances at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre's (QPAC's) **Playhouse** from **2 to 4 February 2012**.

The world premiere of *Gypsy Pathways* will delve into the rich and diverse cultures of the Romani people, whose Kathak traditions from India were influenced through cultural encounters as they travelled through Persia (now Iran) and North Africa.

Many of these influences came together when they arrived in Spain, arguably adding the most crucial ingredients to what was to become flamenco.

Flamenco Fire's *Gypsy Pathways* distils from eight centuries of tradition a compelling, passionate, and vibrant show that captures all of the excitement and drama of this part of the great Romani story.

The production features the stunning talents of international guests Indian kathak dancer/singer **Sulagna Basu**, flamenco dancer **Francesca 'La Chica'**, and flamenco percussionist **Andrej Vujicic**, alongside some of Australia's finest flamenco artists, including dancers **Simone Pope**, **Sebastian Sanchez** and **Natalie Slect**, guitarists **Kieren Ray** and **Andrew Veivers**, violinist **Shenton Gregory**, and singer **James Paul**.

The creative vision of Sunshine Coast-based Director/Composer and renowned flamenco guitarist Andrew Veivers, *Gypsy Pathways* has been commissioned by Queensland producer Red Chair with the support of Arts Queensland, Brisbane City Council and QPAC.

Veivers' compositional skills have been in high demand with recent commissioned credits including *Al-Andaluz* (Flamenco Fire 2010), a new translation of **Garcia Lorca's** *Blood Wedding* (Sydney Theatre Company 2011), and a major orchestral work for this year's Woodford Folk Festival.

"Gypsy Pathways is the next chapter in the flamenco story, a story that I have been exploring through the Flamenco Fire company over the last decade. It involves exciting new partnerships with Indian, flamenco and contemporary dancers and musicians, telling the story of the Gypsy migration from India, west into Europe and their eventual settlement and contribution to the development of Flamenco in Andalusia in Spain," Mr Veivers said.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to compose and direct with international flamenco stars - flamenco dancer **Francesca 'La Chica'** and flamenco percussionist **Andrej Vujicic** – and it is the first time we have collaborated with Indian dancers and musicians for a major theatre work."

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QPAC Chief Executive John Kotzas said Flamenco Fire was an example of Brisbane's strong and vibrant local arts culture.

"This company is recognised around Australia and internationally. Live performance is rarely a solo endeavour and Flamenco Fire demonstrates how collaboration across art forms and cultures results in rich stories and captivating performance," said Mr Kotzas.

From humble beginnings in Brisbane in 1999, Flamenco Fire has grown into one of Queensland's most successful arts exports and Australia's only national flamenco company. Flamenco Fire is a true collaboration of the talents of Australian flamenco artists. Using predominantly original content, it not only showcases the dance form, but also the music and songs of contemporary and traditional flamenco.

Andrew Veivers said that, a long way from the tourist bars of Madrid, flamenco was fast becoming a truly international art form.

"Like its stable-mate, ballet, flamenco regularly graces the major concert halls and theatres around the world. This border-leaping, class-defying art form not only represents the universality of musical communication, it embraces both insiders and newcomers alike and gives a voice to all and sundry to cry aloud a passionate OLÉ."

Red Chair & QPAC Present
Flamenco Fire – Gypsy Pathways

Date: 2 to 4 February 2012
Time: 7.30pm (+ 1.30pm Matinee on Saturday)
Venue: Playhouse, QPAC, Cultural Centre, South Bank
Tickets: \$59.50 to \$39.50*
Bookings: www.qpac.com.au or 136246

*Ticket price includes GST and Booking Fee. Please note transaction fees will apply

For further media information, interviews and images for Brisbane performance please contact: Cindy Ullrich, Publicity Manager, QPAC ~ 07 3840 7589 ~ cindy.ullrich@qpac.com.au or Inga Tracey, Publicity Coordinator, QPAC ~ 07 3840 7948 ~ inga.tracey@qpac.com.au