

Vast — Dance on a New Scale

VAST choreographed by Graeme Murphy

Music by Barry Conyngham

Design by Andrew Carter

Costumes by Jennifer Irwin

Lighting by Kenneth Rayner

Central to any celebration of the Australian arts must be a recognition of the spectacular advances made over the last decade by our dancers and dance companies. In a world precedent, the diversity and energy of four of these companies — the Sydney Dance Company, The Queensland Ballet, the West Australian Ballet Company and Australian Dance Theatre — will be forged together in a specially commissioned ballet — VAST — choreographed by Graeme Murphy and featuring all 69 dancers.

VAST will reflect the diversity of our landscapes, the reefs and coastlines, deserts and rainforests and, of course, the uniquely urban situation in which most Australians live. "The new work will reflect the vastness of this country" says Murphy "I don't think you could tackle a subject as huge as this with any less than 69 dancers. It will not be a return to narrative style but at the same time I don't want it devoid of humanity. You have to be bold enough to people that landscape, showing them coming to terms with their environment. Australians are finding the beauty in the harshness, strength and vibrance of the colours we dwell in, rather than craving the softness, the pastels and ease of a more tamed environment."

Murphy will spend a fortnight with each of the four companies getting to know their styles before they come together for joint rehearsals in Sydney and then Melbourne. The new combined work will show a true ensemble, drawn from a variety of dance styles but melded together into a common language. A special AETT discount of \$6.00 per ticket applies during the first four days of the season.

Wang Australia has been principal sponsor of the Sydney Dance Company since 1985. For the National Bicentennial Dance Event, Wang is contributing \$300,000, the largest sponsorship given



Graeme Murphy rehearses VAST at his studio in Sydney at The Wharf

to a Bicentennial Arts activity, which, together with the significant financial support from the Australian Bicentennial Authority, makes the project possible. An added bonus for lovers of dance is that each company will present a free outdoor performance of a work from their repertoire in each city. In Sydney the performance will take place in The Domain on Saturday April 16 at 7.30 p.m.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Her Majesty's Theatre
Tue Apr 19 to Sat Apr 30
Mon to Sat at 8 p.m. (except Fri Apr 22
at 5.45 p.m. & 8.45 p.m.)
Sat mat at 2 p.m.
AETT \$30.50, \$26.50 (Apr 19 to 22)
G.P. \$32.50
Stud/Pens \$22.50
Two AETT tickets per Member