

# Projecting messages with meaning

Choreographer Lucy Guerin is ready to explore new ground, writes **Robin Usher**.

**L**IFE could hardly get any busier for Lucy Guerin. The choreographer is putting the finishing touches on her new show while preparing for a trip to New York, where she lived for seven years until 1996.

"It'll be great to catch up with people again and to see what's happening," she says.

Guerin is speaking at Arts House in the old North Melbourne Town Hall where her new show, *Aether*, opens tonight.

She's working to co-ordinate the projections by her collaborator, Michaela French, with her own choreography.

"It's not easy to get the balance right in the relationship between the screen and the bodies," she says. "We're still exploring it."

The projections are directed at a screen behind the stage and on two others that come out on either side, giving the five dancers no way to avoid the images. "They're really trapped on stage," she says.

The award-winning choreographer is trying to explore the plethora of messages that inundate daily life, and to show how people select what they want to receive.



**Human Interactions:**  
choreographer  
Lucy Guerin.

PICTURES: RODGER CUMMINS

city is known as the centre of modern dance in Australia."

Crucial ingredients to this success are spaces such as Carlton's Dance House and the Chunky Move Studio at Southbank, as well as venues such as Arts House. "But it's hard work to maintain this position, because dedicated artists as not getting enough funding."

Evidence of the health of the city's dance scene is the quality of the dancers in *Aether*. Antony Hamilton won last year's Russell Page award and has worked with Chunky Move, ADT and Kate Demborough. The other dancers, Kyle Kremerskothen, Kirstie McCracken, Byron Perry and Lee Serle have worked with such companies as Kate Champion, Balletlab and DV8.

"The dancers are talented and in demand, but there's a willingness among choreographers here and in Sydney to try to collaborate to make



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description of the contents of space before Einstein's theories made it redundant.

"There's also the colloquial meaning that I think is relevant — out there in the aether," Guerin says.

She warns that the show, especially the first half, is very dense. "I think it will be impossible for people in the audience to take it all in," she

selection, just as we do in life." — The second half is simpler — it's mostly duets, exploring human interactions through movement.

She first worked with French in 2002 on the show *Melt*. Guerin decided to use projections in place of the ice she had originally planned for but found she couldn't afford.

They've since worked

"We have a similar aesthetic, which means I don't have to explain everything I do," Guerin says. "It makes it easier to move forward."

Guerin's New York trip is based on a three-week run of the show *Tense Dave*, which she presented at the 2003 Melbourne Festival in collaboration with Michael Kantor and Gideon Obarzanek.

go, so it'll be up to her to make sure it's ready.

She says the invitation to take the show overseas is an indication of the health of Melbourne's contemporary dance scene.

"It's an artform that will never have the widespread appeal of film," she says. "But it is an important part of Melbourne's cultural identity. The

"Everything was a lot more competitive in New York."

## AETHER

WHERE: Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall

WHEN: From today until March 27 at 7pm

HOW MUCH: \$15-\$22

DETAILS: Tel: 9885 5111