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## Cool tour for Melt

Lucy Guerin is hot in the world of dance, says ALISON BARCLAY

**N**O MATTER how cucumber cool she tries to stay, Lucy Guerin is causing her own bit of global warming.

Where are the hot spots? Not just Melbourne, which has been home to this quietly groovy choreographer for six years, but Miami, Seattle, even Durham, North Carolina.

These cities don't actually know Guerin yet. Next year they will see her — as will New York, Chicago, Portland and Houston — when a big Boston-based event, the National Dance Project, launches her travels around the United States.

The Lucy Guerin Company is the only Australian troupe to be chosen for 2003 tours by the NDP, which has given them a \$38,000 grant. Guerin spent seven years in New York — including working with the famous Russian-American dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov — and it may have been this that prompted the NDP to take note.

"I think it has definitely helped me because I go back every couple of years to New York and this time I have been able to attach a big tour to the trip," she says, during a break in rehearsing her new full-length work, *Melt*.



**Off to the world:** choreographer Lucy Guerin (left) with dancers (from left) Stephanie Lake, Kyle Kremerskothen and Phoebe Robinson from her new work, *Melt*. Guerin will tour part of the work in the US. Picture: JESSICA LEE

Guerin will export the work she made for the 2000 Melbourne Festival, *The Ends of Things*. She is also taking part one of *Melt*, though Melbourne will see its full splendour when it opens here next week.

*Melt* sounds deliciously cosy; yummy, even. For food, yes, but not when melting marks the end of a human body that just can't take the heat any more.

Guerin looked up "hot" and "cold" in the dictionary. "There are so many expressions delving into temperature and human relations," she says.

In *Melt*, the movement evokes those extremes and the milder states between.

"It's not so much a human in a hot or cold environment as trying to embody that state, and how certain extremes of temperature relate to temperament," Guerin explains.

**Y**OU have hot and fiery, hot-blooded, tepid, then warm, which is nice and kind and cosy. They have parallels with emotional states."

So how does one dance cool? "In cool, I include the

slightly removed and detached," she says.

"I'm not really trying to go for cool in the fashion sense. But I think the notion of cool does contain that element of being looked at and objectified.

"Hot is very fast, very emotive, so it has passion and anger, and a lot of physical engagement and commitment go into the movement up the hot end."

The melting point: "Breathless panic."

The company this time includes Ros Warby, who has worked with Guerin for

six years, and Stephanie Lake. Both will do the US tour next year. There are also three newcomers: Phoebe Robinson, Kyle Kremerskothen and Toby Mills. Indeed, Guerin is never hard-up for talent.

"When I was in New York people used to marvel at how many good dancers came from Australia, ours being such a small population," she says.

*Melt*, Chunky Move Studios, 111 Sturt St, Southbank, September 20-29. Tickets: \$25/\$19/\$14. Bookings: 9527 4876.