

Let's talk about 'Weather'

THIS MELBOURNE FESTIVAL is Brett Sheehy's last as artistic director, and the 10th festival altogether that he has directed (including the Adelaide and Sydney festivals). For his last program he is delighted to have for the first time included Lucy Guerin – a choreographer he has long admired but not till now been able to include.

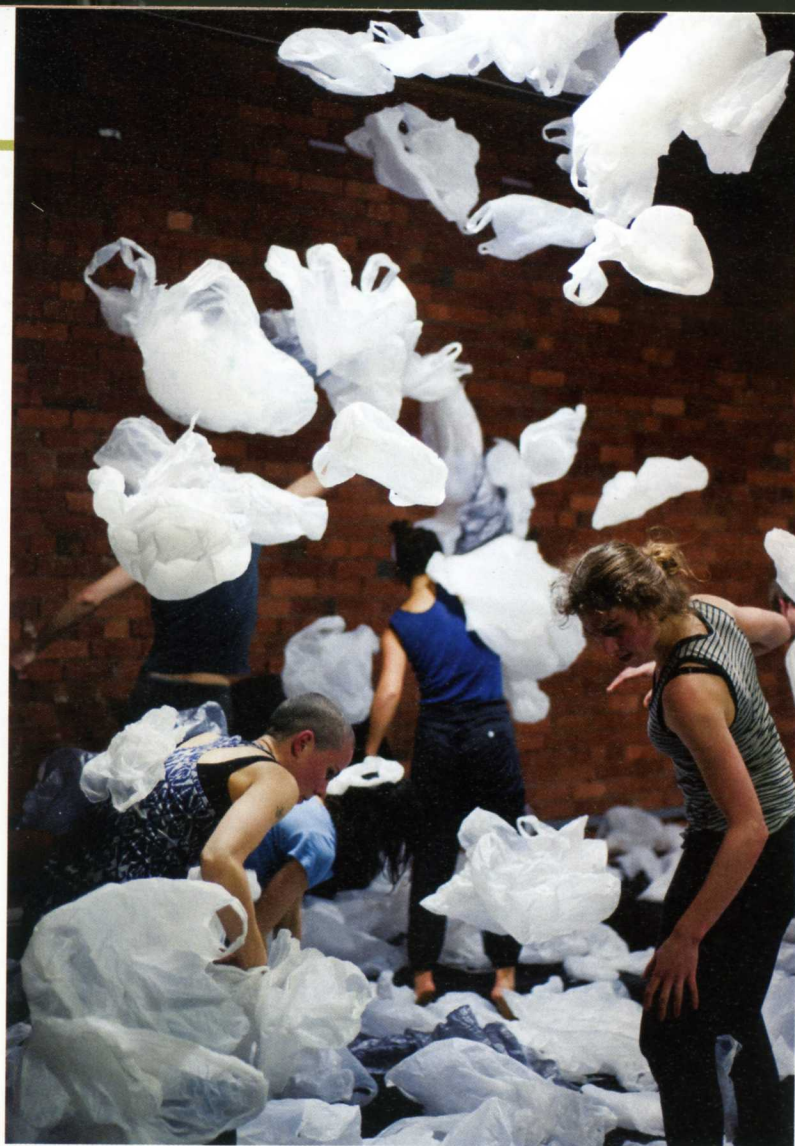
Lucy Guerin Inc, as her Melbourne company is known, is presenting *Weather*, "a new highly visual and visceral dance work that addresses our complex and dynamic relationship with the elemental forces of the environment".

Born out of a residency at Montreal's Place des Arts, *Weather* integrates physical performance with a set design by Robert Cousins that will create an atmosphere of mist, wind and light.

The dancers are Alisdair Macindoe, Talitha Maslin, Kristie McCracken, Harriet Ritchie, Lee Serle and Lillian Steiner.

See www.danceaustralia.com.au for more on the Melbourne Festival.

Dancers of Lucy Guerin Inc rehearse for 'Weather', to premiere at the Melbourne Festival.



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang lands here

PUT TOGETHER IAN Fleming (the writer of James Bond), the Sherman Brothers (who wrote the book for *Mary Poppins*) and the children's writer Roal Dahl, and what do you get? A magical car named Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!

First a book by Fleming, then a film directed by Ken Hughes and co-written by Dahl with music by the Sherman Brothers, the story of the flying car has now been made into a musical. It began life as a dream of the late Dana Broccoli, wife to the James Bond producer Albert R Broccoli. But it was not until 2002 that the producers (including current Bond producers Michael G Wilson and Barbara Broccoli) had the confidence that the technology existed to fly a tonne-and-a-half of machinery with actors inside.

The show opened that year at the London Palladium, with choreography by Gillian Lynne, and moved to Broadway in 2005.

Jason Donovan played the eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts in the final West End outing of the show.

The Australian production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* features a stellar cast, including the tenor David Hobson, Rachael Beck, Alan Brough (of *Spicks and Specks* fame), Tyler Coppin and Peter Carroll. Peter Casey is the musical director and Dana Jolley the choreographer. It opens in Sydney at the Capitol Theatre on November 16 and then moves to Melbourne's Her Majesty's Theatre on January 30, 2013.

The magical flying car with passengers (image from the UK production).

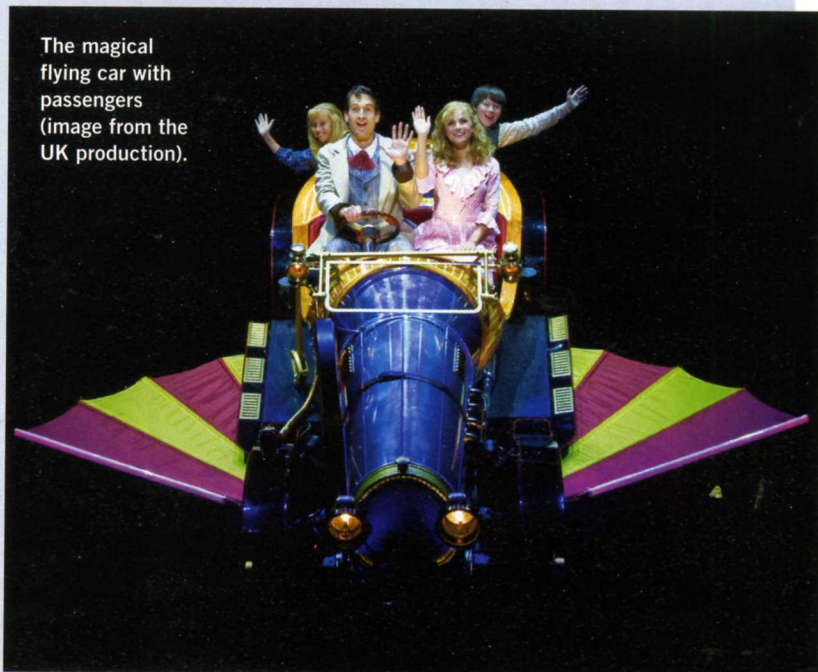


Photo: IAN IBBETSON