



Media Release

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Legs on the Wall appoints Patrick Nolan as its new Artistic Director

In announcing its new artistic director appointment, **Legs on the Wall's Board Chairman Bruce Meagher** said the Company is delighted to welcome someone of Patrick Nolan's vision and calibre to the Company.

"Patrick Nolan stood out among a wide range of very talented Australian and international applicants. Patrick demonstrated a strong commitment to the Company's existing artistic identity, while also articulating some bold new directions that will help cement our position in the national and international performance world. That vision is based on the creation of large scale physical theatre for which the Company is renowned, together with an approach that will engage and foster the physical theatre community and grow Leg's audiences. We look forward to a very exciting new chapter in the Company's life."

Since graduating from the NIDA Directors' course in 1991, Patrick Nolan has created a broad range of new Australian work, from intimate plays for the Griffin Theatre to large scale outdoor productions. He has directed over 50 productions that have been performed in festivals, opera houses, theatres, showgrounds, city streets and carparks.

His productions often contain a complex integration of video, live music and performance, working with some of Australia's leading composers, video designers, choreographers and performers. Collaborators include: Simone Young, Paul Grabowsky, Craig Walsh and Lucy Guerin.

This month his highly praised production of John Adams' opera *A Flowering Tree* had its Australian premiere at the Perth International Arts Festival. In June, Nolan's new production of Handel's rarely seen opera *Acis and Galatea* will open the Winter season for Opera Australia. This will appear as a double bill with *Dido and Aeneas*, which Patrick created for OA in 2004.

Nolan says, "*Legs on the Wall is a unique company and I am very excited about digging into its creative potential. Its daring and highly original approach to story telling has long been an inspiration. Over the next few years our plan is to expand this vision even further by surprising audiences with the spaces and artists we bring together.*"

"I first encountered Legs when I went to see All of Me at Belvoir St. Here was something utterly fresh. It mixed danger and playfulness in ways I'd never seen before. It was one of those nights in the theatre that will always be with me. And while that show, on that night will never be repeated, we'll certainly set out to whip up a similar rough magic in the next few years."

"The time is ripe for performance that celebrates where we live, work and play. Live music, live mixed video and, as always with Legs, performers of exceptional and unusual skill, will play together, in public, for everyone"

Lindy Hume, Artistic Director of the Sydney Festival, says *"Nolan's appointment as Artistic Director begins an exciting new chapter in the Legs on the Wall story. He will bring to Legs fresh vision, an incredible range of creative skills and his profoundly humane intelligence"*.

Adelaide Festival's Artistic Director Paul Grabowsky is also delighted with Nolan's appointment. *"Having worked with Patrick on a number of projects during the last decade, I can say with confidence that he is one of the truly important directors of his generation."*

Following a successful season of Bubble at the Sydney Opera House and a large scale work in Beijing during the Olympics in 2008, Legs has recently performed for Opera Australia in David Freeman's production of The Magic Flute.

Outgoing Artistic Director Debra Batton has led the Company for eight years, through some of its most successful productions. Debra looks forward to focusing on project based work as a director and performer.

Legs on the Wall will turn 25 this year, an event Nolan and the company look forward to celebrating across the city. Watch this space.

Patrick invites all artists: performers, designers, musicians, video artists, who would like to come in and hear about plans for the future of the company or who may be interested in pitching ideas to pay us a visit. To organise a meeting send an email with some suggested times to: admin@legsonthewall.com.au

