



JMS PUBLIC RELATIONS

2009/10 ROSTER & RELEASES
PRODUCTS / SHOWS / EVENTS
 from 2 February 2010

Item / Date / Venue	Event	Description	Genre
Product announcement Australia-wide	LEON'S RETRO ICE BAGS AVAILABLE IN AUSTRALIA	<i>New spin on old fashioned remedy to beat the heat and aches and pains</i>	Retail sales
Summer season will be permanent fixture	THE FIRST SUMMER OF THE VELVETEEN RABBIT Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<i>Over 80% of tickets sold to the company's first summer season</i>	Children's / Theatre
Casting Announced His Majesty's	OKLAHOMA & THE BOY FRIEND IAJ International	<i>OZ singing legend, Julie Anthony and TV Star Penny Cook lead season of classic musicals</i>	Musical Theatre
The Good Store	AUSTRALIA'S CHAMPION GIFT SHOP The Good Store	National Winner, Gift Services, Small Business Champion Awards 2009	Business / Retail
18 to 30 January Spare Parts Puppet Theatre Fremantle	THE VELVETEEN RABBIT Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<i>Legendary show about a rabbit who wants to be real so much it happens!</i>	Children's / Theatre
March Midland / Joondalup / Margaret River / Mandurah	THE NIGHT ZOO Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<i>The hit of 2009 is on the road! A little girl wishes so hard for a pet that a whole zoo comes to visit her.</i>	Children's / Theatre
11 to 13 March Mandurah Performing Arts Centre	OKLAHOMA! IAJ International	<i>Penny Cook leads a stunning cast in this fabulous reinvention Of the famous musical</i>	Musical Theatre
17 to 20 March His Majesty's	OKLAHOMA! IAJ International	<i>Penny Cook leads a stunning cast in this fabulous reinvention Of the famous musical</i>	Musical Theatre
2 April to 17 April Spare Parts Puppet Theatre Fremantle	SPELLBOUND Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<i>Return of a superb show from the masters of puppetry</i>	Children's / Theatre
3 to 17 July Spare Parts Puppet Theatre Fremantle	THE BUNYIP OF BERKELY'S CREEK Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<i>Noriko Nishimoto returns to revive this classic show with beautifully crafted puppets of Australian animals</i>	Children's / Theatre
15 to 17 July Bunbury Entertainment Centre	THE BOYFRIEND IAJ International	<i>Julie Anthony stars in this delicious and evocation of the 1920s</i>	Musical Theatre
21 to 24 July His Majesty's	THE BOYFRIEND IAJ International	<i>Julie Anthony stars in this delicious and evocation of the 1920s</i>	Musical Theatre
13 & 14 August Burswood Theatre	A MUSICAL IAJ International	<i>Blockbuster with a very big diva!</i>	Musical Theatre
25 Sept to 9 Oct	BIRTHDAY Spare Parts Puppet Theatre	<i>New show for 2010 in the lead up to the company's 30th Anniversary</i>	Children's / Theatre
7 to 17 Oct The Regal Theatre	THE SOUND OF MUSIC MS Society WA	<i>Following the wonderful success of 2009's Les Mis, the MS Society presents the ever popular musical</i>	Musical Theatre

November Perth / Melbourne	BITTER SWEET & TWISTED Mirage Makers	<i>A cabaret about love gone wrong, love gone right and sometimes love simply gone</i>	Musical / Cabaret



JMS PUBLIC RELATIONS

Media Release: January, 2010
SPARE PARTS PUPPET THEATRE
The Velveteen Rabbit

***Inaugural summer season in Fremantle:**
14 to 23 December, 2009 / 18 to 30 January, 2010

Media Contact:
John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418



Spare Parts' summer season a success

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre has begun 2010 with a bang with its inaugural summer season on the way to selling out. With over 80% of tickets sold to the company's acclaimed production of *The Velveteen Rabbit* – an uplifting story about a little boy and his toy rabbit who both believe he's real - the company has permanently added the fourth home theatre season to its annual program of school holiday entertainment at its newly air-conditioned venue in Fremantle.

In March, the company will tour the smash hit of 2009, *The Night Zoo* to venues in and around Perth including Midland, Joondalup and Mandurah as well as Margaret River. These mini-seasons are part of an ongoing program to provide further and regular opportunities for metropolitan and regional families to enjoy the work of this home-grown Australian puppetry powerhouse. Later, *The Night Zoo* will also follow *The Velveteen Rabbit's* example and move into the newly created and highly successful festive summer season beginning in December.

Artistic Director of Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Philip Mitchell said he was thrilled that there was such a demand and support for the inaugural summer holidays season, the first in the company's 28 year history.

"We have been wanting to do this for a very long time and at last with the upgrade to the theatre and auditorium, especially that all important air-conditioning, we are able to provide quality summer entertainment for young people and their families," he said. "As we move towards our 30th Anniversary year, this is a significant moment, and one that wouldn't have been possible without the help from The Department for Culture and the Arts, that will allow Spare Parts to grow and share the magic of this wonderful art form that demonstrably appeals to children of all ages."

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre is based in Fremantle, Western Australia and is Australia's leading puppetry company, creating entertaining and inspirational theatre for young people and their families. In 2011, the company will begin its celebrations for 30 years of creating quality new Australian puppetry works that excite the way we view our world through image, illusion and entertainment. For more information, please visit www.sppt.asn.au or 9335 5044

Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.
Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 jm@johnmichael.com.au

AT HOME: JANUARY – [Spare Parts Puppet Theatre](http://www.sppt.asn.au) 1 Short Street Fremantle (opposite Freo Train Station)
January 18 to 30 Tickets \$17.50 each, or \$15.50 for group of 4+, \$13.50 for group of 10+.
Performances daily at 10.00am & 1.00pm - suitable for everyone but perfect for 4 to 10 years

BOOKINGS: 9335 5044 or online www.sppt.asn.au

LISTINGS: *The Velveteen Rabbit*, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre – the magical story of a toy rabbit becoming real through the power of love by Australia's powerhouse puppet theatre at the newly air-conditioned Spare Parts Puppet Theatre until January 30. Suitable for everyone but perfect for ages 4 to 12. Tickets: Adults at children's prices \$17.50 / Groups 4+ \$15.40 / Groups 10+ \$13.50 Bookings essential: www.sppt.asn.au or 9335 5044

MEDIA RELEASE: January 2010

Leon's Retro Ice Bags

NEW PRODUCT RELEASE

Media Contact:

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418

Stay cool this summer and be kind to the environment at the same time!

Isn't it the case? What's old is new again and one of the more curious comebacks this summer is the old English Ice Bag which has been given a retro make over by Australian fencing coach Leon Thomas.

Now available in Australia, Leon's Retro Ice Bags are simple and cheap to run simply by using the ice from your own freezer. These timeless and nifty inventions not only keep you nice and chilled during a long hot summer but anxiety free re those rising power bills!

Some might remember 'ye olde ice bag' as a faint memory of yesteryear that kept grandma cool on a hot summer's day, eased grandma's lumbago and fixed the bump on little Johnny's head.

Whatever and whenever they are still a powerful and effective contemporary treatment for all sorts of injuries from exercise induced muscle soreness to accidental sprains and bruises - for all ages. More than ever, ice therapy is regarded as one of the most effective remedies for a range of complaints that you can carry out yourself with beneficial results in the comfort of your own home.

For Australian fencing coach, Leon Thomas, the ice bag was the perfect and fast answer for over heated competitors in the traditional clothed and masked elite sport of fencing.

"When I was overseas competing, I bought an ice bag to cool down my fencers between their bouts. It was remarkably effective. Unfortunately, they weren't available in Australia. So I have taken steps to share this very old school but totally effective remedy with everyone," he said. "Whether you are sporty or not, for the perfect chill, just add ice from your freezer, plus a little water to start the cooling process, and simply pop it on your head or wherever for 10 to 15 minutes while you enjoy a cold drink or relax in front of the TV and hey presto – you will feel cool, refreshed and remarkably calmer."

Leon's Retro Ice Bag aims to make the old new again, proving that often old fashioned solutions can still be effective, versatile and "cool". So, banish the bag of frozen peas or worse, those blue gel things and enjoy a little bit of cool nostalgia.

Leon's Retro-Ice Bags are affordable, "cheap to run" and come in a variety of designs and sizes (RRP 6" \$20; 9" \$30). For more information, visit www.retroicebags.com.au



Leon's biography follows.

Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.

Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 jm@johnmichael.com.au

Leon Thomas – Biography



Adelaide based, Leon Thomas is a devotee of the ancient combat sport of Fencing.

A former Australian titleholder, he began fencing at the age of eight at the Swords Club, Sydney and went on to represent Australia at the Commonwealth and World Championships.

He has been Coach (and Manager from 1998) of the Australian Junior Team for the Junior World Championships in 1997, 1998, 2000, 2007 and 2008.

Since 1994, he has coached a number of Australian Age Champions as well as numerous Podium Results for South Australian fencers and Teams at under 15, under 17, under 20, Open and

Veteran National Championships and Tournaments.

It was on one of his many trips overseas that he thought of using ice-bag therapy as a treatment for injuries and over-heating whilst fencing in the sport's signature protective clothing and masks.



Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.
Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 jm@johnmichael.com.au

Media Release: November, 2009
THE GOOD STORE
NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION!
2009 AUSTRALIAN SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION AWARDS

Media Contact:
John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418



SMALL BUSINESS
CHAMPION
AWARDS

Australia's Champion Gift Shop is neither in Sydney nor Melbourne ...

- it's in Victoria Park!

The Good Store from Victoria Park has been named Champion Gift Services at the Australian Small Business Champion Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony held on Saturday November 14 at the Westin Sydney.

Following their win at the state level, The Good Store represented Western Australia, and now bathes in the glow of the glam title of National Winner, Gift Services, Small Business Champion Awards 2009.

The Good Store has been open for three years at the western end of Albany Highway in Victoria Park. It was cited by the judges for its uniqueness in "dedicating itself to a single premise - useful presents."

Storekeeper Marshall Martin said that he believes he's been rewarded for sticking to his guns. 'We still don't sell dust collectors', he said. "Our customers buy useful stuff like Hohner harmonica, Bialetti coffee makers, staple-less staplers, Mason Pearson hairbrushes, the Estwing hammer, and PassionAte passionfruit preserve."

He also thanked his loyal clientele from the Awards stage, saying that he felt they were not only tolerant but forgiving. "If you're really serious about red hot customer service, then sometimes other things are left undone," he said. "Our customers are accustomed to finding the occasional special thing displayed at ankle level. However, you won't find The Good Store's new trophy at ankle level - it's on the counter waiting for customers to come up with a name that's not Oscar."

The Australian Small Business Champion Awards is the only national program of its kind to recognise the achievements and performances of small businesses. Thirty-seven small business categories including two entrepreneur categories were presented on the night. Small businesses from across Australia delivered an impressive array of entries, with national winners representing a broad range of industries from all states and territories.

Symon Brewis-Weston, Executive General Manager, Commonwealth Bank Local Business Banking, said, "The Australian Small Business Champion Awards recognise the invaluable contribution that small businesses make to their local communities and the country's economy. Commonwealth Bank Local Business Banking is committed to supporting small businesses and we are proud to be involved in a program that celebrates the successes, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit of Australia's vibrant small business community."

Excellent photo and interview opportunities are available.
Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 jm@johnmichael.com.au



2010 SEASON:

The Velveteen Rabbit (January 2010)

The Night Zoo (on tour March) *Spellbound* (April)

The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek (July) *Blueback* (on tour August)

Birthday (September/October) *The Night Zoo* (December/January 2010/11)

Media Contact:

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418

Puppet powerhouse announces 2010 program as 30th year looms

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre has announced its 2010 season focussing on classics from its repertoire, *Spellbound* (2003) and *The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek* (1998) for the Term 1 & 2 School Holidays as well as a new work, *Birthday* for Term 3 School Holidays in the lead up to the beginning of the company's 30th Year celebrations in 2011.

2010 has already begun with the continuation of its inaugural summer season of *The Velveteen Rabbit* which runs until January 30 at its home theatre in Fremantle. In March, the company will tour the smash hit of 2009, *The Night Zoo* to venues in and around Perth including Midland, Joondalup and Mandurah as well as Margaret River. These mini-seasons are part of an ongoing program to provide further and regular opportunities for metropolitan and regional families to enjoy the work of this home-grown Australian puppetry powerhouse. Later, *The Night Zoo* will also follow *The Velveteen Rabbit's* example and move into the newly created and highly successful festive summer season beginning in December.

For the Term 1 School Holidays (April 2 to 17), the company revives *Spellbound* a magical adventure story about a clumsy clown, Petrushka, a beautiful ballerina, a handsome Moor, Benjamin and the wicked magician, Zeno. Inspired by Igor Stravinsky's famous ballet, *Spellbound* was written by Humphrey Bower. Directed by Philip Mitchell, it features some of the company's finest marionette puppets, which seemingly come alive through exquisite lighting design and the distinctive use of 'black theatre' and Bunraku (traditional Japanese) puppetry techniques.

For the Term 2 School Holidays (July 3 to 17), one of the most endearing classics, *The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek* will be revived by director, Noriko Nishimoto with original cast members Michael Barlow and Paul Johnson joined by acclaimed musician, Mel Robinson. It features some of the most beautiful of hand-carved puppets as a "who's who" cast of Australian animals, including a naughty echidna, a recalcitrant platypus, a couple of ditzy kangaroos and an assortment of birds, in particular a mad emu, who all try to help, somewhat unsuccessfully, a bewildered bunyip in his search for his identity.

In August, the company will tour Tim Winton's *Blueback* to the Goldfields, upper wheatbelt and lower Gascoyne regions of Western Australia. Meanwhile back home, the company will prepare a new work, *Birthday* about those special moments in everyone's lives for the Term 3 School Holidays, (September 25 to October 9). Directed by Philip Mitchell this celebratory original script will prefigure the following year's 30th anniversary celebrations culminating on the official 30th birthday in February, 2012.

Artistic Director of Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Philip Mitchell said that it was a busy year which would celebrate the great legacy of the company's past as well as look forward to an exciting future. "Spare Parts Puppet Theatre is a remarkable family with a great lineage. It is made up of individuals who have all brought something to the company, from the puppeteers, creative artists and staff to the backstage and front of house crews - and most importantly, the audiences, the children and families of Perth and beyond who have supported and continue to support this remarkable and magical environment and the puppets who really do live in it," he said. "It is our wish that our artistic program for 2010 exceeds your expectations and that the magic of puppetry will help the young stay young and the old grow young forever."

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre is based in Fremantle, Western Australia and is Australia's leading puppetry company, creating entertaining and inspirational theatre for young people and their families. In 2011, the company will begin its celebrations for 30 years of creating quality new Australian puppetry works that excite the way we view our world through image, illusion and entertainment. For more information, please visit www.sppt.asn.au or 9335 5044

Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.
Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 pr@johnmichael.com.au

On tour: Midland / Joondalup / Margaret River / Mandurah
Media Contact:
John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418

[The Night Zoo on tour](#)

During March 2010, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre will take its smash hit show of 2009, *The Night Zoo* on the road as it continues to develop a regular circuit outside of its Fremantle home, providing opportunities for families to enjoy the work of this remarkable company.

Written and directed by Michael Barlow, *The Night Zoo* is a magical story about a little girl who dreams of befriending animals. However, Jamie can only dream because she lives in the middle of the city and her parents don't think there's room for a pet in their apartment.

However, one night, as Jamie falls asleep, something magical happens when one by one the animals of the city zoo come out to find her. Aided by a lovable orangutan, Jamie joins them for a night of dancing in the park. As the sun comes up and the dream is fading fast, there is one more surprise in store.

A fabulous cast of animal characters including Elephant, Giraffe, Penguin, Orangutan, Cranes, Thorny Devils, and the wonderful Meerkats is brought to life by performers, Jacob Lehrer and Katya Shevtsov through puppetry, dance, animation, masks – and a light sprinkling of manure!

Designer Iona McAuley has created a beautifully expressive cast of puppet characters and lighting designer, Romi Poonosamy deftly transports the action from the city at midnight to the dreamscape of the zoo. Remarkably, composer, Lee Buddle completed his 21st original score for the company with this production. Projection of 'cut-out style' animation, created by Michael Barlow, adds to the complexity of the staging.

Barlow said that *The Night Zoo* was created to express the joy that can come from making friends with animals "We're part of the natural world. Developing friendships with animals is one of the most meaningful and enjoyable aspects of this connection," he said. "And the benefits of interacting with animals through looking after a pet are immeasurable as children discover in themselves feelings of care, kinship and the pleasure of being alive."

Spare Parts invites you to join Jamie for a night on which her dreams come true and to go wild with the wildlife of *The Night Zoo*. Keep in touch with the dream at www.sppt.asn.au Early bookings to secure tickets are always advised as the company's shows frequently sell out. 24/7 booking facilities are available online at www.sppt.asn.au or by phone on 9335 5044.

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre is Australia's leading puppetry company creating entertaining and inspirational theatre for young people and their families. In 2011, the company will begin its celebrations for 30 years of creating quality new Australian puppetry works that excite the way we view our world through image, illusion and entertainment.

Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.
Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 jm@johnmichael.com.au

LISTINGS:

The Night Zoo – on the road – Midland, Joondalup, Mandurah and Margaret River - Australia's powerhouse children's theatre company, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre presents *The Night Zoo*, a stunning new work that explores the remarkable relationships children have with animals - Suits anyone who's a bit of an animal, but perfect for 4-10. All bookings (except Margaret River) to Spare Parts Puppet Theatre www.sppt.asn.au or 9335 504.

Midland Junction Arts Centre 1pm and 6pm March 13, & 10am and 1pm March 15, 10am & 1pm March 16
Prendiville Catholic College, Ocean Reef 10am and 1pm March 18, & 1pm and 6pm March 19, & 1pm March 20
Mandurah Baptist College 1pm and 6pm March 25 and 26
Margaret River Cultural Centre 6pm March 29 & 10am & 1pm March 30 www.artsmargaretriver.com or 9758 7316

Media Release: December 8, 2009



IAJ International
Casting of Okalhoma! and The Boyfriend
2010 inaugural season of classic musicals

Media Contact: John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418

Penny Cook and Julie Anthony to lead WA's classic musical season

Two of Australia's favourite performers, Australian singing legend, Julie Anthony and TV star, Penny Cook will head up a stunning cast for IAJ's inaugural season of classic musicals at His Majesty's Theatre, Perth in 2010.

Penny Cook will play the role of Aunt Eller in Rodgers and Hammerstein famous musical *Okalahoma!* opening on March 17 and Julie Anthony will play Madame Dubonnet in Sandy Wilson's toe-tapping evocation of the 1920s, *The Boy Friend* opening on July 21.

Director of IAJ International, John Senczuk (*Annie Get Your Gun, Irene* with Debbie Reynolds, *African Queen, Les Misérables* and *Two Old Queens*) said that he was thrilled that Anthony and Cook could join his talented local casts.

"I've known Penny and Julie for a long time and we've worked on many shows together; I'm really delighted that they can join us," he said. "Both of these leading ladies are superb, versatile performers with great charm. Western Australian audiences will warm to their talent and personality in these famous musicals."

Mr Senczuk has also announced the full casting for *Okalahoma!*, which stars some of WA's most talented performers, including musical theatre lead, Ian Toyne (Ali Hakim), leading actor, Michael Loney (Andrew Carne) with Richard Mellick and Alinta Carrol (as Cord and Mrs Elam) with the return to the stage of veteran performer, Chris Waddell (as Ike).

The lead role of Curly has gone to West Australian Academy of Performing Arts', Drew Weston (the role that made Hugh Jackman, also a WAAPA graduate, a star) along with Meghan O'Shea as Laurey and Ben Hudson as Jud. The 16 member cast includes Analisa Bell, Maree Cole, Sam Devenport, Sherry-Anne Hayes, Tobias Madden, Anthony Pepe and Anna Tsirigotis.

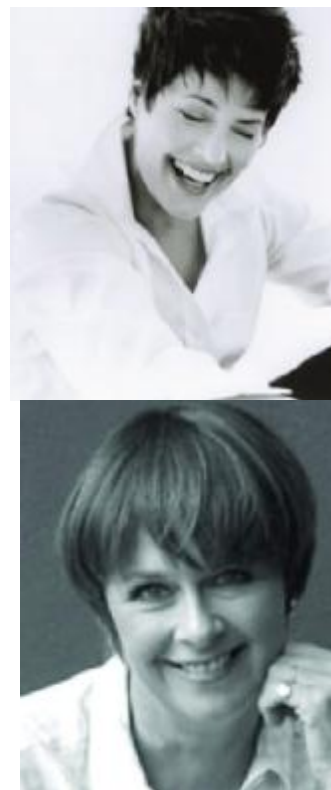
Okalahoma! previews at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre on March 11 and opens at His Majesty's Theatre on March 17. *The Boy Friend* will preview at the Bunbury Entertainment Centre on July 15 prior to its premiere His Majesty's on July 21.

The 2010 Season of Classic Musical, directed and designed by John Senczuk, will be presented 'in concert' mode. Each production will be staged and costumed and features the newly formed IAJ Performing Arts Orchestra (under the direction of respected maestro Ian Westrip OAM) on stage.

IAJ International is a Western Australian based production company dedicated to the presentation of a range of quality music theatre performances involving the wealth of local theatre talent and WAAPA graduates, alongside visiting guest artists of renown.

All bookings for both productions can be made through BOCS on 9484 1133 and/or online at www.bocsticketing.com.au – with major discounts for group bookings.

Excellent interviews and photo opportunities are available
All media enquiries to John Michael Swinbank, JMS Public Relations
0414 743 418 pr@johnmichael.com.au



Media Release: November 16, 2009

2010 Season of Classic Musicals

IAJ's inaugural season of musicals

Media Contact: John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418

WA TALENT TO SHINE IN SEASON OF MUSICALS

A Western Australian based production company dedicated to the presentation of a range of musical theatre performances, and catering for the large and expanding audience in Perth was announced at a special launch at His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday, November 16, 2009.

IAJ International sees director/designer John Senczuk, following the annual successes of musical theatre presentations, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Irene* with Debbie Reynolds, *African Queen*, *Les Misérables* and *Two Old Queens*, team up with musical director Ian Westrip and producer Arnold Wong to establish a company to provide Perth's music theatre audiences with a season of classics.

The trio will bring their collective expertise to the presentation of a range of quality music theatre performances involving the wealth of local theatre talent and WAAPA graduates, alongside visiting guest artists of renown.

Three productions are planned for the inaugural season, which sees the famous Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *Oklahoma!* and *The Boyfriend* by Sandy Wilson presented at His Majesty's Theatre in March and July respectively. A third 'special event' production will take place in August at Burswood Theatre, the casting details of which will be announced in January.

The 2010 Season of Classic Musicals, directed and designed by John Senczuk, will be presented 'in concert' mode. Each production will be fully staged and costumed and features the newly formed IAJ Performing Arts Orchestra (under the direction of respected maestro Ian Westrip OAM) on stage.

Mr Senczuk said that he was excited to be involved in this new venture that seeks to provide opportunities to present Western Australian talent on Western Australian stages as well as develop the potential for engagement interstate and particularly in Asia. "There is already a great demand for quality musical theatre here in Perth," he said. "And there are great resources here too: exceptional performers, designers, choreographers, technical crew and venues. Through IAJ, we hope to bring these together to create a focal point and provide exceptional entertainment for our audiences here and abroad."

The 2010 Season of Classic Musicals will begin with *Oklahoma!* the groundbreaking first musical by the legendary team, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. An enduring and endearing story from the heartland of rural America, *Oklahoma!* engages audiences still with its focus on real people dealing with their daily problems as well as a great romantic love story as big as the state itself. It opens at His Majesty's Theatre on March 17 for six performances.

Bookings for all productions can be made through BOCS on 9484 1133 and/or online at www.bocsticketing.com.au – with major discounts for group bookings.

Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.
Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 jm@johnmichael.com.au



SPARE PARTS PUPPET THEATRE

Spellbound

2 April to 17 April

Media Contact:

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418

Spellbinding marionettes a landmark in puppetry

Exquisite marionettes, music, magic boxes, swirling sword rides and a carnival of tricks await the young and young at heart in this exotic story of love and friendship, the transforming power of the imagination and of a puppet who wanted to be free.

Inspired by Igor Stravinsky's famous ballet, written by Humphrey Bower, *Spellbound* is an adventure story about Petrushka, a clumsy clown, the beautiful Ballerina and the handsome Benjamin and their desire to be free from the magician, Zeno's mysterious world of tricks, magic and illusion.

First produced in 2003, Artistic Director of Spare Parts, Philip Mitchell said that *Spellbound* was a landmark in Australian puppetry. "The marionettes crafted by Jiri Zmitko, our Head Puppet Maker will be the most exquisite yet to be seen in Australian puppetry work," he said. "And through Andrew Lakes' lighting design and the use of 'black theatre' and bunraku puppetry techniques they will seemingly come alive."

The cast includes Oda Aunan, Mark Storen and TBA. Composer Lee Buddle stylistically spans centuries with his new score that captures the beauty of the baroque and the gritty energy of rap and hip hop.

Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.
Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 jm@johnmichael.com.au

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre is based at 1 Short Street Fremantle (opposite the Freo Train Station)
www.sppt.asn.au or 9335 5044



SPARE PARTS PUPPET THEATRE

The Bunyip of Berkley's Creek

3 to 17 July

Media Contact:

John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418

Legendary Bunyip back in Fremantle



The inspirational hit production from Spare

Parts Puppet Theatre, *The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek* will be revived at its home theatre for the July school holidays.

Devised and directed by Noriko Nishimoto and Michael Barlow, this beautifully visual and musical production of the poignant yet amusing story by Jenny Wagner set in Australian bush country has charmed audiences in WA and overseas since its 1998 premiere.

It concerns the lonely search by the Bunyip for his identity and the rather unhelpful but hilarious antics of a "who's who" cast of Australian animals including a naughty echidna, a recalcitrant platypus, a couple of ditzy kangaroos, an assortment of birds in particular a mad emu. Along with an even madder scientist, this distinctly Australian folktale with deep running themes has been a terrific inspiration for designer Zoe Atkinson and composer Lee Buddle.

Awash with Australian landscape colours of reds, yellows, browns and ochres, Atkinson's set is an evocation of a bunyip world, complete with billabong, in which the beautifully hand-carved puppets live. Uniquely, it is also a giant musical instrument perfect for Buddle's alternately haunting and bubbly score. Slats on a tree become a magical marimba; tensioned wires, a hammer dulcimer to be plucked, strummed or plain old whacked by the puppeteers.

Joyous mayhem is created via duelling marimbas, dulcimer chopsticks and some snappy dance routines in this Aussie larrikin-style yarn guaranteed to make the young and young at heart laugh, cry and absolutely believe in buniyps. As if we don't already?!

Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.
Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 jm@johnmichael.com.au

Listings:

The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek

Perfect for 4 to 8 year olds

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre is based at 1 Short Street Fremantle (opposite the Freo Train Station)

www.sppt.asn.au or 9335 5044