



# eulogy for the living

In an exciting development for the increasing, innovative trend of site-specific performance events in Australia, acclaimed dance artist Tony Yap is presenting his company's newest work in the breathtaking **Ballarat Mining Exchange. *Eulogy for the Living*** packs the emotional, visual and performative punch required to match the drama and spectacle of this extraordinary building – and being present as the two collide for one night only will be an unmissable experience.

***Eulogy for the Living*** is multimedia-dance theatre, an immersive experience that challenges and stimulates both body and mind in a wholly sensory exploration of spirituality. It incorporates moving image, visual and sound installation, music, and vocals with cutting edge improvised dance.

The notion of a living eulogy was originally inspired by the little wooden tablets that hang in the Cheng Hoon Teng temple in Tony's childhood hometown of Melaka, Malaysia. The tablets commemorate loved ones who have passed on. '***Eulogy for the Living*** is a devotional work for making our way in the world,' says Yap, 'an internal journey into the memory of body and soul. Here we transform and reconnect a deeper part of ourselves, within the fleeting transience of contemporary life. We the living both preserve the past and allow things to pass – we eulogise ourselves in each moment. Life goes on...'

The work of thirteen artists, including Yap himself and long-term collaborator, highly respected dance artist Yumi Umiumare, will be integrated in ***Eulogy for the Living***. During the rehearsal period each artist is generating a deep, personal and individual work, which will be woven into a collective whole and will use the stunning space of Ballarat Mining Exchange in some surprising ways.

***Eulogy for the Living*** was envisaged by Yap as a series of works to be presented over a number of years, evolving in their treatment of theme in the same way our lifelong understanding of life, death and spirituality evolves with age. Each iteration will respond to its performance site, creating a series of works that commemorate and are inspired by their fleeting physical home as much as what they are eulogising outside of it.

In November of last year, ***Eulogy for the Living*** premiered with great success in the ruins of St Paul's Church in Melaka, as the keynote work of the **2010 Melaka Art & Performance Festival**. For this iteration in Ballarat, the soaring spaces of the Mining Exchange provide similar atmosphere of reverence, of rarefied air floating with particles of memory and significance. The audience will be immersed in this temple-like environment, invited to step into their own spiritual experience of the space. Some of Australia's most exciting film and installation artists have produced their own 'eulogies' that sit with the dance works to create a truly multi-medium arts experience.