

ADELAIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



SEASON 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

The Peasant Prince Comes to Life

The award winning *The Peasant Prince*, the children's picture book based on Li Cunxin's internationally best selling memoir, *Mao's Last Dancer* will be brought to life in a world premiere stage production by the **Adelaide Symphony Orchestra** in May.

The Peasant Prince, the winner of the 2008 Australian Book Industry Awards best children's book tells the inspiring story of Cunxin as a small boy in Northern China who is about to be taken away from everything he has ever known. He is so afraid, but his mother urges him to follow his dreams. For soon he will become a dancer, one of the finest dancers in the world.

The full strength of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra will bring this courageous and timeless story to life on **Saturday 9 May** at **1.00pm** and **3.00pm** at the ASO's **Grainger Studio**.

Featuring the original music of Melbourne based composer **Katy Abbott**, the hauntingly beautiful illustrations by artist **Anne Spudvilas** and the narration of Adelaide's own star of the stage **Cameron Goodall** *The Peasant Prince*, live on stage with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra is a multi sensory experience.

Showcasing all sections of the ASO along with giant moving images from the best selling book *The Peasant Prince* creates an experience to cherish. ASO Education Coordinator **Tammy Hall** says, 'Music is a powerful narrative and can convey the deepest human emotion. Combine the music with Cameron's narration and Anne's stunning images and you really do get a true and honest reflection of Li's personal journey'.

Li Cunxin was born into bitter poverty in rural Qingdao, China. Certain years the peasants in his village even ate tree banks to survive. Despite the harsh reality of life, it was Li's determination; resilience and perseverance which saw him become one of the best dancers China has ever produced.

Don't miss *The Peasant Prince*, a story of courage and determination, as powerful as any fairytale.

Tickets for *The Peasant Prince* can be purchased through BASS 131 246 or www.bass.net.au

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