

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Special Events

## Melbourne Fringe

presents

# SOIL

*On the steps of Old Treasury something is beginning to transform...*

Earth and nature break through the Old Treasury Building steps in an installation mixing traditional art and contemporary design. Over six days Indigenous and East Timorese artists will build an interactive visual art creation that transports the viewer with stories, sounds and images. The Melbourne community is invited to watch and participate in the transformation of one of the city's oldest buildings.

Kimba Thompson, Maree Clarke, Ricardo Idagi, David Bridie, Byron Scullin and Bernardo Costa Duarte, in collaboration with the community, present an installation that will inspire understanding of the environment and of indigenous cultures.

Using coloured soils, sand, bark, stones and leaves as the paint palette, the artists will work with the community to create a mandala-style design inspired by the process of cross-cultural exchange. The result is inspiring - ritualistic, meditative, and reflective of the slow continuum of time.

**SOIL** highlights the impact of art and artist on Melbourne's cultural landscape. **SOIL** will provoke discussion about public art, the relationship between land and man-made structures, and about the emerging images and the structures themselves. **SOIL** encapsulates Melbourne Fringe's role of providing relevant and stimulating participatory opportunities in the creative process.

The installation of **SOIL** will commence with the opening of the 2005 Melbourne Fringe Festival. Aspects of the installation will 'grow' over the first week of the Festival and the general public are encouraged to watch and contribute to its evolution.

*"There is something very special that happens when you bring indigenous cultures together - a time to share skills and stories and to remind you of the importance of retaining your culture and keeping it alive through whatever your passion is, be it storytelling, singing, movement or visual art."*

Kimba Thompson, Regional Arts Victoria Conference, 2004

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### **LISTING INFORMATION**

**Venue:** Old Treasury Building, Spring Street, Melbourne

**Dates:** 21 September - 8 October

**Official Ceremony:** 11:00am Thursday 29 September

**Tickets:** FREE EVENT

**Times:** 24 hours

**Bookings:** [www.melbournefringe.com.au](http://www.melbournefringe.com.au) or 8412 8777

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