



PACT and Redfern Community Centre present

GATHERING GROUND: *Block Side Stories 2008.*
community · friendship · love

FREE EVENT

"Most people are afraid to come to the Block and that's a stereotype we need to break...there are heaps of positive things about this place and this community, like the children...the family connections...the closeness" (Willurei Kirkbright-Burney, young artist 2006.)

In 2006 over 1000 people visited The Block, Redfern to experience multi-art site specific performance work **"Gathering Ground: *history, ceremony, protest.*"**

Over three nights in May 2008, local youth will take part in **Gathering Ground 2!** a high-energy performance event celebrating the ***power of community, friendship and love.***

At sunset each night, groups will be guided through The Block and taken on a bold and breathtaking journey of promise and hope. Broken walls, empty buildings and spaces become sites of ritual, spectacle, action, video, music, sound and story.

In the 5 weeks leading up to the event, 50 young people will participate in workshops run by Legs on the Wall, Erth and other established and emerging artists in hip hop, aerial work, stilt working, puppetry and film.

They will work collaboratively with the artists using their new skills and ideas to bring *stories of the Block* to life. Stories that belong to Aboriginal elders and members of the local community.

"Gathering Ground...was a poignant and moving reminder...of the struggles of the Aboriginal people in the face of racism and oppression...an event like this is educational in the truest sense- a genuinely unforgettable experience."

(Excerpt of letter from audience)

Co- Directors: Karen Therese & Fred Copperwaite

Principal Artists: Will Jarrett, Legs on the Wall, EARTH

Project Co-ordinator: Lily Shearer (RCC)

Participating Partners: Mundine's Gym, Aboriginal Housing Company, PCYC, The settlement, Fact Tree Youth Service, South Sydney Youth Services, Waterloo Girls Centre, Alexandria Park Community School, EORA, Aboriginal Toastmasters, Lights Camera Action, Moogahlin Theatre.

Venue: The Block, Redfern

Season: Thursday May 29, Friday May 30, Saturday May 31

Time : 7.30pm

Tickets: associate@pact.net.au

GATHERING GROUND IS SUPPORTED BY:



MEDIA ENQUIRIES: Janine Collins on: 0403 274 390