

## Garry Stewart

Garry Stewart is artistic director of Australian Dance Theatre. He was appointed to that position in 1999 and followed Meryl Tankard who had directed the company, then called Meryl Tankard Australian Dance Theatre, from 1993.

Stewart began his dance training in 1983 at the Sydney City Ballet Academy before studying at the Australian Ballet School between 1984 and 1985. As a performer he appeared with a number of companies including Australian Dance Theatre, the Queensland Ballet, Expressions Dance Company, One Extra Dance Company. He also worked on many independent projects. In 1989 he performed the role of Luke in the Sydney Theatre Company production of *Harold in Italy*.

Stewart's interest in choreography began early in his dance career. In 1985 he choreographed *Untitled* for an Australian Ballet School production and in 1986 *Zen Do Some Nothing* for an Australian Dance Theatre choreographic workshop. Since then his major works have included *Spectre in the Covert Memory* for the inaugural season by Chunky Move in 1995, a solo piece called *THWACK!* made in 1996 on Bradley Chatfield for Sydney Dance Company, and works for the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. In 1997 Stewart founded the dance company Thwack and created *Plastic Space* for it.

Since his appointment as artistic director of Australian Dance Theatre Stewart has continued to create new works especially works that explore the role of new media in dance performance. He was the recipient of Australian Dance Awards for outstanding choreographic achievement for *The Age of Unbeauty* in 2002 and for *Honour Bound* in 2008.