

The Exquisite Hour

'Gielgud has great dramatic intensity. It's in her blood.'

LE FIGARO, PARIS

Variation on the theme of *Happy Days* by Samuel Beckett
Choreography & Direction Maurice Béjart
Starring Maina Gielgud with Paul DeMasson

6 PERFORMANCES ONLY
12 – 17 AUGUST, 2008

THEATRE ROYAL, SYDNEY

TUESDAY 12 AUGUST 8PM

WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST 8PM

THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 6.30PM

FRIDAY 15 AUGUST 8PM

SATURDAY 16 AUGUST 8PM

SUNDAY 17 AUGUST 3PM

followed by A SPECIAL POST-PERFORMANCE Q & A
with Maina Gielgud, chaired by David McAllister,
Artistic Director, The Australian Ballet

For further information visit
www.exquisitehour.com.au

BOOK NOW - 6 SHOWS ONLY



1300 795 012 ticketek.com.au

groups 8 or more save 1300 364 001
groupbookings@ticketek.com.au

For VIP, Accommodation & Dining Packages
1300 4 SHOWS showbiz.com.au

PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

EXCLUSIVE AUSTRALIAN SEASON
GIELGUD in BECKETT by BÉJART



6 SHOWS ONLY!



12-17 AUGUST 2008
THEATRE ROYAL, SYDNEY

The Exquisite Hour


From sell-out seasons in Europe, ballet icon Maina Gielgud returns to star in *The Exquisite Hour*. Inspired by Samuel Beckett's play *Happy Days*, world renowned choreographer Maurice Béjart has created a work crackling with emotion and theatricality. *The Exquisite Hour* portrays an ageing ballerina whose relentless determination to see the positive in everything is a way of denying the present. A humorous and empathetic character sustains the ballerina as she recalls glimpses from three phases of her life.

Gielgud is one of the great forces of the classical dance world and is in constant demand as a director, teacher and performer. As artistic director for 14 years she transformed The Australian Ballet into one of the finest international companies.

'In the same way that all great musicians have created 'variations' on the theme of another great's work... Brahms' Variations on a theme by Haydn, Chopin's on a theme by Mozart, Beethoven's on Diabelli, etc., I have permitted myself to work on one of the 20th Century's most important pieces: *Happy Days* by Samuel Beckett.

It is not a danced adaptation, but in fact a composition simultaneously true to the spirit of the author, while in the domain of a purely abstract choreographic creation.'

MAURICE BÉJART



'It's Gielgud's show and her dramatic magnetism is considerable...captivating and uniquely enjoyable.'

LAUSANNE 2003