
 **NEWS FLASH:** Printing this page using a Kodak 5300 All-in-One printer would save you up to 50% on your ink costs*. See kodak.com.au
*compared to other consumer inkjet printers.

 **Kodak**

theage.com.au

THE AGE

 [Print this article](#) |  [Close this window](#)

Broad and lively festival leaves audiences stimulated, dancing

Hilary Crampton and Jo Roberts
October 29, 2007

THIS year's Melbourne International Arts Festival has provoked active engagement, dancing in the aisles and excited after-show conversations between both strangers and friends, stimulated by works that have thwarted conventions and broken the conventional rules of performer-audience engagement.

The risky manoeuvres of the artists dared audiences to imagine in new ways, and they revelled in the opportunity.

In considering the festival's diverse offerings, *The Age* critics panel — Martin Ball, Hilary Crampton, Jessica Nicholas, Clive O'Connell, John Slavin and Cameron Woodhead — listed several works that contributed to this sense of imaginative play, including Dutch theatre company Dood Paard's anarchic rendition of William Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*, Barry Kosky's finely honed, idiosyncratic production of *The Tell-Tale Heart*, Jerome Bel's provocative, heart-warming ballet of the ordinary, *The Show Must Go On*, and *The Melbourne Event*, which saw Federation Square carpeted with people in quiet contemplation of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company.

In the end, however, all agreed that the award for most outstanding show belonged to the Merce Cunningham Dance Company's *Program A*, featuring works spanning more than 50 years of invention, risk and stunningly beautiful dance from a master choreographer who has influenced all the arts and, at 88, continues to engage with new generations of collaborators.

Although final figures won't be available until the end of the week, the festival has been the biggest box-office and critical success for artistic director Kristy Edmunds, who has now delivered her third of four festivals. With her 2007 program, Edmunds has delivered a broad and lively program that not only entertained and enlightened, but reached out to all of Melbourne, particularly through the inspiring flagship event, the Merce Cunningham **Dance** Company residency.

On a wall of the Artists' Lounge at the Black Box Theatre is a copy of magazine, *IsNot*. Its title this month: "Who is Merce Cunningham?" Melbourne is now all the richer for knowing.

<http://melbournefestival.com.au>

This story was found at: <http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2007/10/28/119355530249.html>

Advertisement

save up to
50%
on everything you print*



Kodak EasyShare 5300
All-in-One Printer

*compared to other consumer inkjet printers.