

MEDIA ALERT

August 14, 2008

Contact: SOPAC (South Orange Performing Arts Center)
Andrea Peterson 973.382.1032/ Andrea@SOPACnow.org

Look Up In the Sky! It's *Australia's Strange Fruit*

SOPAC Ends the Summer with a Free, Spectacular, Outdoor Performance by International Dance Company Fusing Theater, Dance and Circus Using a Unique Elevated Medium

Summer Performance in South Orange and Maplewood Marks Debut of outdoor series SOPAC Inside Out

South Orange, NJ, August 14, 2008—Perched atop four 12-foot high poles with only the support of gravity, Australia's Strange Fruit, a unique dance company, will perform "Swoon" August 20th at 5pm and 6:30 pm in Cameron Field in South Orange, NJ. An additional performance will take place on August 21st at 5pm and 6:30pm in Memorial Park located at Valley Street between Oakland Road and Baker Street in Maplewood, NJ. In Maplewood, "Swoon" is presented in partnership with ArtsMaplewood.

Each performance is twenty minutes long and guests are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket to enjoy the spectacular views. Both events are perfect for families and children of all ages, and a wonderful way to introduce the SOPAC's outdoor series SOPAC Inside Out.

Ondine Landa Abramson, SOPAC's Executive Director said that while South Orange and Maplewood are two separate towns, they are often considered one community.

"SOPAC Inside Out is a way for everyone to experience the arts beyond the seats of our theater, and allows us to give back to the communities that have given us their support and patronage" she said.

The performers in "Swoon," dressed in colorful, time-period costumes, tell the story of an intriguing ritual of courtship, discovery, and heartbreak while bending their poles to impossible angles at dramatic heights. Messages of love, freedom, loneliness and joy are played out as the audience is taken on a journey of beauty and laughter.

"Australia's Strange Fruit has achieved near-cult status around the world and we are so pleased to present them as part of our family programming," explained Abramson. "Bringing such a unique performance to both South Orange and Maplewood presented an opportunity to showcase an innovative, artistic and cultural experience to the area for the first time," she added.

SOPAC Inside Out presentation of Australia's Strange Fruit is supported by Allegiance Community Bank.

Who: SOPAC (South Orange Performing Arts Center)
What: Outdoor performance by Australia's Strange Fruit
Where: **In South Orange:** Cameron Field, South Orange, NJ
In Maplewood: Memorial Park located at Valley Street between Oakland Road and Baker Street
When: Wednesday, August 20th at 5pm & 6:30pm in South Orange and Thursday, August 21st at 5pm & 6:30 pm in Maplewood
Cost: FREE