

Media Release:

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***The Arrival* is Speechless Magic**

Add a little 'speechless magic' to these school holidays when *The Arrival*, a play based on the multi-award winning book written by Shaun Tan, appears at the Araluen Art Centre at 7pm on Saturday 12 July and at 10am and 1.30pm on Monday 14 July 2008.

Araluen Art Centre Publicity and Promotions Officer Kelsey Rodda said *The Arrivals* 'speechless magic' production is a great performance for children to attend these school holidays.

"The adaptation of the multi-award winning author Shaun Tan's book *The Arrival* is a must see and a truly warm and magical experience for all ages," Ms Rodda said.

"*The Arrival* is a universal tale of challenges, humour and adventures of the mixed feelings people can experience when arriving in a new country, school, job or town.

"In a strange new world of floating ships, mysterious lights and symbols the play's hero, Aki, makes his home.

"*The Arrival* features intricate illustrations of a world where animals and people live harmoniously in a fantastical metropolis that comes to life through a mixture of digital projection, performance and puppetry.

"The combination of digital projection with live performance and puppetry, and the absence of words not only makes the story perfect for puppetry but emphasises the isolation that is experienced by many when arriving in new places."

The production, designed by the Spare Parts Puppet Theatre Production Chief Puppet Maker Jiri Zmitko and Shaun Tan, is presented by highly regarded performers and puppeteers Karen Hethey, Sanjiva Margio and Giri Mazzella.

"Shaun Tan's work has an ability to transcend social, cultural and age barriers. The stage adaptation of *The Arrival* is a theatre work that will appeal and be enjoyed by all," Ms Rodda said.

The Arrival is winner of the Western Australian Equity Award for Best Production for 2006.

For more information contact the Araluen Box Office on 08 8951 1122, or visit the Araluen Arts Centre website at www.araluenartscentre.nt.gov.au.

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Media Note – for more information contact Kelsey Rodda on 8951 1132

Image Credit – 1. The Arrival

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