



THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NSW)

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Everglades celebrates Australia Day weekend with *The Firebird*

Leura's cool-climate Everglades Gardens will host a magical night of storytelling and music on Saturday 26 January 2008 when it stages a performance of *The Firebird*. The show, which starts at 7.30pm, is the centerpiece of Everglades' weekend of Australia Day 2008 celebrations.

The Firebird is a multicultural performance piece that combines dance, storytelling, theatre and live music inspired by African, Indian, Balinese and Middle Eastern traditions. Bookings for the Everglades performance are essential, and can be made through MCA TIX on 1300 307 776.

"What better way to celebrate our country's cultural diversity than by enjoying *The Firebird* in Everglades' beautiful gardens," said National Trust (NSW) Executive Director Tina Jackson.

"*The Firebird* was a resounding success when it was performed at The Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre and Campbelltown Arts Centre in December 2007. Audiences laughed, cried and wouldn't leave the theatre afterwards," Ms Jackson said.

The cast of *The Firebird* includes local Blue Mountains performers John May and Emily Cooper from Hands, Heart & Feet, and Devi Mamak from Ghawazi Caravan. In this production, they share the stage with international artists including Mory Traore from Ballet Matam in West Africa and Pandit Ramchandra Suman, who is a master tabla player and classical Indian dancer.

The Firebird is enjoyed by adults and children. A storyteller leads audiences through a mysterious and funny story, with an original music score woven into the work. Expect to hear the beautiful sounds of sitar, tabla, kora (African harp), djembé, balafon (African xylophone), guitar and exquisite vocals.

The Blue Mountains City Council's Cultural Partnerships Program and the NSW Ministry of the Arts supported *The Firebird*'s development. It is presented at Leura Everglades Gardens on Saturday 26 January at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$26 per adult / \$19 per concession / \$15 per child / \$65 per family.

A digital image of an earlier performance of *The Firebird* is available on request. Please contact Colin Berryman on 0415 458 523 or Dominic O'Grady on 0400 110 169.

The National Trust is Australia's oldest conservation charity. It is not-for-profit and independent, relying on support from its members and the community to assist its work – which includes advocacy for the protection of built, natural and cultural heritage, conservation and education.