TOWNSVILLE BULLETIN
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pulse of the earth

WESTERN forms of dance revere and strive for a lightness of being. The attainment of elevation, the separation from earth — heavenly aspirations. The experimental form of Japanese dance, Butoh, instead takes its power from the pulse of the earth, its energy transmitted through the dancers' feet, the body representing environment and universal identity.

Now erratically based in Australia, Tess De Quincy spent many years studying and performing in Japan with some of that countries most renowned exponents of Butoh after training in visual arts, theatre and dance in Denmark.

This unusual combination of influences has created a performer who is almost impossible to categorise, whose work creates a landscape of sound, sculpture and dance which has caused national reviewers to utilise a new descriptive vocabulary in praising her work.

De Quincy's dance sound installation *'is 2'* has arisen from her fascination with Lake Mungo in northern New South Wales. The ancient dried lakebed is an area rich in significance for Aboriginal people which also worked its magic on De Quincy and her co-artists Rik Rue, Stuart Lynch and Simon Wise.

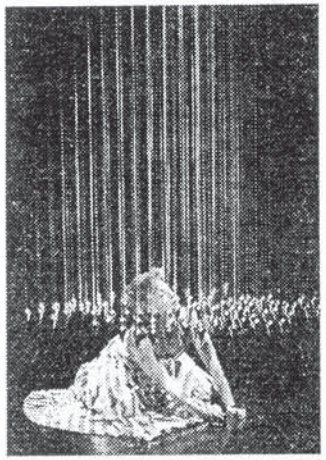

Photo: ROBYN MURPHY

Her fasciination with Lake Mungo has continued for four years and generated a number of works of which *'is 2'* is the most recent, fusing high technology with her impressions of the mystical and ancient spirit she believes emanates from the area. "What we are trying to deal with is tradition and breaking tradition," she said.

Satellite data of the area has been transmuted into a soundscape giving one perspective of a place she describes as initially "unspectacular". A visual aspect based on slides of Mungo adds a further perspective and De Quincy provides the physical and spiritual link.

Tess De Quincy will perform at the Civic Theatre on Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6.

Blurring the barriers

DANCE
By
KARLA PINCOTT

A STILL, crouched dancer in a sculpture/soundscape greets the audience entering the Townsville Arts Centre for *is.2*.

This cross-arts performance interpreting the desert landscape of Lake Mungo is the result of a collaboration that includes Butoh-trained dancer Tess de Quincey, sound artist Rik Rue and sculptor/dancer Stuart Lynch.

The extremely controlled movement features no leaps and no lifts. De Quincey's feet not only remain firmly on the ground, but often appear to be submerged in it, as if she were sleepwalking through deep dust. A video, a stack of corrugated iron, a hanging sledgehammer, a suspended nest of plumb-bobs and even the centre's ceiling fans are effectively integrated into the performance.

You don't need to know anything about dance or art to enjoy the disturbing impact of *is.2*.

But those who expect dancers to have tutus and art to have frames and plinths will either hate the show or change their views.