



Media release 05/06/2008

## **Yirra Yaakin to host powerful Canadian First Nations play in Perth.**

Yirra Yaakin Theatre and the City of Perth are proud to host Canada's premier Indigenous theatre company as part of the City of Perth 2008 Honouring Theatre Festival from July 1 - 6.

The tri-nation theatre festival will showcase quality Indigenous productions from Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Native Earth Performing Arts from Canada is touring a powerful political drama called ANNIE MAE'S MOVEMENT by Yvette Nolan.

Yirra Yaakin Executive Producer and festival founder, Sam Cook, said she was delighted to bring such a strong, Canada-Aboriginal play to Perth.

*"Honouring Theatre is about creating global pathways for Indigenous theatre and celebrating the wealth of creative talent in our cultures,"* Said Ms Cook.

Yvette Nolan's play tells the story of Annie Mae Pictou Aquash, a Mi'qmaq woman from Pictou Landing, Nova Scotia who was found dead on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Dying under mysterious circumstances, it is still not clear whether she was killed by the FBI or by members of the American Indian Movement.

This play has not been written to explain what happened to Anna Mae. Rather it explores what it must have been like to be Anna Mae, a woman in a man's movement, a Canadian in America, an Aboriginal in a white dominant culture at a time when it felt like she could change the world.

Yirra Yaakin Aboriginal Corporation - Australia's leading Indigenous theatre company - is hosting the 2008 Honouring Theatre Festival for the first time.

The event will bring together Maori theatre company Tawata Productions, Native Earth from Canada and Yirra Yaakin for a one-week celebration of world-class Indigenous theatre.

For more information contact: Michelle White | Communications Manager | Yirra Yaakin | 08 9202 1966 | 0439 948 183 | [www.yirrayaakin.com.au](http://www.yirrayaakin.com.au)