



# Joyful debut for Harbour

**E**ACH summer, cultured Perthites head en masse to the majestic City Beach Quarry Amphitheatre for WA Ballet's showpiece annual event, Ballet at the Quarry.

This year's instalment includes three works: *Lickety-split*, choreographed by the internationally-acclaimed Alejandro Cerrudo, the Natalie Weir-choreographed *Lacrimosa*, set to the powerful music of Mozart's Requiem and a new piece by one of Australia's most exciting young choreographers, Timothy Harbour.

Harbour, who danced with The Australian Ballet for 13 years and turned to choreography in 2005, has been busy building up his CV with commissions for the likes of The Australian Ballet and The New York



**Timothy Harbour will debut at Ballet at the Quarry.**

Choreographic Institute.

Ballet at the Quarry will see him make his WA Ballet choreographic debut, with *Fractal Joy*.

Not having choreographed an outdoor ballet before, special atmospheric considerations guided Harbour's choice.

"Mostly, lighting - I have

never seen a performance there before but I understand the lighting tends to dissipate and get lost in what is a massive space," he explained

"Inside a normal theatre, you have that darkness, with the focus on the stage. Here, you have the starry night, cliffs and trees, which is wonderful. but it's harder to

bring out a certain attention. "And it needed to be clear movement, but dynamic and all-encompassing, as intricate details might get lost."

Harbour does not shy away from his responsibility as a young choreographer to ensure ballet remains relevant.

"It's just what happens when you have young artists involved in anything, wanting to do something new, and something they can relate to," he said.

"There is an intrinsic affection for traditional ballet, but it's also important to remain true to yourself and make work you're happy with and resonates with you."

■ Ballet at the Quarry, presented as part of the 2009 Perth International Arts Festival, runs from February 11 to 28.

**Emilia Vranjes**