

MEDIA RELEASE 30th November 2006

**POET LES MURRAY'S EVOCATIVE TALE IS
A CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL ON ABC TELEVISION**

THE WIDOWER, an evocative tale of love and loss based on the poems of Australia's only Poet Laureate Les Murray will be aired on ABC Television on Christmas Eve as a special evening on music and opera.

From the producers of the award-winning film ONE NIGHT THE MOON, The Widower centres around a collection of quintessential Les Murray poems that tell the story of two Australian men—a father (Chris Haywood) and a son (played in a split role by Matt Dyllal and Blake Pittman)—who have lost the most treasured woman in their lives Mary (Frances Rings). The film explores the themes of beauty, sex, love, ageing, isolation and loss in an Australian rural setting.

The screenplay was written by Lyndon Terracini, with music composed by Elena Kats-Chernin, and the film directed by Kevin Lucas. It was awarded the Golden Tripod in 2005 for outstanding cinematography and has been nominated and selected for numerous festivals around the world including Toronto, Vancouver, Moscow and Melbourne International Film Festivals. It was nominated for Best Screenplay Adaptation at the 2005 AFI Awards, and the Film Critics Circle Awards.

It is the first time that the mountain ash forests (the tallest flowering plants in the world) have been featured in a drama film in Australia and the last scene in the film is set in the most ancient forest in Victoria, with trees thought to be well over 500 years old.

The Film is screening on ABC National Television, Sunday 24th December, 10pm.

REVIEWED BY VARIETY INTERNATIONAL!

"This gorgeous, poetic, simple and elegant music-drama about familial grief expands cinema's language in seemingly effortless, accessible fashion...its air of psychological insight is deft and haunting...the music is perfectly in synch with the project's desired mix of folkloricism, droll humor, poignancy, eroticism and domestic realism." - **Dennis Harvey, VARIETY INTERNATIONAL**

SOME AUSTRALIAN REVIEWS!

"I found THE WIDOWER a really pure and beautiful experience and a very moving one. It's fantastic that we're able to produce films that combine such an amazing array of talent. ...it has some of the best sex scenes of any Australian film.**** (four stars)

- **Margaret Pomeranz, ABC At The Movies**

The film is stunningly beautiful... ..wildly ambitious... ..Haywood's performance is magnificent. - **Paul Byrnes, Sydney Morning Herald**

"Propelled by beautiful images, original music and excellent performances, The Widower is quietly gripping..."

Sacha Molitorisz Sydney Morning Herald June 25th

Chris Haywood is superb... A beautifully lyrical film...

- **Vicky Roach, The Daily Telegraph**

"The score by Elena Kats-Chernin, and like the Cinematography from Kim Batterham, is beautiful..." - **Julie Rigg, Radio National**

"...a gentle love poem full of rich images." - **The Australian**

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

FURTHER INFORMATION www.musicartsdance.com

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MusicArtsDance films

THE WIDOWER

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SVT Sweden

Digital Classics (UK)

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