

*Illumination Films & MusicArtsDance Films present*

*A film by Paul Cox*

*The Diaries of Vaslav*

# **NIJINSKY**

*Read by  
Sir Derek Jacobi*

 **MEDIA KIT** 

As at 14 February 2002

**For any further information, or interview requests, please contact**

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*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

***Festivals***

“Necessarily kaleidoscopic and impressionistic, Cox’s technique allows him to avoid the pitfalls of the biographical portrait and create a much more profound, hesitant picture of his subject, a man who described himself as being “a man of motion not immobility” - perhaps Cox’s own image of himself, but also a prescription for what the cinema should be.”

**The Venerable Masters Section  
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2001**



“With the words of Nijinsky (read with great sensitivity by Sir Derek Jacobi) Cox gives us a film that takes a startling look at the man behind “The God of Dance” and brings forth a touching, beautiful and poetic dimension rarely found in other more common biographical films.”

**OSLO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2001**



“The film alternates between poetic, almost abstract images of nature, settings of Nijinsky’s choreographies in the open air, fragments from his family life and historic images. (...) Cox’ film is an ode to life, music, dance and, in the end, film”

**ROTTERDAM INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2002**



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

Illumination Films and MusicArtsDance Films in association with WINSTAR  
present

**THE DIARIES OF VASLAV NIJINSKY**

A Film by PAUL COX

**Read by SIR DEREK JACOBI**

Featuring DELIA SILVAN, CHRIS HAYWOOD, VICKI ATTARD, DAVID MCALLISTER  
and the LEIGH WARREN & DANCERS Dance Company

Photography PAUL COX and HANS SONNEVELD Original Music PAUL GRABOWSKY  
Choreographer and Dance Supervisor ALIDA CHASE

Wardrobe Designer JILLY HICKEY Sound Design JAMES CURRIE and CRAIG CARTER  
Creative Consultant SZAKÁTS KINGA GASPERS

Research MARGOT WIBURD and LEONIE VERHOEVEN

Executive Producers KEVIN LUCAS and WILLIAM T MARSHALL

Producers PAUL COX and AANYA WHITEHEAD

**Based on the Cahiers by VASLAV NIJINSKY published by ACTES SUD**

Financed by the Australian Film Finance Corporation

Produced with assistance and finance from the South Australian Film Corporation

Co-produced in association with SBS Independent

Co-Produced in association with ZDF/ARTE and Netherlands Programma Stichting

Produced in association with Winstar Productions USA, SVT SWEDEN and SHARMILL FILMS

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*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

## **SYNOPSIS**

The **Diaries of Vaslav NIJINSKY** is based on the published diary *Cahiers*, which Nijinsky wrote in 1919 during an extremely traumatic period of his life.

In the grip of madness, Nijinsky fled to St Moritz in an attempt to escape his overbearing mentor Diaghilev. It was during that time that Nijinsky was able to lucidly capture his feelings in his writing, thus making *Cahiers* a rare and precious document.

**NIJINSKY** portrays the dancer through the use of visual imagery seen from his point of view, reflecting salient moments of his life through the characters he was dancing at the time - Petrouchka, the Faun, the Blue God, the Golden Slave, and others. As the voice of Nijinsky, Sir Derek Jacobi reads from the diaries.

Celebrating Nijinsky the dancer, the film explores the mind of a genius on the outer verge of reason.

Based on *Cahiers* by VASLAV NIJINSKY published by ACTES SUD.

*“... my madness is my love for mankind ...”*

*Vaslav Nijinsky*



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**CAST**

The Voice Of Nijinsky	SIR DEREK JACOBI
Romola	DELIA SILVAN
Oscar	CHRIS HAYWOOD
Doctor	HANS SONNEVELD
Psychiatrist	OLIVER STREETON
Emilia	JILLIAN SMITH
Diaghilev	KEVIN LUCAS
Critic	DAVID GALLASCH
Maid	AANYA WHITEHEAD
Piano Player	GABRIELLA JOY SMART
Prostitutes	LISA HEAVEN
	PATRICIA CELLIER
Little Kyra	KYRA COX
	ANANDINE MERINO



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**DANCERS**

**Le Spectre de la Rose**

DAVID McALLISTER  
VICKI ATTARD

**Pas de Trois**

DELIA SILVAN  
PETER SHEEDY LISA HEAVEN

**War Dance**

Dance and Choreographed by  
AIDAN KANE MUNN

**L'Après-Midi d'un Faune**

**Faune** CSABA BUDAY

**Nymphs** DELIA SILVAN JO ROADS LISA HEAVEN  
MICHELE BUDAY TANIA TABACCHI RACHEL JENSEN  
KIM HALES-McARTHUR

**Beauty**

Danced and Choreographed by  
THE THEATRE OF ALCHEMY DREAM  
EL SUEÑO ALQUÍMICO  
ADRIANA SOMONA ROA and DONALD MITCHELL

**Nijinsky**

<b>Figure in Landscape</b>	ALIDA CHASE	
<b>Schéhéraza</b>	JOHN LEATHART	YORAM MOSENZON
	PATRICIA CELLIER	
<b>Giselle</b>	JO ROADS	BRUNO CATALANO
<b>Le Spectre de la Rose</b>	JEAN-PHILLIPPE BUDIN	ARMAND VAN DEN HAMER
<b>Le Dieu Bleu</b>	DEON HASTIE	ROB PETERS
	ALEX EARL	
<b>Danse Siamoise</b>	PETER FURNESS	ASHLEY RUSSEL
	PATRICIA CELLIER	
<b>Le Carnaval</b>	AIDAN KANE MUNN	TIBOR MOLNÁR
<b>Petrouchka</b>	ALIDA CHASE	LEIGH WARREN
	ZOLTÁN NAGY	
<b>L'Après-Midi d'un Faune</b>	CSABA BUDAY	ALIDA CHASE
	ARMAND VAN DEN HAMER	TIMOTHY GORDON
<b>Narcisse</b>	PETER SHEEDY	MARC VAN LOON
	ALIDA CHASE	
<b>Le Pavillon d'Armide</b>	DELIA SILVAN	PATRICIA CELLIER

*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**CREW**

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

PRODUCERS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

CREATIVE CONSULTANT

PHOTOGRAPHY

CHOREOGRAPHER AND DANCE SUPERVISOR

COSTUMES

ORIGINAL MUSIC

SOUND DESIGN

RESEARCH

PRODUCTION MANAGER

PRODUCTION OFFICE MANAGER

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

PRDUCTION ASSISTANT

PRODUCTION ATTACHMENT

ONSET PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

UNIT MANAGER

POST-PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANTS

CLAPPER /LOADERS

VOICE-OVER SOUND RECORDISTS

SOUND RECORDIST

ART DIRECTORS

MAKEUP ARTISTE

ASSISTANT MAKEUP

HAIRDRESSER

WARDROBE

ADDITIONAL COSTUMES SUPPLIED BY

PAUL COX

PAUL COX and AANYA WHITEHEAD

KEVIN LUCAS and WILLIAM T MARSHALL

SZAKÁTS KINGA GASPERS

PAUL COX and HANS SONNEVELD

ALIDA CHASE

JILLY HICKEY

PAUL GRABOWSKY

CRAIG CARTER and JAMES CURRIE

MARGOT WIBURD and LEONIE VERHOEVEN

AANYA WHITEHEAD

MARGOT WIBURD

LEONIE VERHOEVEN

SONYA HUMPHREY

THEA POTTER

KEVIN LUCAS

CHRIS HAYWOOD

KYRA COX

DOROTHY BUTTON

TONY LLEWELLYN-JONES

CHRIS HAYWOOD

ALIDA CHASE

HANS SONNEVELD

JUDD OVERTON

JAMES CURRIE and DAN PERRY

MICHAEL BAKALOFF

ANTHONY CRONIN, NEIL ANGWIN

ANGELINE BREMER

SUSIE WARHURST

JODEE LENAINE-SMITH

JONTI SHPRUNG

JILLY HICKEY and BERNADETTE CORSTENS

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLETT

BERNADETTE CORSTENS (Europe)

*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

PROJECT ARTIST

MASK MAKER

STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS

BALLET CONSULTANTS

FILM EDITOR

SOUND EDITOR

SOUND MIXER

SOUND EFFECTS MIXER

DOLBY CONSULTANT

TITLE DESIGN

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WILLIAM KELLY

PHYLLIS WILLIAMS

SAM OSTER and KYRA COX

ALIDA CHASE

LEIGH WARREN (Le Spectre de la Rose)

PAUL COX

CRAIG CARTER

JAMES CURRIE

RORY MCGREGOR

STEPHEN MURPHY

OLIVER STREETON

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ROSS MITCHELL

IAN LETCHER

PAUL CROSS

MARGARET BOURKE

CENTRETRACK (JAMES CURRIE)

THE JOINERY (TIM LEWIS)

PERSONAL FX (CRAIG CARTER)

GRABSOUND

KINESOUND (YURI WORONTSCHAK)

AAV AUSTRALIA

PAMELA HAMMOND

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MIKE LYON PHOTOGRAPHY

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CINESURE

FUJI FILM



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**MUSIC**

Produced, arranged and conducted by PAUL GRABOWSKY

Performed by members of the VICTORIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Pushkin text sung by MEREDITH SCHILLING

Additional production, digital and  
Sample editing, recording and  
Mixing by YURI WORONTSCHAK at KINESOUND

Strings recorded by ROBIN GRAY at ALLAN EATON STUDIO

*"Piano Concerto BWV 1056" (Largo)*  
J S BACH

Performed by Hae-Won Chang and Camerata Cassovia  
Conductor Stankovsky

*"Violin Sonata No 5 (Spring)"*  
BEETHOVEN

Performed by Nishizahi/Jandó

*"L'Après-Midi d'un Faune"*  
CLAUDE DEBUSSY

Performed by the BRT Philharmonic Orchestra  
Conducted by Alexander Rahbari

*"Casta Diva (Norma)"*  
VINCENZO BELLINI

*"Schéhérazade"*  
NICOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

Performed by the Philharmonic Orchestra, London  
Conducted by Enrique Butiz

*"Invitation to the Dance"*  
CARL MARIA von WEBER

Performed by the CSR Symphony Orchestra  
Conducted by Ondrej Lenard



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**PRODUCTION NOTES**

“I’m a dancer. You will understand me when you see me  
dance”  
*Vaslav Nijinsky*

In December 1917, Vaslav Nijinsky with his wife Romola and three year old daughter Kyra, retreated to a villa in St Moritz to await the end of the war. His relationship with Diaghilev’s Ballets Russes had been severed and with war raging throughout Europe, it was impossible for Nijinsky to find other engagements. By the Armistice in November 1918, Nijinsky, the most celebrated male dancer of the Western world, had suffered a severe mental breakdown. In notebooks he recorded his intense inner turmoil.

Known as “the God of the Dance” Vaslav Nijinsky is probably the greatest male dancer of all time. Bringing The Diaries of Vaslav Nijinsky to the screen has been a consuming passion and labour of love for most of writer and director Paul Cox’s career, having first been inspired with the idea over 30 years ago, when he heard Paul Schofield read parts of the diary on the radio.

Says Cox: “It reminded me of Vincent van Gogh’s letters to his brother ... here was another person who, on the edge of insanity, managed to say what he *felt*, not what he *thought*. It really intrigued me, and that’s one of the reasons I made **VINCENT - THE LIFE AND DEATH OF VINCENT VAN GOGH. NIJINSKY** goes even further into that so-called insanity, where people are really much closer to the truth of who we are, where we’re travelling to and why we’re here.”

Born in Kiev, Russia in 1888, Nijinsky entered the Imperial School in St. Petersburg in 1898, and upon graduation in 1907 became a soloist with the Maryinsky Theater. Moving in the aristocratic circles of St. Petersburg, he met Sergei Diaghilev. Under his influence and dictation Nijinsky became his protégé, and ultimately one of the most respected dancers of all time.

Not a documentary or a traditional feature film **The Diaries of Vaslav Nijinsky** is best described as a cinematic poem. As long-term Cox friend and collaborator Chris Haywood says: “With this film Cox has achieved a level of film-making which is unsurpassed. **VINCENT** was a step towards it. Using a very subjective form of filmmaking, he has actually visualised Nijinsky’s diary.”

“With this film Cox has achieved a level of film-making  
which is unsurpassed. It is as if an impressionist has painted  
it.”  
Chris Haywood

*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

*“If anyone can give us a feeling of who Nijinsky really was,  
it is Paul Cox”  
Dancer and Choreographer, Leigh Warren*

With the shoot spanning 18 months in locations ranging from the French highlands, the Adelaide lowlands, Russian steppes, Spain, Holland and inner Paris, Paul Cox did almost everything himself - the writing, directing, filming and editing.

Haywood compares the shooting of the film to an artist's palette "Paul uses a lot of natural light, and watching him shoot the film was akin to observing an artist mixing his colours. What he has done in the editing process is put those colours onto the canvas. It is as if an impressionist has painted it."

In his time, Nijinsky was considered a performing chameleon, and Cox used a number of different dancers to portray him through the characters he danced.

Says Cox: "There are at least 25 Nijinskies in the film - sometimes male, sometimes female. As he was a man of many disguises, and so many characters came out through the photos that are left behind, I thought you can't have just one person playing Nijinsky.

"It's not a film about the dance, but a dancing film."

Few of Nijinsky's ballets have remained intact, so Cox had help from Alida Chase in particular, in recreating some of the famous dances. One of the reconstructed ballets that most notably dealt with Nijinsky's life is the story of Petrouchka - the puppet dancing at the hands of his master.

Says dancer/choreographer Leigh Warren, who is one of the dancers portraying the character Petrouchka in **NIJINSKY**: "It is one of those complex and tragic stories where everybody loves somebody else. I believe the choreographer wove in a second strata to the obvious storyline, which was of what was *really* going on ... that Nijinsky was the puppet and Diaghilev was the magician who pulled his strings. I think it was a warning to Diaghilev to 'be careful, don't push this person too far'. It must have been a real plea, but we'll never know if Diaghilev got the message. But sadly we *do* know what the tragic results were.

"I think that if anyone can give us a feeling of who Nijinsky really was, it is Paul Cox" continued Warren.

The film features music by Debussy, Stravinsky and Grabowsky.

*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

“This film is a homage to a very great soul,  
to one of the great heroes of the last century.”

Paul Cox, 2002

Music is a very important element in every Cox film, as he believes music to be at the basis of all creativity. Quite often, he has the music in place at the start of a film. In this case, there was a lot of existing music from composers including Debussy, Weber and Stravinsky, which was an integral part of Nijinsky's performances. Long time Cox-collaborator Paul Grabowsky has woven these famous pieces together with his own original compositions.

Another element important to the film was the recreation of costumes of the Ballets Russes. Says Costume Designer Jilly Hickey: “The costumes are based on original designs commissioned by Diaghilev - I altered them a touch to include Paul's style and feel, but the costumes bear a striking resemblance to the originals.”

Producer Aanya Whitehead says she came aboard feeling incredibly moved by the strength and the message of Paul Cox's script: “It almost felt like a spiritual document in terms of life, kindness and humanity,” she says.

“Nijinsky's words shock and create passion - they make you react totally through your heart and your emotion. I believe Paul has set out to interpret the love Nijinsky had for mankind” she continued.

Executive Producer Kevin Lucas, who also appeared as Diaghilev in the film, says “Nijinsky was a very complex person. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, he still stands as a great artist, and someone who was totally passionate about finding the “truth”.

Says Paul Cox: “Nijinsky has really humbled me, because I agree with the sentiments he is expressing, about god, love, living, ageing and dying.”

When Vaslav was first confined to an asylum he said to Romola: “Femmka, have courage; do not despair. There is a God.”

He never danced again but lived another thirty years, withdrawn from the world in a reality of his own.

Vaslav Nijinsky died on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1950.



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**SIR DEREK JACOBI**

***Voice of Vaslav Nijinsky***

Derek Jacobi was invited to join the National Theatre Company in London by Sir Laurence Olivier - and his work as a theatre actor since the early 1960s earned him a legendary reputation as one of England's finest actors. In 1985, he received a Tony for his role as Benedick in **Much Ado about Nothing**, and he has famously acted as the mentor and acting instructor of Kenneth Branagh.

From his debut as Cassio in Olivier's **OTHELLO** (1965), he has also starred in over 50 feature films, including **THE DAY OF THE JACKAL** (1973); **THE ODESSA FILE** (1974); **THE MEDUSA TOUCH** (1978); **LITTLE DORRIT** (1988); **HENRY V** (1989); **DEAD AGAIN** (1991); **LOOKING FOR RICHARD** (1996) **HAMLET** (1996), **LOVE IS THE DEVIL** (which earned him awards for Best Performance at Edinburgh Film Festival and Best Actor by Evening Standard British Film Award 1998); **JOAN OF ARC** (2000); **GLADIATOR** (2000) and **GOSFORD PARK** (2001).

His many memorable television performances include Claudius in **I, CLAUDIUS** (1976); Hamlet in **HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK** (1980) Hitler in **INSIDE THE THIRD REICH** (1982) Cyrano de Bergerac in **CYRANO DE BERGERAC** (1985) and Alan Turing in **BREAKING THE CODE** (1996).

Jacobi has also received both a British and a Danish Knighthood, and was made British Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1985, and Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1994.

Jacobi has previously worked with Paul Cox on **MOLOKAI - THE STORY OF FATHER DAMIEN**, which was filmed in Hawaii in 1998.

Says Paul Cox: "I first met Derek during the filming of **MOLOKAI**, and found that working with him was like working with the most wonderful instrument. We had a great contact, and soon knew that we wanted to do something else together. His voice has so many nuances, which adds so much depth to the character of Nijinsky."



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**CHRIS HAYWOOD**

**Oscar**

Chris Haywood's stellar career spans over 70 films including **PARADISE FOUND** (2001), **INNOCENCE** (2000), **SHINE** (1995), **MURIEL'S WEDDING** (1993), **QUIGLEY DOWN UNDER** (1989), **THE NAVIGATOR** (1987), **MALCOLM** (1985), **THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER** (1981), **BREAKER MORANT** (1979), **THE CARS THAT ATE PARIS** (1973), and a number of Paul Cox films, including **A WOMAN'S TALE** (1990), **THE GOLDEN BRAID** (1989) and **MAN OF FLOWERS** (1983). His numerous Television appearances include **Grass Roots** (2000), **The Day Of The Roses** (1999) and Bill Bennett's **The Last Man Hanged** (1992).

AFI Best Supporting Actor in a Television Drama 2000 for **Grass Roots**, Haywood's acting awards include the Film Critics Circle of Australia Award Best Supporting Actor for **KISS OR KILL** (1998); the Logie Awards Most Outstanding Actor for **JANUS** (1995), Best Supporting Actor for **GOOD THING GOING** (1979) and Best Individual Male Performance for **ESSINGTON** (1976); the AFI Best Supporting Actor for **EMERALD CITY** (1989) and Best Actor for **A STREET TO DIE** (1985); and the SAMMY Best Supporting Actor for **NEWSFRONT** (1978).

Haywood also worked with MusicArtsDance Films' Kevin Lucas and Anya Whitehead on the award winning and internationally acclaimed **ONE NIGHT THE MOON**, a musical drama based on the true story of a child who became lost in the Australian outback in 1932.

In **NIJINSKY**, Haywood has a small part as Oscar - the second husband of Nijinsky's wife. But his main reason for being involved in the film was not the acting.

**NIJINSKY** is Haywood's thirteenth film with Paul Cox. Says Haywood: "Working on a Cox film is about more than being an actor. I'm here to work as the crew, like I always do on Cox's movies, helping out in every way - clapperloading, focuspulling, driving... swapping roles and just being an associate to him. It is a very collaborative way of working, and I believe that this is the process that creates true value in a film - it keeps you in touch with the art of filmmaking and all its aspects."



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**VICKI ATTARD**

**Lead Dancer**

One of Australia's most celebrated dancers, Vicki Attard was born in Mackay, Queensland and was a student of Betty Meskell before joining The Australian Ballet School. In 1985 she joined The Australian Ballet and was promoted to Coryphée in 1987, Soloist in 1991, Senior Artist in 1992 and Principal Artist in 1993.

She joined Sydney Dance Company for its 1989 season and rejoined The Australian Ballet in 1990. Her many leading roles have included those in **Les Sylphides**, **Equus**, **The Leaves are Fading** and **Apollo**; as well as title role of **Giselle**; Odette/Odile in **Swan Lake**; Princess Aurora in **The Sleeping Beauty**; Tatiana in **Onegin** and Juliet in **Romeo and Juliet**; and the 1997 world premiere of **Cinderella**.

Vicki Attard has toured with the Australian Ballet to Russia, the United Kingdom and Greece, Japan, China and Taiwan and the United States. She created the role of Cio-Cio-San in the world premiere of Stanton Welch's **Madame Butterfly** in 1995, the same year as she won the James & Diana Ramsay Scholarship, which enabled her to study in Copenhagen, London and the Netherlands. In June 1997, she received the Mo Award for Best Female Dancer of the Year.

Attard left the Australian Ballet in December 1999, after a hugely successful fourteen years with the company. In **NIJINSKY**, she dances the Girl in **Le Spectre de la Rose**.



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**DAVID MCALLISTER**

**Lead Dancer**

A graduate of The Australian Ballet School, Perth-born David McAllister began his training with Evelyn Hodgkinson, and joined The Australian Ballet in 1983. He was promoted to Senior Artist in 1986 and to Principal Artist in 1989. David was recently appointed the Creative Director of The Australian Ballet.

His principal roles have included those in **Onegin; Romeo and Juliet; La Fille mal gardee; The Sleeping Beauty; Don Quixote; The Sentimental Bloke; Coppelia; Manon; la Sylphide; Sinfonietta; Stepping Stones; Cinderella and 1914.**

In 1985 he won a Bronze Medal at the Fifth International Ballet Competition in Moscow and the same year won the Oceanic Equity Art Award for Young Achievers in Perth. Since then he has made numerous guest appearances in the USSR performing with the Bolshoi Ballet and Kirov Ballet, the Georgian State Ballet and others. In 1989 he was guest artist with the national Ballet of Canada alternating in the roles of Mercutio and Benvolio in John Cranko's **Romeo and Juliet**, and in **Etudes** and **The Four Temperaments**. He has also been a guest artist with Birmingham Royal Ballet and Singapore Dance Theatre. In London in 1992, he took part in the Royal Gala performance of **Coppelia** in the presence of the Princess of Wales.

In **NIJINSKY**, he dances the Rose-Spirit in **Le Spectre de la Rose**.



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**ALIDA CHASE**

***Dance Consultant/Choreographer***

A graduate of the Australian Ballet School, Alida Chase joined the Australian Ballet in 1969. Under the directorship of Peggy Van Praagh she rose through the ranks to become a Principal Artist in 1975. Her many international tours with the company include the USA, the USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and the UK, and Principal dance roles include Lady in **Lady and the Fool**; **Gemini** from Glen Tetley; **Cinderella** from Fredrick Ashton; Queen of the Willis in **Giselle**; Aurora in **The Sleeping Beauty**; Juliet in **Romeo and Juliet** and the title role of **The Merry Widow**.

The recipient of a Marten Bequest scholarship, Chase left Australia in 1977 to study modern dance in New York and London. In October 1977, she joined the Netherlands Dance Theatre at the invitation of Jiri Kylian, and for the next six years she toured throughout Europe, Canada and the USA, performing the works of Jiri Kylian and other contemporary choreographers, including William Forsythe. In 1984 she left the Netherlands to join William Forsythe and the Frankfurt Ballet. As well as performing, she choreographed, taught and directed rehearsals. In 1989 she returned to Holland as a freelance artist, and in 1991 she was invited by Kylian to join NDT 3 for the inaugural season. Chase returned to Australia in 1992, where she has been working as a freelance teacher and choreographer in Melbourne.

As Dance Consultant for **NIJINSKY**, Chase has sourced all the performers for the dance sequences, choreographed some Dance sequences, reproduced **Afternoon of a Faun**, and appeared onscreen in the European locations.

Chase feels like she has been part of the project for a long time. Says Chase: "I've known Cox for 23 years, he has always spoken about this project and how much it means to him. He has also always loved dance - and has great respect for dance and the dancers, so I think this film basis comes out of his love and respect for Nijinsky as a person and as a dancer."

Working with Nijinsky's material was also a strong experience for Chase: "I felt honoured to be part of the project, and have come to understand that Nijinsky was a greater genius than I had realised - in the dance, but also as a thinker.

"Technically I was amazed when I read the descriptions of what he could actually do. You tend to think that technique has improved over the years, but when you read what he could do with the ballet steps you come to realize that he was a phenomenon."



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**DELIA SILVAN**

**Lead Dancer**

A founding member of Leigh Warren & Dancers, Delia Silvan was a full-time dancer with the company for nine years, and performed in numerous festivals the world over, including the Holland Dance Festival, the Turning World Festival in London and the Seoul International Dance Festival.

The recipient of an Anthony Joseph Pratt scholarship whilst at the Victorian College of the Arts, Delia was awarded **Best Performance By An Individual Artist** for her role in **Silent Cries** - part of Leigh Warren & Dancer's **Masterpieces of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century** - at the 1999 Australian Dance Awards.

Delia has been a company member of the Australian Dance Theatre and Danceworks, and has also performed in Victoria State Opera's **Eugene Onegin**; Michael Clark and Company's **No Fire Escape in Hell**; David Parson's **The Envelope** and John Utan's **Reading Light (Illuminating Text)**.

She was the Movement Consultant for Snakehouse Productions' **Tiger Country** at the Melbourne International Festival in 1995, and a choreographer for several LWD Dancers' Choreographic Seasons, including **Maritime** (1999) - a site specific dance work at the Maritime Museum in Port Adelaide, South Australia. She has also performed in the Australian Broadcasting Corporation programs **Tehillim**, **Shimmer**, **Lure** and **Avarice**, choreographed by Leigh Warren.

Delia is currently working on her own project **Night Vision** - a series of interconnected duets between the dancer and four leading Australian solo musicians, which will show as the centerpiece of the Australia-Korea Foundation's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in April 2002.

In **NIJINSKY**, she appears as Nijinsky's wife Romola, as well as performs in **Pas de Trois**, **L'Après-Midi d'un Faune** and **Le Pavillon d'Armide**.



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**LEIGH WARREN & DANCERS**

Formed in 1993, Leigh Warren & Dancers has established itself as a formidable force in the Australian contemporary dance scene. The company has performed extensively in Australia and internationally, including the **Holland Dance Festival** in The Hague, the **Turning World Festival** in London, **Seoul International Dance Festival** in Korea, and three **Adelaide Festivals**.

ABC TV has filmed a number of the company's works, including *Lure* (1994), which went to air as the Australian representative in the ABC's "Dance Now" series, and *Shimmer* (1999), where the dancers were joined by the Australian String Quartet.

In 1998 Leigh Warren & Dancers' highly praised *Quiver* toured Australia, and the following year, *Masterpieces of the 20th Century* represented an important milestone in the company's development, as it was the first time Leigh Warren & Dancers had presented an entire program of works by non-company choreographers.

Winner of the award for **Most Outstanding Performance By A Dance Company**; the choreography award to Leigh Warren for *Shimmer*; and **Best Performance By An Individual Artist** to Delia Silvan for her role in *Silent Cries*, part of the *Masterpieces of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* program at the **1999 Australian Dance Awards**, the company was also honoured with the prestigious **Group Award** in the national **2001 Sidney Myer Performing Arts Awards**.

In the 2000 Adelaide Festival, the company's premiere of Warren's *Divining* was met with critical acclaim. *Divining* returned to the stage in 2001 as part of the *Made to Move* program.

Leigh Warren is the first to admit that it is every dancer's dream to work on a film about Nijinsky: "Nijinsky was the father of contemporary dance - the first to break a lot of rules and open new territory which has come to be the domain of contemporary dance.

"Through this production, I've also discovered more about how unique Nijinsky the person was. His transfiguration ability is fascinating ... one minute he appeared lyrical and graceful, and the next ugly, pathetic and tragic."

In **NIJINSKY**, Leigh Warren plays one of Nijinsky's many characters, Petrouchka. "To be a small part of the many facets of his personality is a really terrific experience. The ballet Petrouchka was also the first glimpse the West had had of the riches of Russian culture, featuring spectacular dancing, lush costumes and Stravinsky's music."



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**PAUL GRABOWSKY**

*Composer*

One of Australia's most highly respected and talented musicians, Grabowsky completed his music training in the USA and Europe, with jazz legends including Chet Baker, Art Farmer and Johnny Griffin. A composer and pianist, Grabowsky has headed a number of award winning jazz groups, and been a member of the highly acclaimed the Australian Jazz Orchestra and the Wizards Of Oz.

The founder and Artistic Director of The Australian Art Orchestra, Grabowsky has also held numerous official positions within the Australian arts community, including ABC TV's commissioning editor for Arts & Entertainment in 1997 and 1998. He received the Sydney Myer Performing Artist of the Year in 2001.

Paul Grabowsky has scored a number of television series including **Janus** (1994); **Phoenix** (1992); **Full Frontal** (1993) and **The Petrov Affair** (1997), as well as films including Ben Lewin's **GEORGIA** (1988); Gillian Armstrong's **THE LAST DAYS OF CHEZ NOUS** (1992); John Polson's **SIAM SUNSET** (1999); John Irvin's **SHINER** (2000) and Fred Schepisi's **LAST ORDERS** (2001). He also created the music for Nigel Jameson's extraordinary modern day Indonesian Wayang Kulit shadow-puppet theatre **The Theft of Sita**, which toured extensively in the United States, Europe and Australia, and which earned him the Helpmann Award 2001 for **Best Original Score** and the Age Award 2000 for **Best Production**.

A long time Paul Cox collaborator, Grabowsky has composed the scores for many of Cox's films - **A WOMAN'S TALE** (1991); **EXILE** (1994); **LUST AND REVENGE** (1996); **INNOCENCE** (2000); and **MOLOKAI: THE STORY OF FATHER DAMIEN**, due for Australian release in 2002.



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**AANYA WHITEHEAD**

*Co-producer*

Aanya Whitehead is a creative producer and line producer with the production company MusicArtsDance Films. With extensive experience in arts productions and negotiations, Aanya has produced TV music specials, features, documentaries and music recordings. She has also developed, produced, promoted and marketed film projects working intensively with both first-time and experienced directors and writers.

Aanya's credits with MAD films include **FISH** (1998); **URBAN CLAN** (1997) - Winner Best Documentary, **DANCE SCREEN** in Cologne in 1999; **3 KNOCKS ON THE DOOR - The Magic of Philippe Genty** (1996) - Winner of the Silver Spire Golden Gate Awards, San Francisco International Film Festival 1997; **BEYOND EL ROCCO** (1987/88) - Winner of the Grand Prix, International Jazz Film Salon Warsaw 1991; and **BLACK RIVER** (1993) - Winner of the Grand Prix Special Jury Award - Paris Opera Screen 1993; Best Adaptation Festival du Film d'Art - Montreal World Film Festival 1994 and the Silver Atom for Excellence in Production ATOM Awards 1994.

Aanya most recently co-produced the multi-award winning musical drama **ONE NIGHT THE MOON (2001)** by a highly acclaimed creative team comprising Director and Co-writer Rachel Perkins, Composers Paul Kelly, Kev Carmody and Mairead Hannan, and writer John Romeril. Winner of numerous international awards, including the 2002 Spirit of Moondance Award for best Feature Film at the Moondance International Film Festival; Australian Film Institute (AFI) Awards for Best Cinematography in a Non-Feature Film, and Best Original Score; Best Musical at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival Awards 2001; The Golden AWGIE at the Australian Writers' Guild's 2001 AWGIE awards, the film has also been selected to screen at a number of international festivals, including Sundance Film Festival 2002, and the International Forum of New Cinema at the Berlin Film Festival 2002.



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**PAUL COX**

**Writer, Producer & Director**

Born in Holland and settled in Australia, Cox is an auteur of international acclaim. His illustrious film career began with his first full-length feature **ILLUMINATIONS** in 1974, which gave name to his Melbourne based production company Illumination Films. He has since become one of the most prolific makers of films in Australia, with 39 features, shorts and documentaries to his name. He is the humble recipient of numerous special tributes and retrospectives at film festivals across the world, including a major retrospective at the Lincoln Center in New York in 1992, and the subject of Alexander Bohr's 1997 documentary **EIN FREMDER IN DER WELT (A STRANGER IN THE WORLD)**. *The Diaries of Vaslav NIJINSKY* is Paul Cox's twentieth feature film.

Throughout his career, Cox has received numerous international awards for his excellence in film. These include Best Film at the 1982 Australian Film Industry Awards for **LONELY HEARTS**; Best Film & Best Director at the 1985 Houston Film Festival; Best Director at the 1984 Rio de Janeiro Film Festival; and Best Director, Actor and Screenplay at the 1984 Australian Film Industry Awards for **MY FIRST WIFE**.

**MAN OF FLOWERS** premiered in Un Certain Regard at the Cannes Film Festival in 1984, and went on to win Best Film at the 1984 Valladolid Film Festival as well as Best Foreign Film at the 1991 Warsaw Film Festival. **CACTUS** premiered in Director's Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival in 1986 and **VINCENT**, his docudrama on the life and death of Vincent Van Gogh (narrated by John Hurt), won the Jury Prize at the 1988 Istanbul International Filmdays. **A WOMAN'S TALE** won the Grand Prix at the 1992 International Flanders Film Festival in Ghent as well as being selected for the 1992 Tokyo International Film Festival and **EXILE** screened in competition at the 1994 Berlin International Film Festival. Other films written and directed by Paul Cox include **ISLAND** (1989); **GOLDEN BRAID** (1990); **LUST & REVENGE** (1996); and filmed **MOLOKAI: THE STORY OF FATHER DAMIEN** in Hawaii, with a cast including David Wenham, Kris Kristoffersen, Peter O'Toole and Derek Jacobi; and the 3D IMAX film **THE HIDDEN DIMENSION** in Canada, which was the first film to feature the use of scanning electron microscope (SEM) sequences.

Cox's previous highly acclaimed feature **INNOCENCE**, starring Charles "Bud" Tingwell, Julia Blake and Terry Norris, won massive audience and critical acclaim, including the Grand Prix of the Americas (Best Film) and the People's Choice Award at the 2000 Montreal World Film Festival; the FIPRESCI Critics Award at the Taormina International Film Festival; Best Film at the Vlissingen and Saint-Tropez Film Festivals; third prize in the Toronto International Film Festival's People's Choice Awards and 5 Australian if awards including Best Film, Independent Filmmaker of the Year for Paul Cox, and Best Actress for Julia Blake. The film was also awarded the Marquee Audience Favourite Award at the CineVegas International Film Festival 2000.



*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

**PAUL COX - Complete Filmography**

**2001 THE DIARIES OF VASLAV NIJINSKY**

**2000 INNOCENCE**

Grand Prix of the Americas (Best Film) - 2000 Montreal World Film Festival  
People's Choice Award - 2000 Montreal World Film Festival  
FIPRESCI International Critics Prize - 2000 Taormina Film Festival, Sicily  
Third Prize People's Choice Award - 2000 Toronto International Film Festival  
Best Film - Vlissingen Film Festival, Holland 2000  
Best Film - Saint-Tropez Film Festival 2000  
Audience Favourite Award (Best Film) - CineVegas Film Festival 2000  
Best Actress: Julia Blake - Film Critics Circle of Australia Awards 2001  
Best Supporting Actor: Terry Norris - Film Critics Circle of Australia Awards 2001  
Best Actor: Charles Tingwell - 2001 Las Palmas Film Festival  
Best Independent Feature Film - Australian Independent Filmmakers (if) Awards 2000  
Independent Filmmaker of the Year: Paul Cox - if Awards 2000  
Best Actress in an Independent Feature - if Awards 2000  
Best Visual Design/Editing in an Independent Feature - if Awards 2000  
Best Sound Design in an Independent Feature - if Awards 2000

**1999 MOLOKAI: THE STORY OF FATHER DAMIEN**

**1997 THE HIDDEN DIMENSION (3D IMAX FILM)**

**1996 LUST AND REVENGE**

**1994 EXILE**

In competition at Berlin International Film Festival 1994  
Best Cinematography - Australian Film Industry Awards 1994

**1993 TOUCH ME (SHORT)**

**1992 THE NUN AND THE BANDIT**

**1991 A WOMAN'S TALE**

Best Feature Film - Australian Human Rights Awards 1991  
Best Actress - Australian Film Institute Awards 1991  
Grand Prix - Flanders International Film Festival, Ghent 1992  
Selected for "Une Semaine Internationale du Cinema", Tokyo 1992

**1990 GOLDEN BRAID**

**1989 ISLAND**

**1988 THE GIFT (TV)**

**1987 VINCENT - THE LIFE AND DEATH OF VINCENT VAN GOGH**

Jury Prize - Istanbul International Filmdays 1988

**1986 CACTUS**

Selected for Directors' Fortnight, Cannes International Film Festival 1986

**1985 HANDLE WITH CARE (DOCUMENTARY)**

*The Diaries of Vaslav*  
**NIJINSKY**

*Paul Cox filmography continued ...*

**1984 MY FIRST WIFE**

Best Director - Rio de Janeiro Film Festival 1984  
Best Original Screenplay - Australian Writers' Guild 1984  
Best Director; Best Actor; Best Screenplay - Australian Film Institute Awards 1984  
Best Film; Best Director - Houston Film Festival 1985  
Best Soundtrack - Flanders International Film Festival, Ghent 1986

**1984 DEATH AND DESTINY (DOCUMENTARY)**

**1983 MAN OF FLOWERS**

Best Actor - Australian Film Industry Awards 1983  
Silver Hugo Award - Chicago Film Festival 1983  
Selected for Un Certain Regard - Cannes International Film Festival 1984  
Best Film - Valladolid Film Festival 1984  
Best Film, Best Cinematography - Figueira Da Foz Film Festival 1984  
Best Foreign Film - Warsaw Film Festival 1991

**1981 LONELY HEARTS**

Best Film - Australian Film Institute Awards 1982  
Best Film - Uppsala Film Festival, Sweden 1985

**1980 UNDERDOG (DOCUMENTARY)**

**1980 THE KINGDOM OF NEK CHAND (DOCUMENTARY)**

**1979 FOR A CHILD NAMED MICHAEL (DOCUMENTARY)**

**1978 KOSTAS; RITUAL (SHORT)**

**1977 INSIDE LOOKING OUT; WAYS OF SEEING (SHORT)**

**1976 ILLUMINATIONS**

**1975 WE ARE ALL ALONE MY DEAR (SHORT); ISLAND (SHORT)**

**1974 ALL SET BACKSTAGE (DOCUMENTARY)**

**1972 THE JOURNEY**

**1971 PHYLLIS (SHORT)**

**1970 CALCUTTA (DOCUMENTARY); MIRKA (SHORT)**

**1969 MARCEL (SHORT); SYMPHONY (SHORT)**

**1968 SKINDEEP (SHORT)**

**1966 TIME PAST (SHORT)**

**1965 MATUTA (SHORT)**

