



## **FESTIVAL OF THE ELEMENTS**

### **WAITANGI DAY**

6 February 2010

Te Rauparaha Park

[www.elementsfestival.org.nz](http://www.elementsfestival.org.nz)

### **News Release – Empress Stilt Dance Troupe January 2010**

#### **Empress aims to impress festivalgoers**

One of the most popular acts at last year's Festival of the Elements returns this Waitangi Day for another round. The Empress Stilt Dance troupe will debut a brand-new show designed and choreographed with the Festival in mind.

Last year, the team performed an improvised version of their show BUZZ, which features giant insects and flower motifs. Thousands gathered to admire the bright colours and to watch the larger-than-life characters interact and dance.

Their new presentation is entitled Kahuku: A Butterfly Romance, and fits in nicely with this year's chosen theme of fire. *Kahuku* means “monarch butterfly” in Māori, and the show will have a distinctive Kiwi flavour. It will comprise aerial and acrobatic elements as well as stilt dance, and should appeal to a wide audience with its vivid costumes and dramatic beauty. The company has even had a stirring original soundtrack for the show composed by musician Leyton of Dunedin.

The group has more than fourteen years of experience, and are eager to put this to good use at the Festival of the Elements. They will do four performances of the show to give as many people as possible a chance to watch; the first will start at noon, and subsequent performances will commence on the hour with the final one at 3 PM. They are expected to draw large crowds to their performance venue, Te Rauparaha Arena.

The Festival of the Elements is free to the public and will run from 11 AM to 7 PM on Saturday, 6 February. For more information, please contact Margaret Armour on 027 224 5670 or at [armour@xtra.co.nz](mailto:armour@xtra.co.nz). The festival website is located at [www.elementsfestival.org.nz](http://www.elementsfestival.org.nz).

#### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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*The Festival of Elements is an event arranged and managed by the*  
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