

## A Sri Yantra mandala, a complex geometric design consisting of nine interlocking triangles that radiate from a central point. The central triangle contains a portrait of a woman with a bindi, adorned with jewelry and holding lotus flowers. The surrounding triangles contain various symbolic images: a skull, a lotus, a snake, a crescent moon, and a figure. The entire mandala is set against a background of Sanskrit text.

**20 April - 21 April 2007**

## Sydney Opera House Studio



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To hear many religious people talk, one would think God created the torso, head, legs and arms, but the devil slapped on the genitals.

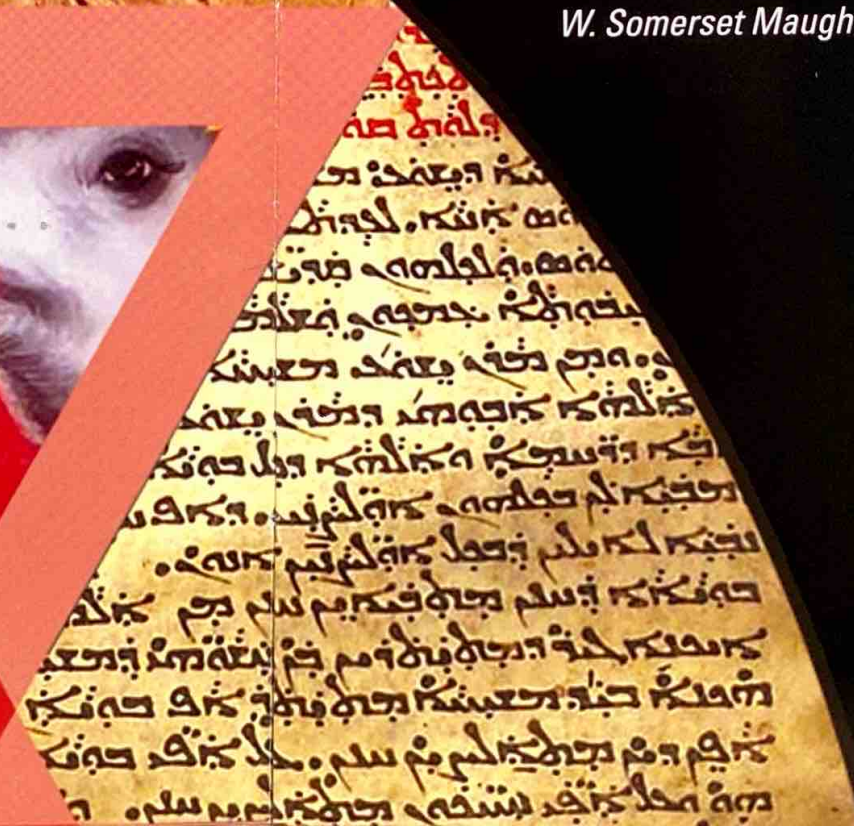
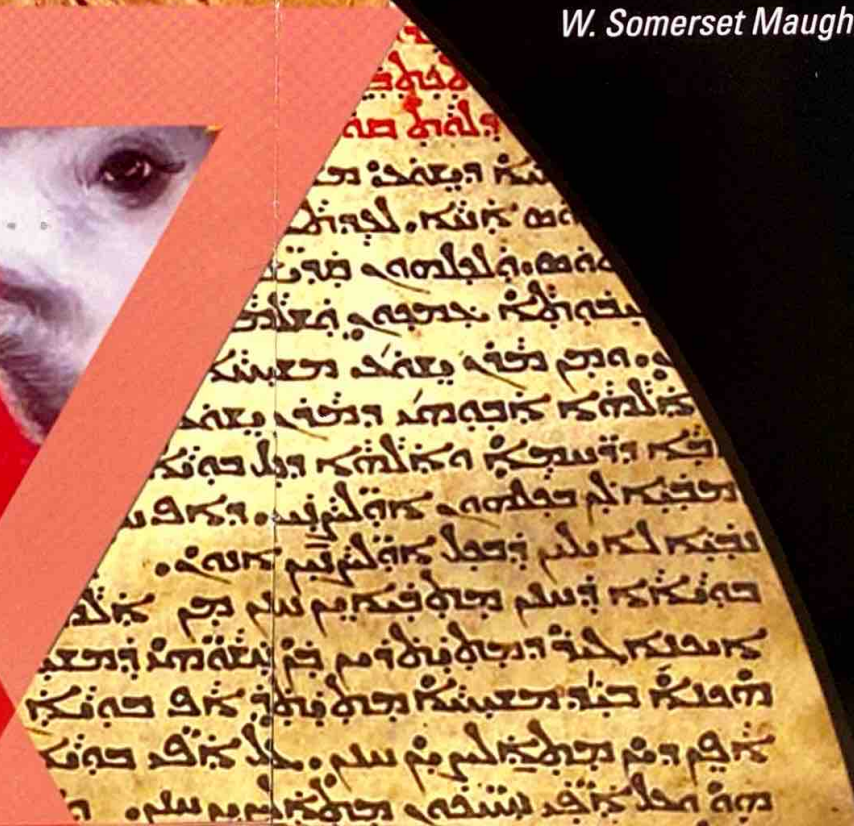
*Don Schrader*

Dying is a very dull, dreary affair.

And my advice to you is to have nothing whatever to do with it.

*W. Somerset Maugham*

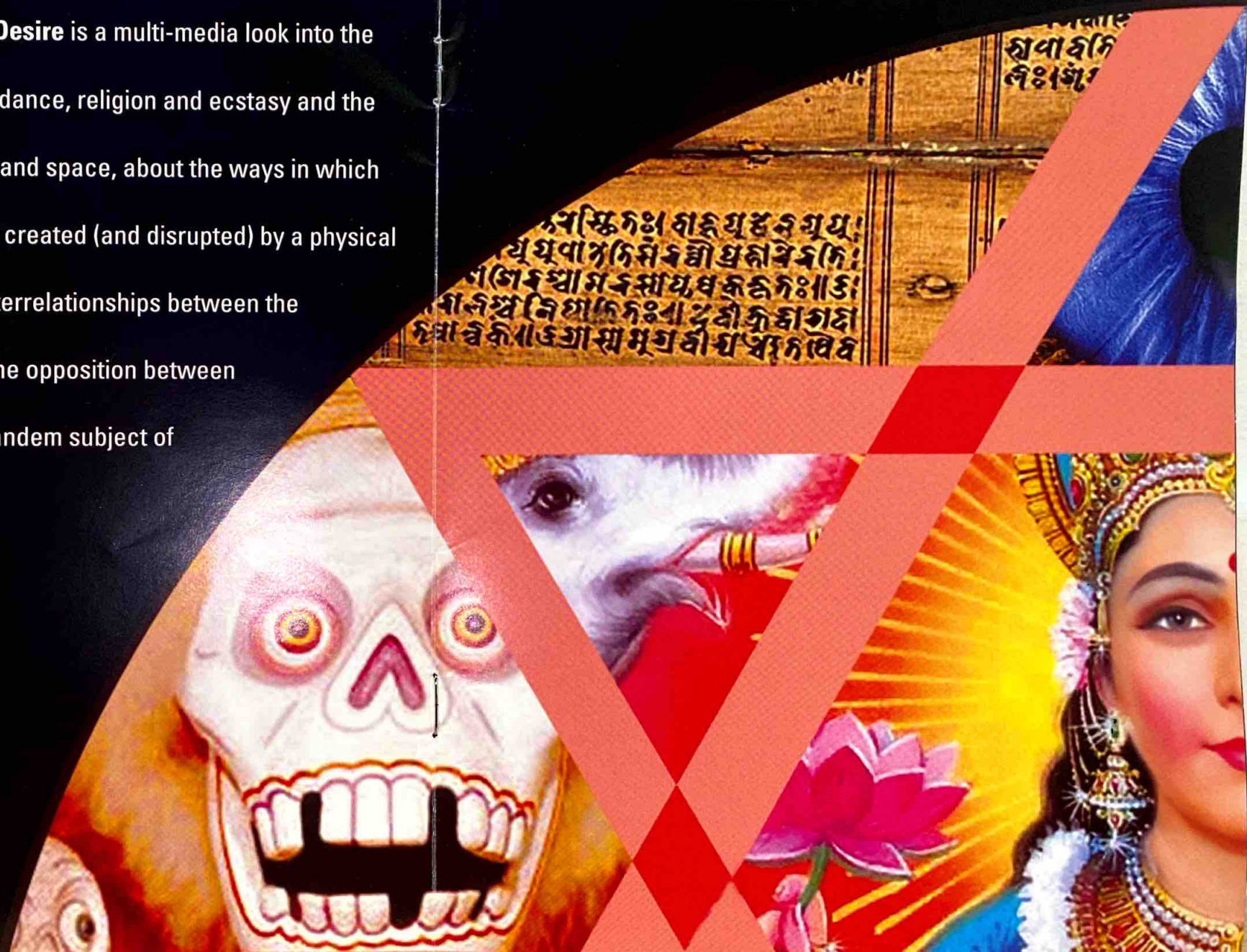
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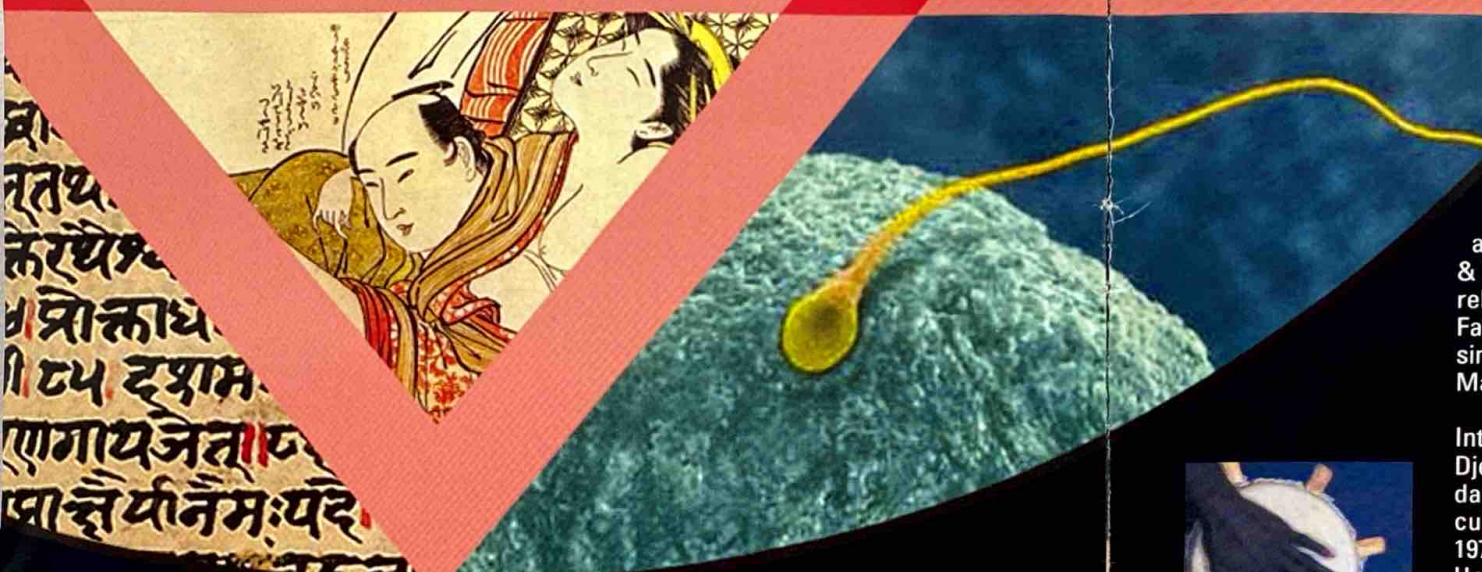


**Sex, Death and Desire** is a multi-media look into the connections between song, dance, religion and ecstasy and the relationship between sound and space, about the ways in which language creates but is also created (and disrupted) by a physical environment, the difficult interrelationships between the natural and the discursive, the opposition between reality and illusion and the tandem subject of the theatre itself.



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**Merenia** performs and records extensively throughout Australia and New Zealand working with many credible artists, including Paul Mac, Love Tattoo, the Bamboos, Rephrase, the Word, King Kapsi, Anthony Gold, Aphro Moses and Omegaman. Having worked on national tours for Love Tattoo and Paul Mac and contributed to writing tracks for the Omegaman & Love Tattoo albums. She is currently recording songs for her own release and has attracted attention from people such as Rasmus Faber and Louie Vega and various labels including Defected. Merenia sings in several languages Spanish, English, Portuguese, French, Maori, several African dialects,

Introducing **Pape Mbaye**, a recognised percussionist (Sabar, Tama, Djembe, Bougarabou, Saorouba, Congas, and Timbalis); as well as a dancer, choreographer, teacher and Griot (oral history, tradition and culture teacher and exponent).

1976-1999 head drummer of the village of Yoff in Senegal. He has worked with Cheikh Lo and Souleyman Faye to name just a few, and has been in bands that have played alongside BB King, Miles Davis and Ringo Starr.

He performed as a percussionist and dancer for L'Ensemble Traditionelle Sorano, L'Orchestre Nationale du Senegal, Assamane, and Le Super Sabor de Dakar. In addition Pape was a recognised studio musician in Senegal.

Living and working in Australia since 1999, Pape has played in Bubaca, African Diaspora, Global Roots, Marsala, Afro Moses, and Black Train, highlighting his versatility as a musician.

**Diane Riley** is director of The Australian School of Tantra and has been a counsellor, a therapist, educator, and workshop facilitator for over 25 years. She trained with some of the ground breakers in the human potential movement and her focus has been sacred sexuality within committed relationship. Her background includes holistic approach to relationship issues, sexual healing, meditation and communication skills. With her partner Kerry Riley she co-authored the book "Sexual Secrets for Men, what every woman would want her man to know", and now is completing the companion book for women. Their contribution to Sacred Sexuality, tantra and relationships has been recognised internationally with the success of the DVD "The Secrets of Sacred Sex" sold over 200,000 copies internationally. Together with Kerry she conducts tantra and sacred sexuality seminars throughout Australia and in Asia.

Diane has a private practice in Sydney introducing couples and singles to the theory and skills of contemporary Tantra, that support and help sustain conscious connection and sexual wellbeing.

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**John Simmons** is an award winning composer, musician and filmmaker. His previous show at the Opera House, which he wrote with philosopher Simon Critchley, *Sounding Desire* - an evening of Music and Philosophy, went on to be performed in Paris as part of the 24 Hour Foucault celebration at the Palais de Tokyo. Simmons has received numerous accolades for his music and film work. He is a decent man, more sinned against than sinning.  
[info@ouch-media.com](mailto:info@ouch-media.com)

#### **Richie Henson**

Designer, animator, composer and musician. Working in both Europe and Australia specialising in new and emerging media for major campaigns and has performed musically at the Sydney Entertainment Centre, regularly at the Basement and recently with the Supremes at the Capitol Theatre. Richie has won several awards including: IPA Advertising Award, Revolution Awards 'Best Use of CD ROM', Art Directors Club of New York - Distinctive Merit Award.

**Simon Critchley** is professor of philosophy at the New School for Social Research, New York, and is currently at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. He is author of 8 books, most recently "Infinitely Demanding" (verso, 2007). He has previously collaborated with John Simmons on a show at the Sydney Opera House in 2004 and a CD called "Humiliation" (available in the foyer).



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## Music

### What is Sex

*written by Critchley, Simmons*  
from the Critchley & Simmons  
CD Humiliation  
available for download from  
[www.broadjam.com/cas](http://www.broadjam.com/cas)

### Sacred & True

*written by Gillies, Simmons*  
from the Eureka CD Flying  
available for download from  
[www.cdbaby.com/eureka](http://www.cdbaby.com/eureka)  
Published by LoveCat Music,  
New York

### Tochihuitzin Coyolchiuhqui

Translation by Andrea Ballesteros  
and Laura Calderon  
*Music by Simmons*  
*Spoken by Andrea Ballesteros*  
available for download from  
[www.broadjam.com/cas](http://www.broadjam.com/cas)

### Poland

*written by Henson, Simmons*  
available for download from  
[www.broadjam.com/cas](http://www.broadjam.com/cas)

### Mexico (Peanut Vendor)

*arranged by Henson, Simmons*  
available for download from  
[www.broadjam.com/cas](http://www.broadjam.com/cas)

### How Philosophers Die

*written by Critchley, Simmons*  
available for download from  
[www.broadjam.com/cas](http://www.broadjam.com/cas)

### What is Desire

*written by Critchley, Simmons*  
*Sung by merenia Gillies*  
available for download from  
[www.broadjam.com/cas](http://www.broadjam.com/cas)

### Thank you.

Richie Henson, Simon Critchley, Merenia Gillies, Pape Mbaye, Yacou Mbaye, Diane Riley, Anke Timm, Tony Randal, Peter Greenaway, Richard Dawkins, Patricia Cruz-Fierro, Fernando Moran-Nieva, The Mexican Embassy, Andrea Ballesteros, the family of Krzysztof Kieslowski, Stephanie Slater, Tony Tanner, Virginia Hyam, Marika lucas, Greg Fearon, Carmel Schenke, John Sylvester, Tim Pye, Metro Screen.  
Poland photos: Michael Wood.



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