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10 May 2004
For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

The 3rd - a performance & CD launch that has hip-hop crossing boundaries - 20 May.

Experimental hip-hop rooted in Arabic culture; a live musician crossing boundaries between 'traditional', 'contemporary', 'ethnic' and 'mainstream'; 3 video-installations depicting the Artist's experiences in the Middle East; and a guest appearance by Filmmaker Mahmoud Yekta all feature in Khaled Sabsabi's up-coming performance at the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Thursday 20 May at 7pm.

Khaled Sabsabi is an audio designer, musician and video-installation artist who has been practicing in South Western Sydney for 20 years. He is a pioneer of Community Cultural Development (CCD) practice utilising hip-hop and a politics of opposition to class, gender ad race inequalities to help marginalised youth find their voice.

Khaled was the recipient of the **Australia Council Community Cultural Development Fellowship**, 2001 - 2004, and spent 7 months in the Middle East on an exchange of professional and cultural skills. The 3rd part live performance, part installation, part CD launch is the cumulative product of this Fellowship.

"Fellowships from the CCD Branch are offered only once in an artist's lifetime and to artists with a solid record of achievement. Artists working in the community give so much of themselves and so it is important that they are able to experience new opportunities, extend their networks and experiment with new artforms." Explained **Bernice Gerrand, Manager of the CCDB, Australia Council**. "Khaled reported that the fellowship has had an enormous impact on him as an artist and inspired him to once more create and have an outlet for his work."

"***The 3rd*** is a combination of live and studio recordings made during my time in the Middle East" said **Khaled Sabsabi**. There are really significant Artists and places, and I think that they need to be documented to allow exchange to occur with communities here in South Western Sydney."

The 3 CDs to be launched are titled: ***Disctionary*** "twisting it to a surreal place" said Sabsabi; ***Peacefender*** "My first release after 20 years of creating, so it really had to reflect me, my influences, where I've come from, and where I'm at now"; and ***The 3rd*** **-** "recordings of spaces, atmospheres and people I connected with in the Middle East" commented Mr Sabsabi.

"Khaled is an important artist working with South-West Sydney communities". Said **Con Gouriotis, Director of the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre.** "He has been working with the Centre since it opened in 1994 and has shown great commitment to contemporary issues within the region that have a national and international resonance."

The 3rd - a performance, installation & CD launch
by Khaled Sabsabi
Thursday 20 May, 7.00 - 8.30 pm
Guest speaker - Mahmoud Yekta (filmmaker/artist)
FREE entry, refreshments provided

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Artist Khaled Sabsabi is available for interview by phone.
Con Gouriotis, Director Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre is available for comment.