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MEDIA RELEASE

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CITY MUSEUM GOES MAD FOR HATS!

A splendid feat of hattish delights awaits visitors to City Museum at Old Treasury this Spring. Hat of all shapes, sizes and uses – from the profoundly frivolous to the ponderously utilitarian – bombard the Museum for *Hat Tricks!*

Bringing together a century and a half of headwear in celebration of the Spring Racing Carnival, *Hat Tricks!* also reveals the changing tastes in Melbourne's notoriously fickle fashion circles.

Hat Tricks! showcases a broad cross-section of head wear and plots a history of Melbourne from first white settlement in 1835 to the present day, as told through its hats. The exhibition features an abundance of over fifty hats, representing all periods, classes and uses, complemented by texts, images and ephemera giving greater depth to the significance of hat wearing through the ages in Melbourne. A wide range of hats from present-day milliners is also included, providing a sneak preview of fashions on the track at this year's Spring Racing Carnival.

Flamboyant hats by celebrated Melbourne milliner Peter Jago sidle up to historical hats, such as bonnets, top hats, and cloches (1930s 'flapper' hat). Playful and brazen hats of fashion intermingle with hats of work and utility. The displays include bamboo hats from nineteenth-century Chinese gold miners, a range of 'fire' hats including the archetypal old-fashioned brass helmet, the Bowler Hat that belonged to infamous Homocide Squad member Detective Fred Milne in the 1940s, a Moomba parade hat made entirely of beer cans, Mayor and Town Clerk hats – TOO MANY to mention!

The result is an overflowing menagerie of colliding feathers, felt and ornament, revealing the Melbourne passion for hat spectacle.

A feature work in the exhibition is 'Dream Hellscape' by Melbourne milliner Naomi Tettman. Inspired by nightmares, the installation is much more than a single 'hat' - the work envelopes an entire wall in a garish fusion of fetishistic red leather, beads and feathers. This creation is not for the faint hearted!

The exhibition is complemented by an extensive range of events, including talks, walks and workshops with milliner extraordinaire Peter Jago, offered in partnership with Champions – Australian Racing Museum and Hall of Fame; the Australian Millinery Association; and the Collins Street Traders Association.

Whether for the discerning hat enthusiast or the merely follically-challenged, Hat Tricks! will be a treat for all, and leave you pining for your next bad hair day.

WHAT:

HAT TRICKS!

Fabulous, Frivolous and Functional:

150 years of headwear in Melbourne

WHEN:

30 September to 26 November 2006

WHERE:

City Museum at Old Treasury, Spring Street, Melbourne

For more information please contact:

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