

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Anywhere Theatre Festival animates Wollongong!

Secret nooks and crannies – Anywhere in Wollongong - will be revealed this August, as independent artists perform anywhere but a theatre, and exhibit art anywhere but a gallery. Artist and venue registrations welcome: February 22 to March 26, 2017.



**This August, Anywhere Theatre Festival reveals Wollongong's secret nooks and crannies through pop-up performances and art exhibitions.**

#### Imagine.

Poetry in a Cantonese dumpling cafe, cabaret in a transformed 1930s car dealership, opera in a crown-shaped building, circus in a shopping centre stairwell, or comedy in a backyard. <sup>1</sup>

**All produced under one condition: to perform anywhere but a theatre, or exhibit art anywhere but a gallery.**

Venue hire – traditionally an independent artist's biggest cost – is removed with this one condition, paving the way for in-kind collaborations with Wollongong City Council, businesses and individuals.

For Circus Monoxide, it's a chance to be inspired by the venue – rather than the constraints of a theatre. Circus chairperson, Jonathon Christley says: "Having a different space to use creates a whole lot of other ways to think of performance - and that's exciting, I think."

Steen, well-known to Wollongong's theatre community, also runs Ziggy's House of Nomms – a Cantonese dumpling cafe and teahouse - just waiting to pop with performances. While Steen is open to the unexpected, his 'must-see' would be a French-style poetry reading from a podium.

And assisting each love-match between producer and venue is creative producer, Tim Monley – an outdoor and Fringe Festival performer, who's toured internationally. He says: "We're aiming for performances at 20 different locations within a couple of blocks of the Crown Street Mall, with 20-30 different shows, 5,000 tickets sold, and 15,000 people participating through free and online activities."

**Interested performing and visual artists - and those keen to offer a venue - have until March 26 to register at <http://anywheretheatre.com>.**

#### Inclusions:

- Step-by-step guides, an online/phone box office, marketing support, public liability insurance
- Artist workshops, with the first on March 15
- Access to rent-free rehearsal spaces, upon application
- Pre- and post-registration support from Tim Monley: [thegong@anywheretheatre.com](mailto:thegong@anywheretheatre.com).

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#### ANYWHERE THEATRE FESTIVAL

PO Box 6497, Fairfield Gardens. Qld 4103

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Anywhere Theatre Festival Limited is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and is a company limited by guarantee, and accredited by the Australian Tax Office with DGR status to accept tax deductible donations.



## About Us

**Anywhere Theatre Festival is a festival of discovery, with independent performances and art exhibitions – anywhere but a theatre or gallery.**

### *How does it work?*

Businesses and councils provide rent-free spaces (such as swimming pools, cafes, boxing rings, retail outlets and lighthouses), and performers register shows or exhibits. We broker a relationship between the two, and provide the needed resources: advice, step by step guides, online and phone box office, marketing and public liability insurance.

While artists pay a registration fee for their performances – whether a one-off or a season, businesses can register their space without charge. The Festival team works with the venue provider to find a performance that works for that space, and performers are encouraged to use minimal traditional theatre equipment to ensure all impacts on the business are positive.

### *Latest news*

Since 2011, the Brisbane festival has grown to be one of the “Top Nine Fine International Festivals” (QANTAS Travel Insider). In 2016, 95,000 people attended 473 performances in 63 locations. In context, that’s more locations and more performances than Brisbane Festival from 2012 to 2015!

Anywhere Theatre Festival runs August 17-27 in Wollongong, and annually each May in Queensland.

Festival details: <http://anywherifest.com>

Festival registrations: <http://anywheretheatre.com>

**Anywhere Theatre Festival is proud to partner with Destination Wollongong, Wollongong City Council and Wollongong Central.**

Wollongong City Council Lord Mayor, Councillor Gordon Bradbery OAM says Wollongong City Council is excited to host such an innovative Festival.

“We’ll be proud to offer our residents a range of performances in spaces not usually known for artistic pursuits. This Festival will activate spaces that traditionally lie dormant and provide great opportunities for our local businesses and artistic performers. This Festival will further enhance Wollongong City’s reputation as a destination for exciting events,” the Mayor said.

Wollongong Central Regional General Manager Antony Keenan says the Wollongong Anywhere Theatre Festival is a perfect opportunity to give the region’s artists and entertainers some serious time in the limelight.

“We are excited to sponsor this festival on its debut in Wollongong,” Mr Keenan said. “The concept of taking the arts directly to the people of the region in relaxed and familiar venues is one we think will resonate with our customers and businesses.

“People have responded well to our coverage of sporting events like the Australian Open and the Rio Olympics within the City Centre, taking the time to relax and enjoy the community atmosphere such activities inspire. This festival takes that ideology to another level with a breadth of live entertainment that is sure to offer something new for everyone.”

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