

PRESS RELEASE

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Anywhere Theatre Festival animates Wollongong!

Discover Wollongong this August
through pop-up performances and art exhibitions
presented by: independent artists and unique venues.



From August 17 - 27, independent artists will partner with 26 Wollongong locales – both familiar and unexpected – to present pop-up performances and art exhibitions.

All produced under one condition: performances are anywhere but a theatre, and art is shown anywhere but a gallery.

Experience.

Matchmaking between artists and venues is not yet complete, but we can reveal – there'll be burlesque in a 1940s Hollywood-inspired lounge, vampires in a church, and a waiter will spill the beans on his Paris career in a Cantonese dumpling cafe.

Comic play **'The Dapper One'** will bring together Wollongong scriptwriter Paul Rybak, Wollongong actor Bruce Polonis, and Ziggy's House of Nomms - a Cantonese dumpling cafe and teahouse.

Phoenix Theatre manager Steen said the incredibly funny play is based on true stories from a waiter that Paul knows.

"We're so happy to have another play from Paul – and to have one as part of the festival is really great," Steen said. "It's the story of a waiter at the point of retiring, who's spent a very long life waiting on tables in some of the best restaurants in Europe. He's met heads of state and even the pope; and spills the beans a bit on being a waiter in Paris."

Plans to use Phoenix Theatre were shelved, with Steen's decision to offer Ziggy's House of Nomms, which he co-owns, as an Anywhere Theatre Festival venue. "Paul's re-written the play, so we're playing the role as the cafe that the waiter's found himself in."

He's also thrilled one of Wollongong's best actors, Bruce Polonis, will lead the intimate performance – interacting directly with each show's audience of just 25.

Creative producer Tim Monley is assisting each love-match between producer and venue. While matchmaking is not yet complete, he can reveal there'll be drama, comedy, burlesque and song in venues as varied as a church, a 1940s Hollywood-inspired lounge, a tent, and a food court.

ANYWHERE THEATRE FESTIVAL

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Ph: 07 3102 4683 E: me@anywherifest.com W: www.anywherifest.com

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.

“We’re thrilled performances will be held at up to 26 different Wollongong locations, with around 30 different shows to sell 5,000 tickets,” Tim said. “We’re also expecting up to 15,000 people to experience the festival through free activities.”

Wollongong Anywhere Theatre Festival runs August 17-27, with performances anywhere but a theatre, and art exhibitions, anywhere but a gallery.

Anywhere Theatre Festival Limited is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and thanks major partners Wollongong City Council, Destination Wollongong and Wollongong Central.

Wollongong Anywhere Theatre Festival has been assisted by the Australian government through the Department of Communication and the Arts’ Catalyst—Australian Arts and Culture Fund.

Wollongong Anywhere Theatre Festival media kit, including images: <http://bit.ly/2kFbU1f>

About Anywhere Theatre Festival, and a message from our partners: Attached.

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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>

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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