

# **EMPIRE THEATRES TOOWOOMBA**

## **BRIAN BOAK BURSARIES**

To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the reopening of Toowoomba's historic Empire Theatre in 1997, the Empire Theatres Foundation announced the creation of the Empire Theatres Toowoomba Brian Boak Outstanding Performer and Developing Performer Bursaries. These bursaries were made possible through the generosity of the late Mr Brian Boak, an outstanding supporter of the performing arts on the Darling Downs. They add new opportunities to the already existing and very successful bursary programs for young people, established by the Foundation Trustees in 2003.

Each category of Brian Boak Bursary is designed to provide exceptional opportunities for career development to a suitably qualified applicant.

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd operates an iconic, leading Australian regional theatre on behalf of the Toowoomba Regional Council. It provides an outstanding venue for local, national and international performers. The Empire Theatres Foundation complements this focus with the provision of community outreach opportunities, the preservation of the living history of the Theatre and, most notably, ongoing scholarship and bursary programs.

Applications are now being sought from candidates for the following bursary:

## **EMPIRE THEATRES TOOWOOMBA**

### **BRIAN BOAK “OUTSTANDING PERFORMER” BURSARY**

This Bursary offers support to a suitably qualified applicant with demonstrated *exceptional* performance and career potential. It must be used to facilitate his or her ongoing career development through study and/or performance at a suitable centre of excellence and/or under the guidance of a suitably distinguished mentor. The successful applicant's program may be based in Australia or overseas and will encompass study or performance as an actor, dancer, singer or instrumentalist over a period of approximately one year.

This *highly prestigious* Bursary is offered biennially, commencing from an agreed date to suit the successful applicant. An indicative value of the Bursary is \$25,000. However, the Trustees are willing to consider an award of somewhat greater value, where the outstanding quality of the applicant and his or her proposed program merit this greater support.

The application process is likely to include an extensive review of preliminary short-listed applications by experienced performing arts professionals followed by interviews with the final short-list candidates. This process can take some months from the closing date of the Bursary applications and needs to be kept in mind when formulating a program for consideration by the Foundation. It is recommended that travel/commencement of the bursary be timed after 1 July to allow the selection process to be completed and notice given.

The Bursary holder will be an Australian citizen, aged 18-35 at the commencement of the Bursary. (As a guide to potential applicants, it is anticipated that the recipient of this Bursary would already hold a post-graduate qualification or its equivalent.) Where several suitably qualified persons are identified, preference may be given to applicants resident in the Darling Downs region. The Trustees reserve the right not to make an award in a particular year if, in their opinion, there is no suitably qualified applicant.

# Brian Boak

**23 October 1936 to 23 February 2004**

Brian Boak was born in Perth on October 23, 1936 to Phillip and Muriel Boak. His father, a shipwright surveyor, relocated his family a number of times from Fremantle to Melbourne and Sydney seeking job opportunities. Another move, after his father's death, was made to Warwick where Brian, then in his early school years, lived with his mother and grandmother in a one-bedroom flat.

As a student at Warwick State High School and a member of his local church, Brian developed an interest in cultural activities. This led to him joining the Warwick Choral Society which further encouraged and enhanced his love of theatre.

At 15 years, Brian found employment as a clerk with Queensland Government Railways (now Queensland Rail) and he remained with that employer until his retirement a half century later. Although he enjoyed his work, he regarded it as a means to pursue his love for the performing arts.

After his transfer to Toowoomba, a city offering more cultural facilities, Brian was able to expand his interests in theatre. He was an early member of Toowoomba's Repertory Theatre, joining around 1975, and took the lead in *The One Day of the Year*.

Brian was soon elected President of the Society and was a founding member of the Phoenix Theatre Company, which later became Actors' Studio. Brian took enormous pride in the success of many friends such as the internationally acclaimed Geoffrey Rush and nationally awarded Shane Withington.

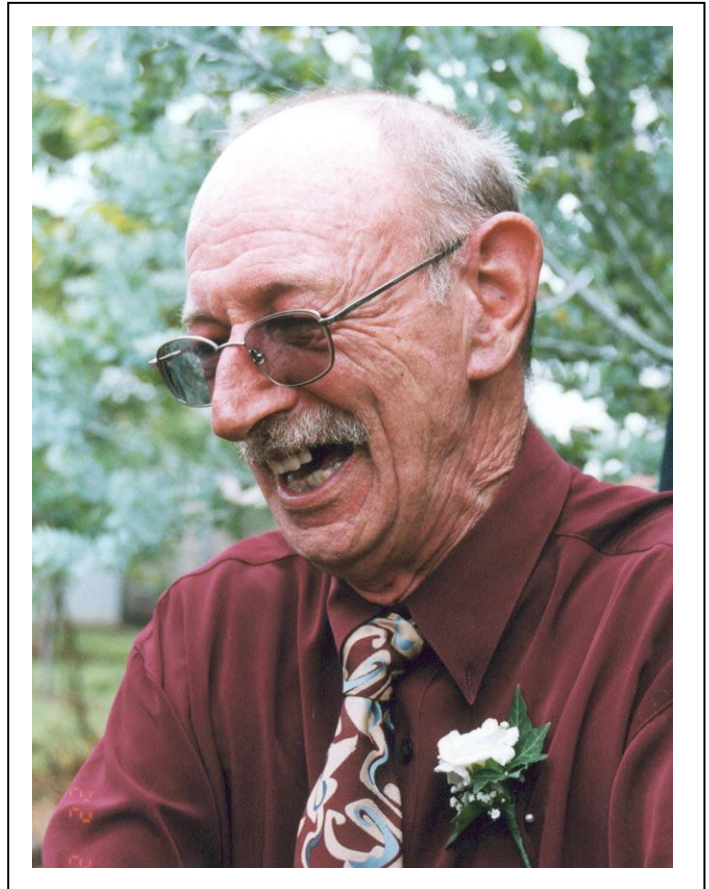
Brian's involvement in the local theatre scene was such that he would often be rehearsing with the Philharmonic Society three nights a week and performing with Repertory the remaining nights. He scheduled his work to start earlier in the morning and leave earlier in the evening, thus allowing more time to dedicate to rehearsals.

Aside from major productions such as *South Pacific*, *Oklahoma* and *The Pirates of Penzance*, Brian wrote and directed music hall shows for the Philharmonic Society, producing 16 shows over 15 years. He also produced regular shows as fundraisers for local charities. Brian's friends recall him often stating that if any money was left when he died, he wanted to help struggling artists and students.

After retirement from Queensland Rail, Brian had planned to produce some new shows, but that was not to be. He was diagnosed with motor-neurone disease which curtailed much of what he hoped to achieve. However it did not diminish his love of theatre nor his desire to actively promote an awareness of the disease which claimed his life on February 23, 2004.

Brian's enjoyment of, and commitment to, the performing arts lives on in a very tangible way through his munificent gift to the Empire Theatres Foundation.

The Empire Theatres Foundation's goals reflect those of Brian's: to foster appreciation and involvement in the performing arts. It is most fitting that the Foundation offers the Empire Theatres Toowoomba Brian Boak "Outstanding Performer" and "Developing Performer" Bursaries to assist talented young performers to achieve their goals.



## Applications

Further information about the Outstanding Performer and Developing Performer Bursaries is available on the Empire Theatres website [www.empiretheatre.com.au](http://www.empiretheatre.com.au) or by contacting the Empire Theatres Foundation Officer on phone: (+61) (0)7 46 989938 or email [foundation@empiretheatre.com.au](mailto:foundation@empiretheatre.com.au) from whom a detailed application form may be obtained. The relevant forms can also be downloaded from the Empire Theatres website.

Applications will only be accepted on the official application form and must be completed in full and typed. Emailed applications will be accepted provided a hard copy is sent postmarked before or on January 31 (see full details under heading "Closing Dates").

## Referees

All applicants must provide three (3) written references (two professional and one character). Professional referees should be persons who can attest to the applicant's performing arts activities, standard of expertise and potential. Applications submitted without written references will not be considered. Each reference must clearly show the name and current contact details of the referee.

## Criteria

With due regard to the purpose and scope of the particular bursary, the following selection criteria will guide the selection panel:

- The quality and appropriateness of the proposed program
- Previous achievements in the performing arts
- Current involvement in the performing arts
- Proposed future contribution to the performing arts
- Preparedness to promote the performing arts through the Empire Theatres
- Accuracy and attention to detail in the application.

## Additional Material

The following additional material must be provided with each application:

- Curriculum Vitae detailing involvement to date in the performing arts.
- The proposed application of the relevant bursary including, but not limited to, the chosen course of study, details of the institution/activity and details of costs associated therewith.

In addition, any or all of a portfolio, CD or DVD will be accepted and considered.

Supporting materials will only be returned to the applicant after the application process is completed and on provision of an appropriately sized, addressed, prepaid postage pack. Where possible, copies should be provided. No responsibility for originals is taken by the Empire Theatres Foundation.

## Assessment

The selection panel, on behalf of the Empire Theatres Foundation, reserves the right to consult referees, industry professionals and other sources as part of the assessment process. The Trustees' decision concerning the award of a Bursary in any particular year will be final.

## Terms & Conditions

1. Recipients will keep the Empire Theatres Foundation Trustees fully informed of any proposed changes to the bursary program or project, and must request confirmation before proceeding with any changes.
2. The Empire Theatres Foundation is to receive acknowledgment from recipients for its support in the following manner: *The generous support of the Empire Theatres Foundation Toowoomba is gratefully acknowledged.* Acknowledgment applies to all advertising, media releases and all forms of publicity. The Empire Theatres Foundation logo must be included in its entirety in all printed and visual promotional materials.
3. All requests for funds to support travel and/or accommodation expenses must be made on the application form. No subsequent requests will be considered. However, the Trustees do appreciate that circumstances may require cost/proposed program details be updated by the applicant after the closing date.
4. Where recipients receive direct funding from the Foundation, copies of all documents and financial records (e.g. receipts) relating to the funding must be kept. Full details of all expenditure must be provided, as well as original receipts and invoices or an appropriate auditor's statement. Photocopies of financial documents are not acceptable. If a recipient does not fulfil the reporting requirements, the Trustees may forward a notice in writing to the recipient requesting further information or compliance with the reporting requirements. The recipient will forward the additional material requested within seven (7) days.
5. Where funds are paid to a recipient directly to support travel or accommodation expenses, the Trustees may request the return of funds from the recipient where those funds have not been expended in accordance with the approved application.
6. Recipients must forward a completed Report and Acquittal form to the Foundation within 60 days of completion of the course/activity. If this condition is not met, the Trustees reserve the right to take action, including requesting the return of all monies provided. The Trustees reserve the right to request an interim report.
7. The Trustees reserve the right to request that bursary recipients participate in activities through the Empire Theatres Foundation (such as publicity, lectures, master classes, tutorials, performances, mentorships, workshops etc.) to further the development of performing arts in Toowoomba and district for a period of 12 months after the bursary concludes. Each bursary recipient grants the Trustees the right to use their name and image in Foundation promotional material in relation to the bursary received, and subsequent bursaries.
8. Awarding of a bursary may, in some cases, be subject to the applicant's acceptance into a chosen course of study.

## Contracts

Successful applicants will be contracted in writing to the Empire Theatres Foundation. The contract will include, inter alia, the terms and conditions of funding, the obligations of the parties, termination and the acknowledgment of the Empire Theatres Foundation.

## Contact Us

Phone the Empire Theatres Foundation Officer on (+61) (0) 7 4698 9938 or email [foundation@empiretheatre.com.au](mailto:foundation@empiretheatre.com.au) if you have any questions. PDF information and application forms are available for download from the Empire Theatre website at [www.empiretheatre.com.au](http://www.empiretheatre.com.au)

## Closing dates

Applications will close on January 31 of the year in which a Bursary is to be awarded. In 2012, applications postmarked as January 31 will be accepted. Applications must be single-sided, typed or hand-printed in black ink on white paper so clear and legible copies can be taken.

- Late or faxed applications will not be accepted.
- All criteria must be addressed and all questions answered succinctly. An application which is incomplete will not be considered.
- All applications must be submitted with three written references attached.
- Completed applications are not to be bound or placed in folders.
- Applications may be emailed on or before the closing date. Subsequent hard copies of references, applicant declaration and additional material must be postmarked on or before 31 January 2012.

Applications should be posted or hand delivered by the closing date to:

**Posted:**           **The Empire Theatres Foundation**  
**PO Box 1227**  
**Toowoomba, QLD AUSTRALIA 4350**

**Hand delivered:** **The Empire Theatres Foundation**  
**56 Neil Street**  
**Toowoomba QLD**

**Email:**            [foundation@empiretheatre.com.au](mailto:foundation@empiretheatre.com.au)

## Checklist – have you...

- Addressed all the criteria/answered all the questions in the application?
- Provided a typewritten or legible application, single sided on white paper?
- Attached details and information from your chosen course/activity and institution?
- Attached relevant financial information?
- Attached your Curriculum Vitae, single side only and submitted on white paper?
- Attached hard copies of three (3) written references (one character and two professional) to the application?
- Attached any relevant supporting material such as audio and /or visual material or press clippings?
- Printed and signed the Applicant declaration?

Supporting materials will only be returned to the applicant after the application process is completed and on provision of an appropriately sized, addressed, prepaid postage pack. Where possible, copies should be provided. No responsibility for originals is taken on by the Empire Theatres Foundation.

The Empire Theatres Foundation gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of:

