Case Study
Opera Queensland - Project G & S

What:

Opera Queensland once again gave local singers the opportunity to see behind the curtain of a professional operatic production with Project G&S in 2018.

A cast of 21, including men and women, joined the professionals on the Empire Theatre stage for a colourful production of Gilbert and Sullivan’s Ruddigore, or the Witch’s Curse!

The chorus were auditioned and tutored in the music by local Choral Master Arthur Johnson and pianist Tonia Paroz and taught the choreography by Opera Queensland creative staff.

Funding from the Toowoomba Regional Council’s Cultural & Arts Support Grant Program supported the project, allowing for this unique opportunity to occur.

The chorus rehearsed over 9 weeks for the performance then appeared on stage alongside opera professionals in full costume on 23 August.

Project G&S was also conducted at 5 other Queensland locations including Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Gold Coast.

This is the third project of its type that Empire Theatres has partnered with Opera Queensland following Project Puccini in 2014 and Project Rossini in 2016.

When: Rehearsals 19 June - 21 Aug
Performance 23 August 2018

Where: Empire Theatres

Partners, Contributors and Sponsors:

Supported through the Cultural & Arts Support Grant Program

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Outcomes:

Over the past three projects with Opera Queensland, 99 local singers have had the opportunity to perform on stage in a professional operatic production of very high production value.

As a result of their involvement, each of the chorus members has gained skills and experience and been exposed to industry leaders.

At least two past chorus members have gone on to become regular paid members of the Opera Queensland ensemble.

Audiences have been exposed to the breadth of talent in the community and are able to hold great civic pride in the fact that our Toowoomba chorus can hold their own with professional singers.

Learnings and reflections:

Providing opportunities for community to meaningfully engage the major performing arts companies enriches the programming of the Empire Theatres and builds capacity in local performers and creatives.

Those that are involved love the opportunity to see what happens behind the scenes and be inspired by those who make a living from their art.

Witnessing the talent of local performers builds civic pride and contributes to the vibrancy of our region.

This project directly correlates with five objectives in the Empire Theatres Projects Company Business Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy One</th>
<th>Be accessible and engaging.</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>To address the issues of remoteness and accessibility to the arts in regional Australia through the provision of arts services locally including training and education resources delivery.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Strategy Two</th>
<th>Link arts and community</th>
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<td>2.1</td>
<td>To foster and maintain relationships with a broad range of cultural, community and government groups and individuals in order to be in tune with current priorities and desires.</td>
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<th>Strategy Three</th>
<th>Increase and deepen cultural consciousness and capacity in the region.</th>
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<td>3.1</td>
<td>Develop audiences and increase engagement in creative activity throughout our community.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>To develop and nurture a community of artists and arts workers in and around the Toowoomba region.</td>
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<th>Strategy Four</th>
<th>Be a stable and reliable resource for the community.</th>
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<td>4.1</td>
<td>To develop thriving arts business practice through strong partnerships, commercial income streams and alternative funding programs.</td>
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This project also links with Community outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.4 in the TRC 2014-2019 Corporate Plan.