



EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD

# ANNUAL REPORT



EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD

EMPIRE THEATRES FOUNDATION | EMPIRE THEATRE PROJECTS PTY LTD

2020 - 2021



IMAGE BY TOM HOYLE



EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD  
EMPIRE THEATRES FOUNDATION  
EMPIRE THEATRE PROJECTS PTY LTD

## CORPORATE INFORMATION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

## EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD

ACN 086 482 288  
ABN 83 086 482 288

## REGISTERED OFFICE:

56 Neil Street Toowoomba Queensland  
4350

PO Box 1227 Toowoomba  
Queensland 4350

Phone: 07 4698 9900

e: [empire@empiretheatre.com.au](mailto:empire@empiretheatre.com.au)

[empiretheatre.com.au](http://empiretheatre.com.au)

## BANKERS:

Heritage Bank, Heritage Plaza  
Ruthven Street Toowoomba Queensland  
4350

## AUDITORS:

Queensland Audit Office  
53 Albert St Brisbane QLD, 4000



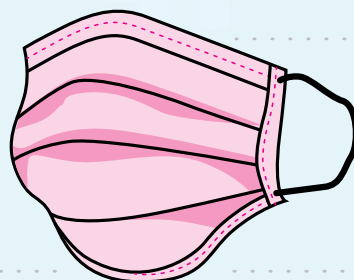
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## WELCOME TO OUR 2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT

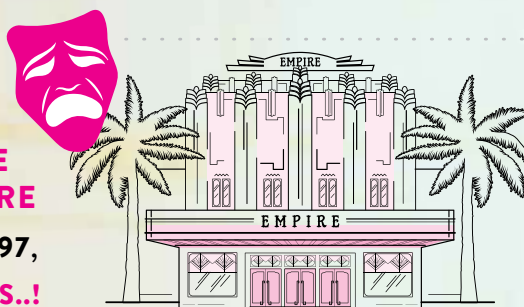
**2020** WAS CERTAINLY what the media has described as **UNPRECEDENTED.**



**CURRENTLY, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WORLDWIDE** have lost their lives due to COVID-19. Countless others have lost jobs, businesses and livelihoods.

PERFORMING ARTS HAS BEEN **SEVERELY IMPACTED**

...WHICH LED TO THE **CLOSURE** OF THE THEATRE for the first time since its reopening in 1997, **FOR ONE HUNDRED & NINETEEN DAYS..!**



 *Nevertheless We Persisted!*

**THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK THEATRE**

AND ON JULY 11, WE REOPENED WITH A (COVID-SAFE) BANG, presenting a local series of performances called *The Empire Strikes Back!*



DESPITE THE UNCERTAINTY THE WORLD CONTINUES TO FACE, The Empire Theatres strives to continue our vision, which is to:

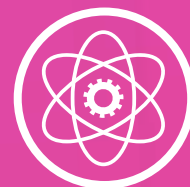


*Nurture, Enable and Inspire the Cultural Capacity of our Community*

OUR ROLES



OUR VALUES, WE ARE:



OUR PRIORITIES



**PROVIDE** world-class venues for performing arts and community activities.

**DELIVER** diverse performing arts experiences, anywhere.

**ENGAGE** with stakeholders to facilitate accessible performing arts experiences.

**VIBRANT** We are innovative, adventurous and bold, yet considered and accountable.

**COLLABORATIVE** We cannot achieve our goals alone. We connect transparently with our owner, our communities, our clients and sponsors.

**TRANSFORMATIONAL** We lead to change things for the better. We are opportunistic, adaptable and entrepreneurial.

**EXPAND** the reach of the Empire.

**INCREASE** the younger demographic of Empire patrons.

**PROVIDE** improved support for the Friends of the Empire Theatre Inc.

**INCREASE** awareness of the value of the Empire to Toowoomba and the region.

## TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL COUNCIL (TRC)

We are committed to working in partnership with TRC to assist achieving its priority of placing arts and culture at the centre of the community. As our owner, we will consult with and regularly report to the Council on our strategic direction and performance.

*The Empire Theatres acknowledge the First Nations whose songlines traverse these lands we meet and work on, including the Western Wakka Wakka, Giabul, and Jarrowair, Jagara, Yuggera and Ugarapul peoples. We also honour the First Nations people who now call the Toowoomba region home.*

## EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD BOARD AND STAFF LISTS

(As at 30 June 2021)

### Board of Directors Empire Theatres Pty Ltd

Chairman	Mr Andrew Wielandt
Deputy Chair	Mrs Sheena Liley
Company Secretary	Mr Bill Armagnacq
Ms Janelle Fletcher	
Mr Mark O'Connell	
Mr John Pearson	
Mrs Amanda Tolson	
Mr Brad Rush	
Mrs Suzie Byrnes	

### Empire Theatres Pty Ltd Staff

General Manager	
Deputy General Manager & Administration Manager	
Technical Manager	
Projects Manager	
Marketing & Development Manager	
Lead Teaching Artist	
Publicist	
Management Support Officer & Foundation Officer	
Accountant	
Finance Officer	
Regional Arts Services Officer	
Client Liaison Officer	
Head of Audio	
Head of Staging	
Head of Lighting	
Theatre Technician	
Box Office	

### Casual Staff

Marama Bese | Christine Cronk | Wesleyne Drimley | Jamie Galley | Leighton Glanville  
Aaron Hannant | Henry Holdsworth | Leigh-Anne Jeffries | Loughlin Jeffries | Cecile Kenealy  
Lucas Kummerow | Jordon Riley | Kehan Ryley | Riley Silk | Matthew Skerman | Brianna Smith  
Brydie Symonds | Jennifer Williams

*The Empire Theatres also has over 100 active volunteer members of the Friends of the Empire Theatres Inc. performing duties including front of house, ushering, ticket collecting, biscuit baking and other services.*

### Trustees of the Empire Theatres Foundation

Chair	Ms Janelle Fletcher
Deputy Chair	Dr Kate Foy
Ms Carol James (resigned)	
Dr Sharyn Donaldson	
Mr Matt Cherry (resigned)	
Mr Ben Gouldson	
Mr Richard Chiverrell	
Mrs Suzie Holt	
Mr Ian Sharpe	
Mr Rob Schatz	

Kerry Saul  
Helen Oldham  
Tim Panitz  
Jeanette Wedmaier  
Emilee Nichols  
Nicole Haeusler  
Sarah Fleming  
Kate Brennan  
Anthony Nunn  
Alison Murrell  
Michelle Blair  
Kris Stewart  
Steve Alexander  
Robert Darvall  
Ben Hunt  
Andrew Taylor  
Kerry Politch | Ora Whitley

## EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

To say last year was unusual is an understatement. Despite being in the midst of a 1 in 100 year health emergency, your Theatre continued to meet the objectives of nurturing, enabling and inspiring cultural capacity in our region, while closed for 119 days.

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd delivered a positive result, astounding in this environment and it speaks volumes of the support we received from performers and audience who returned to the theatre. Empire Theatres Projects again saw results within budgeted expectations and in future years be resourced with Empire Theatres Pty Ltd while continuing to develop arts in our region.

Delivering these outcomes was a significant team effort. We remain grateful for the support from our owners, Toowoomba Regional Council, as of that from Arts Queensland via the Queensland Government – their support while we reopened the Theatre, initially slowly to being the largest operating performing arts space in Queensland at one stage, was appreciated.

I sincerely thank Janelle Fletcher and the Empire Theatres Foundation Trustees for their moral and financial support as the Theatre re-emerged from lock down.

I thank Margaret Turnbull and the Friends of the Theatre; it was the smiling faces of the Friends that gave our audience confidence to return.

My thanks to Empire Theatre staff who performed far beyond expectations during lockdown, ensuring the Theatre remained functional and viable upon return. In particular, I acknowledge the work done by the Heads of Department and the leadership of General Manager Kerry Saul during this challenging time.

Finally, I would like to publicly acknowledge the support I received from my fellow Board members, who stepped up and provided their expertise fearlessly for the betterment of the theatre during this time.

**Andrew Wielandt**

**CHAIRMAN**

EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD and EMPIRE THEATRES  
PROJECTS PTY LTD

## FRIENDS OF THE EMPIRE THEATRE INC PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to present my President's Report for the year ending 30 June 2021.

I wish to thank the executive and members of our Management Committee for their support during the 2020/21 year. The position of President is easy to fill when I have such a wonderful group of Friends assisting me. My particular thanks to Secretary Simon Pearl, Treasurer Gay Jorgensen and Richard Chiverrell for always "having my back".

Our membership as at 30 June 2021 was 279. My thanks to Helen Oldham, Alison Murrell and Anthony Nunn for their assistance in the financial and administration area. I also extend the gratitude of all our Volunteers to Kate Brennan for her cheerful and friendly help during the year.

During the second half of this financial year, our Theatre has made significant progress towards normality and my thanks once again to the outstanding Management and Staff of the Theatre for their efforts to achieve this progress. During this time, I have been able to join the Volunteers more often and have really enjoyed making new friendships with these wonderful people.

Friends waived ushering charges for most of the year to support the Theatre operations and particularly community hirers.

Donations to the Theatre for the financial year totalled \$12,700.00 and included recycling bins for our foyers. Our total donations since 1997 are now \$807,905.87.

My thanks to the Toowoomba Regional Council and the Board for their continued support of the Volunteers. Thanks particularly to Bill Armagnacq for attending our Committee Meetings each month - your presence is appreciated.

**Margaret Turnbull**

**PRESIDENT**

FRIENDS OF THE EMPIRE THEATRE INC

EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Empire Theatre's first performance was on July 11, following 119 days of shutdown and we managed a weekly performance until August 21 when we presented our first commercial hire.

Empire supported local schools to present music theatre shows, not able to be presented in their own spaces, in late August and early September and we were supported by Arts Queensland to present Queensland Ballet in September. We were able to undertake *Thrive On Arts* and *Curious Arts Festival* in September and October and children's shows *The Gruffalo's Child* and *The 91 Story Treehouse* in October and November, when no other theatre in Queensland was operating with real capacity. Changes to regulations returned us to full capacity in November. No major production was scheduled for 2021 and attendance for the period is 50,000 less than the 2018-2019 year.

Permanent staff undertook all duties required to successfully operate shows and functions, including bars, and cleaning through to February of 2021. Michelle Blair, our Southwest Queensland Regional Arts Service Network (RASN) Officer was able to pivot RASN to react successfully to the ongoing issues.

Permanent staff worked at 0.8 fulltime through to December. Additional financial support was provided from Toowoomba Regional Council, and Arts Queensland via performance grants. The role of the Empire Management Team, Helen Oldham, Tim Panitz, Emilee Nichols, Jeanette Wedmaier, is integral to the success of the Empire Precinct, and the support we receive from our staff is fantastic. Thank you to each of you.

I acknowledge the dedication and efforts of Chair Andrew Wielandt, our Board and Foundation trustees, Our Friends of the Theatre and thank you for the support of our small team during the year. We appreciate the valued relationships that we have built with our loyal patrons, supporters, donors and clients and continue to be blessed with the enthusiasm they show in attending the theatre and supporting the arts in our region.

**Kerry Saul**

**GENERAL MANAGER**

EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD and EMPIRE THEATRES  
PROJECTS PTY LTD

EMPIRE THEATRES FOUNDATION

## CHAIR'S REPORT

The past year has seen the Foundation continue to develop and evolve in a compromised arts landscape. We have been creative in our thinking and remain committed to authentic, organic growth of Youth Arts in our region.

In August 2020, the Empire facilitated a series of concerts as part of the reopening of the Theatre after its closure owing to COVID restrictions. The Foundation provided financial support as well as moral support to this venture and, as a result, the Empire was once again alive with performances and audiences which was heart-warming for Staff, Directors, Trustees, Friends and, importantly, our Patrons.

This year brought some changes to personnel. Trustees Carol James and Matt Cherry resigned in March and May respectively. We have been fortunate to have the support of Carol and Matt over many years and we are grateful for their expertise, knowledge and diligence. I record my personal thanks to Carol and Matt.

In July, the Youth Bursary Round was opened for 2021 and I'm pleased to report most of the courses we would normally offer are still available (albeit in some cases modified), to applicants. The round was closed in August with over 70 young performers applying for Bursaries. This is truly a 'good news story' in the current global Arts environment.

In closing, none of this could be achieved without our donors and sponsors, the unwavering support of Board Chairman Andrew Wielandt and Directors, the diligence of hard-working Trustees and Foundation Officer, Kate Brennan and Empire Staff.

**Janelle Fletcher**

**CHAIR**

EMPIRE THEATRES FOUNDATION



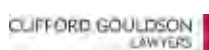
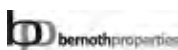
## Empire Theatres' Sponsors And Donors

The Empire Theatres' business partners are like-minded organisations with a shared commitment towards quality, innovation and inspiration in delivering their own customer focused performance within our community. These mutually beneficial partnerships enable the Empire Theatre to expand its programming diversity.

### BUSINESS PARTNERS



### FOUNDATION SPONSORS



### SUPPORTERS



### MEDIA PARTNERS



Thank you to the following donors for their very generous support and to our many other donors for helping nurture, enable and inspire the cultural capacity of our community... we couldn't do it without you!

Clive and Conchita Armitage | Ron and Shelly Barclay | Ian and Lynn Sharpe | Beris Broderick  
 Ross and Fay Miller | Sheena Liley | Sharyn Donaldson | Ben Gouldson | Carol James  
 Richard Chiverrell | Matt Cherry | Marie T Harris | Christine Leaves | Angela Ryan | Helen Vaughan  
 Robyn Campbell | Tracy Carmody | Kate Foy | Anthony Warwick | Norah Marshall | Leonie Quick  
 Brett Gredig | Paul Hendon | Owen Scholes and Family | Dianne Rozynski | Noelene Brown  
 Judith Alexander | Daniel Sisinni | St Ursula's College | Philip Vitale



COVID-19 Impact

MARCH 15 2020

Curtains closed on our 2020 major production, *Mamma Mia!* with the highest number of tickets sold in a major production season - over 10,000!



MARCH 18 2020

Due to the Federal Government ban on indoor public gatherings over 100 people, the Empire Theatre was closed, with all performances between March 18 and April 30 cancelled or postponed immediately.

MARCH 23 2020

Empire Theatres Ticketing Office in Neil Street closed but phones open from 9am - 3pm as refunds and postponements were processed.

MARCH 25 2020

Empire Youth Arts transitioned to online classes for the remainder of Term 1 and Term 2.



JULY 7 2020

All permanent staff commenced weekly full and comprehensive cleaning of the theatre in lieu of the regularly contracted professional cleaners.

JULY 3 2020

Concert venues, theatres and auditoriums had eased restrictions, allowing up to 50% capacity or one person per 4 square metres (whichever is greater) with a COVID Safe Plan and socially distanced seating.

JUNE 29 2020

Permanent staff moved to an 80% salary position in the last week of June 2020 and remained so, until approximately September when activity improved and some staff members moved back to 100%. All staff had returned to a 100% salary position by early December 2020.

JUNE 16 2020

*The Empire Strikes Back Series* was announced thanks to Queensland Government/ Arts Queensland Funding with shows to be performed to a limit of 100 people in the audience.



JUNE 5 2020

From this date, permanent staff who were able trained and received RSA qualification to commence work in the bars to cope with reduced staffing once the theatre was reopened.



JULY 9 2020

Easing of restrictions meant the release of more tickets for *The Empire Strikes Back* Camerata performance on July 17 (previously sold out) and a live streaming option was made available.



JULY 11 2020

Live theatre returns to the Empire Theatre, following approximately four months of closure.

Project 62 and The Beamish Brothers were the first performance in *The Empire Strikes Back* series.

Permanent staff commence working behind the bars.



JULY 22 2020

Empire Youth Arts participants returned to the theatre for classes with a COVID Safe Industry Plan in place.



SEPTEMBER 1 2020

Numbers were limited to around 400 audience members per show, in socially distanced seating



JANUARY 30 2021

We welcomed back more casuals and permanent staff were no longer required to work behind the bars.



NOVEMBER 17 2020

The return of 100% capacity to the Empire Theatre in line with Government restrictions including contact tracing requirements when purchasing tickets and encouraging masks when entering or exiting the venue or when outside of allocated seat.



Empire Theatres Staff worked through a long list of upcoming performances to adjust the seating plans and tickets already allocated to reflect these changes. Performers were able to reduce the distance from audience from 4m to 2m except for choirs which remained at 4m from the audience.

SEPTEMBER 24 2020

New Queensland Health seating plan allows COVID safe spacing between patrons while maximizing seats available at a performance. Known as Honeycomb Seating, it allowed 50% or approx 760 people at any one performance.



FEBRUARY 25 2021

QR Code check ins became mandatory at the Empire Theatre to comply with Queensland Health requirements.



MARCH 2 2021

In another update it became mandatory for Empire Theatre patrons and visitors to check in via Check in Queensland app.



MARCH 29 2021

All adults and children over 12 must wear a mask when attending a show from 5pm that day which was children's performance, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*.



JUNE 28 2021

The Empire Theatres was operating at a 100% capacity following a COVID Safe Checklist in line with Queensland Health requirements and encouraging the use of masks for all patrons over the age of 12.



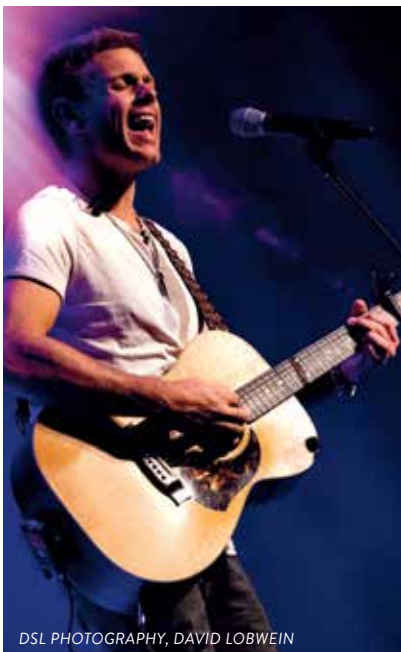


## The Empire Strikes Back!

**A little over one year ago, the Empire Theatre was just beginning the process of re-emerging onto the arts scene after almost four months off the stage.**

After closing the doors just days after the final performance of highly successful major musical *Mamma Mia!* in March, the Empire Theatre was able to raise the curtain once again in July for reopening performance series, *The Empire Strikes Back*.

The weekly performance series, supported by the Empire Theatres Foundation Business Partners, Arts Queensland and the Queensland Government's pilot program funding, aimed to reopen the theatre to limited audiences to COVID safely restart the performing arts industry in the Toowoomba area. The series included performances



DSL PHOTOGRAPHY, DAVID LOBWEIN

by local rock band Project 62, supported by altpop duo The Beamish Brothers, Queensland Chamber Orchestra Camerata, local pop and jazz group Cool Nights Big Band, musical theatre original performance *Love Sick* starring Toowoomba artists Justin Tamblyn and Shannon Galow and country music performer Mick Lindsay. Several performances included a livestream option for those who were unable to purchase tickets or who were not yet ready to return to the theatre.

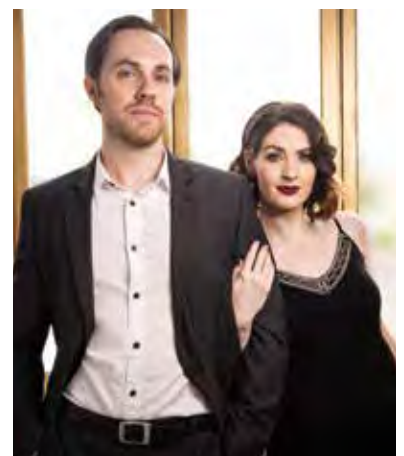
The reopening series was held in the Empire Theatres main auditorium and was initially open to audiences of 100 people under social distancing requirements, in line with the government restrictions at the time.

The series was well supported by patrons with several performances reaching audience capacity quite quickly before more tickets were released in July 2020 thanks to the easing of Queensland Government restrictions.




After months of operating under these extremely difficult circumstances, the Empire Theatre was able to return to 100% capacity in November, working under state government regulations and an industry wide COVID Safe Plan, now known as a COVID Safe Checklist, that remains in place into 2021.

Thanks to the initial support of the Empire Theatres Foundation Business partners and Arts Queensland, the Empire Theatre



has been able to reopen safely and continues to welcome artists and patrons back to an extremely busy and thriving venue.

Camerata's concerts are always brilliant and the Empire Theatre runs a very tight ship with courteous and enthusiastic staff.



So pleased The Empire Theatre has reopened. A brilliant night out and everyone seemed very happy to be there. The staff were most helpful and friendly. Thank you.

I personally emailed the Empire Theatre today to express my heartfelt thanks for their dedication to getting live events safely happening again.

The Empire is our closest appropriate live venue (5-6 hour round trip) and it is so vital to its community, both near and far.

I thought it was great having everyone sitting at a distance and restricted amount of people attending as I hate crowds and having to line up for ages...easier access and less claustrophobic....it was awesome...

AN EXCELLENT VENUE WITH ALL COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE AND ENFORCED. VERY HAPPY TO RETURN IN THE FUTURE.



“ So pleased the majestic Empire Theatre has reopened. We attend up to 10 events a year, all of which are brilliant. Way more events than when we lived in Brisbane. ”




Toowoomba's Empire Theatre is indeed *Striking Back* and I am overjoyed and grateful that I can join Forces with them again!

“ WELL DONE EMPIRE THEATRE. A BRILLIANT RETURN. CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT EVENT! ”

It's a great step forward!

# THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK THEATRE

## PATRON FEEDBACK



Please keep having events at the Empire Theatre complex... Please!!



It was absolutely delightful to be at a live performance at the Empire. I felt alive. Seeing the lovely volunteers that work there, the staff, fellow theatre goers and the wonderful Camerata chamber band. I am so happy to be able to go to live performances again. Thank you.

They have worked tirelessly to ensure live performances on their main stage. Whilst ensuring the safety of the audience.

IT WAS WONDERFUL BEING ABLE TO ATTEND LIVE THEATRE. WOULD LOVE TO SEE MORE EVENTS. BIG THANK YOU TO THE AMAZING CAMERATA, EMPIRE THEATRE AND STATE GOVT.



## Empire's Springtime Arts Celebration continues to Thrive

The 2020 *Thrive on Arts* event, held from September 24-27, celebrated creativity, storytelling and arts during Spring. *Thrive on Arts* featured ticketed events including children's theatre performance *Puffin Palooza*, clowning performance by Toowoomba clowning company *You Me Three Clown Co*, as well as free lawn games, the C&K Tent, Storytime under the Magnolia Tree, arts and crafts, roving clowning performances outside and clowning workshops for children.

As always, *Thrive* wrapped up the celebration with a free concert reading of a popular children's book, set to music performed by Toowoomba Concert Orchestra. Families were delighted by the rendition of *If You Ever Want to Bring a Circus to the Library, DON'T* by Elise Parsley for children aged 0-5 years old.

The Toowoomba Concert Orchestra also held "Meet a Musician" sessions across the weekend of *Thrive*, giving children who came along a chance to talk to musicians and take a closer look at their instruments.

*Thrive on Arts* was presented by Empire Theatres and C&K Childcare and Kindergarten with support for the event by First 5 Forever and Toowoomba Regional Libraries. *Thrive on Arts* takes place at the Empire Theatre during Carnival of Flowers each year.



## Mzaza Unites with Music as Universal Language

One of Australia's most unique multilingual bands, gypsy folk group Mzaza, provided a workshop experience in 2020 for newly arrived adults in the Toowoomba Region to get involved in a creative program.

Two musicians facilitated four open workshops in September and October to engage two groups of migrants and refugees, providing a chance for participants to get to know each other and share songs from their cultural

backgrounds, as well as an opportunity to learn one of MZAZA's English language songs. The workshops culminated in a performance with Mzaza on October 10 at the Armitage Centre following the band's ticketed show.

This program was made possible via the Toowoomba Regional Council Community Arts Support Grant with additional support by Multicultural Australia.

## Yazidi Community Program

**This financial year, Empire Youth Arts continued to work with the Yazidi community at Wilsonton State High School.**

The Yazidis are members of a religious minority from Northern Iraq, threatened by genocidal violence by Islamic State. The Wilsonton State High School group Empire Youth Arts currently work with are survivors of a major genocide in 2014; all aged between 12-16 years, who came to Australia in search of peace and success, bringing with them their love of food, dance, music, sport and community. Commencing at the beginning of 2020, the program runs every Tuesday during the school terms across the year with more than 170 students taking part in the program from Term 3 and 4 in 2020 and Term 1 and 2 in 2021.

The program utilises drama to learn new words in English, practice English in role play situations and builds confidence in using English language through problem solving activities. It also tackles community issues, creating a safe space for the students to share their experiences and shed light on the social challenges they confront daily, helping to build a sense of belonging in Australia.



## Sydney Writers Festival

While live streaming events have come to the forefront with the limitations and restrictions experienced since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Empire Theatres has been utilizing the option for a number of years.

An annual highlight featured on the Empire Theatre free events calendar is the Live and Local streaming of the one of Australia's best-loved forums for literature, ideas and storytelling, *Sydney Writers Festival*, direct to the Empire Theatre. After cancelling the event in 2020, the festival was back up in 2021, with a program streamed to the Supper Room from Friday 30 April- Sunday 2 May, 10am to 5pm daily, direct from Sydney.

More than 175 people attended the free event throughout the weekend, taking in sessions from Australian journalists Barrie Cassidy, Jan Fran and Kerry O'Brien, Pulitzer Prize winner Isabel Wikerson, authors Sarah Krasnostein, Helen Garner, Richard Flanagan, Michael Robotham and much loved comedian Judith Lucy.

Audiences at the livestream had the opportunity to participate in Q&A sessions at each event, sending questions direct to the stage in Sydney.

## Project Prodigy

Some of the region's finest young performers were able to learn from and play alongside some of the best musicians in the country with the 2021 *Project Prodigy* with Queensland Symphony Orchestra. *Project Prodigy* was able to provide opportunities to eight talented students from Toowoomba and surrounding areas.

These students performed with members of the QSO in the Empire Theatres South Bar Foyer on May 6 prior to the mainstage performance of Queensland Symphony Orchestra's *Shakespearean Classics*.



## Sophie Volp Has a Dream...

As young musical theatre performer Sophie Volp delivered the last few bars of *I Have a Dream* to the audience of highly successful Empire Theatre production *Mamma Mia!* in March 2020, she could have been singing about her own plans for the future.

Playing the coincidentally named leading role of Sophie Sheridan in the hit musical, Sophie Volp had no way of knowing it would be the last performance on the Empire Theatre stage for close to four months.

The day after the curtain fell on *Mamma Mia!*, as the set was being disassembled, the cast were clearing out dressing rooms, and costumes were packed away, a government mandated shut down of performance and hospitality spaces came into effect and the doors to the Empire Theatre were closed temporarily to the public to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Now, just over a year later, the former Youth Bursary recipient has taken steps towards her dream of having a long career on stage, studying a Diploma of Musical Theatre at the highly prestigious Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA).

Sophie received a bursary in 2018 to attend Sound Thinking Australia, now known as Cuskelly College of Music, for a Musical Theatre and Classical Acting Summer Course and says this bursary played a large role in developing her skills and passion for the stage.

“WAAPA always felt like the ultimate unattainable dream, and I never truly let myself hope until late into the callback process; I was preparing for a devastating rejection and when I got the acceptance, I was shocked. “It felt like affirmation that I could do it, I could truly follow my dreams.”

Sophie thanked the Empire Theatre and Foundation team for providing her a second home to learn and develop as an artist and for helping her on her way to making her dreams reality.

“My first ever musical theatre performance was on the Empire Theatre stage when I was ten years old and I’ve never looked back,” she said.

“The Empire has given me some of my fondest memories, from providing the stage for the youth production I looked forward to every year, to giving me the opportunity to work with such amazing professionals and form so many beautiful connections during *Mamma Mia!*.”

The 2021 Youth Bursary recipients will be announced in November 2021.



## MoodScapes

When COVID-19 took the live performance option off the table for the 2020 Junior IMPACT Ensemble, the group delivered their Podcast project, *Moodscapes*. Created in partnership with University of Southern Queensland (USQ), *Moodscapes* was a four-part podcast series created by the ensemble with each episode exploring the different themes of being overwhelmed, frustrated, alone or nostalgic. The episodes were released weekly from March 9, 2021 - scan here to listen now!



## We Come From Dalby

In a continuation of Empire Youth Arts mission to expand the spotlight to young people living in regional and rural areas, 2020 saw the first ever Dalby IMPACT Ensemble take form. Auditions for those aged 12-18 in the Dalby area were held a week before Queensland's lockdown, postponing rehearsals until late July when restrictions started to ease.

Over four months, the ensemble and Director, Nicky Haeusler, worked to create a story about the places they come from, the places they spoke from and the places they dreamt of one day going.

The result of this project was *We Come From Dalby*, performed at the Dalby Players Little Theatre from November 24-25.

This performance was supported by Empire Theatres, Western Downs Regional Council and Queensland Government.



## IMPACT Ensemble tell timely tale with **A Monster Unfinished**

After initially delaying auditions due to lockdown restrictions, the 2020 Senior IMPACT Ensemble performed *A Monster Unfinished* on Friday 23 and Saturday 24 October 2020 in the Armitage Centre.

The annual IMPACT program, then in its tenth year, is an advanced performance-making program with the aim of creating a work that is for, with, and by young people. The story of *A Monster Unfinished* was inspired by the true events of author Mary Shelley's life, who penned classic gothic horror story *Frankenstein* more than 200 years ago.

The Ensemble explored the original text and developed the work over four months, meeting weekly and growing skills as writers, actors, and creative collaborators.

This production was the 15th IMPACT Ensemble production and was livestreamed to a ticketed audience as well as performed live on stage in the Armitage Centre.

This program was supported by Toowoomba Regional Council and Australia Council for the Arts.



## Youth Arts Welcomes New Teaching Artist

**The 2020/21 Financial Year saw the Empire Youth Arts team say goodbye to much-loved Youth Arts Director Ari Palani as he handed the reins to newly appointed Lead Teaching Artist, Nicky Haeusler.**

After seven years working with the youth of Toowoomba and surrounding areas, Ari finished his time at Empire Youth Arts in late January to take up the role of Youth and Education Producer in La Boite Theatre in Brisbane.

Nicky officially commenced work with the start of Term 1 Youth Arts workshops, but has been a fixture at the Empire Theatre since her first class as a Drama Plus workshop aged 18.

A former IMPACT member, Nicky was Assistant Stage Manager on the Empire Theatres *Legally Blonde: The Musical* and shadowed the former Youth Arts Director on his projects while also studying a Bachelor of Theatre Arts at University of Southern Queensland and teaching classes with Empire Youth Arts.

“Being under that mentorship for four years was a unique experience and a brilliant way to step into facilitating and community engagement,” Nicky said.

“I think young people are desperately underestimated about their capabilities and the contributions they can make and programs like Empire Youth Arts, which has such a focus on young people and their agency, are few and far between.”



## Talented Technician Completes Training

Congratulations to Empire Theatre Technician, Andrew Taylor, who completed his Certificate 3 in Live Production and Technical Services in February 2021, taking up full time work at the Empire Theatre. Andrew completed the 12-month long course over the course of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, with his training covering all bases, from staging, lighting and audio to a selected amount of event production and management, with the majority of his training taking place in the professional environment.

As part of his training Andrew was given freedom to learn, doing his own lighting designs for several comedy shows including Tom Gleeson, Jimeoin and *Agro Up Late*.

Andrew started at the Empire Theatre as part of his school work experience placement in 2014, returning in 2015 for the Empire Theatres major musical, *Disney & Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins* as a mechanist before coming on board in a paid capacity for the first time to work backstage on a large scale dance performance in 2018.

“I want to work in this industry because there is something new every day; you never know what is going to come through the door,” he said.

Andrew thanked Technical Manager Timothy Panitz for the opportunity and the technical team for their guidance and assistance during his training.



## Live Events Industry comes together and **Lights Up in Red**

On September 30, 2020, the Empire Theatres took part in *Light It In Red* campaign, marking the first #WeMakeEvents Global Action Day.

The event saw the live sector join forces to shine a light on the industry that had been often overlooked in the ongoing pandemic, lighting up the Empire Theatre, Armitage Centre and Empire Church Theatre in an impressive display of red lighting, made possible by the Empire Theatres technical department.

The activations in the initiative spanned 25 countries, lighting up venues, places of work, and art installations and was supported by an endless stream of recording artists, politicians and public figures, amplifying the voice of a struggling industry.





## Awards Celebrate Local

The Empire Theatres hosted the 2020 Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce Focus HR Business Excellence Awards on Saturday, December 12 in an adapted format to ensure the safety of all who attended.

The event is an annual celebration of the business community's contribution to the economic vitality and social fabric of our region, acknowledging the outstanding achievements of both businesses and young leaders across all sectors of industry. Taking place inside the auditorium, the attendees were seated according to COVID Safe Seating regulations and pre-ordered drinks, pre-prepared individually packaged dinner and dessert

boxes, and water were placed in the auditorium. The changed conditions did not alter the enjoyment of the night with 470 nominees and guests attending as well live entertainment taking place on stage and an international guest speaker joining in via Zoom.

The event was run by a full host of Empire Theatres staff, including General Manager Kerry Saul, Heads of Department and administration workers, joining technical staff, bar and front of house staff, to come together to work the event, serving behind the bars and in the auditorium.

## Farm Institute Conference

While specializing in live performance, the Empire Theatres Precinct is also a popular choice for functions and large scale corporate events, including the 2021 Australian Farm Institute Annual Mid-Year Conference.

Taking place on Thursday June 17, this was a full day conference followed by a three-course dinner in the Armitage Centre with more than 50 delegates in attendance.

The event was a hybrid with live speakers and delegates on-site and online including the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, Philip Lowe, Grain Growers Chair Brett Hosking and Rural Bank & Group Executives Partnerships CEO, Alexandra Gartmann. Delegates were able to take part both on site and virtually, with the event livestreamed for those unable to attend.



## Board Appoints Two New Directors

In September 2020, two new Directors of the Empire Theatre Board were endorsed by Toowoomba Regional Council, with Empire Theatres Board Chairman Andrew Wielandt noting their experience and knowledge would be an asset to the Empire Theatre.

“We are grateful to the large number of high-quality, experienced applicants who expressed great interest and enthusiasm in joining the Empire Theatres Board throughout the considerable applications process,” Mr Wielandt said.

Experienced Arts Manager Brad Rush (HOTA - Gold Coast, Adelaide Fringe and Geelong Arts Centre) brings his specialist knowledge in programming and community development in venues and festivals to the Board.

With a background in marketing and business development for not-for profit organisations including RACQ LifeFlight Rescue, Lifeline Darling Downs



and her current position at St Vincent’s Private Hospital Toowoomba, Suzie Byrnes was excited to contribute to the future of Toowoomba’s iconic venue.

Performance Highlights



### Animal Farm By George Orwell

Adapted by shake & stir theatre co

DRAMA



- 🕒 Friday 4 June, 7:30pm | 2021
- 📍 Empire Theatre
- 🎫 Number of Performances 1
- 💰 Paid Attendance 598
- 👤 Total Attendance 672

PRODUCTION

#### About

George Orwell’s powerfully potent and profoundly popular allegory returns in a multi-award winning theatre production - served fast, furious and full of grunt. All animals are equal. But some animals are more equal than others...

#### Q&A with actor and former Toowoomba local, Tim Dashwood...

What was it like to slip back into the character of Snowball (and the other characters you played) so many years after the first tour of shake & stir’s Animal Farm?

I was anxious that the physicality of the piece may really test my older voice and body but was pleased to see how even though I have changed, I have grown. That was the same with my impression of the story and characters.

Snowball in particular, whatever has happened to me in the last eight years has brought a much stronger sense of injustice and the ideals that Snowball is espousing.

Funnily enough, the understanding of the hopelessness that things can change and the nihilism of Benjamin the donkey who I also play, had definitely grown in me as well.

Given the themes and subtext of the story of Animal Farm, why do you think it’s an important story to tell, particularly at this point in history?

There are so many ties to this story and events happening all over the world, at multiple levels of politics, social constructs and cultural engagement. Orwell was very clever.

Before COVID intervened, we would have been touring during the US Presidential election in 2020. There are so many scenes and interactions in Animal Farm that we basically saw in real life.

Although Orwell wrote describing a specific period of history, it really is an allegory of human existence and relationships. It is a shame but there is so much behind ‘absolute power corrupts absolutely’.

What was it like coming back to Toowoomba to perform?

I really had a lot of nostalgia this time. I think after a significant time of closed theatres during 2020, I came into this tour knowing how fortunate I was to jump into something so rich both thematically but demanding as an actor.

With that good fortune, it made me think of my career thus far and how the Empire was the first professional theatre I performed in. Coming back with the experiences I have had since, it really is an impressive theatre to work in.

On top of that, it was one of the largest theatres we performed to on this tour, without microphones, and being able to use my body and voice to fill the space is a great feeling.



IMAGE BY DYLAN EVANS



## Avenue Q

Presented by Shoebox Theatre Company

MUSICAL THEATRE



- 🕒 Thursday 18 - Saturday 20 February | 2021
- 📍 Empire Theatre
- 🎫 Number of Performances 3
- 💰 Paid Attendance 1070
- 👤 Total Attendance 1233

PRODUCTION

### About

This laugh-out-loud musical tells the timeless story of a recent college grad named Princeton, who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q. He soon discovers that, although the residents seem nice, it's clear that this is not your ordinary neighbourhood. Together, Princeton and his new-found friends struggle to find jobs, dates and their ever-elusive purpose in life.

Filled with gut-busting humor and a delightfully catchy score, not to mention puppets, *Avenue Q* is a truly unique show that has quickly become a favorite for audiences everywhere.

The Empire Theatre played host to the hilarious puppets of *Avenue Q* in this remounted performance of the acclaimed Tony Award winning adult musical after a successful season in 2019.

The show returned with an all-local cast and band and a humour that delighted lovers of musical theatre and The Muppets alike!

FUN  
FACT

This totally local production was remounted at the Empire Theatre after debuting at USQ Artsworx in Toowoomba from February 7 - 16, 2019.



OPERA



## Are you Lonesome Tonight?

By Opera Queensland

- 🕒 Wednesday 9 June, 7:30pm | 2021
- 📍 Armitage Centre
- 🎫 Number of Performances 1
- 💰 Paid Attendance 250
- 👤 Total Attendance 331 SOLD OUT

PRODUCTION

### About

*Are You Lonesome Tonight* wove a story about life on the road through arias and songs by Puccini, Verdi, Slim Dusty and Dolly Parton and more, celebrating all Opera and Country music have in common... themes of love, heartache and triumph in the face of adversity.



*Are you Lonesome Tonight* was the largest ever regional tour undertaken by Opera Queensland to celebrate their 40th anniversary, visiting nearly 30 communities around the state.



MUSIC



## A Special Evening with John Butler

- 🕒 Saturday 29 May, 7:30pm | 2021
- 📍 Empire Theatre
- 🎫 Number of Performances 1
- 💰 Paid Attendance 1354
- 👤 Total Attendance 1380

HIRE

### About

John returned to the Empire Theatre for this one-off performance, the first in six years, as part of a very limited number of special, intimate shows taking place around the country. John shared stories from the road and played songs from his vast catalogue which spans almost a quarter of a century.

FUN  
FACT

John Butler is the highest selling Australian independent artist of all time.

IMAGE BY KATE PARDEY



### Curious Arts Festival

FESTIVAL



🕒 Friday 16 - Sunday 18 October | 2020

💰 Paid Attendance **736**

📍 Empire Theatres Precinct

👤 Total Attendance **777**

HIRE

#### About

Curious Arts Festival was a two day theatre wide festival that provided a quirky fun and unusual array of works by a curious blend of nationally celebrated artists alongside artists based in the Toowoomba and surrounding regions.

Performances and events included:

- Garden of Curiosity - interactive art installation & roving circus street performers
- Oasis Stage - free live music performances throughout festival
- Briefs Factory - Brisbane based international touring sensations brought two performances, *Brat Kids Carnival* and *Club Briefs*
- Alexa, Turn the Lights On - Dance performance from Homegrown performer Jacob Watton
- Change is Coming - pop up dance production featuring local emerging dancers working with creative directors from an internationally recognized company



IMAGE BY JOHN TSAVIVIS



### Weathering Well With Jenny Woodward

Supported by The University of Southern Queensland

DRAMA



🕒 Friday 11 June, 7:30pm | 2021

💰 Paid Attendance **468**

📍 Empire Theatre

👤 Total Attendance **542**

🎭 Number of Performances **1**

PRODUCTION

#### About

The weather forecast was for fun, flashbacks and fashion when ABC's revered weather presenter, Jenny Woodward visited the Empire Theatre for her entertaining one woman stage show.

*Weathering Well* is a potted history of the life and times of the popular presenter who chalks up 35 years with the national broadcaster. In her long career, she has worked as a writer, editor, producer and presenter over a broad range of shows, but has now become synonymous with weather reporting across the state.



Jenny Woodward was raised in Toowoomba studied theatre at Toowoomba's USQ, then called Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education.

Jenny has been with the ABC for more than 30 years. It's believed she is Australia's longest serving weather presenter—a title she plans to defend for some time yet.



IMAGE ABOVE BY JOEL DEVERAUX

IMAGE BY TAMARA HANTON



## Queensland Ballet

### 60 Dancers: 60 Stories

DANCE



🕒 Sat 19 Sept, 2:30pm & 7:30pm | 2020 💰 Paid Attendance 630

📍 Empire Theatre

👤 Total Attendance 671

🎫 Number of Performances 2

PRODUCTION

### About

Queensland Ballet's *60 Dancers: 60 Stories* was performed at the Empire Theatre during the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers. *60 Dancers: 60 Stories* was created in response to the lockdown earlier in 2020, with 60 dancers creating 60 new works based around the theme of love, aimed at engaging and inspiring audiences, ensuring the magic of dance was kept alive in lockdown. Originally released as a digital season throughout June 2020, this project was adapted for the stage culminating in a performance the scale of which, with so many local and international collaborators, had not been attended by a dance company before.

Queensland Ballet's performance was made possible over the Carnival of Flowers weekend due to Arts Queensland's Play Local grant in the amount of \$20,000.



2020 was the 60th year of Queensland Ballet!

In 2012, Li Cunxin AO, an acclaimed former dancer and author of the best-selling autobiography, *Mao's Last Dancer*, was appointed as Queensland Ballet's Artistic Director.

Queensland Ballet became one of the first ballet ensembles in Australia to tour regionally, a commitment that continues today. They have established training programs to provide pathways for young people who are committed to a career in dance.



IMAGES BY TAMARA HANTON



IMAGE BY SARAH FLEMING



## Human Nature

### People Get Ready

MUSIC



🕒 Tuesday 4 May, 7:30pm | 2021

💰 Paid Attendance 1097

📍 Empire Theatre

👤 Total Attendance 1104

🎫 Number of Performances 1

HIRE

### About

Australia's homegrown heroes Human Nature returned to their roots, bringing together 30 years of performances in a never before seen intimate concert.

This performance featured their original hits, Motown classics and more, all performed stripped back with vocals and acoustic music along with the stories behind the music.

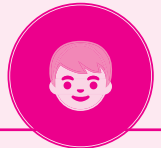


Commencing in 2016, Human Nature held a three year residency of one of their performances at the Sands Showroom, The Venetian Las Vegas. The show was heralded by critics as one of the 'do not miss' shows in Vegas.



**Charlotte's Web**  
By RAVA Productions

CHILDREN'S THEATRE



- 🕒 Wednesday 23 - Thursday 24 June | 2021
- 💰 Paid Attendance 1456
- 📍 Empire Theatre
- 👤 Total Attendance 1643
- 🎭 Number of Performances 3

PRODUCTION

**About**

The beloved children's book by E.B White came to life on the Empire Theatre stage for children aged 4-12 by locally based theatre company, RAVA Productions.

Featuring a talented cast, all with their own links to Toowoomba, *Charlotte's Web* was a high energy singing and dancing children's theatre experience, about an unlikely friendship between two barnyard inhabitants, Wilbur the Pig and Charlotte the Spider.

*Charlotte's Web* also toured to regional areas to perform, including Oakey, Milmerran, Crows Nest, Chinchilla, Dalby, Somerset and Scenic Rim.



*Charlotte's Web* was originally developed by RAVA productions as part of the Empire Theatre's Homegrown Independent Series. This run of the performance was the show's third season on stage.

IMAGE BY RUTH ATKINSON



IMAGE BY CAROL ROSEGG



**The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show**  
By CDP Kids

Based on Eric Carle's Books

CHILDRENS' THEATRE



- 🕒 Monday 29 - Wednesday 31 March | 2021
- 💰 Paid Attendance 1667
- 📍 Empire Theatre
- 👤 Total Attendance 1679
- 🎭 Number of Performances 6

PRODUCTION

**About**

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* is one of the most read and famous children's books of all time, and this show the story emerges off the page in a masterful theatrical experiences featuring over 75 magical puppets.



The final performance in this run of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* was the 17th time it has performed on an Empire Theatres stage.



IMAGE BY JONATHAN ROCKEFELLER

## Attendance 2020 - 2021

VENUE	EVENT	SOLD	COMPS/FREE EVENTS	TOTAL
<b>JULY 2020</b>				
Empire Theatre	Project 62 and Beamish Brothers	110	2	112
Empire Theatre	Camerata <i>LIVESTREAM</i>	93	0	93
Empire Theatre	Camerata	201	4	205
Empire Theatre	Cool Nights Big Band	224	1	225
Empire Theatre	Almost Maine	138	4	142
Empire Theatre	Almost Maine <i>LIVESTREAM</i>	31	0	31
<b>AUGUST 2020</b>				
Empire Theatre	Love Sick	180	1	181
Empire Theatre	Mick Lindsay	188	3	191
Empire Theatre	Christopher Wayne Fully Clothed	321	3	324
Empire Theatre	The Best of the Bee Gees	366	13	379
Empire Theatre	Matilda the Musical presented by St Ursula's College	1253	30	1283
<b>SEPTEMBER 2020</b>				
Empire Theatre	Aladdin Jnr The Musical by The Glennie School	731	29	760
Empire Theatre	Puffin Palooza	35	0	35
Empire Theatre	Killer Queen	306	8	314
Empire Theatre	60 Dancers 60 Stories	630	41	671
Armitage Centre	Romeo & Juliet TIGGA	85	3	88
Empire Church Theatre	Clowning Around Workshop	12	0	12
Empire Church Theatre	Playing the Clown Workshop	4	5	9
<b>OCTOBER 2020</b>				
Armitage Centre	Mzaza: Birth & Death of Stars	131	6	137
Armitage Centre	Orava Quartet in Sunrise	114	2	116
Armitage Centre	IMPACT Senior: A Monster Unfinished	327	12	339
Armitage Centre	IMPACT Senior: Monster Unfinished <i>LIVESTREAM</i>	31	1	32
Empire Theatre	Brat Kids Carnival	279	22	301
Empire Theatre	Club Briefs	372	16	388
Empire Theatre	The Gruffalo's Child	2046	168	2214
Empire Theatre	Sunshine Sounds	156	21	177
Empire Theatre	Tenori	146	5	151
Empire Theatre	Tenori <i>LIVESTREAM</i>	6	2	8
Empire Theatre Studio	Alexa, Turn the Lights On	85	4	89
<b>NOVEMBER 2020</b>				
Empire Theatre	The 91 Storey Treehouse	1111	67	1178
Empire Theatre	Dance Central Circus Magic	707	8	715
Empire Theatre	The Greatest Show	1379	16	1395
Empire Theatre	Tom Gleeson Lighten Up	538	6	544
Empire Theatre	Seatopia	1345	46	1391
Empire Theatre	A Christmas Wish	840	133	973
Armitage Centre	Good Morning Vietnam	190	2	192
Armitage Centre	Beethoven's Emperor QSO <i>LIVESTREAM</i>	124	0	124
Armitage Centre	Aussie and the Menace	55	35	90
Empire Church Theatre	The Limpinwood Ensemble	57	3	60
<b>DECEMBER 2020</b>				
Empire Theatre	Craig Martin Show	346	45	391
Empire Theatre	Craig Martin <i>LIVESTREAM</i>	3	0	3
Empire Theatre	Dance Central Jungle Book	903	37	940
Empire Theatre	Ross Noble	481	1	482
Empire Theatre	ABBA Live	849	45	894
Empire Theatre	A Celtic Christmas	879	7	886
Empire Theatre	Aladdin	1243	27	1270
<b>JANUARY 2021</b>				
Armitage Centre	Funny Mummies	198	1	199
Armitage Centre	TRYO Super Summer Music	119	106	225
Empire Church Theatre	The 18 Hour Play Project 2021	32	0	32
Empire Church Theatre	Fanny Lumdsen	41	0	41
Empire Theatre	Crazy Science Show	645	2	647
<b>FEBRUARY 2021</b>				
Empire Theatre	Leaving Jackson 2021	894	9	903
Empire Theatre	Jimeoin	994	3	997



# Attendance 2020 - 2021

VENUE	EVENT	SOLD	COMPS/FREE EVENTS	TOTAL
Empire Theatre	Avenue Q	1070	163	1233
Armitage Centre	Agro Up Late with Jamie Dunn	247	15	262
Armitage Centre	The Gold Dust Woman Tour	230	1	231
<b>MARCH 2021</b>				
Armitage Centre	Wind in the Willows	497	33	530
Armitage Centre	Firebird QSO LIVESTREAM	166	2	168
Armitage Centre	Flickerfest 2021	197	34	231
Empire Theatre	Murphy's Pigs in Concert	480	5	485
Empire Theatre	Murphy's Pigs	608	45	653
Empire Theatre	Melinda Schneider	642	20	662
Empire Theatre	Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra	118	2	120
Empire Theatre	The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show	1667	12	1679
Empire Church Theatre	Orava Quartet	70	4	74
<b>APRIL 2021</b>				
Empire Church Theatre	The Limpinwood Ensemble 2021	53	3	56
Empire Church Theatre	The Most Spectacular Cake	107	11	118
Empire Theatre	John Williamson	1456	21	1477
Empire Theatre	Alice	1025	44	1069
Empire Theatre	Cloudland the Musical	662	47	709
Empire Theatre	Margaret Fulton the Musical	184	24	208
Empire Theatre	A Midsummer Nights Dream	1165	61	1226
<b>MAY 2021</b>				
Empire Theatre	A Taste of Ireland	876	32	908
Empire Theatre	Human Nature	1097	7	1104
Empire Theatre	Melbourne Comedy Festival 2021	573	31	604
Empire Theatre	Queensland Symphony Orchestra	471	84	555
Empire Theatre	Eisteddfod Sessions May 2021	4091	3	4094
Empire Theatre	The Midnight Gang	582	57	639
Empire Theatre	Bluey's Big Play Live on Stage	3419	12	3431
Empire Theatre	APIA Good Times Tour 2021	916	41	957
Empire Theatre	An Evening with John Butler	1354	26	1380
Armitage Centre	My Other Closet	84	30	114
Armitage Centre	Legally Blonde	1176	34	1210
Armitage Centre	William Shakespeare (abridged)	300	0	300
<b>JUNE 2021</b>				
Armitage Centre	Are You Lonesome Tonight	250	81	331
Armitage Centre	Jekyll & Hyde	76	17	93
Armitage Centre	Rockabilly Cash	47	0	47
Armitage Centre	Gold: The Ultimate ABBA Show	278	6	284
Armitage Centre	Bananas & Hell Yeah	303	4	307
Armitage Centre	The AC DC Story	206	25	231
Empire Theatre	The Daytime Series: Bloom Sings	345	59	404
Empire Theatre	The Robertson Brothers	921	9	930
Empire Theatre	Animal Farm	598	74	672
Empire Theatre	String Out 2021	332	3	335
Empire Theatre	Workshop: Classic (Vintage) Burlesque	180	0	180
Empire Theatre	Workshop: Neo (Modern Style) Chairdance	5	0	5
Empire Theatre	Weathering Well Jenny Woodward	468	74	542
Empire Theatre	Fanfare Regional Finals 2021	0	486	486
Empire Theatre	Charlotte's Web	1456	187	1643
Empire Church Theatre	Camerata Remastered	120	4	124
		<b>53,742</b>	<b>2,938</b>	<b>56,680</b>

PAID	
Empire Theatre	47,730
Armitage Centre	5,431
Empire Theatre Studio	85
Empire Church Theatre	496
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53,742</b>

COMPS/FREE EVENTS	
Empire Theatre	2,454
Armitage Centre	450
Empire Theatre Studio	4
Empire Church Theatre	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,938</b>

PLEASE NOTE: IN ADDITION TO THE PERFORMANCES LISTED ABOVE, SEVERAL WORKSHOPS, FUNCTIONS AND PROJECTS OCCURRED IN THE 2020/2021 FINANCIAL YEAR

**Total Attendance 56,680**

## Where Are They Now?

Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and the viability of the courses proceeding, the 2020 Empire Youth Bursary Program could not go ahead. The 2021 program is currently underway with recipients to be announced in November. Take a look at what some of the past recipients are up to now and how their bursary ultimately helped their career...



### CRAIG WILKINSON

Craig Wilkinson's first bursary sent him to the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) for an acting course in 2005 which he followed up in 2007 with another bursary to the Australian Film and Television Radio School in 2007.

Craig is now the Creative Director of the award-winning video projects collective optikal bloc, which creates bespoke, visual-based live theatrical experiences. Recent live performance video design credits include shake & stir theatre co's production of Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr Fox*, the national tour of Green Day's *American Idiot* and one of Australia's most successful theatrical exports, Dein Perry's *Tap Dogs*.

Currently, Craig is working on the highly anticipated stage adaptation of Trent Dalton's highly acclaimed Australian novel, *Boy Swallows Universe*, which is presented by Queensland Theatre, Brisbane Festival and QPAC.



### SOPHIE VOLP

In 2019, young musical theatre hopeful Sophie was awarded an Empire Youth Bursary to attend Sound Thinking Australia (now Cuskelly College of Music) for Musical Theatre and Classical Acting Summer Course.

The following year Sophie went on to star in the Empire Theatres production of *Mamma Mia!* in the main role of Sophie Sheridan.

Sophie is now undertaking her first year at the prestigious Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, studying a Diploma of Musical Theatre.

"I received an Empire Youth Bursary to go to the James Cuskelly Summer School Musical Theatre programme, where I learnt so much and got my moment of clarity, realising that this was definitely what I wanted to pursue for the rest of my life".

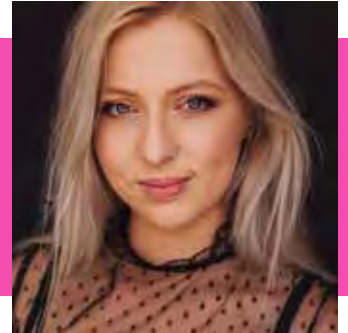


### BEN GILLESPIE

Ben Gillespie received a bursary in 2007 that sent him to the prestigious Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) for the first time.

Ben starred in the Empire Theatres production of *Singin' In the Rain* in 2009 before returning to WAAPA to complete his Bachelor of Musical Theatre.

Since, Ben has travelled the world for three years as part of vocal trio The Aussie Boys and toured with professional productions including *Singin' In the Rain*, *Aladdin* (Understudy for Aladdin) Opera Australia's *West Side Story* (Pepe).



### COURTNEY WAGNER

Courtney Wagner is a USQ Creative Arts (Acting) graduate, working as an actor and arts facilitator. Courtney received two bursaries, the first in 2010 to the National Institute of Dramatic Arts Touring program in Acting Techniques and the second in 2013 to the Victorian College of the Arts Teenflix program, an intensive filmmaking workshop that introduces participants to a dynamic industry.

Since then, Courtney has been in short films, commercials, TV series, Feature films and onstage productions. She also runs arts workshops around the state.

Earlier in 2021, Courtney was enjoying her time on tour through North Queensland with RAVA Productions *Charlotte's Web* in the roles of Fern and others!

CELEBRATED

110 

YEARS SINCE FIRST  
OPENING 29 JUNE, 1911

 **215,120**  
UNIQUE USERS  
OF THE WEBSITE

 **4,593**  
INSTAGRAM  
FOLLOWERS


 **17,493**  
FACEBOOK  
LIKERS

**TOTAL ATTENDANCE 71,949** { 18/19 TOTAL ATTENDANCE WAS 129,628 }

IT HAS BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE THE  
START OF ANNUAL YOUTH ARTS  
ENSEMBLE PROGRAM IMPACT

SINCE THEN THERE HAVE BEEN 18  
PRODUCTIONS BY BOTH JUNIOR AND  
SENIOR ENSEMBLES | 122 INDIVIDUALS  
HAVE TAKEN PART IN IMPACT SINCE THE  
BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM

 **232**  
YOUTH ARTS  
CLASSES  
HAVE TAKEN PLACE  
FROM SOMERSET,  
DALBY, EMPIRE  
THEATRE AND  
TOOWOOMBA  
SCHOOLS

• BOX OFFICE REVENUE COLLECTED: \$887,586  
• OPERATING RESULT FOR THE  
YEAR: CONSOLIDATED \$97,000  
• A POSITIVE RESULT   
• EMPIRE THEATRES PROJECTS OPERATING  
RESULT FOR THE YEAR: APPROXIMATELY  
• \$195,000 PROFIT

 **APPROX.**  
**1000**

DRINKS WERE CONSUMED  
AT THE 2020 BUSINESS  
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

 **119**

NUMBER OF DAYS THE  
THEATRE WAS CLOSED  
DUE TO COVID-19

 **18** NUMBER OF  
PUBLIC  
LIVESTREAMS

 **10** APPROXIMATE NUMBER  
OF MAN HOURS  
TAKEN TO CREATE  
LIGHT IT IN RED DISPLAY



**TOTAL TIME WATCHED ON LIVESTREAMS IN  
THE 2020-2021 FINANCIAL YEAR  
38 DAYS 16 HOURS 34 MINS 16 SECONDS**

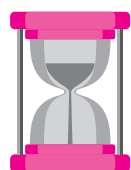
**595** EVENTS HELD

NUMBER OF  
UNIQUE VIEWERS

**2874** 

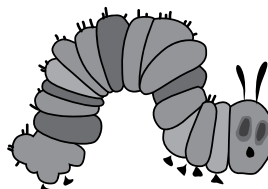
**100%**

THE CAPACITY THE THEATRE  
IS OPERATING UNDER A COVID  
SAFE CHECKLIST  
(AS AT 31 JULY 2021)



AVERAGE VIEW DURATION OF A LIVESTREAM  
**52 MINS 34 SECONDS**

THE VERY HUNGRY  
CATERPILLAR SHOW  
HAS PERFORMED AT  
THE EMPIRE THEATRES



**17 TIMES**  
EMPIRE  
THEATRES

**Empire Theatres Pty Ltd**  
**ABN 83 086 482 288**

**Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

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## Directors' Report

The directors present their report on the consolidated entity (referred to hereafter as the consolidated group or the group) consisting of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd and the entities it controlled at the end of, or during, the year ended 30 June 2021.

### Directors

The names of the Directors in office at any time during, or since the end of the financial year are:

Mr A Wielandt (Chairman)  
Mrs S Liley (Deputy Chair)  
Mr T Armagnacq  
Mr M O'Connell  
Mrs J Davis  
Mr D Pearson  
Mrs A Tolson  
Mr B Rush (Appointed 21 September 2020)  
Mrs S Byrnes (Appointed 21 September 2020)

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

### Principal Activities

The principal activity of the consolidated group has been to develop, foster, maintain and provide facilities for all kinds of artistic expression in the Performing Arts, pursuant to the Operating Agreement with Toowoomba Regional Council. The Empire Theatres is the largest performing arts precinct in regional Australia and has several performance and function spaces. Revenue comes from theatre productions, hire of function spaces and sale of goods such as merchandise, food and drinks. The company receive grants, donations and sponsorship which allows the continuation of operations.

### Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

On 14 November 2019, it was decided by Toowoomba Regional Council that there was no sufficient justification for the ongoing existence of Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd. The contractual arrangements with Regional Arts Services Network (RASN) ended with effect from 30 June 2021. It was decided that Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd was not essential to operations and as such, should be wound up in accordance with its constitution which must be timed with the expiry of the current funding arrangement under the RASN initiative. As part of the planning for the winding up, Empire Theatres Pty Ltd forgave an amount of \$160,000 owed by Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd during the year.

### Review of Operations

The consolidated profit of the group for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 was \$96,808 (2020: \$126,065). The consolidated group is exempt from income tax.

The consolidated group received a funding subsidy from the Toowoomba Regional Council of \$1,220,651 (2020: \$1,156,721) during the financial year.

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd forgave part of the debt owing by Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd in preparation of winding up that company as part of the Toowoomba Regional Council's controlled entities requirements. The amount forgiven of \$160,000 resulted in a loss for the year for the parent company but has no net effect on the result of the consolidated entity.

### Events Subsequent to the End of the Reporting Period

At the board of directors meeting on 20 September 2021, it was resolved that Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd will be wound up on 30 September 2021. This will have no impact on the operating capability of the remaining entities in the group.

### Likely Developments and Expected Results of Operations

The future operations of the consolidated group are expected to relate to the principal activity outlined above. The consolidated group has been impacted by COVID-19 and the impact of this has been discussed further in Note 2.

### Environmental Regulation

The consolidated group's operations are not subject to any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory.

**Directors' Report**

**Dividends**

No ordinary dividends were paid, recommended or declared during the year (2020: \$nil).

**Indemnification of Officers**

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the consolidated group. However Directors and Officers are insured under the Toowoomba Regional Council's insurance policy.

**Proceedings on Behalf of Consolidated Group**

No proceedings have been brought or intervened in on behalf of the company with leave of the Court under section 237 of the *Corporations Act 2001*

**Auditor's Independence Declaration**

A copy of the Auditor's Independence Declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 3.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors:

Date:  
Toowoomba

13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Andrew Wieland  
Chairman

Thomas Armagnacq  
Director

## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

To the Directors of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd

This auditor's independence declaration has been provided pursuant to s.307C of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

### **Independence declaration**

As lead auditor for the audit of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd for the financial year ended 30 June 2021, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit
- (b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd and the entities it controlled during the period.



Vaughan Stemmett  
as delegate of the Auditor-General

13 October 2021

Queensland Audit Office  
Brisbane



**Statements of Comprehensive Income**  
 For the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	Consolidated		Parent	
		2021 \$	2020 \$	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Revenue</b>					
Event Revenue	3(a)	1,696,123	2,966,869	1,696,123	2,229,761
Grants, donations and sponsorship	3(b)	1,847,555	1,673,940	1,316,683	1,194,919
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>3,543,678</b>	<b>4,640,809</b>	<b>3,012,806</b>	<b>3,424,680</b>
Other Income	3(c)	147,603	96,941	137,858	74,922
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>3,691,280</b>	<b>4,737,750</b>	<b>3,150,663</b>	<b>3,499,602</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Cost of sales	4	449,591	955,421	449,591	704,050
Employee Benefits	5	1,802,458	2,431,853	1,724,852	1,807,256
Materials and Services	6	883,643	762,510	650,017	524,039
Occupancy		315,000	315,000	315,000	315,000
Finance Costs		63,016	61,189	62,892	61,156
Legal and Professional Fees	7	80,764	85,712	76,764	68,504
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>3,594,472</b>	<b>4,611,685</b>	<b>3,279,116</b>	<b>3,480,005</b>
<b>Operating result for the year</b>		<b>96,808</b>	<b>126,065</b>	<b>(128,453)</b>	<b>19,597</b>
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income attributable to the members of the company		96,808	126,065	(128,453)	19,597

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**Statements of Financial Position**  
 As at 30 June 2021

	Note	Consolidated		Parent	
		2021	2020	2021	2020
		\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>					
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	8	2,373,643	1,796,512	2,262,982	492,465
Trade and other receivables	9(a)	74,753	99,204	59,900	89,854
Financial assets	10	1,250,000	1,000,000	500,000	1,000,000
Inventories		17,351	9,206	17,351	9,206
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>3,715,747</b>	<b>2,904,923</b>	<b>2,840,232</b>	<b>1,591,525</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>					
Trade and other receivables	9(b)	-	-	-	382,385
Investment in subsidiary		-	-	1	1
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>382,386</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>3,715,747</b>	<b>2,904,923</b>	<b>2,840,233</b>	<b>1,973,912</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Trade and other payables	11	1,648,795	958,480	1,621,927	650,854
Provisions	12	420,761	388,425	420,761	388,425
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,069,556</b>	<b>1,346,905</b>	<b>2,042,689</b>	<b>1,039,279</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>					
Provisions	12	31,866	40,502	31,866	40,502
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>31,866</b>	<b>40,502</b>	<b>31,866</b>	<b>40,502</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>2,101,422</b>	<b>1,387,407</b>	<b>2,074,554</b>	<b>1,079,780</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>1,614,325</b>	<b>1,517,516</b>	<b>765,679</b>	<b>894,131</b>
<b>Equity</b>					
Contributed equity		1	1	1	1
Accumulated surplus		1,614,324	1,517,515	765,678	894,130
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>1,614,325</b>	<b>1,517,516</b>	<b>765,679</b>	<b>894,131</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**Statements of Changes in Equity**  
 For the year ended 30 June 2021

	Contributed Equity \$	Accumulated Surplus \$	Total \$
<b>Consolidated</b>			
<b>Balance at 1 July 2019</b>	1	1,391,450	1,391,451
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>			
Operating result	-	126,065	126,065
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>	-	126,065	126,065
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	1	1,517,515	1,517,516
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>			
Operating result	-	96,808	96,808
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>	-	96,808	96,808
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	1	1,614,323	1,614,324
<b>Parent</b>			
<b>Balance at 1 July 2019</b>	1	874,533	874,534
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>			
Operating result	-	19,597	19,597
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>	-	19,597	19,597
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	1	894,130	894,131
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>			
Operating result	-	(128,453)	(128,453)
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>	-	(128,453)	(128,453)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	1	765,678	765,679

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**Statements of Cash Flows**  
 For the year ended 30 June 2021

Note	Consolidated		Parent	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>				
<i>Inflows</i>				
Receipts from customers	2,498,172	2,280,962	2,498,172	1,983,751
Funding received	1,220,651	1,161,009	1,220,651	1,156,721
Receipts from grants, donations and sponsorship	619,860	436,484	96,032	38,197
Interest received	28,973	52,071	19,228	30,053
<i>Outflows</i>				
Payments to suppliers and employees	(3,540,526)	(4,180,509)	(2,785,951)	(3,704,376)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	827,130	(249,983)	1,048,132	(495,654)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>				
Maturity/(purchase) of investments (net)	(250,000)	1,000,000	722,385	239,278
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(250,000)	1,000,000	722,385	239,278
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	577,130	750,017	1,770,517	(256,375)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	1,796,512	1,046,495	492,465	748,840
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	8 2,373,643	1,796,512	2,262,982	492,465

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2021

**Note 1: Summary of significant accounting policies**

The financial statements cover the consolidated financial statements and notes of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd and its controlled entities ('Group'), and the separate financial statements and notes of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd as an individual parent entity ('The company')

**Basis of preparation**

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared, except for cash flow information, on an accrual basis in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Interpretations and in compliance with the *Corporations Act 2001*. These financial statements are presented in Australian Dollars.

With respect to compliance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, the group has applied those requirements applicable to not-for-profit entities, as the group is a not-for-profit public sector entity. Except where stated, the historical cost convention is used.

Where required by Australian Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

**Going Concern**

The company is dependent upon continued funding from Toowoomba Regional Council to ensure that the entity can continue to operate as a going concern. Toowoomba Regional Council has agreed to provide ongoing financial support to ensure the company can meet its debts as they fall due.

**Principles of consolidation**

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the assets, liabilities and results of entities controlled by Empire Theatres Pty Ltd at the end of the reporting period. A controlled entity is any entity over which Empire Theatres Pty Ltd has the power to govern the financial and operating policies so as to obtain benefits from the entity's activities. The group consists of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd, Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd and Empire Theatres Foundation. Control of Empire Theatres Foundation is subject to compliance with the Empire Theatres Foundation Trust Deed.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, all inter-group balances and transactions between entities in the group have been eliminated on consolidation.

**Income tax**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

**Goods and services tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Statements of Financial Position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the Statements of Cash Flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

**Inventory**

Bar stock held for resale is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value and includes, where applicable, direct material, direct labour and an appropriate portion of variable and fixed overheads. Costs are assigned on the basis of weighted average cost.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2021

**Note 1: Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

**Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

The preparation of the financial statements requires the determination and use of certain critical accounting estimates, assumptions and management judgements about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities. Such estimates, judgements and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in future periods as relevant.

**New and revised accounting standards**

The group adopts all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current reporting period. The adoption of the new and revised accounting standards has not resulted in any significant impact on the reported financial position, financial performance or cash flows of the group.

AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities will be effective for reporting period beginning on or after 1 July 2021. This standard introduces the 'Simplified Disclosures' framework for Tier 2 entities that will replace the current 'Reduced Disclosure Requirements' (RDR) framework. The standard will not have a material impact on recognition or measurement, but will result in a different presentation of the financial report.

All other Australian Accounting Standards that have recently been issued or amended but are not yet effective have had no material impact on the company's accounting policies or on these financial statements. The group does not intend to adopt any of these pronouncements before their effective dates.

**Authorisation of financial statements for issue**

The financial statements are authorised for issue by the Directors at the date of signing the Directors' Declaration.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
 For the year ended 30 June 2021

**Note 2: Impacts from COVID-19 pandemic**

Empire Theatres' operations have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Permanent staff moved to an 80% salary position in the last week of June 2020 and remained so until approximately September 2020 when activity improved.

Limited activity recommenced on 7 July 2020 through a grant provided by the Queensland Government and continued weekly until late August. The company assisted with the creation of the Queensland Live Performance Industry Covid Plan, and increased capacity when allowed by the Chief Health Officer's announcements. 100 percent seated capacity was made available to theatres in Queensland in November of 2020.

Empire Theatres received additional support from Toowoomba Regional Council.

COVID-19 effects in the financial year ended 30 June 2021 have continued to be felt through border closures and shutdowns causing loss of revenue from cancelled shows and patrons not being able to attend.

**Note 3: Revenue**

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
(a) Event Revenue	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sale of goods	184,057	311,589	184,057	307,416
Rendering of services	1,158,157	1,656,080	1,158,157	1,651,293
Productions	353,909	999,200	353,909	271,052
	<u>1,696,123</u>	<u>2,966,869</u>	<u>1,696,123</u>	<u>2,229,761</u>

Products and Services	Nature and timing of revenue recognition
Sale of Goods such as merchandise and drinks	Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received at the point of sale.
Productions, Functions and Hires	Revenue from productions, functions and hires is recognised when the production takes place. If productions are postponed, for example, due to COVID-19, revenue is not recognised but the cash is held within the Statement of Financial Position under Box Office Ticket Prepayments until the event takes place.

**(b) Grants, donations and sponsorship**

Funding - Toowoomba Regional Council	1,220,651	1,156,721	1,220,651	1,156,721
Grants and subsidies	541,548	339,592	62,532	4,288
Sponsorships	46,222	141,993	-	-
Donations	39,134	35,634	33,500	33,909
	<u>1,847,555</u>	<u>1,673,940</u>	<u>1,316,683</u>	<u>1,194,919</u>

Products and Services	Nature and timing of revenue recognition
Grants	Grants, subsidies, donations and contributions that are unrestricted are recognised as revenue when the company obtains control over them, which is usually upon receipt of funds. Where grants are received that are restricted in nature, revenue is recognised as the various performance obligations under the funding agreement are fulfilled.
Sponsorship	Empire Theatres Pty Ltd receives sponsorship in relation to various events such as support of the Foundation. Sponsorship is given in return for increasing the presence of the sponsoring entities in the community. In return, the sponsors receive ticketing for the event and recognition. Revenue is recognised on an accrual basis in line with the sponsorship contract.
Donations	Revenue from donations received is recognised on receipt.

All revenue, grants, donations and sponsorship is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2021

<b>Note 3: Revenue and Other Income (continued)</b>	<b>Consolidated</b>		<b>Parent</b>	
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>(c) Other income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Interest received	28,973	52,071	19,228	30,053
Other income	118,630	44,870	118,630	44,870
	<u>147,603</u>	<u>96,941</u>	<u>137,858</u>	<u>74,922</u>

<b>Products and Services</b>	<b>Nature and timing of revenue recognition</b>
Other Income	Other income comprises revenue from marketing, projects and small immaterial income streams. This revenue falls in line with revenue from contracts with customers (AASB15) and is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received at the point of sale. Where projects span a period of time, revenue is recognised over the life of the project.
Interest Received	Interest received is recognised on a time proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

**Note 4: Cost of sales**

Performance Fees	161,297	189,944	161,297	171,386
Other	107,606	264,800	107,606	174,681
Catering	86,014	235,526	86,014	227,721
Stock Purchases	66,224	160,461	66,224	117,299
Royalties and Licences	28,450	104,690	28,450	12,962
	<u>449,591</u>	<u>955,421</u>	<u>449,591</u>	<u>704,050</u>

**Note 5: Employee Benefits**

Salaries	1,726,205	2,294,943	1,648,598	1,670,347
Annual Leave, Sick Leave and Long Service Leave	24,584	41,467	24,584	41,467
Employee Benefits - Other	51,670	95,442	51,670	95,442
	<u>1,802,458</u>	<u>2,431,853</u>	<u>1,724,852</u>	<u>1,807,256</u>

**Note 6: Materials and Services**

Repairs and Maintenance	175,945	187,855	175,945	187,855
Marketing	103,464	158,816	96,429	109,150
Other	524,974	319,506	138,384	130,702
Debt forgiveness	-	-	160,000	-
Equipment	43,673	38,345	43,673	38,345
Vehicle Expenses	31,308	38,986	31,308	38,986
Donation Expenditure	4,278	19,001	4,278	19,001
	<u>883,643</u>	<u>762,510</u>	<u>650,017</u>	<u>524,039</u>

**Note 7: Legal and Professional Fees**

Audit Fees	30,000	38,452	26,000	25,600
Legal and Professional - Other	50,764	47,260	50,764	42,904
	<u>80,764</u>	<u>85,712</u>	<u>76,764</u>	<u>68,504</u>

Total audit fees payable to the Queensland Audit Office relating to the 2020/21 consolidated financial statements are quoted to be \$30,000 (2020: \$30,000) and for the Company, they are quoted to be \$20,000 (2020: \$20,000). Empire Theatres Pty Ltd paid for the audit fees on behalf of Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd (\$6,000). There are no non-audit services included in this amount.



**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2021

<b>Note 8: Cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>Consolidated</b>		<b>Parent</b>	
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Cash on hand	7,201	7,201	7,201	7,201
Cash at bank	2,366,442	1,789,311	2,255,781	485,264
	<b>2,373,643</b>	<b>1,796,512</b>	<b>2,262,982</b>	<b>492,465</b>

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and bank overdrafts.

**Note 9: Receivables**

**(a) Current**

Trade and other receivables	<b>74,753</b>	<b>99,204</b>	<b>59,900</b>	<b>89,854</b>
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**(b) Non-Current**

Trade and other receivables	-	-	-	<b>382,385</b>
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Receivables include amounts due from customers for goods sold and services performed in the ordinary course of business. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

**Note 10: Financial Assets**

Held to maturity investment	<b>1,250,000</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>
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*Held-to-maturity investments were invested at an interest rate of 0.95% (2020: 1.7%)*

Financial assets contain held-to-maturity investments that have fixed maturities greater than three months, and it is the group's intention to hold these investments to maturity. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in the Statements of Comprehensive Income through the amortisation process and when the financial asset is derecognised.

**Note 11: Trade and Other Payables**

**Trade Payables**

Payables	119,500	75,389	114,745	25,756
Security deposits - hires	156,055	66,032	156,055	66,032
Box office ticket prepayments	849,374	355,910	849,374	355,910
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	468,490	444,234	461,753	203,156
Bonuses payable	40,000	-	40,000	-
Unearned income	15,375	16,915	-	-
	<b>1,648,795</b>	<b>958,480</b>	<b>1,621,927</b>	<b>650,854</b>

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the group during the reporting period that remains unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amount normally being paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

Security deposits are recognised at the completion of the performance or function.

**Note 12: Provisions**

**Analysis of provisions for employee benefits**

Annual Leave - Current	99,647	103,438	99,647	103,438
Long Service Leave - Current	321,114	284,986	321,114	284,986
Long Service Leave - Non-current	31,866	40,502	31,866	40,502
	<b>452,627</b>	<b>428,927</b>	<b>452,627</b>	<b>428,927</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
 For the year ended 30 June 2021

**Note 12: Provisions (continued)**

Provision is made for the group's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Those cashflows are discounted using market yields on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows.

**Note 13: Contingent liabilities and contingent assets**

In the ordinary course of business the company is entering into agreements to produce shows or commit to functions or hires of the various facilities as part of the Empire Theatres complex. These agreements can be up to three years in advance. In the event the company cannot meet its contractual agreements it may be liable for damages.

**Note 14: Related party transactions**

Transactions with parent entity

The company is wholly owned by the Toowoomba Regional Council. During the year, Toowoomba Regional Council contributed \$1,220,651 (2020: \$1,156,721) to the company as funding from the Council. Some of this sits within the Statement of Financial Position as funds to be distributed to other recipients. \$nil (2020: \$18,510)

During the financial year, the company paid \$390,422 (2020: \$397,253) to Toowoomba Regional Council for building rent, motor vehicle rent and insurance.

During the financial year, the company received \$99,946 (2020: \$98,619) from Toowoomba Regional Council for services provided.

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable to those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

Transactions with controlled entities

There is currently \$nil owing from Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd (2020: \$382,385). Empire Theatres Pty Ltd forgave debt in the year to the value of \$160,000. Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd repaid \$222,385 of the remaining loan outstanding.

Transactions with Key Management Personnel (KMP)

KMP includes the Directors of the company and controlled entities and the executive management team. KMP compensation paid or accrued, during the 2020/21 year comprises:

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	142,430	137,952	142,430	137,952
Post-employment benefits	16,020	16,440	16,020	16,440
Long-term benefits	-	-	-	-
Termination benefits	-	-	-	-
	<b>158,450</b>	<b>154,392</b>	<b>158,450</b>	<b>154,392</b>

During the year \$600 per quarter was paid to each board member for their service with an additional chair allowance of \$260 paid to the chairman per quarter. These were waived for the first quarter due to COVID-19. The total paid to the board members for the year was \$16,980 (2020: \$15,180)

Transactions with other related parties

The consolidated entity received income of \$38,950 (2020: \$18,102) and incurred expenses of \$nil (2020: \$nil) from companies that are related parties to Key Management Personnel. These transactions were at arm's length and were in the normal course of operations.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2021

**Note 15: Events after the reporting period**

On 20 September 2021, the directors resolved to wind up Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd on 30 September 2021 due to the fact that there was no ongoing justification for the existence of Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd. No further events after the reporting date are known.

**Note 16: Company details**

The registered office and principal place of business of the company is:

Empire Theatres  
56 Neil Street, Toowoomba  
Qld 4350

**Directors' Declaration**

In the directors' opinion:

- (a) The financial statements and notes set out on pages 4 to 14 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - (i) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, and
  - (ii) giving a true and fair view of the consolidated entity's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date, and.
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.

Date:  
Toowoomba

13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Wlelandt  
Chairman

*T.W. Armagnacq*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Armagnacq  
Director

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd

### Report on the audit of the financial report

#### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd (the parent) and its controlled entities (the group).

In my opinion, the financial report:

- a) gives a true and fair view of the parent's and group's financial position as at 30 June 2021, and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended
- b) complies with the *Corporations Act 2001*, the Corporations Regulations 2001 and Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements.

The financial report comprises the statements of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statements of comprehensive income, statements of changes in equity and statements of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including summaries of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

#### Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report.

I am independent of the parent and the group in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*. I am also independent of the parent and the group in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*, and confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the directors of the company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Other information

Other information comprises financial and non-financial information (other than the audited financial report). At the date of this auditor's report, the available other information in the Empire Theatres Pty Ltd's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2021 was the director's report.

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information.

My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Responsibilities of the company for the financial report**

The company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with *Corporations Act 2001*, the Corporations Regulations 2001 and Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements, and for such internal control as the company's directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The company's directors are also responsible for assessing the parent's and group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the parent or group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the parent's and group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the group.

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- Conclude on the appropriateness of the parent's and group's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the parent's or group's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. I base my conclusions on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the parent or group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the financial report. I am responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit of the group. I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion.

I communicate with the company's directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Vaughan Stemmett  
as delegate of the Auditor-General

14 October 2021

Queensland Audit Office  
Brisbane

**Empire Theatres Foundation**  
**ABN 69 130 487 365**

**Financial Statements**  
**For the period ended 30 June 2021**



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**Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
For the year ended 30 June 2021

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Sponsorship	3	46,222	55,084
Donations	3	5,634	15,634
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<u>51,856</u>	<u>70,718</u>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Interest received	4	7,138	16,198
		<u>7,138</u>	<u>16,198</u>
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>58,995</u>	<u>86,916</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Materials and Services	5	24,606	46,081
Auditor's Remuneration	6	4,000	5,300
Finance Costs		-	14
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u>28,606</u>	<u>51,395</u>
<b>Operating result for the year</b>		<u>30,389</u>	<u>35,521</u>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>		<u>30,389</u>	<u>35,521</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**Statement of Financial Position**  
As at 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	109,144	833,888
Trade and other receivables	8	12,642	9,350
Financial assets	9	750,000	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>871,786</u>	<u>843,238</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>871,786</u>	<u>843,238</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	10	23,139	24,981
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>23,139</u>	<u>24,981</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>23,139</u>	<u>24,981</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>848,646</u>	<u>818,257</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated surplus		<u>848,646</u>	<u>818,257</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u>848,646</u>	<u>818,257</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
For the year ended 30 June 2021

	<b>Accumulated Surplus \$</b>	<b>Total \$</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2019</b>	<u>782,735</u>	<u>782,735</u>
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>		
Operating result	35,521	35,521
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>	<u>35,521</u>	<u>35,521</u>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	<u><b>818,257</b></u>	<u><b>818,257</b></u>
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>		
Operating result	30,389	30,389
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>	<u>30,389</u>	<u>30,389</u>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<u><b>848,646</b></u>	<u><b>848,646</b></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**Statement of Cash Flows**  
 For the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<i>Inflows</i>			
Receipts from donations and sponsorship		47,025	60,201
Receipts from grants		-	-
Interest received		7,138	16,198
<i>Outflows</i>			
Donations paid		-	-
Payments to suppliers		(28,907)	(49,561)
		<u>25,256</u>	<u>26,838</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>25,256</u>	<u>26,838</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Maturity/(purchase) of investments (net)		(750,000)	750,000
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(750,000)	750,000
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(724,744)	776,838
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		<u>833,888</u>	<u>57,049</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	7	<u>109,144</u>	<u>833,888</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2021

**Note 1: Summary of significant accounting policies**

The financial statements cover Empire Theatres Foundation (the foundation) as an individual entity.

**Objectives and principal activities of the Foundation**

- (i) Provide performing arts opportunities to further the cultural experiences and professional development of young people nationally with connections to the Toowoomba Region where appropriate;
- (ii) Promote the performing arts for the benefit of the local community;
- (iii) Preserve and promote the movable cultural heritage associated with the Empire Theatres.

**Basis of preparation**

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared, except for cash flow information, on an accrual basis in accordance with the Trust Deed as amended 28 June 2021 and Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Interpretations. These financial statements are presented in Australian Dollars.

With respect to compliance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, the Foundation has applied those requirements applicable to not-for-profit entities, as the Foundation is a not-for-profit public sector entity. Except where stated, the historical cost convention is used.

Where required by Australian Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

**Income tax**

The Foundation has been advised by the Australian Taxation Office that it is exempt from income tax. The Foundation is a registered deductible gift recipient as endorsed by the ATO for tax purposes.

**Goods and services tax (GST)**

Revenues and expenses are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

**Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

The Trustees evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Foundation.

There are no key estimates. The trustees believe that all receivables will be collected in full, and therefore no provision for impairment has been made.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2021

**Note 1: Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

**New and revised accounting standards**

The Foundation adopts all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current reporting period. The adoption of the new and revised accounting standards has not resulted in any significant impact on the reported financial position, financial performance or cash flows of the Foundation.

AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities will be effective for reporting period beginning on or after 1 July 2021. This standard introduces the 'Simplified Disclosures' framework for Tier 2 entities that will replace the current 'Reduced Disclosure Requirements' (RDR) framework. The standard will not have a material impact on recognition or measurement, but will result in a different presentation of the financial report.

All other Australian Accounting Standards that have recently been issued or amended but are not yet effective have had no material impact on the trust's accounting policies or on these financial statements. The trust does not intend to adopt any of these pronouncements before their effective dates.

**Authorisation of financial statements for issue**

The financial statements are authorised for issue by the Trustees at the date of signing the Management Certificate.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2021

**Note 2: Impacts from COVID-19 pandemic**

Empire Theatres Foundation was minimally impacted by the Covid Pandemic in the financial year.

Under normal circumstances approximately 20 bursaries are issued to selected candidates to undertake specialist learning in their chosen disciplines. The candidate's courses are paid for and no compensation is received by the candidate. For the financial year the Foundation has chosen not to proceed with awarding of bursaries.

<b>Note 3: Revenue</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Sponsorship	46,222	55,084
Donations	5,634	15,634
	<u><b>51,856</b></u>	<u><b>70,718</b></u>

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

<b>Products and Services</b>	<b>Nature and timing of revenue recognition</b>
Donations	The Foundation receives donations from the public. These are used for Youth Bursaries which offer the opportunity for young creative people to undertake short courses at leading Australian performing arts educational institutes. There are no obligations around the donations and they are never refunded. Donations are recognised under AASB1058 when received.
Sponsorship	The Foundation receives Sponsorship from a number of entities. In return for sponsorship, the Foundation must meet a number of requirements. For example, they are to include the sponsors logo in correspondence, mail outs and websites, they give access to the lounge bar during a major production in the year and provide drinks for their sponsors and guests; they provide tickets for non major events and give special invitations to events. Sponsorship revenue falls under the scope of AASB 15 as it is an enforceable contract with sufficiently specific performance obligations. Additionally, goods and services are transferred to the customer. The revenue is recognised over the contract period which is usually 1 year. Where invoices are received quarterly, revenue is recognised on a straight line basis over the quarter.

**Note 4: Other Income**

Interest received	7,138	16,198
	<u><b>7,138</b></u>	<u><b>16,198</b></u>

<b>Products and Services</b>	<b>Nature and timing of income recognition</b>
Interest received	Interest received is recognised on a time proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

**Note 5: Materials and Services**

Bursary Expenses	-	1,644
Course Expenses	3,093	17,780
Sponsorship Expenses	11,775	11,378
Other	9,738	15,279
	<u><b>24,606</b></u>	<u><b>46,081</b></u>



**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
 For the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Note 6: Auditor's remuneration</b>		
Remuneration of the auditor	<u>4,000</u>	<u>5,300</u>

Total audit fees payable to the Queensland Audit Office relating to the 2020/21 financial statements are quoted to be \$4,000 (2020: \$4,000). There are no non-audit services included in this amount.

**Note 7: Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash at bank	<u>109,144</u>	<u>833,888</u>
	<u>109,144</u>	<u>833,888</u>

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and bank overdrafts.

**Note 8: Trade and Other Receivables**

Trade and other receivables	<u>12,642</u>	<u>9,350</u>
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Receivables include amounts due from customers for goods sold and services performed in the ordinary course of business. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

**Note 9: Financial Assets**

Held to maturity investment	<u>750,000</u>	<u>-</u>
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*Held-to-maturity investments were invested at an interest rate of 0.95% (2020: 1.7%)*

Financial assets contain held-to-maturity investments that have fixed maturities greater than three months, and it is the Foundation's intention to hold these investments to maturity. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income through the amortisation process and when the financial asset is derecognised.

**Note 10: Trade and Other Payables**

Trade payables	1,045	3,378
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	6,719	4,688
Unearned income	<u>15,375</u>	<u>16,915</u>
	<u>23,139</u>	<u>24,981</u>

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Foundation during the reporting period that remains unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amount normally being paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2021

**Note 11: Related party transactions**

Transactions with parent entity

The Foundation's operations are governed by Empire Theatres Pty Ltd, and it is also a controlled entity of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd. Empire Theatres Pty Ltd also controls Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd. Empire Theatres Pty Ltd is wholly owned by the Toowoomba Regional Council.

During the financial year, expenses from transactions with Empire Theatres Projects Pty Ltd was \$nil (2020: \$10,000) relating to Philanthropic Distributions.

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable to those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

Transactions with Key Management Personnel (KMP)

KMP includes the Trustee's of the Foundation KMP compensation paid or accrued, during the 2020/21 year comprises

During the year, a total of \$2,750 (2020: \$2,000) was paid to the trustee members for their service.

**Note 12: Events after the reporting period**

The Trustees are not aware of any events after the 30 June 2021 that will have a material impact on this financial report.

**Note 13: Foundation details**

The principal place of business of the Foundation is:

Empire Theatre  
56 Neil Street  
Toowoomba  
Qld 4350

**Trustees' Declaration**

The Trustees of the Foundation declare that:

- 1 The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 1 to 9 present fairly the Foundation's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended 30 June 2021 and are in accordance with the Empire Theatre Foundation Trust Deed as amended 28 June 2021 and Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements; and
- 2 In the Trustees' opinion, subject to ongoing financial support from Empire Theatres Pty Ltd, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Foundation will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

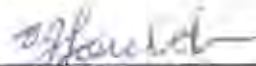
This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Trustees.

Date: 14 October 2021  
Toowoomba



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Janelle Davis  
Chairperson



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Ben Gouldson  
Trustee

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Trustees of Empire Theatres Foundation

### **Report on the audit of the financial report**

#### **Opinion**

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Empire Theatres Foundation.

In my opinion, the financial report:

- a) gives a true and fair view of the trust's financial position as at 30 June 2021, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended
- b) complies with the Trust Deed dated 28 June 2021 and Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements.

The financial report comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including summaries of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the trustees' declaration.

#### **Basis for opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report.

I am independent of the foundation in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### **Responsibilities of the trust for the financial report**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the Trust Deed dated 28 June 2021 and Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The trustees are also responsible for assessing the foundation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the foundation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the foundation.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the foundation's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. I base my conclusions on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the trustees' regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Vaughan Stemmett  
as delegate of the Auditor-General

14 October 2021

Queensland Audit Office  
Brisbane

**Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd**  
**ABN 61 135 705 878**

**Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

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## Directors' Report

The directors present their report on the Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd (the company) for the year ended 30 June 2021.

### Directors

The names of the Directors in office at any time during, or since the end of the financial year are:

Mr A Wielandt  
Mr M O'Connell

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

### Principal Activities

The company was established to increase the breadth and depth of the community's connection with the performing arts in the Toowoomba Regional Council area. The company was committed to delivering arts programs in the region providing excellent education resources to schools in the region, producing contemporary new work and facilitating community based events. Through the Empire Youth Arts Programme, the company offered workshops in Toowoomba and at regional centres including Dalby and the Lockyer Valley, holiday workshops, education resource programs and the elite youth performance program. Revenue streams come from productions, sale of merchandise, food and drinks, grants and sponsorship.

### Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

On 14 November 2019, it was decided by Toowoomba Regional Council that there was no sufficient justification for the ongoing existence of Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd. The contractual arrangements with Regional Arts Services Network (RASN) ended with effect from 30 June 2021. It was decided that Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd was not essential to the groups' operations and as such, should be wound up in accordance with its constitution which must be timed with the expiry of the current funding arrangement under the RASN initiative. As part of the planning for the winding up, Empire Theatres Pty Ltd forgave an amount of \$160,000 owed by Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd during the year.

### Review of Operations

The operating result for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 was \$194,872 (2020: \$70,946). The company is exempt from income tax.

A review of the operations of the company during the financial year shows the results of those operations as follows:

- Gross income from box office and entry fees during the financial year totalled \$nil (2020: \$504,732).
- The debt forgiven of \$160,000 is shown as income earned.

### Events Subsequent to the End of the Reporting Period

At the board of directors meeting on 20 September 2021, it was resolved that Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd will be wound up on 30 September 2021.

### Environmental Regulation

The company's operations are not subject to any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory.

### Dividends

No ordinary dividends were paid, recommended or declared during the year (2020: \$nil).

### Indemnification of Officers

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company. However Directors and Officers are insured under the Toowoomba Regional Council's insurance policy.



**Directors' Report**

**Proceedings on Behalf of the Company**

No proceedings have been brought or intervened in on behalf of the company with leave of the Court under section 237 of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

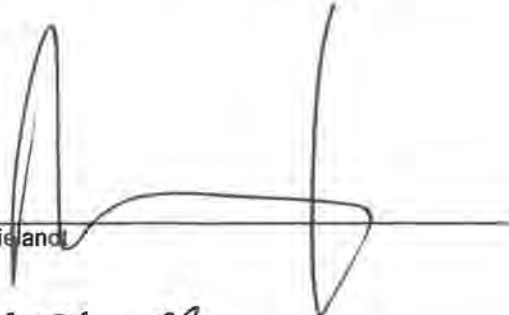
**Auditor's Independence Declaration**


A copy of the Auditor's Independence Declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 3.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors:

Date:  
Toowoomba

13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Wisland  
Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark O'Connell  
Director

## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

To the Directors of Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd

This auditor's independence declaration has been provided pursuant to s.307C of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

### **Independence declaration**

As lead auditor for the audit of Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd for the financial year ended 30 June 2021, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit
- (b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Vaughan Stemmett  
as delegate of the Auditor-General

13 October 2021

Queensland Audit Office  
Brisbane

**Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
 For the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Event Revenue	3(a)	-	508,905
Grants and Sponsorship	3(b)	479,016	413,484
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<u>479,016</u>	<u>922,388</u>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Debt Forgiven		160,000	-
Interest Received		2,607	5,820
		<u>162,607</u>	<u>5,820</u>
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>641,622</u>	<u>928,208</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Cost of Sales	4	-	257,555
RASN and RADF Expenses	5	445,363	581,217
Materials and Services	6	1,263	13,068
Legal and Professional		-	5,404
Finance Costs		124	19
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u>446,751</u>	<u>857,262</u>
<b>Operating result for the year</b>		<u>194,872</u>	<u>70,946</u>
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Income attributable to the members of the company</b>		<u>194,872</u>	<u>70,946</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**Statement of Financial Position**

As at 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	1,517	470,160
Trade and other receivables	8	2,212	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>3,729</u>	<u>470,160</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>3,729</u>	<u>470,160</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	9	3,728	282,645
Related party loans	11	-	382,385
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>3,728</u>	<u>665,031</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>3,728</u>	<u>665,031</u>
<b>Net Assets/(Liabilities)</b>		<u>1</u>	<u>(194,871)</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Contributed equity		1	1
Accumulated surplus/deficit		-	(194,872)
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u>1</u>	<u>(194,871)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Statement of Changes in Equity**

For the year ended 30 June 2021

	<b>Contributed Equity</b>	<b>Accumulated Surplus/ Deficit</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2019</b>	1	(265,818)	(265,817)
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>			
Operating result	-	70,946	70,946
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>	-	70,946	70,946
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(194,872)</b>	<b>(194,871)</b>
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>			
Operating result	-	194,872	194,872
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>	-	194,872	194,872
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**Statement of Cash Flows**  
 For the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<i>Inflows</i>			
Receipts from customers		-	508,905
Receipts from grants and sponsorship		476,804	413,484
Interest received		2,607	5,820
<i>Outflows</i>			
Payments to suppliers and employees		(725,668)	(709,376)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>(246,257)</u>	<u>218,833</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Receipts/(repayment) of loans		(222,385)	10,722
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>(222,385)</u>	<u>10,722</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		<u>(468,643)</u>	<u>229,554</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		<u>470,160</u>	<u>240,605</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	<b>7</b>	<u>1,517</u>	<u>470,160</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2021

**Note 1: Summary of significant accounting policies**

The financial statements cover the Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd (the company) as an individual entity.

**Objectives and principal activities of the company**

To provide outstanding Arts experiences in southern regional Queensland contexts whilst maintaining sustainable business practices.

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd established the Projects Company to increase the breadth and depth of the community's connection with the performing arts in the Toowoomba Regional Council area.

**Basis of preparation**

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared, except for cash flow information, on an accrual basis in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Interpretations and in compliance with the *Corporations Act 2001*. These financial statements are presented in Australian Dollars.

With respect to compliance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, the company has applied those requirements applicable to not-for-profit entities, as the company is a not-for-profit public sector entity. Except where stated, the historical cost convention is used.

Where required by Australian Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

**Going Concern and Continuation**

These financial statements have been prepared on a basis consistent with going concern. The directors have resolved to wind up the company and transfer the operations of Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd to the parent entity, Empire Theatres Pty Ltd, effective 30 September 2021. Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Empire Theatres Pty Ltd.

**Income tax**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

**Goods and services tax (GST)**

Revenues and expenses are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

**Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

The Directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the company.

There are no key estimates. The Directors believe that all receivables will be collected in full, and therefore no provision for impairment has been made.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2021

**Note 1: Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

**New and revised accounting standards**

The company adopts all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current reporting period. The adoption of the new and revised accounting standards has not resulted in any significant impact on the reported financial position, financial performance or cash flows of the company.

AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities will be effective for reporting period beginning on or after 1 July 2021. This standard introduces the 'Simplified Disclosures' framework for Tier 2 entities that will replace the current 'Reduced Disclosure Requirements' (RDR) framework. The standard will not have a material impact on recognition or measurement, but will result in a different presentation of the financial report.

All other Australian Accounting Standards that have recently been issued or amended but are not yet effective have had no material impact on the company's accounting policies or on these financial statements. The company does not intend to adopt any of these pronouncements before their effective dates.

**Authorisation of financial statements for issue**

The financial statements are authorised for issue by the Directors at the date of signing the Directors' Declaration.



**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
 For the year ended 30 June 2021

**Note 2: Impacts from COVID-19 pandemic**

The main impact of COVID-19 on the company's operations was the annual major production not being delivered due to COVID-19. Some programs were adapted to current restrictions and some cancelled events were rescheduled. There has been little disruption to Regional Arts Service Network activities and projects, with minor adaptations occurring as necessary to comply with restrictions.

**Note 3(a): Event Revenue**

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Box office & entry fee revenue	-	504,732
Merchandise Sales	-	4,173
	<u>-</u>	<u>508,905</u>

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST)

Products and Services	Nature and timing of revenue recognition
Box Office Revenue	Revenue from productions is recognised when the production takes place.

**Note 3(b): Grants and Sponsorship**

Grants and subsidies	-	9,571
Sponsorships	-	78,000
Regional Art Services Network (RASN) Income	479,016	294,265
Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)	-	31,648
	<u>479,016</u>	<u>413,484</u>

Products and Services	Nature and timing of revenue recognition
Grants and Subsidies	Grants and subsidies, donations and contributions are recognised as revenue when the company obtains control over them, which is usually upon receipt of funds. Where grants are received that are restricted in nature, revenue is recognised as the various performance obligations under the funding agreement are fulfilled. The company receives grants in relation to the Regional Arts Development Fund and the Regional Arts Services Network.
Sponsorship	The company receives sponsorship in relation to productions and shows. Sponsorship is provided towards the production in return for Empire Theatres increasing the presence of the sponsoring entities in the community through including their logos in its correspondence and other public material. In return, the sponsors receive ticketing for the event and brand recognition. Revenue is recognised on an accrual basis in line with the sponsorship contract period.

**Note 4: Cost of Sales**

Artists fees	-	68,598
Materials	-	47,661
Royalties and licences	-	91,728
Other expenses	-	49,567
	<u>-</u>	<u>257,555</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
 For the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
<b>Note 5: RASN and RADF Expenses</b>		
RASN Expenses	445,363	549,569
RADF Expenses	-	31,648
	<u>445,363</u>	<u>581,217</u>

Regional Arts Services Network (RASN) is a fund received from Arts Queensland and Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a fund received from Toowoomba Regional Council. RASN and RADF is an approach to delivering state-wide art services. They are to be distributed to different organisations who apply for funding to support Regional Arts. The expenses relate to the costs involved in delivering on-the-ground art services to the South West Queensland region to drive regional development and improve arts outcomes.

**Note 6: Materials and Services**

Audit Fees	-	7,553
Other	1,263	5,516
	<u>1,263</u>	<u>13,068</u>

Total audit fee payable to the Queensland Audit Office relating to the 2020/21 financial statements is quoted to be \$6,000 which has been paid by Empire Theatres Pty Ltd on behalf of the company (2020: \$6,000) and is recognised as an expense by Empire Theatres Pty Ltd. There are no non-audit services included in this amount.

**Note 7: Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash at bank	1,517	470,160
	<u>1,517</u>	<u>470,160</u>

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and bank overdrafts.

**Note 8: Trade and other receivables**

GST Refund	2,212	-
	<u>2,212</u>	<u>-</u>

Receivables include amounts due from customers for goods sold and services performed in the ordinary course of business. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

**Note 9: Trade and other payables**

Sundry payables and accrued expenses	3,728	282,645
	<u>3,728</u>	<u>282,645</u>

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period that remains unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amount normally being paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2021

**Note 10: Contingent liabilities and contingent assets**

Due to the winding down of the company, no commitments or contractual arrangements have been made.

**Note 11: Related party transactions**

Transactions with parent entity

The company is wholly owned by Empire Theatres Pty Ltd, which in turn is wholly owned by the Toowoomba Regional Council.

During the financial year, Toowoomba Regional Council contributed \$nil (2020: \$31,648 ) to the company for the Regional Arts Development Fund.

During the financial year, the company received \$12,832 (2020: \$54,761) from Toowoomba Regional Council for services provided.

During the financial year, income from transactions with Empire Theatres Foundation totalled \$nil (2020: \$10,000) relating to sponsorship income.

Loans outstanding at the end of the year to Empire Theatres Pty Ltd total \$nil (2020: \$382,385). The loan balance of \$160,000 was forgiven during the year by Empire Theatres Pty Ltd and the amount of \$222,385 was repaid.

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable to those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

Transactions with Key Management Personnel (KMP)

KMP includes the Directors of the company and the executive management team. The executive management team includes the General Manager. There was no remuneration paid to KMP in the year (2020: \$nil).

**Note 12: Events after the reporting period**

At the director's meeting on 20 September 2021, the decision was made to wind up Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd. All assets and liabilities will transition to Empire Theatres Pty Ltd. The wind up of the company is expected to commence on 30 September 2021.

**Note 13: Company details**

The registered office and principal place of business of the company is:

Empire Theatre  
56 Neil Street  
Toowoomba  
Qld 4350

**Directors' Declaration**

In the directors opinion:

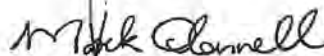
- (a) The financial statements and notes set out on pages 4 to 12 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - (i) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the Corporations Regulations 2001 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, and
  - (ii) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date, and.
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.

Date:  
Toowoomba

13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Andrew Wielandt  
Director



Mark O'Connell  
Director

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd

### Report on the audit of the financial report

#### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd.

In my opinion, the financial report:

- a) gives a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2021, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended
- b) complies with the *Corporations Act 2001*, the Corporations Regulations 2001 and Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements.

The financial report comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including summaries of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

#### Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report.

I am independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*. I am also independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Emphasis of matter – basis of preparation

I draw attention to Note 1 in the financial report, which identifies that the directors have resolved to wind up the company and transfer the company's operations to the parent entity, Empire Theatres Pty Ltd, effective 30 September 2021. Because of this, the financial report is prepared on a basis that is consistent with a going concern basis. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### Other information

Other information comprises financial and non-financial information (other than the audited financial report). At the date of this auditor's report, the available other information in the Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2021 was the director's report.

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information.

My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Responsibilities of the company for the financial report**

The company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and *Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements*, and for such internal control as the company's directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The company's directors are also responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the parent or group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**


My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the *Australian Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the *Australian Auditing Standards*, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the company.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the company's directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Vaughan Stemmett  
as delegate of the Auditor-General

14 October 2021

Queensland Audit Office  
Brisbane



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 25 OCTOBER, 2021

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56 NEIL STREET TOOWOOMBA, QUEENSLAND 4350

COVER IMAGE BY BEN HUNT