



Empire Theatres

Annual Report 2017 - 2018





Image: Peter Cardew



Image: Luke Henry



Image: Harold David



Image: Edward Makhill





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Corporate Information

As at 30 June 2018

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

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www.empiretheatre.com.au



EmpireTheatre



@empire_theatre



EmpireTheatre

Bankers:

Heritage Bank, Heritage Plaza

Ruthven Street Toowoomba Queensland 4350

Auditors:

Bentleys Brisbane (Audit) Pty Ltd

Albert Street Brisbane Queensland 4000

Our Vision

To nurture, enable and inspire the cultural capacity of our community.

Our Roles

PROVIDE and operate world-class venues for performing arts and community activities. PRESENT and produce diverse performing arts experiences. ENGAGE with stakeholders to facilitate accessible cultural opportunities.

Our Values | We Are...

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.

Our Priorities

DEVELOP new audiences by trialling and evaluating offerings to different market segments.

PROVIDE comprehensive, integrated service delivery to patrons, find and fill service gaps and upgrade service quality.

INCREASE casual use of the precinct by expanding the range of activities available.



Toowoomba Regional Council

We commit 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.

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd Board and Staff lists

AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD

Chairman: Mr Andrew Wielandt

Deputy Chair: Mrs Sheena Liley

Company Secretary: Mr Bill Armagnacq

Mrs Janelle Davis | Mr Mark O'Connell | Mr John Pearson | Ms Melissa Taylor | Mrs Amanda Tolson

TRUSTEES OF THE EMPIRE THEATRES FOUNDATION

Chair: Mrs Sheena Liley

Deputy Chair: Mrs Janelle Davis

Dr Kate Foy | Ms Carol James | Dr Sharyn Donaldson | Mr Matt Cherry | Mr Ben Gouldson | Mr Richard Chiverrell

STAFF

General Manager:

Kerry Saul

Deputy General Manager and Administration Manager:

Helen Oldham

Events Manager:

Margaret Turnbull (resigned) | Renae McPhee

Technical Manager:

Tim Panitz

Projects Manager:

Jeanette Wedmaier

Marketing and Development Manager:

Emilee Nichols

Youth Arts Director:

Ari Palani

Head of Audio:

Steve Alexander

Publicist:

Sarah Fleming

Graphic Designer:

Cecile O'Mara

Management Support Officer and Foundation Officer:

Kate Brennan

Accountant:

Anthony Nunn

Finance Officer:

Alison Murrell

Theatre Technicians:

Robert Darvall | Shane Howarth-Crewdson

Kris Stewart | Ben Hunt

CASUAL STAFF

Box Office: Kerry Politch | Ora Whitley | Wesleyne Drimley | Claire Bourke

Events: Sheriden Wright | Peter Muir | Angela Ponting | Rosemary Downey | Leigh-Anne Jeffries

Youth Arts: Marcus Oborn

Technicians: Matthew Skerman | Kehan Ryley | Andrew Taylor | Aaron Hannant

Approximately 40 other casual staff are employed in the technical and bar service areas. Around 270 active volunteer members of the Friends of the Empire Theatres Inc. perform duties including front of house, ushering, ticket collecting, marketing mail outs, flower arranging, biscuit baking and other services.

Reports

EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD | Chairman's Report

It is with great pleasure that I write my first Chairman's Report for Empire Theatres Pty Ltd and Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd. I have inherited a superb organisation from former Chair Peter Swannell, AM and I wish to place on the public record my sincere appreciation for all that Peter and his wife Janice has done for the Theatre over the last 20 years.

The financial result for Empire Theatre Pty Ltd was pleasing with a closing balance of \$74,114. It is also important to note the within budget deficit delivered by Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd which allows the Theatres to continue to build the cultural capacity in our community.

With over 141,125 attendees and 981 events held at the precinct over the last 12 months, the team at the Theatres, led admirably by GM Kerry Saul and his team of around 40 full time and casual staff continue to provide industry recognised service and expertise. We are proud of the range and quality of the diverse programming we provide our local community.

All eyes now turn to the upcoming year and whilst we are looking forward to another exciting year of performances, a big focus of the team over the next 12 months is the upcoming refurbishment of the "Jewel in the Crown" including an accessible box office, additional bathrooms and replacing the seating in the main auditorium

Thank you to my fellow Directors, Trustees of the Empire Theatres Foundation, Staff and the Friends of the Empire for another great 12 months and I look forward to an equally satisfying 2018/19.

AM Wielandt

Chairman Empire Theatres Pty Ltd & Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd

EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD | General Manager's Report

In the 2017-2018 year the Empire Theatres produced one major production, two Impact ensemble productions, facilitated five independent theatrical productions and presented a host of locally produced music theatre and events.

Our major production, *Esgees Pirates of Penzance*, jointly presented with Heritage Bank as our wonderful presenting partner, received great reviews and was a high quality event. We have continued our emphasis on providing regular opportunity for young participants in the form of performance and workshop events. All of this activity is providing pathways for local artists to improve their craft and skills. We also completed our busiest year since reopening in 1997 with record numbers of patrons and events.

I proudly recognise our dedicated staff and volunteers who consistently deliver beyond expectations to ensure that successful outcomes were achieved. The role of the Empire Management Team, Helen Oldham, Tim Panitz, Emilee Nichols, Jeanette Wedmaier, Margaret Turnbull and Renae McPhee was integral to the success of the

precinct and I also wish to personally acknowledge the dedication and efforts of our Chairman Andrew Weilandt and our board and trustees.

Importantly, we appreciate the valued relationships that we have built with all our loyal patrons and clients. I also acknowledge and thank our supporters and donors, who in the past year provided financial and enthusiastic support for the arts in our region with over \$130,000 raised.

Empire Theatre is iconic as a building and, we believe, is the beating heart of the performing arts in our wonderful city.

Kerry Saul

General Manager, Empire Theatres Pty Ltd

FRIENDS OF THE EMPIRE THEATRE INC. | President's Report

Thank you for the opportunity to report on the activities of the Friends of the Empire Theatre for the year ending June 2018. It has been both a challenging and successful time for the Friends but we have continued to support the Theatre with a volunteer workforce, personal promotions and significant donations.

My appreciation goes to the executive and members of our Committee.

The Friends continue to hold a smooth relationship with the Board, Theatre Management and staff. I thank Chairman, Andrew Wielandt and General Manager Kerry Saul for their guidance and cooperation.

Our membership is steady, without being earth shattering. As of 30th June we had 388 members and we continue to maintain approximately 200 active volunteers. I thank Gay Jorgensen, Helen Oldham and Alison Murrell for the membership records.

I would like to record the contribution Margaret Turnbull has made to the Friends over her 20 years at the Theatre.

Margaret has always been our stern ally. We thank her and wish her well.

The Friends association has made significant donations to the Theatre this year. A total to the value of \$33,893.77 has been passed to management. This includes a sponsorship of \$11,000 to *Essgee's Pirates of Penzance*. Our total donated dollar, since inception now goes to \$662,164.13.

I thank the Toowoomba Regional Council, our Board and Theatre Management for a successful year.

Most Sincerely,

Colin Muller OAM
President, Friends of the Empire Theatre Inc.

EMPIRE THEATRES FOUNDATION | Chair's Report

It's been another busy and interesting year for the Foundation.

Administratively, operational 'consolidation' with the Theatre resulted in a shift in focus, with valued assistance from the Head of Marketing and Development, the Projects Manager, and General Manager.

Key achievements were the development of a Sponsor/Donor brochure, the generous support of a new Foundation sponsor, Bernoth Properties, and an increase in cash donations from community supporters. Foundation funding and grant applications continued to assist the Empire's skills development activities throughout the year.

In July, *ACO Virtual*, the Foundation's collaboration with the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, attracted nearly 3,500 visitors. In November, 25 talented Youth Bursary recipients gained short-course training opportunities. In May, lyric tenor Michael Petruccelli received the 2018 Brian Boak Outstanding Performer Bursary for 12 months'

study at Frankfurt Oper. The History sub-committee continued to assess and archive items of interest which came to light throughout the year.

Trustees also advocated for the wider recognition of the Empire's work over the past two decades by enhancing skills in talented performers through classes, workshops and performance opportunities.

None of this could have been achieved without our donors and sponsors, the hard work of all Trustees, Foundation Officer Kate Brennan, Minutes Secretary Susan Cherry and the support of Board Chairman Andrew Wielandt, Directors and Empire staff. I thank them all, especially Deputy Chair Janelle Davis for her tireless involvement in all facets of Foundation operations.

Sheena Liley
Chair, Empire Theatres Foundation



Staff were very efficient, pleasant and courteous, especially fetching a cushion for my granddaughter so she could see. Stunning venue with old world charm but up to date tech to enhance the event, for example this was my daughter's graduation from USQ and the large video screen enabled us to get perfect footage of her receiving her degree. All in all an enjoyable experience.
Judy Pederson, Facebook

Great staff. Professional and kind. Beautiful theatres. Clean facilities.

Christy Parker, Google Business

My kids and I loved the brilliant performances of 'Going on a Bear Hunt' & also 'Diary of a Wombat' They were awesome and well presented. Loved how the performers made the plays enjoyable for the kids. 😊 Music and instruments were fab, too. Can't wait for the next kids performances!

Briony Sommers, Facebook

Testimonials

Toowoomba's Empire Theatre is easy to access with lots of nearby parking, close to top shelf eating and that's before you enter to experience the happy courtesy of the ushers and wait staff. Now enjoy the ambience of stunning period decor as you sit in comfort ready to enjoy the great variety of entertainment this memorable theatre offers.

Trudi Swanson, Google Business

A visit to the Empire theatre is always a special experience - most recently we saw the Queensland Ballet performance of 'Swan Lake.' The theatre is elegant and stately and one feels at the centre of the artistic world - topped by the stunning performance it was a night to remember! Lauren R, Trip Advisor

We went to see Jimmy Barnes at the Empire last night and the place was packed. We sat upstairs in the balcony for the first time. What impressed us was the way the crowd were handled and there was limited to no waiting.

To go upstairs there are stairs but also a lift that gets you to level 3 which is on the same level as the front of the balcony but there are further stairs if entering door 11.

Great unobstructed view and excellent sound. Full house seemed to really enjoy the show.

We are so lucky to have this theatre for live shows.

Tigger2594, Trip Advisor

It is always lovely to return to this beautiful theatre but last night's performance of 'Swan Lake' by the Qld Ballet was truly memorable. It is many years since I have attended a ballet performance and I was not sure what to expect, but this performance was stunning. Congratulations to the wonderfully talented performers and to the Empire Theatre team for bringing the company to Toowoomba. I hope this is the start of more productions at this little gem called "The Empire". Lorraine, Trip Advisor

Survey Feedback (Anonymous)

We are from Brisbane but love Toowoomba and this is our third visit to the Empire in the past 18 months. We select shows which are offered in both Brisbane and Toowoomba as it is usually possible to obtain better seats in Toowoomba at a lower cost.

Love attending shows at the theatre. Such great artists & productions to choose from each year, we keep coming back because we love it. Thank you to the organisers & volunteers that make the Empire Theatre such a special place to visit.

I smiled from start to finish watching 'Pirates'. Was brilliant ... so polished.

I am from Brisbane and compared to the Entertainment Centre or Qpac it was a magical and wonderful experience! Hoping to get back again very soon.

What an absolutely beautiful art deco building inside and out. Was absolutely blown away by the detail of the interior, like stepping back in time in the best way possible. What a wonderful asset for Toowoomba.

I love the Empire so much, the shows are amazing and it's such a beautiful theatre! I practically grew up running round the backstage area and I will always have a place in my heart for the theatre. I love both performing at and watching at the Empire!!



Beautiful venue, friendly staff, and great seats, we were at the back of the theatre in Row W and still had a great view of the stage.

We are very fortunate indeed to have the Empire Theatre in Toowoomba and to receive the wonderful shows that we do. Keep up the great work.

Brilliant production! A blend of professional and amateur performers, extremely well rehearsed, hilariously modernised in places while remaining true to the G&S brand of humour and incredible attention to detail from sets to costumes to vocal production to comedic timing and seamless but hilarious interaction between the cast and musical director throughout. Can you tell....I just loved it!

It was our first time buying access tickets and it was great. I'd attend again using those seats as it makes it more affordable for me with my kids.

We really enjoyed the professionalism of the performance. It was as good as what we have seen at QPAC.



Arts in Community

Additional Language Development through Theatre Practice

Harristown High School – During all school terms

For 75 minutes each week, the Empire Theatres Projects Company use the arts to aid the learning of Harristown State High School's newly arrived, migrant and refugee student population. A diverse group of students take part in the project, including students from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, South America and various African nations.

The work done in this program, lead by Youth Arts Director Ari Palani, was able to assist with the participants learning and also helped with survivability, viability and adaptability in the local community.

This project is funded by QCF

ACO Virtual

1-30 July 2017 - Toowoomba Art Gallery

Before the Australian Chamber Orchestra's ACO Collective took to the stage in September 2017, the Empire Theatres presented the *ACO Virtual* Installation at Toowoomba Art Gallery.

More than 1000 people visited the gallery for the installation with a large number of young people along with parents attending the event.

ACO Virtual used state of the art technology and featured projections of 12 of the ACO's acclaimed musicians. Within the installation, the audience was surrounded with the sound of each musician coming from the direction of their individual projections.

Touch screen technology allowed the audience to step inside a concert, be immersed in a cinematic experience and provided an extraordinary new way to experience music.

The Arrival

Friday 20 October 2017, 11am & 6pm

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's unique theatrical experience, *The Arrival*, was based on the highly popular and meaningful book by Shaun Tan. Using acting, non-verbal communication and puppetry to tell the story, *The Arrival* brought a fantastic world to life, telling a universal tale of the challenge of arriving in a new country.

As many new refugee and migrant arrivals are settling in Toowoomba, this show was chosen and Mercy Community Services were happy to support the event.

In order to better communicate the content and themes of this show to the newly arrived community, Mercy Community Services (MCS) assisted us to translate the flyer into three languages additional to the English flyers, including Farsi Dari, Arabic and French. MCS also provided free tickets as part of the sponsorship which were distributed to foster children and refugee and migrant networks throughout the city.

More than 700 people attended the performances across the season with around 300 of those being MCS clients who would not have had the chance to attend otherwise.

Supported by Mercy Community Services



Figaro Children's Chorus

School Workshop- 18 July
Centenary Heights State High School
Performance: Tuesday 18 July 2017, Empire Theatre

As part of Opera Australia's return to Toowoomba in 2017, local young performers were offered the chance to audition to be part of the Regional Children's Chorus.

Selected members would be taught the chorus music of the production by an industry professional and perform in costume onstage with professional artists from Opera Australia. With the help of local chorus master Cherie Vera, the choir rehearsed over eight weeks prior to the Opera's arrival in town. While in town, the company also conducted a free schools workshop with Centenary Heights State High School music extension students.

More than 40 students auditioned to be a part of the chorus and 24 were successful in gaining the available places. Each student was able to learn about the music, techniques and the requirements of an operatic singer and get a real understanding of what it might be like to be a professional artist.

IMPACT

Thanks to the generous support of the Sidney Myer Fund and the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation's Capacity Building program, Empire Youth Arts has been able to continue the work of previous years by establishing the Senior and Junior IMPACT Ensembles in 2017.

The IMPACT Ensemble is an audition based collective that aims to offer young people professional performance experience, whilst making an impact on audiences. The Junior IMPACT Ensemble performed their original, *Child(ish)* on September 2-3, 2017, followed by the Senior Ensemble with *{Cross My Heart}* from October 13-14, 2017, both in The Armitage Centre: Heritage Bank Auditorium.

More than 20 young artists were engaged over the course of five month program, during which time they worked with a wide range of professional theatre and performance artists, leading to two 70 minute performances of their respective theatre pieces, to an audience of approximately 600 people.



Bursaries

The Empire Theatres Foundation supports young people in achieving their goals in the performing arts in the form of several valuable bursaries.

In the 2017/18 financial year, 25 young talented performers from various disciplines were presented with a collective amount totaling more than \$18,000, giving each the opportunity to attend short courses at Queensland Theatre, Jazz Music Institute, Expressions Dance Company, Sydney Dance Company, Brent Street Performing Arts, Victorian College of the Arts, Empire Theatre Youth Arts, Sound Thinking and ED5.

The biennial Brian Boak Outstanding Performer Bursary was also presented, allowing Melbourne based operatic lyric tenor Michael Petruccelli the opportunity to take up a prestigious scholarship with Opernstudio in association with Frankfurt Opera in Germany, one of the most important music theatres in Europe.

2017 - 2018 OVERVIEW

BOX OFFICE REVENUE COLLECTED

\$3,912,181.92

EMPIRE THEATRES OPERATING
RESULT FOR THE YEAR

\$74,114

EMPIRE THEATRES FOUNDATION
OPERATING RESULT FOR THE YEAR:


\$79,671

GRANTS, DONATIONS,
SPONSORSHIPS RECEIVED BY
THE EMPIRE THEATRES TOTAL:

\$132,165

number of steps to
OUR OFFICIAL DINING PARTNER

WALTON STORES

 **235**

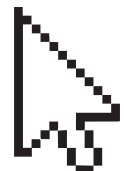
13045 
FACEBOOK LIKERS

152733

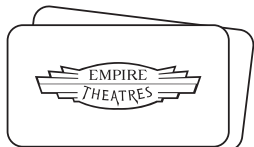
UNIQUE WEBSITE VISITORS 

TOP 5 SHOW PAGES VISITED

1. Pirates of Penzance
2. The Wiggles
3. QLD Ballet Swan Lake
4. Killer Queen
5. Missy Higgins



390

EMPIRE
CARD
HOLDERSTICKET SALES
INCREASE

IN THE REGION OF


15-20%

540

STUDENTS ENGAGED
VIA WORKSHOPSSTUDENT
VISITATION

3837

APPROX.

20

FREE EVENTS

eCrowd
SUBSCRIBERS

27,977

ATTENDANCE FOR THE TOTAL YEAR
(EVENTS INCLUDED) TOTAL ENGAGEMENT

141,125



487

WORDS

IN THE PIRATES OF
PENZANCE SONGA MODERN
MAJOR
GENERAL

148

TOTAL
PERFORMANCES

78

NUMBER OF
STOREYS THE
TREEHOUSE HAS REACHED

\$66,681

OUTGOING \$ FROM EMPIRE
THEATRES FOUNDATION THIS
FINANCIAL YEARNUMBER OF STUDENTS
WHO ATTENDED THEATRE
THANKS TO CAF

484



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.

Presenting Partners



Business Partners



Foundation Sponsors



The Chronicle

Supporters



Media Partners



Donors

A special thank you to all of our generous donors who make our work possible. we applaud you!

Clive and Conchita Armitage

Beris Broderick

Ian and Lynn Sharpe

Ron and Shelly Barclay

Taddio Building Group

Jeff and Jill Young

Mark Walker

Marie T Harris

And thank you to our many other

Kaylene Reis

Fay Miller

valued contributors!

Highlights

Essgee's Pirates of Penzance

Wed 14 March – Sat 17 March 2018 | Number of performances: 5

Paid Attendance: 4379 | Total Attendance: 5105

Musical Theatre

Production

Reviews and Testimonials

We thoroughly enjoyed the performance and compared it to John English's *Pirates* (we saw this show twice in Brisbane) but thought the cast did a wonderful job. It was nice to come out of the theatre seeing people's smiles on their faces.

Would love to see more Gilbert and Sullivan musicals but any of the "older" musicals is just fine. Love them all and the cast and crew are so amazingly professional. Never miss any of these shows. Stage presentation is so well done. Congratulations to you all.

A truly great theatre to experience and enjoy congratulations, Toowoomba.

Brilliant show, loved the costumes and sets. Gorgeous theatre - always a great experience!

Stunning show. Michael Cormick was phenomenal. I knew a lot of people in the cast and was very impressed and proud of them! Would absolutely love to see it again. I would most definitely buy a filmed version of an Empire musical (DVD) if they were ever released. Rewatching it is just an amazing experience



Queensland Ballet's Swan Lake

Fri 29 June – Sat 30 June, 2018 | Number of performances: 2

Paid Attendance: 2547 | Total Attendance: 2819

Ballet

Production

Reviews and Testimonials

It was absolutely fantastic that Li Cunxin and three of the ballerinas did a Q&A afterwards.

It is always lovely to return to this beautiful theatre but last night's performance of *Swan Lake* by the Qld Ballet was truly memorable. It is many years since I have attended a ballet performance and I was not sure what to expect, but this performance was stunning. Congratulations to the wonderfully talented performers and to the Empire Theatre team for bringing the company to Toowoomba. I hope this is the start of more productions at this little gem called "The Empire". - Lorraine, Trip Advisor

A visit to the Empire theatre is always a special experience - most recently we saw the Queensland Ballet performance of *Swan Lake*. The theatre is elegant and stately and one feels at the centre of the artistic world - topped by the stunning performance it was a night to remember! - Lauren R, Trip Advisor



Image: Harold David

shake & stir's Dracula

Fri 11 August, 2017 | Number of performances: 1

Paid Attendance: 609 | Total Attendance: 727

Drama

Production

Reviews and Testimonials

Fantastic production of *Dracula*.

This was my first theatre experience for thirty years and was fantastic. Everything from the stage, lighting and effects to the players was great. From the moment we walked in and felt the atmosphere of the audience was amazing. What a stunning performance! My thanks and congratulations to the cast and crew and the Empire Theatre.

Have already sent a very long email of praise to shake & stir covering both *Dracula* and last year's brilliant *Wuthering Heights*. Please keep bringing productions of this quality.



Image: Dylan Evans

Lee Kernaghan

Sat 9 September, 2017 | Number of performances: 1

Paid Attendance: 1529 | Total Attendance: 1563

Music

Hire

Reviews and Testimonials

I absolutely loved last night seeing Lee Kernaghan and the Wolfe Brothers and Tania Kernaghan live. Another thing off my bucket list.

The Empire is a great venue, the Lee Kernaghan Concert was absolutely amazing.



Bangarra Dance Theatre's OUR land people stories

Sat 17 February, 2018 | Number of performances: 1

Paid Attendance: 834 | Total Attendance: 925

Contemporary Dance

Production

Reviews and Testimonials

I thought Bangarra was beautiful. I had always wanted to see the group and I was not disappointed. Well done for bringing it to Toowoomba.

Thank you so much for having Bangarra at your beautiful theatre. Such important messages and stories they have every time. Love them!

I am always impressed with the quality and variety of performances available throughout the year at the Empire. Thank you.



Image: Edward Mulvihill

Opera Australia's The Marriage of Figaro

Tues 18 July, 2018 | Number of performances: 1

Paid Attendance: 1153 | Total Attendance: 1264

Opera

Production

Reviews and Testimonials

So pleasing to see hear Opera Australia perform here!

Even my \$8 ticket in the back row was sensational! Thank you for the opportunity to purchase at this price.

Being able to experience an Opera Australia performance in Toowoomba is fabulous! Such an opportunity for the young & old alike.

It's fantastic that the Empire Theatre can attract such wonderful performances such as Opera Australia

A great performance - v well done to you all! Really looking forward to your next visit!



Image: Georges Antoni

Farewell, Margaret Turnbull

After more than 20 years working hard behind the scenes of the Empire Theatre, Margaret Turnbull retired from her position as Events Manager in early 2018. After being a vocal supporter of the theatre's refurbishment, Margaret was originally employed as a casual Front of House Manager in 1997 and worked in several facets of the theatre before commencing her position as the Events Manager.

Dedicating a large portion of her life to the theatre she loves, Margaret was a hardworking and valuable member of staff. From all the staff and supporters of the Empire Theatre, we wish Margaret well and thank her for her work and continued friendship.



Moving Forward

The 2018/2019 Financial Year sees the iconic Empire Theatre undergoing substantial refurbishments, including a redesigned ticketing office, adapting the bars to increase accessibility, additional amenities and rejuvenating the foyers. The theatre will feature new seating and carpet and the renovation will maintain and compliment the magnificent art deco style the Empire is renowned for.

We look forward to presenting to you the refurbished theatre in March of 2019, with *Kinky Boots* premiering on Friday, 22 March.



Month	Venue Name	Show Name	Buy/Hire	Attendance	Comps	Total Attendance
2017						
JULY	Church	Sanctuary - Camerata	Hire	153	52	205
	Empire Theatre	The Wiggles	Hire	3105	6	3111
	Empire Theatre	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Hire	2354	92	2446
	Empire Theatre	The Pink Floyd Experience	Hire	370	106	476
	Empire Theatre	Clare Bowen	Hire	666	16	682
	Empire Theatre	The Marriage of Figaro	Buy	1153	111	1264
	Empire Theatre	Troppo	Buy	294	64	358
	Empire Theatre	Doug Parkinson	Hire	133	15	148
	Empire Theatre	Sydney Comedy Festival Showcase	Hire	507	57	564
	Empire Theatre	Eisteddfod 2017 July	Hire	3522	7	3529
	HBA	Corranderk	Buy	142	47	189
	HBA	Bakersfield Mist	Buy	203	53	256
	HBA	Annual Putnam Spelling Bee	Hire	567	25	592
AUGUST	Church	Australian Brandenburg Orchestra	Hire	248	248	248
	Church	Damien Leith - ROY	Hire	240	9	249
	Church	Cool Nights Big Band	Hire	141	0	141
	Empire Theatre	Dracula	Buy	579	118	697
	Empire Theatre	Ten Tenors	Hire	1361	12	1373
	Empire Theatre	Broadway Favourites	Buy	667	110	777
	Empire Theatre	We're going on a Bear Hunt	Buy	2817	208	3025
	Empire Theatre	Be yourself Redux	Buy	261	49	310
	Empire Theatre	Queen - It's a Kinda Magic	Hire	461	34	495
	HBA	AC/DC Story	Hire	181	17	198
	HBA	First World White Girls	Buy	61	9	70
	HBA	Oliver	Hire	3047	142	3189
	HBA	Popstars	Hire	652	16	668
SEPTEMBER	Empire Theatre	Sweeney Todd	Hire	1264	338	1602
	Empire Theatre	Diary of a Wombat	Buy	1873	149	2022
	Empire Theatre	Pete Murray	Hire	418	14	432
	Empire Theatre	USQ Graduations	Hire	2085	35	2100
	Empire Theatre	Lee Kernaghan	Hire	1529	34	1563
	Empire Theatre	Tina Arena	Hire	747	66	813
	Empire Theatre	The Aristocats	Hire	948	10	958
	Empire Theatre	Yamato: The Drummers of Japan	Hire	195	3	198
	Empire Theatre	La Fille mal gardée	Buy	1000	137	1137
	HBA	Sing! Choral Concert	Hire	65	0	65
	HBA	Child(ish)	Buy	194	5	199
	HBA	ACO Collective	Buy	255	40	295
	HBA	City Heart Fashion	Hire	155	49	204

Month	Venue Name	Show Name	Buy/Hire	Attendance	Comps	Total Attendance
2018						
JANUARY	Empire	Elvis Tribute Show	Hire	1293	20	1313
	Empire	Shen Yun	Hire	934	52	986
	Empire	Deadly 60 Downunder	Hire	2808	10	2818
FEBRUARY	Empire	First Date	Hire	706	26	732
	Empire	Bangarra OUR (and people stories)	Buy	834	91	925
	Empire	Australian Army Band Brisbane	Buy	722	81	803
	Empire	Puppetry of the Penis	Hire	435	12	447
	Empire	Jimmy Carr	Hire	1363	22	1385
	HBA	Flickerfest	Buy	222	31	253
	Studio	Ghosts of Leigh	Hire	137	2	139
MARCH	Church	Cool Nights Big Band	Hire	99	2	101
	Empire	Roy Orbison and Johnny Cash	Hire	668	14	682
	Empire	An Afternoon at the Proms	Hire	397	14	411
	Empire	Essee's Pirates of Penzance	Buy	4389	726	5115
	HBA	Welcome to our World	Hire	305	10	315
	HBA	The Highwayman Tribute Show	Hire	303	10	313
APRIL	Church	Camerata	Hire	151	51	202
	Empire	Cinderella	Hire	2037	52	2089
	Empire	The Wiggles	Hire	2826	8	2834
	Empire	Back to the Tivoli	Buy	691	77	768
	Empire	Jimmy Barnes	Hire	1422	57	1479
	Empire	Marina Hobson and David Prior	Hire	915	12	927
	Empire	The Nutcracker	Hire	776	29	805
	Empire	Melbourne Comedy Festival Roadshow	Buy	757	95	852
	Empire	10CC	Hire	765	50	815
	HBA	Australian Youth Orchestra	Hire	0	283	283
	HBA	Damien Leith	Hire	176	5	181
	HBA	St Ursulas - Play	Hire	243	8	251
	HBA	Neil Diamond - Tribute	Hire	133	7	140
MAY	Empire	Old Pops	Buy	752	98	850
	Empire	Missy Higgins	Hire	1216	63	1279
	Empire	A Prudent Man	Buy	137	12	149
	Empire	Eisteddfod	Hire	4139	0	4139
	Empire	Yo Diddle Diddle	Buy	533	67	600
	Empire	Bosum Buddies	Buy	326	118	444
	Empire	John Williamson	Hire	965	21	986
	Empire	APIA Good Times Tour	Hire	1239	45	1284
	HBA	Charlie Landsborough	Hire	88	13	101
	HBA	We Will Rock You	Hire	662	0	662
	HBA	Big Band Extravaganza - TGS	Hire	189	0	189

	Studio	Moth	Hire	143	9	152
JUNE	Church	Camerata - Up Close	Hire	124	53	177
	Church	Cool Nights Big Band	Hire	66	0	66
	HBA	The Naked Magicians	Hire	335	7	342
	Empire	Sing Our 2018	Hire	2213	20	2233
	Empire	Peppa Pig	Hire	797	14	811
	Empire	Australian Army Band Brisbane	Buy	522	11	533
	Empire	The 78-Storey Treehouse	Buy	2568	182	2750
	Empire	Celtic Illusion	Hire	529	5	534
	Empire	Back to the Tivoli	Buy	597	96	693
	Empire	Everly Brothers	Hire	534	3	537
	Empire	Swan Lake - Old Ballet	Buy	2547	272	2819
	HBA	Fiddler on the Roof	Hire	1393	65	1458
	HBA	Echoes of Pink Floyd	Hire	102	40	142
	HBA	Alex Williamson	Hire	288	2	290
		TOTALS	TOTALS	100957	6981	107938

	Hire	Buy	Totals		
Total Attendance					
Empire	61829	29810	91639		
HBA	11060	2628	13688		
Studio	1222		1222		
Church	1389		1389		
TOTAL	75500	32438	107938		
Paid	Hire	Buy	PAID	Totals	
Empire	59822	26591	HIRES	72035	
HBA	10075	2331	BUYS	28922	
Studio	1164		TOTAL	100957	
Church	974				
TOTAL	72035	28922			
Comp	Hire	Buy	COMPS	Totals	
Empire	2007	3219	HIRE	3465	
HBA	985	297	BUYS	3516	
Studio	58		TOTAL	6981	
Church	415				
TOTAL	3465	3516			

	HBA	Fly In, Fly Out	Hire	238	4	242
	HBA	Take the Stage	Hire	293	23	316
	Studio	Smiling at Strangers	Hire	189	18	207
	Studio	The Last Five Years	Hire	234	3	237
OCTOBER	Empire Theatre	Isla Grant in Concert	Hire	552	1	553
	Empire Theatre	QLD Pops	Buy	785	88	873
	Empire Theatre	Back to the Tivoli	Buy	704	89	793
	Empire Theatre	The Glenn Miller Orchestra	Hire	680	23	703
	Empire Theatre	2017 Bus Excellence Awards	Hire	338	2	340
	Empire Theatre	Twmba International Body Building	Hire	126	0	126
	Empire Theatre	Bjorn Again	Hire	333	16	349
	Empire Theatre	Ari Barker	Hire	632	1	633
	Empire Theatre	The Festival of Russian Ballet	Hire	668	27	695
	Empire Theatre	Cirque Africa	Hire	381	68	449
	HBA	{cross my heart}	Buy	419	30	449
	HBA	The Arrival	Buy	406	53	459
	HBA	Arts at the Armitage	Hire	0	191	191
	Studio	The Accidentals	Hire	284	9	293
NOVEMBER	Empire Theatre	Prophetic	Hire	827	1	828
	Empire Theatre	Leo Sayer	Buy	749	57	806
	Empire Theatre	Under the Sea	Hire	787	14	801
	Empire Theatre	The Tap Pack	Hire	588	32	620
	Empire Theatre	Puss In Boots	Hire	1109	11	1120
	Empire Theatre	Rhythms of Ireland	Hire	954	30	984
	Empire Theatre	Xmas Wish	Hire	728	168	896
	Empire Theatre	The Waifs	Hire	588	34	622
	Empire Theatre	Saga Land	Buy	429	29	458
	HBA	Cool Nights Big Band	Hire	214	0	214
	HBA	Remember when...	Hire	516	39	555
DECEMBER	Empire Theatre	Sleeping Beauty	Hire	1052	167	1219
	Empire Theatre	A Swinging Christmas Show	Buy	856	124	980
	HBA	The White Mouse - Camerata	Hire	265	36	301
	Studio	Triptik	Hire	177	17	194



Annual General Meeting

Monday 22 October 2018

56 Neil Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350