

# FOCUS ON THE **FRIENDS**



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## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

The passing of Jock McIlwain was a big loss to the Friends and The Arts Centre. Jock was a generous benefactor, an enthusiastic supporter of the arts on the Gold Coast and it is thanks to him and his wife Beverly that the Gift Fund was established.

In addition to supporting the Friends, Jock provided financial assistance for the Gold Coast Palm Awards, and he provided funding to allow school children to be bused to events at The Arts Centre. A memorial event was held on May 26 to celebrate Jock's life and achievements.

*David Huddy*

## Membership grows

Our Friends membership is gradually increasing. From a low of 1776 at the end of 2010 we now have 2522 members. We believe this increase is attributable to the Board maintaining low membership fees, and, of course, more people going to The Arts Centre. It is the Board's objective to continue to grow the membership and to encourage as many members as possible to participate in Friends' events.

Next month, the Gold Coast City Council will be making major decisions about the management of the Evandale Cultural Precinct. This will no doubt involve changes to the way arts on the Gold Coast is organised.

Progress is well underway for the redevelopment at Evandale with the demolition of council offices. We all look forward to the opening of the amphitheatre in time for the Commonwealth Games.

## Members benefit

It's time to renew your membership of the Friends of The Arts Centre Gold Coast and we look forward to your ongoing support. Membership provides not only discounts to many of your favourite shows and films but also to food and beverages at The Arts Cafe or Arts Centre bar.

As a member you will be invited to exclusive Friends-only events and meet like-minded people on the Gold Coast who are passionate about the arts, whether this is film, comedy, jazz, fine art, opera or theatre. With a new Cultural Precinct planned to house a gallery and entertainment space befitting Australia's sixth largest city, now is the time to be part of the growth of the arts community on the Gold Coast. All membership renewals will be received and processed by The Arts Centre Gold Coast Box Office and online. Your current membership card will remain valid upon renewal of your membership. Please retain your membership card and produce it when requested to ensure you continue to receive your discount and membership entitlements. Your complimentary cinema pass will be posted to you.



## Kerry Watson farewell dinner

Kerry Watson was farewellled as Chair of The Arts Centre Board at a dinner at The Arts Centre on 10 June. Kerry initiated massive changes to The Arts Centre and strengthened the relationship between the Friends and The Arts Centre.

Kerry understood the Friends' important contribution to the life of The Arts Centre. A Kerry Watson initiative included having The Arts Centre take over the processing of Friends' memberships. This has been immensely beneficial to the Friends' Board in reducing the amount of work we have to do but it is also been beneficial to The Arts Centre in giving them access to our member data base.

*David Huddy*

## Gift fund news

Applications for scholarships or grants from the Gift Fund are now open and will close on July 31. If you know a young person who is highly talented, has ambition and is in need of financial assistance to advance their career, please download an application form for them from the Friends' website.

Decisions on who will receive a grant will be made by the first week in September, and a reception for successful applicants will be held on September 23.

The Gift Fund Committee has undertaken a review of its operations and as a result, sought expressions of interest from volunteers to assist in areas such as the secretariat and fundraising. Ten members expressed interest in the positions and the Committee is delighted that there was such a strong response.

Active fundraising is a new activity, but is expected to become a regular part of the Gift Fund Committee's annual activities.



Previous Gift Fund winners Jonathan Henderson and Stephanie Li.

## Jazz and Blues

The Gold Coast Jazz & Blues Club grants Friends' members a discount to their events, with tickets \$25. The monthly events are held in the Paradise Showroom. For more information visit [www.theartscentregc.com.au](http://www.theartscentregc.com.au) or phone the Box Office on (07) 5588 4000.

### Next shows:

**23 July** An Evening in Paris  
**26 August** An Oscar Evening  
**23 September** Swing into Spring

# WHAT'S ON AT **THE ARTS CENTRE**

Here's a taste of what's on at The Arts Centre Gold Coast in the coming months. We hope to see you there and don't forget to claim your concession discount if your membership is up to date.

School holiday program – See the Arts Centre website for a detailed list of school holiday and children's entertainment, including *The Peasant Prince* and *The Moon's Balloon*. Featuring the finest local talent, this production will be fully produced by The Arts Centre Gold Coast.

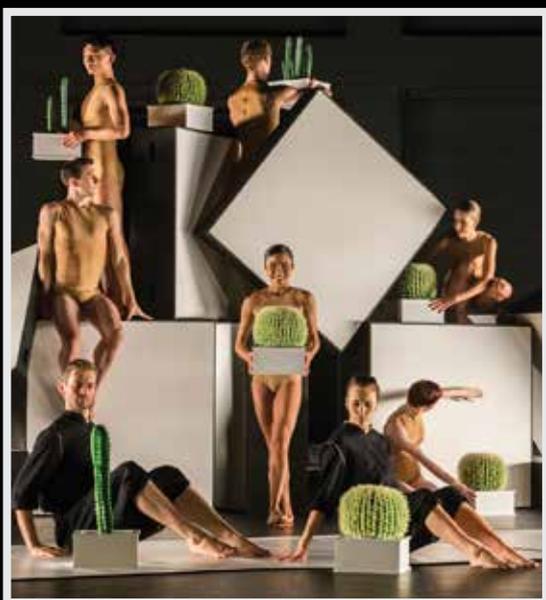


## **Waiting for Godot**

14-23 July

ADULT \$32, CONCESSION \$28.00, GROUP 6+ \$28, STUDENT \$17.50

Waiting for Godot is considered one of the most influential and revered plays of the 20th century. Set in an apocalyptic landscape, the play covers themes of life and death, meaning and uncertainty and the value of optimism.



## **Countermove**

15-16 July

ADULT \$56, CONCESSION \$48, GROUP 6+ \$45, STUDENT / CHILD (U15YRS) \$32

Sydney Dance Company's CounterMove explores luminescence and life in a double bill that will enchant, compel and amuse with exhilarating physical dance by some of Australia's finest dancers.

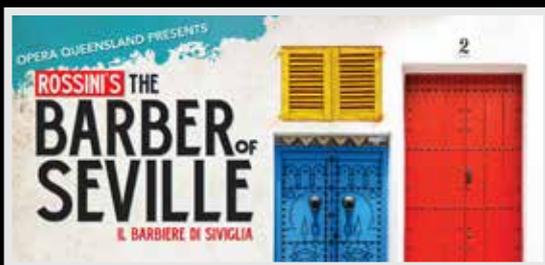
## **The Barber of Seville**

29-30 July

ADULT \$65, CONCESSION \$59, GROUP 6+ \$54, STUDENT / CHILD (U15YRS) \$42

2016 is the 200th anniversary of the first performance of *The Barber of Seville* and this delicious dose of comedy and effervescent music, is the perfect way to say – Happy Birthday Figaro!

Sung in Italian with projected English translations.



## **Always...Patsy Cline**

23 July 2pm and 7.30pm

ADULT \$48, CONCESSION \$42, GROUP 6+ \$42, STUDENT / CHILD (U15YRS) \$26

Based on the true story of legendary country singer Patsy Cline's friendship with a fan, this musical play includes 27 of Patsy's unforgettable hits.



## **Il Ritorno**

Circa 26 - 27 Aug

ADULT \$48, CONCESSION \$42, GROUP 6+ \$42, STUDENT / CHILD (U15YRS) \$26

The stage is awash with bodies tumbling, lifting and clutching. Then, out of the darkness and gnawed by nostalgia, the Greek hero Ulysses appears after 20 long years of war and wanderings. Will he reach his faithful wife Penelope before she succumbs to her suitors?



## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the **Friends of the Arts Centre Gold Coast** will be held in the Panorama Suite at The Arts Centre on Tuesday 20 September at 7pm.

You'll find enclosed with this newsletter a formal notice of the meeting, a nomination form and proxy form in case you cannot attend.

Refreshments will be served and your Board encourages all members to put the date in your diary.

## New to the executive



Two new faces have joined the executive team guiding the future of The Arts Centre Gold Coast.

**Lindsay Wallace** is the Director of Marketing and Communications.

Ms Wallace has worked since 2014 at Pacific Fair as Tourism Marketing Manager. In other roles she was a senior executive at Gold Coast Tourism Corporation for 6 years, Director of Marketing for Sanctuary Cove, Palazzo Versace and the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort and Spa. She is a Director on the Gold Coast Tourism Corporation Board and Events Management Queensland Gold Coast.

## Gallery director appointed



**Tracy Cooper-Lavery** is the new Gallery Director of Gold Coast City Gallery.

Tracy joins us from the Rockhampton Regional Gallery where she was Gallery Director for four and a half years and where she has tripled audiences and increased sponsorship support for their gallery program.

Tracy started her career at the Gold Coast City Gallery as a Curator back in 1992. She then went on to take up the position of Senior Curator at Bendigo Art Gallery, considered one of the shining examples of regional galleries in Australia.

## Volunteer Grant success

The Friends have received \$1195 to purchase computer equipment to support our record keeping in this year's Commonwealth Government Community Volunteer Grant allocations.

The Grants aim to support the efforts of Australia's volunteers. It provides small amounts of money, which organisations can use to help their volunteers.

## Your Friends Board 2015-16

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| President        | <b>David Huddy</b>          |
| Vice-president   | <b>Rebecca Paranthoieni</b> |
| Secretary        | <b>John Hudson</b>          |
| Acting Treasurer | <b>Daniel Endenburg</b>     |

Committee:

**Dorothy McCormack, Jacqueline Marchant, Carol Little** (on leave until September) and **Judy Dean**. Sadly, we recently farewelled **Rae Cooper**, who has resigned. The Board extends its heartfelt appreciation to Rae for her efforts in designing our newsletter in recent times.

## Friends' facts

- The Friends is a not-for-profit organisation run by a board of volunteers.
- Your membership is also used to support youth arts programs and other initiatives of The Arts Centre (last year we donated \$25,000).
- The Friends also has a Gift Fund, which provides specific grants to talented individuals on the Gold Coast to assist them in pursuing their careers in the arts.

**MATT BAKER**  
PRESENTS

An  
*Oscar*  
moment

A celebration of the life  
& music of jazz piano  
legend Oscar Peterson

Featuring  
Matt Baker & his trio with  
vocalist Ingrid James



Direct from New York on the New Album World Tour

"I am thrilled that you have put together a tribute show!  
Also so happy that you want to play Oscar's music." - Kelly Peterson

The Paradise Room, The Arts Centre Gold Coast  
Bar & Bistro Open 6pm Showtime 7.30pm  
Friends of The Arts Centre \$25  
Book at the Box Office or phone 5588-4000

**Friday 26 August**