



Media Release
Byron Community Centre

For immediate release

Byron Theatre Turns 21: Celebrating Two Decades of Community and Creativity

This year marks the 21st birthday of [Byron Theatre](#), a beloved cultural hub located in the heart of Byron Bay. Over the past two decades, the theatre has become an integral part of the local community and a destination for visitors from all over the world.

This non-profit theatre is a social enterprise that supports community programs at the Byron Community Centre, including homeless hub Fletcher Street Cottage. Every ticket sold helps to support locals in need so people can be entertained whilst also giving back.

The history of Byron Theatre can be traced back to the early 2000s, when community members saw the need for a dedicated performance space in town. With donations and support from the community, the Byron Community Centre was renovated to include a state-of-the-art theatre with seating for 250 people.

"21 years ago the Byron Community Centre took the bold step of updating the community hall into a fully fledged professional theatre and since then we've hosted hundreds of events of all descriptions, including theatre, dance, comedy, festivals, talks, music and cinema," says Jon Howell, Theatre Manager.

Since its opening in April 2003, Byron Theatre has hosted a wide range of events, from concerts and comedy shows to film screenings and theatre productions. The theatre hosts around 250 events per year, with thousands of shows since opening its doors.

"The very first show in 2003 was a play by Rob Owens called A Carmen performed by the Byron Bay Theatre Company," says Jon. *"We're proud to support local productions, such as a sold out run of shows for the infamous counter culture musical Hair by the Bangalow Theatre Company."*

One of Byron Theatre's unique features is its commitment to showcasing local talent. The theatre regularly hosts performances by musicians, dancers and other artists from the Northern Rivers, providing a platform for emerging talent to showcase their work and connect with audiences.



The theatre has also welcomed many internationally renowned performers over the years. Acts such as the Soweto Gospel Choir, Stolen and Dancing in the Shadows of Motown have lit up the stage, as have musicians like Nils Frahm and Kate Miller-Heidke.

As well as hosting events, Byron Theatre is also committed to supporting the local community. The theatre has sponsored various local organisations over the years to raise funds for important causes such as environmental conservation, mental health and social justice.

"The Byron Theatre has supported the community in a number of important ways over the last two decades," says Jon. "Firstly by providing a space for locals to express themselves and create art, and secondly as a place for the best performers in the world to show us what they've got."

The theatre has also become a popular venue through Byron Spaces for conferences, seminars and workshops such as TEDx Byron Bay and the Byron Music Festival Industry Conference. Its modern facilities and central location make it ideal for events of all kinds.

Looking ahead to the next twenty years, Byron Theatre has ambitious plans to expand its facilities and offerings. The theatre plans to expand its programming to include more events and activities and increase its support for emerging artists and performers.

As Byron Theatre celebrates its 21st birthday, it is clear that it has become much more than just a performance space. It is a cultural institution that plays a vital role in the community's life.

With its commitment to showcasing local talent and supporting important causes, the theatre has become a source of pride for the community and a must-visit destination for visitors to the area. Here's to another 21 years of creativity, inspiration and community at Byron Theatre!

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BACKGROUND

The [Byron Community Centre](http://www.byroncentre.com.au) is an independent non-profit that provides essential services including meals, advocacy and counselling, as well as arts and social programs for the benefit of the whole community.



INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

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