

## 2017 Message from Z-PAC President Liane Mills

2016 was an amazing one for Z-PAC with lots of new innovations, new people, new equipment and warm, community spirit that ensures we will be going strong into 2017.

A huge THANK YOU to all our Volunteers that worked so tirelessly in 2016 - many putting in 40 + hour weeks to ensure the shows you attended were of our usual high standard. Volunteers are always needed to help, so join our Front of House register or maintenance team. We are grateful for any assistance people can give the Theatre. Offer to pour the tea in the kitchen for one show, or join our weekly maintenance team building sets – every contribution, no matter how small is appreciated, because without your support, Z-Pac Theatre couldn't provide the Entertainment and Opportunities it does to our Fraser Coast Community.

To keep you up to date, we have our website and also a poster at the front of the theatre that has all the key dates and we have flyers you can share with family and friends that lists all the events in 2017. That way you can plan their year ahead and not miss out on the ones they want to see. To keep up to date on all the Z-PAC happenings, please join our mailing list (email [lianemills@centigrowth.com](mailto:lianemills@centigrowth.com)).

In regard to the shows coming up this year, it's important to keep in perspective the difficult job we have in finding the right balance of entertainment and economy. Breaking even means searching for the perfect formula - we have to fill our seats to keep the theatre viable, so need to select plays that will appeal to our audience. However, at the same time we recognize that as Community theatre, we contribute to the social capital of a community and as such need to continue to develop the skills, community spirit, and artistic sensibilities of those who participate, whether as producers or audience-members.

Z-PAC's Artistic Director Gavin Bolderrow said the process of selecting just the right mix of shows is very difficult when you are spoilt for choice. And for 2017 we had been, with record numbers of Directors putting forward their submissions for shows. At the Z-PAC'S Members night in October 2016, the audience was enthralled by the wide range of proposals put forward by some of the talented people in our community offering a very diverse range of shows.

Gavin Bolderrow had the task of reading and studying the plays and the proposals, trying to come up with a good balance of old favourites and new plays with variety to keep the audience coming back for more. His recommendations were then taken to the Z-PAC Management Committee to be ratified.

Our shows are set for the year (see below) and we have one already in rehearsals and two holding auditions over the next few weeks.

So without further ado, here is our program for 2017.

# ***Travelling North***

By David Williamson

***March 3-19***

Booking code: <https://www.trybooking.com/251362>

March We begin our year with An icon in Australian theatre, *Travelling North*, by David Williamson is a meaningful, yet humorous play, to which most people can relate.

It tells the story of Frank and Francis who, in later life have a love affair, to the consternation of their conventional children.

Director Judith La Forest explains further. Their dream takes them from wintery Melbourne, north to the sun.

No sooner do they find their idyll than signs of mortality betray Frank's strong spirit.

Judith loves this Aussie play. She says its a tale of everyday life, which shows the human qualities of its characters - self-determination, narrow mindedness, but above all the need for love.

## **10 Performances**

Friday March 3 7:30

Saturday March 4 2pm & 7:30

Sunday March 5 2pm

Friday March 10 7:30

Sunday March 12 2pm

Friday March 17 7:30pm

Saturday March 18 2pm & 7:30 pm

Sunday March 19 2pm

# ***I Love You You're Perfect Now Change (Musical)***

Book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro music by Jimmy Roberts

***May 19-28***

Booking Code: <https://www.trybooking.com/251876>

Artistic Director of Z-PAC Gavin Bolderrow will be Directing this award winning musical comedy.

The play's tagline is "Everything you have ever secretly thought about dating, romance, marriage, lovers, husbands, wives and in-laws, but were afraid to admit." With few exceptions, the scenes stand independent of the others, but progress in a fashion designed to suggest an overall arc to relationships throughout the course of one's life.

A first date, for example, comes before scenes dealing with marriage, and scenes dealing with marriage come before those dealing with child rearing. Despite the large number of characters, the show is typically done with a comparatively small cast: the original Off-Broadway production uses a cast of four. Gavin is very excited to be bringing a musical play back to Z-Pac Theatre and hopes the audiences will enjoy it.

**6 performances: May 19, 20, 27 at 7:30 pm; May 20, 21 & 28 at 2pm**

## ***Under Milk Wood***

by Dylan Thomas

**August 4-19**

Director Jonathan Dunn will introduce our audience to the sumptuous language of Dylan Thomas's in the classic story. The Genre is considered Poetic Tragi-Comedy and can have a cast of up to 69 Males or Females, but will be reduced with actors playing multiple roles.

The play is really very beautiful and touching while being at times bawdy and funny. Jonathan Dunn sees this play as a good way to gently develop the audience's 'palate' for more challenging and artistically satisfying dramatic entertainment.

**8 Performances: August 4 & 5 at 7:30pm, 6 at 2pm; Aug 11 & 12 at 7:30pm, 13 at 2pm; Aug 18 & 19 at 7:30pm**

## ***Sex Please We're Sixty***

by Michael and Susan Parker

**October 20 - November 4**

Z-PAC President, and successful Director of last year's Agatha Christie play *And then there were none*, says this play is guaranteed to make everyone laugh. Even its title raises an eyebrow as well as a chuckle.

*Sex Please We're Sixty* is set at Mrs. Stancliffe's Rose Cottage Bed & Breakfast. Her Guests (nearly all women) return year after year. Her next door neighbour, the elderly, silver-tongued, Bud "Bud the Stud" Davis believes they come to spend time with him in romantic liaisons. The prim and proper Mrs. Stancliffe steadfastly denies this, but reluctantly accepts the fact that "Bud the Stud" is, in fact, good for business. Her other neighbor and would-be suitor Henry Mitchell is a retired chemist who has developed a blue pill called "Venusia," after Venus the goddess of love, to increase the libido of menopausal women. The pill has not been tested. The women mix up Bud's Viagra pills with the Venusia, and we soon discover that it has a strange effect on men! When the mayhem settles down, all the women find their lives moving in new and surprising directions.

This play was first produced in 2008 and has had over 100 productions in many countries since then. Liane said she loved the play when she first read it and believes the Hervey Bay audiences will love it too. If you want a rollicking good time filled with laughter, this is a must-see play.

**10 Performances Oct 20, 21, 27, 28, Nov 3,4 at 7:30 and Oct 22,28,29, Nov 4 at 2pm**

## ***Cinderella the Pantomime (Musical)***

Our Final Big Show for the year will be another Christmas Pantomime, *Cinderella* to be Directed once again by Graeme Roberts. After the success of 1001 Arabian Nights, Graeme is eager to bring you another traditional British Panto, complete with visual comedy, slapstick humor and lots of Audience Participation.

**7 performances Dec 8, 9, 15, 16 at 7:30 and Dec 9, 16, 17 at 2pm**

## **OTHER EVENTS AT Z-PAC IN 2017**

During the year there will also be our popular Poetry Nights, Karaoke Nights, weekly Country Rock Blues get-togethers and 4 Country Rock Blues Concerts, as well as Members Nights. See the What's On section of our website for more information.