

The Forwards

By Stefo Nantsou



PRESENTER'S INFORMATION



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COMPANY PROFILE

Zeal Theatre are internationally renowned for their high energy, raw and hard hitting performance style that combines physical theatre, live music, multiple characters, minimal sets and an “in your face” story telling style.

Zeal Qld was founded in 2005 when the Qld Arts Council asked Zeal Theatre to mount a Qld version of his award winning show 'The Stones'. Sam Foster was asked to come on board to perform the show and Zeal Qld was born.

Since that time Zeal Qld has produced 4 touring shows in Qld. 'The Stones' (2 versions), 'The Apology' (3 versions), 'The Forwards' (2 versions) and 'Joyride'. Zeal Qld has been touring extensively for the last 12 years throughout Queensland, having performed to thousands of young people from Weipa to Warwick, Mt Isa to Mackay and Gladstone to the Gold Coast!

Zeal Qld have conducted workshops and residencies for hundreds of schools as well as companies including; ATYP, QTC, Backbone Youth Arts, Qld Arts Council, Artslink Qld, NORPA, The Young Company, Qld Shakespeare Ensemble and Griffith University

Zeal Qld will have 3 productions touring Qld schools in 2016. 'The Apology', 'The Forwards' and a new work 'Viral' written and devised by Sam Foster and Hayden Jones.

ABOUT THE SHOW

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Created by Stefo Nantsou through extensive drama workshops in a number of regional and remote high schools in 2003, "The Forwards" is a tragic-comedy about friendship, alcohol-fuelled sporting culture and small town rivalries.

'The Forwards' is directed by Zeal Theatre's artistic director Stefo Nantsou and stars Sam Foster, Hayden Jones and Ellen Bailey.

It was published by Playlab in 2009.

Three actors take the audience through a whirlwind of emotions, as the show follows the story of a small town called “Pintoon” where nothing ever happens.... except the footy! The town is buzzing as the “Pintoon Parrots” finally make it to the Grand Final. Tensions boil over in the build up to the big game, leading to some devastating repercussions for the whole town. Each actor plays a number of characters from the town including the 3 star “forwards”, Hoges, Tractor and Gary Rabbit. The story is told through the eyes of Julie Carter, who is “Rabbit’s” girlfriend, with both roles being played by the same actress (Ellen Bailey).

A live musical score, performed by onstage musicians along with the 3 actors, complements the high-octane physical action. The Forwards is a superb example of Zeal's signature style of theatre, utilizing physical theatre, live music and multiple characters.

A season of The Forwards was presented at The Arts Centre Gold Coast in July 2015. After this season a schools touring version of the show toured to several schools throughout SE Qld.

Pervious schools touring versions of The Forwards have toured with Queensland Arts Council and Regional Arts Victoria.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Written and Directed: Stefo Nantsou

Performed by: Sam Foster, Hayden Jones, Ellen Bailey (5 hand version includes Stefo Nantsou and Rob Diley)

Lighting Design: Geoff Squires

Set Design and Construction: Stefo Nantsou and Sam Foster

Published: Playlab 2009

BIOGRAPHIES

Writer/ Director/ Founder Zeal Theatre – Stefo Nantsou



Stefo is an actor/writer/director with a 30+ year career creating over 130 theatre productions worldwide, specializing in collaborations with indigenous, regional and ethnically diverse communities. In 1989 he founded Zeal Theatre, which has created 45 original productions including *"THE STONES"* (1200+ performances including seasons at the Duke on 42nd St in New York and the National Theatre in London and now translated in over 30 countries).

In 2008 Zeal won the ASSITEJ International Presidents Award for 'outstanding services to the theatre industry' in Montreal.

Stefo is resident director at Sydney Theatre Company since 2009 where he has staged 10 productions including *"LEVIATHAN"* with a cast of 350, a trilogy of plays at Bankstown Arts Centre and was artistic director of the inaugural River Arts Festival in Forbes.

He has directed his plays for companies around Australia as well as in Germany, Holland, Wales, Canada, Hungary, Norway, Denmark, New Zealand & South Africa. His plays have been published by Yale University Press (*"THE STONES"*, 2002), PlayLab Press (*"THE FORWARDS"* and *"THE APOLOGY"*, 2009) and Currency Press (*"THE ZEAL THEATRE COLLECTION"*, 2011).

Fouder Zeal Theatre Qld/ Performer/ Producer - Sam Foster



Sam is an actor, director, producer, movement director, stunt performer, stunt rigger, physical theatre performer, fight choreographer, yoga teacher, and workshop facilitator. Sam has been working in the theatre, film and TV industry for the past 12 years, including the recent box office hit “*Mad Max 4 – Fury Road*”.

He also works as a movement director and consultant for theatre, film, large-scale events and site specific performance, including the *Opening Ceremony of the Asian Cup Football Tournament*, *Bleach Festival* and *Woodford Folk Festival*. Sam runs Zeal Theatre Queensland and is the co-founder of Shock Therapy Productions.

Sam started performing with Zeal in 2004 and founded Zeal Theatre Queensland. He has performed in two previous versions of *The Forwards* but was pumped to be part of this exciting, larger than life, reworking of the show, teaming up with the Zeal “Originals”.

Producer/ Performer/ Company Member Zeal - Hayden Jones

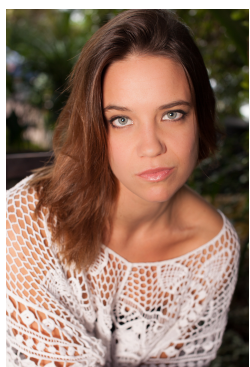


Hayden is an actor, producer, theatre maker, workshop facilitator and co-founder of Shock Therapy Productions. Hayden has worked professionally in the industry for the past 12 years, for companies including Zeal Theatre, Grin and Tonic Theatre Troupe, Queensland Theatre Company, Erth, pvi collective, Brainstorm Productions and Artslink.

In 2014 he produced and acted in *The Pillowman* at The Arts Centre Gold Coast. With Zeal, Hayden has appeared in *The Apology* and *The Forwards*. Other credits include ‘*Edward Albee’s Zoo Story*’ at The Arts Centre Gold Coast and numerous television commercials and short films.

Hayden is a 2015 recipient of the Uber Mentorship Grant, through the Queensland Government and City of Gold Coast.

Performer - Ellen Bailey



Ellen Bailey graduated from QUT with a Bachelor in Fine Arts (Acting). Since graduating she has worked for Queensland Theatre Company (*Oedipus Doesn’t Live Here Anymore* - 2015; *Macbeth* - 2014), Erth Visual & Physical Inc. (*Bleach Festival* - 2015), La Boite Theatre Company (*Tender Napalm* - 2012), Sydney Theatre Company, Zeal Theatre and Australian Theatre for Young People.

Ellen has appeared in various short films, television series, commercials and music video clips. She is also a highly skilled physical performer with extensive training in various styles of dance and movement.

The Forwards is Ellen's 3rd show with Zeal Theatre, and her debut performance with Zeal QLD. She is stoked to be on board with the whole family.

PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

DURATION

75 mins (No Interval)

SUITABLE VENUES

This show is suitable for most venues including, black box, pros arch, and town halls. Minimum stage dimension are 10m (W) x 6m (D) x 3m (H). Access to power supply.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

8 performances

MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

60 minutes

LICENCING AGREEMENTS

Copyright Zeal Theatre, 2007

TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 4-5 people.

Name	Role
Sam Foster	Producer/ Performer
Hayden Jones	Performer
Ellen Bailey	Performer
TBC	Tech/ Stage Manager

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Year	Venue	Number of performances
2007	Regional Arts Victoria – Schools tour	50-100 Performances
2008 - 2010	Qld Arts Council – Schools Tour	200 + Performances
2015	Arts Centre Gold Coast – The Space	6 Performances

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

OVERVIEW

The Forwards was inspired by true stories and people from regional communities. This allows for community to connect with the show on a deeply personal level. Hopefully the events and characters in the show are easily identifiable and relatable for the audience creating a meaningful engagement between audience and performer.

Zeal Theatre Qld have extensive experience in workshop facilitation and performances of The Forwards can be accompanied by a workshop or masterclass. Workshops can be delivered in physical theatre, devising theatre and characterisation.

The Forwards explores several themes and issues that are relevant to many regional communities. Zeal Theatre Qld can facilitate a community forum discussing these themes and issues upon request from the venue.

Zeal Theatre Qld also offers another production, "The Apology" which could be performed as a double bill with The Forwards or during the daytime for high school students. This would increase the contribution to the community while keeping the cost for the venue down.

DESCRIPTION / DETAILS

Workshops are available in a range of areas including:

- Physical Theatre and Movement
- Character Development and Multiple Characters
- Devising Theatre and Play Building
- Monologues
- Improvisation
- Shakespeare
- Brechtian Techniques

These workshops can be catered to the specific needs of the participants and are suitable for all skill levels from novice to professional.

Duration of workshops can vary depending on request from the participants.

Examples of workshop durations are:

- 60 – 90 mins
- Half day
- Full day
- Weekend

Maximum number of participants per workshop:
30 people

As well as one off workshops, Zeal Qld offer "Artist in Residencies". These

residencies can run for anywhere between 1 week and 1 month and have the option of culminating in a community performance outcome or a “work in progress” showing.

COST

Cost of workshops and Artist in Residence are a flat rate for venue. These costs vary depending on duration of workshop and length of residency.

An example of pricing is:

- 90 min workshop = \$350
- 1 week Artist in Residency (2 artists) = \$3000

TARGET AUDIENCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Zeal Qld can run workshops for participants of all ages and skill levels. Though they have specialised in delivering high quality, hard hitting and engaging Theatre For Young People, Zeal has also worked with and run workshops for professional artists and companies around the World.

MARKETING

MARKETING COPY

One line

A unique theatre experience about footy, friendship and reckless behaviour.

Short

Strap yourself in because you're about to experience a roller-coaster of emotions with Zeal Theatre's latest production, *The Forwards*. The hard-hitting physical performance delves into the pressures facing young sportspeople, a culture of binge drinking, racing cars and small town rivalries and promises to have you spellbound from beginning to end.

Zeal Theatre's internationally renowned style of physical theatre makes this an unforgettable experience.

Extended

Zeal Theatre offers a unique style of theatre, based on the multi-skilled performer who brings to life a range of characters, being true to its audience through the physicality of the performance.

“The piece is 'lifted' by its theatricality. It's not a bunch of characters sitting around talking about 'their problems'. It's people doing what they do... kicking a ball, dancing to a band down the pub, going to parties, being in dangerous situations, holding secrets, cheating, gambling, raising hopes and disappointing loved ones”, writer and director Stefo Nantsou explains

“I think the mobile phone and social media mania has magnified the theatre experience. People are just not used to live performance anymore and their place in it, that they are a participant. People are so disconnected from the

reality around them that when they see a live performance on stage it can be very confronting and a powerful experience”.

Storyline... In the small town of Pinton everyone loves the footy. The local team, the Pinton Parrots, finally make it to the grand final due to the talent of their three star goal kickers, Rabbit, Hoges and Tractor. Before the big game, the entire town is partying hard and the ‘dream team’ are challenged by the vicious cocktail of grog and jealousy as mateship gives way to anger and violence.

The Forwards looks at the pressures on young people to balance their sporting skills, hopes and dreams, with a culture of binge drinking, racing cars and small town rivalries. Zeal Theatre’s internationally renowned style of physical theatre makes this an unforgettable experience.

Recommended for 15+

MARKETING SUMMARY

Media Release for the show is available upon request.

Pervious marketing strategies have included newspaper, magazine, radio interviews and online advertising. We have worked with a publicist in the past to assist in reaching these key media contacts.

Previous reviews of the show and also radio, print and online reviews once the show has opening at a venue has also been a very effective form of marketing.

The target audience would be 15-45 years olds but is by no means limited to this demographic. Due to the sporting content of the show there is a potential to market the show to sporting clubs and organisations (especially AFL clubs). We approached several clubs during our 2015 season at the Arts Centre Gold Coast with some successful outcomes, including a write up in a local footy clubs newsletter.

Schools groups were also a key market for us to target. Due to the reputation and success of Zeal Theatre in high schools throughout Qld this continues to be a key market for all our productions.

MEDIA QUOTES

“The hard-hitting physical performance delves into the pressures facing young sportspeople, a culture of binge drinking, racing cars and small town rivalries and promises to have you spellbound from beginning to end.” – Jade Quinlivan (The Weekend Edition)

“The most powerful play from the acclaimed Zeal Theatre” – Lowdown Magazine

AUDIENCE REVIEWS

"I loved The Stones and The Apology. Now The Forwards - Wow! These guys really know school culture" - Queensland Arts Council

"Using Aussie Rules as the vehicle, this was a brilliant production on the importance of community, social fabric and the pressures of performance both on and off the sporting arena.

A fast, very entertaining 'play' with some stark ponderables. Excellent performances by all and the four stanzas of aussie rules 'ballet' choreography to live music had you at the G." - Rick Trewavas

Theatre Review from XS Entertainment:

<https://xsentertainme.wordpress.com/2015/07/15/the-forwards/>

COLLEAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS

Veronica Neave

Email: veronicaneave@hotmail.com Phone: 0448853141

Paul Bishop

Email: paulbishop@me.com Phone: 0412692690

Gavin Robins

Email: gavinrobins@me.com Phone: 0402066949

VIDEO LINKS

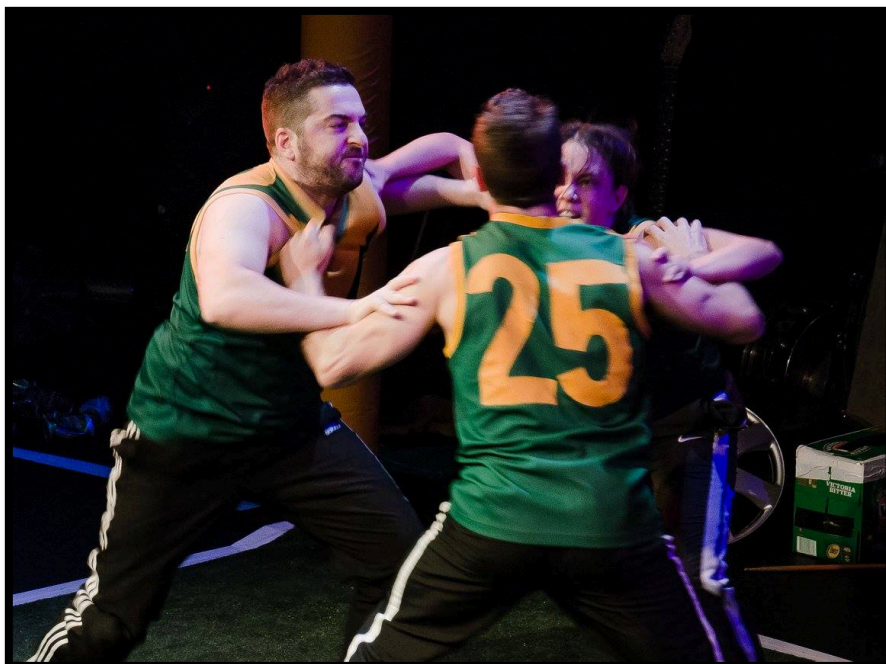
Promotional Trailer:

https://youtu.be/S_Xakl_hAns

IMAGES



They were pumped.... They were The Forwards!
Image by Saffron Jensen



Tensions mount as friendships turn to violence.
Image by Garth Ledwidge



Sample Poster
Image and Design by Saffron Jensen



The Grand Final! 3 Actors perform a dynamic, high energy, choreographed 4 quarters of footy!
Image by Garth Ledwidge



Drugs, Alcohol, violence, gossip and fast cars makes for a lethal combination!

Image by Garth Ledwidge



The Gossip Scene. “Did you hear the news about Julie and Hoges?”

Image by Garth Ledwidge

MARKETING MATERIALS

Interview with Sam Foster:

http://theweekendedition.com.au/gold-coast/the-locals/sam-foster/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline&utm_campaign=feature

Story on the show:

http://theweekendedition.com.au/gold-coast/event-news/the-forwards/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=show

Story on the show:

<http://blankgc.com.au/the-forwards-unique-theatrical-footy-fest/>

Scenestr magazine:

<http://scenestr.com.au/arts/5-unfortunate-occurrences-during-a-show-with-the-forwards>

CONTENT WARNINGS / AUDIENCES TO AVOID

Recommended for audiences 15+

SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

City of Gold Coast is a major sponsor of Zeal Theatre Qld and Shock Therapy Productions.

TEACHER'S RESOURCES

Teachers Resources Kit available upon request.

PRODUCTION DETAILS

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The technical requirements for The Forwards are minimal.

The set is relatively simple and can be completely bumped in 2hrs, requiring one stage mech provide by the venue.

Lighting can be rigged and plotted in 6 hours and requires a minimum of 1 technician provided by the venue.

There is no sound or AV requirements for The Forwards however power supply to the stage must be accessible for the live music in the show.

Total bump in time for this production is 8 hours.

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

08:00-10:00 – Bump in set (MX)

10:00-14:00 – Rig (LX)

14:00-16:00 – Plot and Focus (LX)

CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

Minimum of 1 Mech Crew for bump in and bump out (minimum call)

Minimum of 1 LX crew for LX rig and de-rig. 6 hour call for bump in, 4 hour call for bump out.

FOH staff provided by venue.

STAGE

Minimum stage dimension:

10m width x 6m depth x 4m height

5m high goal post are part of the set and need to be rigged to the lighting grid.

Live music played on stage and must have access to 240V power supply.

[Company] to supply

All set items, props, costumes and sound equipment.

Venue to supply

Access to performance space and dressing rooms.

LIGHTING

A full copy of the lighting designer is available upon request.

The Lighting design for the show can be adjusted if needs be to fit into most standard rigs if some items of the design are not available. Prior knowledge of this must be given to the company if this applies.

[Company] to supply

Full design and list of required lights prior to bump in.

Lighting operator.

Venue to supply

Minimum of 1 Lighting Technician to assist with LX rig, plot and de-rig.

List and layout of standard rig for the performance space 2 weeks prior to bump in.

Access to lighting grid including ladders and scissor lift if required.

Access to lighting desk.

SOUND

All sound for this production is produced live on stage by the performers.

[Company] to supply

All sound equipment and musical instruments including:

Drum kit
Electric and Acoustic guitar
Electric Drum pad
Portable PA system

Venue to supply

Access to 240V power supply

AV

There are no AV requirements for this production.

WARDROBE

All costumes and props supplied by Zeal Theatre Qld.

Venue to supply

Access to a minimum of 1 dressing room, large enough for 3-5 actors or 2 small dressing rooms (suitable for 1-2 performers).

FREIGHT NOTES

Set will travel to the venue by Van or truck. The company will require access to the loading dock for bump in and bump out.

CRITICAL ISSUES

There are no critical issues for this productions.

CONTACTS

For all enquires for this production including Marketing, promotion, technical requirements and touring logistics contact:

Sam Foster – Producer/ Performer (Zeal Theatre Qld)

Email: zealqld@gmail.com

Phone: 0448853141