



INFORMATION REGARDING POTENTIAL 2015 STATE-WIDE TOUR

Background

Creative Regions began working with the Domestic Violence (DV) Forum members in Bundaberg in 2011 through the Regional Stages Project (funded by Australia Council, Arts Queensland and Bundaberg Regional Council) to investigate ways that the performing arts could be used as an intervention strategy around DV issues in the region.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Creative Regions and four service providers to create a piece of verbatim theatre responding to interviews with DV victims and perpetrators. 12 participants were interviewed in partnership with Ross Peddlesden as interviewer and Rod Ainsworth as producer/playwright.

Two public readings were held in the development phase in 2012 and 2013 where feedback was received from the DV service sector, counsellors, police, a magistrate and other community representatives.

Additional funding to support the production of the premiere in Bundaberg in November 2014 was received through the Australia Council's Community Partnerships Board as well as support through Arts Queensland's Organisations Fund and through Bundaberg Regional Council's ongoing support of Creative Regions' work. The inaugural production included UnitingCare Community and Relationships Australia as presenting partners. We are very grateful to our funders and partners for seeing the significance of this project in regional Queensland.

The production has been meticulously developed over a three-year period in regional Queensland with regional participants.

The production includes a fully professional cast.

The production runs for 35 minutes and includes a cast of five women and a crew of two (Stage Manager and Technician). With the post-show discussion, the entire experience runs for approximately 60 minutes.



As a piece of verbatim theatre, the production is based on the transcripts of victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. While some of the characters' experiences have been collapsed together, ***all of the stories presented are true.***

Feedback

Feedback was received from the premiere production in Bundaberg in 2014:

"I did enjoy the production and the night...although enjoy may not be the correct word. It was very well put together and realistic and confronting all at the same time, and it is one of those productions that will stay with the viewer for a long long time after the last scene is completed." – Ron Van Saane, Police Superintendent, Capricornia District

"Extremely powerful performance. The actors showed the different personality types all sharing a common horror. It touched me personally from 30 years ago... I hadn't realised it as abuse but felt it tonight." – Anonymous

"I saw a part of my story in every one of those characters. It was hard to watch, but thank you!"
– Anonymous

"What an amazing night. I think this excellent and moving production's message will spread far and wide." – Trish Mears, General Manager, Bundaberg Broadcasters

"This project is bigger than all of us. Kudos to this team. May your message travel far." – Anonymous

"I felt that the show was an outstanding teaching moment for us with our young people. It was excellent for the Drama students but, if I had any reservation, it was that I did not have the whole school attend. Young people need to be aware of this issue and to make a commitment to themselves that they will never stand by and watch DV happen to themselves or to those that they love." – Dan McMahon, Principal, Shalom College, Bundaberg

"... congratulations once again on a brilliant production. The production was excellent at all levels, from the staging, writing, casting and delivery, and is a credit to all involved." – John Rosewarne, Chair, White Ribbon Australia





Post-Show Discussion

There is no doubt that the production is confronting and makes people (to quote) “uncomfortable”. That is the purpose – to start a conversation and to enable an open dialogue about the issue within communities and schools. In order to enable the audience to debrief and to discuss the issue, a 25-30 minute post show discussion is included, making the entire experience around 60 minutes in duration. UnitingCare Community will assist with this post-show discussion, and the cast includes a trained counsellor who may assist. The discussion with the cast after the show is the most appropriate format for the debrief, enabling people to contextualise the discussion through the play.

Language Warning

The production includes very explicit and offensive language and, as such, it is recommended for people over the age of 15. A language warning and age recommendations should be included in all publicity material.

Education Support

Secondary school education support material, created by a professional educator, will be freely available online. Additional educational activities suitable for drama students and/or pastoral care may be built into the production by negotiation with Creative Regions.

Tour Presenting Partners

The remount of the production for a Queensland tour in 2015 has been partially funded by major partner UnitingCare Community Queensland who will provide local counselling support and will assist other local presenters in promotion of the project through their networks.



Show Options

The production may be staged in two formats by negotiation:

Full theatrical production (full lighting and sound) – suitable for fully equipped theatres or community halls with 3 phase power and the required space (technical specifications available)

Modified production (no lighting) – this style of production would be suitable for schools or community venues with limited stage space and/or power availability.

The play is designed to work equally as effectively in either setting.



All photographs by Paul Beutel Photography, Bundaberg

Contact

Rod Ainsworth
Creative Producer
Creative Regions Ltd
PO Box 44
Bundaberg QLD 4670
P: 07 4153 1218
M: 0409 595 704
E: rod@creativeregions.com.au

Creative
REGIONS

www.creativeregions.com.au