

# THE APOLOGY

By Zeal Theatre (Zeal Qld)



## PRESENTER'S INFORMATION



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## COMPANY PROFILE

Founded in 1989 by actor/writer/director Stefo Nantsou, **Zeal Theatre** is an internationally renowned, award-winning theatre company dedicated to creating original productions for theatres, schools, universities, community venues, outdoor events, national and international festivals. 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. The Zeal Theatre ensemble prides itself on a collective group-devising process utilising an eclectic mix of musical and theatrical styles.

**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*' and '*Joyride*'. **Zeal Qld** has been touring extensively for the last 9 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 and Griffith University

**Zeal Qld** is currently touring a new version of '*The Apology*', starring Sam Foster and Hayden Jones with Artslink Qld.

**Zeal Qld** operates as an autonomous arm of **Zeal Theatre**, while still maintaining strong ties and continuing to work in collaboration with it father company.

## ABOUT THE SHOW

### SHOW SYNOPSIS

Inspired by a true story of a high school student who “took revenge” on a classmate who was bullying him after his father advised him to “fight back”, ***The Apology*** is a searingly honest look at the repercussions of taking revenge and the long term effects that bullying can have.

Ray Bones is being hassled by ‘the Eneme’. When a year-nine excursion to the Boggo Road Goal goes awry, Ray’s dad encourages him to pick his moment and fight back. *The Apology* ricochets through a five year period where the bruises of bullying refuse to heal. Told from an unbiased

perspective, this powerful production forces students to decide if the punishment fits the crime.

*The Apology* is performed by two actors (Sam Foster and Hayden Jones), who play 18 different characters in total, without ever leaving the stage or changing costume. Fuelled with intensity, *The Apology* fuses physical theatre techniques, multiple role-sharing and live music into a visceral and dynamic piece of theatre. *The Apology* is an example of Zeal Theatre's signature style of doing as much as possible with as little as possible.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Performed by: Sam Foster and Hayden Jones

Directed and Written by: Stefo Nantsou

Published by: 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 42<sup>nd</sup> 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).

Founder Zeal Qld/ Performer – Sam Foster



Sam is an Actor, Director, Stunt Performer, Stunt Rigger, Physical Theatre Performer, Movement Director, Martial Artist, Qualified Yoga Teacher, Massage Therapist and workshop facilitator.

Sam has worked and toured with the Grin & Tonic Theatre Troupe including *Monkey- Journey to the West* (Brisbane Festival 2002), which won a Matilda award. He has also worked extensively with Zeal Theatre, who are renowned

for their high energy, physically dynamic style of theatre. Sam has toured Zeal's productions of *The Stones* (2005-2010), *The Apology* (2007-Current) and *The Forwards* (2007/08) throughout Qld since 2005. In 2009 Sam travelled to India to perform *THE STONES* at the "AHA INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL" hosted by Ranga Shankara in Bangalore, India.

Sam was involved as a performer and creator (2010-2011), in the development of the International stage premier of *King Kong*, produced by Global Creatures. He also played *Puck*, in *A Mid Summer Nights Dream* for Soapbox Theatre Productions in 2006.

Sam has worked in the film industry as a Stunt Performer and Stunt Rigger. In 2012 he worked as a Stunt Performer and Rigger on "*Mad Max 4 – Fury Road*", which was shot in Namibia, South Africa and Australia.

As a workshop facilitator Sam has worked for Queensland Theatre Company, Qld Arts Council, Grin and Tonic, Soapbox Theatre Productions, Zeal Theatre, Backbone Youth Theatre, The Young Company, ATYP (Australian Theatre for Young People), Empire Theatre (Toowoomba), NORPA (Northern Rivers Performing Arts) and Griffith University (Gold Coast Campus). Sam has also worked extensively in remote indigenous communities and has taught a range of workshops for hundreds of schools throughout Qld as well as many professional companies around Australia.

Sam is employed as Director on a production of *The Pillowman*, by Martin McDonagh, which will be performed at *The Arts Centre Gold Coast* in June 2014.

Sam continues to work in Film, TV and Theatre, as well as teaching workshops in physical performance for various professional companies and schools around Australia.

#### Performer/ Company member (Zeal Qld) – Hayden Jones



Hayden graduated from Griffith University with a Bachelor's Degree, majoring in Theatre and Creative Writing. Over the past decade he has consistently worked in professional theatre, for such companies as Grin and Tonic, QAC (Artslink), Zeal Qld, and Brainstorm, both as an actor and a workshop facilitator. Hayden has appeared in The Arts Centre Gold Coast production of the two-hander '*Edward Albee's Zoo Story*' in 2012, as well working on creative development projects with Bille Browne, CIRCA, and The Bell Shakespeare Company. He has also appeared in numerous television commercials and short films. Currently, Hayden is a live show announcer for Showtime FMX, is touring The Zeal Qld production of '*The Apology*', and producing and acting in Martin McDonagh's '*The Pillowman*' at The Arts Centre Gold Coast.

## **PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS**

### DURATION

60 mins (No Interval)

### SUITABLE VENUES

This show is suitable for most venues. Minimum stage dimensions are 5m wide x 5m deep x 3m high. Access to power outlet required.

### MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

10 performances

### MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

60 minutes

### LICENCING AGREEMENTS

Copyright Zeal Theatre, 2004

### TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 3 people.

Name	Role
Sam Foster	Performer/ Producer
Hayden Jones	Performer
<i>Unknown</i>	Tour Manager

### PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Year	Venue	Number of performances
2006 - 2009	Various school venues throughout Qld (Qld Arts Council Tour)	300+
2008	Metro Arts	10
2010 - 2011	Various school venues in Qld (QAC tour) – remounted version	100+
2014 - Current	Artslink Qld tour – Various school venues	100+

## **AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT**

### OVERVIEW

Zeal Qld and Zeal Theatre have a long history of community and audience engagement. Zeal 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.

Sam Foster and Hayden Jones are highly experienced community arts facilitators. They have conducted community arts projects for the Australian Theatre for Young People, Qld Theatre Company, Northern River Performing Arts, Qld department of correctional services and Qld Arts Council. They have worked in several remote and regional communities including; Tennant Creek, Mt Isa, Weipa, Arukun, Mapoon, Palm Island, Pomppurraw and Kowanyama to name a few.

Zeal Qld has also conducted workshops, performances and residencies in youth detention centre’s throughout Qld.

Sam Foster and Hayden Jones bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to their workshops, especially in devising and delivering Theatre for Young People. They are passionate about teaching their unique and powerful style of theatre to young people and community members in remote and regional communities and offering them an engaging and rewarding arts experience.

*The Apology* will provide a unique opportunity for audience members and local community members to engage with performers Sam Foster and Hayden Jones and develop skills in a range of areas. The workshops and residencies provided by Zeal Qld would provide professional development for local community members and the opportunity to explore and express stories that are relevant and important to their community. In these workshops, the Zeal Theatre team will provide practical insights into their unique style, tailoring the workshop to connect with the participants.

Aside from the workshops the performance itself provides an opportunity for local communities to reflect on issues that are relevant and important to them and to begin a dialogue around the themes presented in *The Apology*.

### 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

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*

“Hard-hitting theatre about bullying, revenge, decisions and consequences”

“Powerful study of teenage violence and the effects of long term bullying”

#### *Short*

“Inspired by a true story of a high school student who “took revenge” on a classmate who was bullying him after his father advised him to “fight back”, *The Apology* is a searingly honest look at the repercussions of taking revenge and the long term effects that bullying can have.

Ray Bones is being hassled by ‘the Eneme’. When a year-nine excursion to the Boggo Road Goal goes awry, Ray’s dad encourages him to fight back. *The Apology* ricochets through a five-year period where the bruises of bullying refuse to heal.

#### *Extended*

“Inspired by a true story of a high school student who “took revenge” on a classmate who was bullying him after his father advised him to “fight back”, *The Apology* is a searingly honest look at the repercussions of taking revenge and the long term effects that bullying can have.

Ray Bones is being hassled by ‘the Eneme’. When a year-nine excursion to the Boggo Road Goal goes awry, Ray’s dad encourages him to pick his moment and fight back. *The Apology* ricochets through a five-year period where the bruises of bullying refuse to heal. Told from an unbiased perspective, this powerful production explores bullying, mateship, alcohol fuelled violence, revenge, decision-making, consequences and family dynamics.

Two actors, Sam Foster and Hayden Jones, play 18 different characters, skilfully changing between each one, without ever leaving the stage or changing costume. Fuelled with intensity, *The Apology* fuses physical theatre techniques, multiple role-sharing and live music into a visceral and dynamic piece of theatre. *The Apology* is an example of Zeal Theatre’s signature style of doing as much as possible with as little as possible.

*The Apology* was published by Playlab in 2009 and is on Education Queensland’s Recommended Reading List.

### MARKETING SUMMARY

Zeal Theatre has a long history and a well-established reputation as a schools touring company. Zeal Qld has toured schools extensively throughout Qld

over a 9-year period since 2005. In light of this fact, any marketing should include a focus on the schools sector.

Another selling point for *The Apology* is the unique and hard-hitting style of theatre that Zeal has become known for. Two actors on stage, playing 18 characters, a simple set, live music and a powerful and thought-provoking story.

*The Apology* has also been converted to Danish and was produced in Denmark by Theatre Neo in 2006. The original version of the play premiering at the Newcastle Showroom in February 2005 and was performed by Zeal Theatre founding members, Stefo Nantsou and Rob Dilley.

Zeal Theatre has been touring their shows Worldwide and creating theatre for 25 years. Several Zeal shows have been translated to other languages and continue to be produced by companies throughout Europe, North America and Asia.

The show has been performed over 500 times in Qld and has toured extensively throughout the state and continues to receive rave reviews from audiences.

#### MEDIA QUOTES

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

#### AUDIENCE REVIEWS

“The Apology was an amazing show and the students have had nothing but great things to say about the performance. So thankful we got to view it. The boys are fantastic, wonderful actors which is great for our drama students to see” - Cannon Hill Anglican College

“Wonderful Performance! Student Comments: never a dull moment, strong clear message, related to it, made you think. Great acting, students loved it & were captivated the whole performance” – Wallumbilla State School

#### COLLEAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS

Veronica Neave

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Paul Bishop

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IMAGES

All Photos taken by Aaron Veryard



“Ememe” and “Freddie No-Nose” set the scene of that fateful day on the bus.



“Ememe” gets stuck into Ray Bones as the boys return from their school excursion to Boggo Road Goal.



The tension boils over as Ray attempts to “fight back”. His attempt fails and ends in “complete humiliation” for Ray.



“Jimmy Three Times” is questioned by Mr Buckley as to the whereabouts of Ray Bones.



Ray Bones faces the music in court after taking revenge on “Eneme”

MARKETING MATERIALS



This is example of a poster from a previous season of the show.

Flyers, images and posters are available upon request.

SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Zeal Theatre



TEACHER'S RESOURCES

Teacher's resource kit is available for the production upon request.

## **PRODUCTION DETAILS**

### TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The technical requirements for *The Apology* are minimal. The show can be adapted to fit into most spaces and uses no special AV, lighting or sound FX.

The lighting for the show is one single lighting state for the whole show with no lighting cues or changes.

The show has live music that is played on stage by the actors and requires access to a power supply (standard 240V power outlet).

The set is small and portable and can be bumped in and out in less than 1 hour.

The show requires minimal technical crew from the venue.

### EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

1 hour bump in.

### CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

Minimal crew required from the venue. 1 person to provide access to space, power supply, dressing rooms and general lighting state (general wash).

### STAGE

Minimum stage dimensions are:  
5m wide x 5m deep x 3m high

*Zeal Qld to supply*

All set, props and costumes.

*Venue to supply*

Access to 240V power supply.

### LIGHTING

*Zeal Qld to supply*

No requirements

*Venue to supply*

Basic stage lighting.

Technical staff to access lighting desk.

### SOUND

*The Apology* uses live music played onstage by the actors. There is one guitar, one amplifier and guitar effects pedals.

All sound equipment can be run from one standard 240v power outlet.

*Zeal Qld to supply*

Guitar, Guitar Amplifier, leads, extension chords, effects pedals

*Venue to supply*

Power supply to stage

AV

There are no AV requirements for this show.

WARDROBE

There are no costume changes or wardrobe requirements.

*Zeal Qld to supply*

All costumes

*Venue to supply*

Access to dressing rooms pre and post show.

FREIGHT NOTES

The show will be transported by van to and from the venue. All set, costume and props will arrive at the venue and can be loaded into the venue via the loading dock or main theatre entrance.

CRITICAL ISSUES

There are no critical issues for this production.

## **CONTACTS**

For all enquires regarding this production please contact:

Sam Foster – Artistic Director/ Performer (Zeal Qld)

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