



SEASON
2018
january to june

Celebrating **30** years

Venue Information

33 Manning River Drive, Taree

ph. 6592 5466

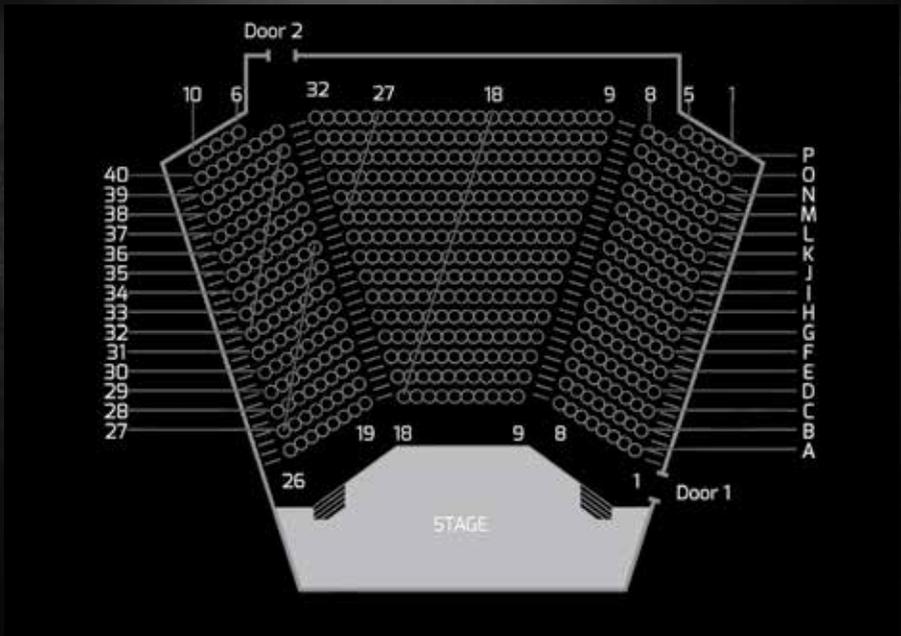
e. mec@midcoast.nsw.gov.au

w. www.theMEC.com.au

TICKETS

- Tickets are available from:
- www.theMEC.com.au
- at the Theatre Box Office (Tuesday to Friday 10am to 1pm),
- Stockland Forster
- by phoning 6592 5466 (Tuesday to Friday 10am to 1pm).
- Tickets are also available at the door from one hour before each performance unless sold out

SEATING PLAN



Manning Entertainment Centre

BECOME A FRIEND

Annual Friend membership is only \$25 and will save you a bundle on the shows listed here and even more on other shows throughout the year. Become a Friend online or anywhere that sells Manning Entertainment Centre tickets and start saving.

ACCESSIBILITY

The theatre is fitted with a T-switch hearing aid loop that is accessible from all seats. Seats A9 to A18 are removable for wheelchair access. Our team is always happy to help with particular requirements so please call us on 6592 5466 if we can make your visit easier.

GIFT VOUCHERS

A Manning Entertainment Centre gift voucher is the perfect present for any occasion! Gift vouchers are available from anywhere that sells Manning Entertainment Centre tickets.

FOOD AND DRINKS

Ovations serves drinks and snacks in the foyer for one hour before and after each performance. Cast members and touring artists often come to the foyer after a performance so you never know who you might meet if you stay for a drink.

KEEP UP TO DATE

New shows are regularly added to our website www.theMEC.com.au where you can also sign up for our newsletter. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest news, photos and behind the scenes fun.

Find us on  www.facebook.com/ManningEntCent

Details in this brochure are correct at the time of publication. We reserve the right to add or substitute artists and vary the program should the need arise.



The Spooky Men's Chorale

Men, singing songs. Some of them are funny.

The Spooky Men's Chorale is a vast, rumbling, steam powered and black clad vocal behemoth, seemingly accidentally capable of rendering audiences moist eyed with mute appreciation or haplessly gurgling with merriment. Based on the twin pillars of grand foolishness and the quest for the perfect subwoofer-rattling boofchord, the Spooky Men seek to commentate on the absurdity and grandeur of the modern male armed only with their voices, a sly collection of hats and facial hair, and a twinkle in the eye.

Formed in the Blue Mountains of NSW in 2001 by Christchurch-born 'spookmeister' Stephen Taberner, the Spooky Men soon attracted attention with a judicious combination of Georgian table songs, pindrop beautiful ballads, highly inappropriate covers, and immaculate man anthems like 'Don't stand between a man and his tool', all of which amounted to a manifesto for the new breed of man: happily suspended between thug and wimp.

Since then, the Spooky Men have toured Australia and the world, appearing in major festivals including the *Edinburgh Fringe*, *Woodford* and *WOMADelaide*. The Spooky Men have recorded six CDs and are darlings of the International TV and radio circuit.

Suitable for all ages.

NOTE: THE SPOOKY MEN'S CHORALE WILL CONDUCT A CHORAL WORKSHOP, COSTING \$30, FROM 10:30am TO 12:30pm ON THE MORNING OF THE PERFORMANCE. THERE IS A DISCOUNT TICKET PRICE OF \$60 FOR PATRONS ATTENDING BOTH THE WORKSHOP AND THE PERFORMANCE.



musica viva

Music to Inspire

Presented in association with Musica Viva Australia

Adult	\$40
Friend	\$32
Concession	\$35
Student/ U21	\$30
Group 8+	\$32

Sunday
25 February

2pm

"A skilful mix of faultless vocal expertise and maverick abandon ... Compelling, 'bespook' serious fun, and totally irresistible to boot ..."

Froots magazine



Songs From Stage and Screen A New Musical Featuring The 7 Sopranos

Australia's Most Beautiful Voices

Take a step back in time to 1956. Think fedoras and nylon pantyhose, record players and eye poppin' lipstick. It was the year when Marilyn Monroe sizzled in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and families gathered around the wireless for their news and entertainment each night. Radio broadcasters predict that television will be the death of radio. Our stars, *The 7 Sopranos* must transform themselves from radio stars to TV stars. Will they succeed?

For five years the voices of Australia's favourite radio show have seduced audiences across Australia every Saturday night. With beautiful blended harmonies, incredible musicianship, and spine-tingling arrangements from acclaimed composers such as Rodgers & Hammerstein, Gershwin, and Mancini the sopranos have captured the hearts of a nation.

So, channel your inner Doris Day, Marilyn Monroe or Judy Garland and let *The 7 Sopranos* take you on a journey of spine tingling songs and memories as they take you back to an era of glamour.

Approx 1 hr 50 mins including interval
suitable for all ages

Presented by  **cre8ion**
and Manning Entertainment Centre

Adult	\$55
Friend	\$45
Concession	\$50
Student/ U21	\$40
Group 8+	\$45

Sunday
15 April

2pm



*"I've died and gone to heaven.
Ridiculous, just so good. Astonishing!
A triumph, a triumph."
Alan Jones, Radio 2GB*

*"Sexy, sophisticated and
sublime!"
Italian-Australia Festival*

Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow

Australia's largest comedy festival is packing up and ready to roll!

Join the *Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow* as it journeys around the country, home-delivering hot and tasty comic treats to audiences near and far. This roving tour-de-comedy features funnymakers from Australia and beyond, showcasing everything from stand-up and sketch to satire and song in one side-splitting show! There's nowhere our exceptional entertainers fear to tread, so we're bound to be heading your way.

Come on Australia - pack your laughing gear and get on board!

Warning: Performances often contain coarse language, sexual references and material that can offend.

Approx 2.5 hrs including interval

Age 15+

'A definite must see' Bunbury Mail (WA)

'Side-splitting fun, razor-sharp, high velocity wit.'
Daily Examiner, Grafton (NSW)

Adult	\$55
Friend	\$48
Concession	\$50
Student/ U21	\$50
Group 8+	\$48

Wednesday
20 June

7:30pm



MELBOURNE
INTERNATIONAL
COMEDY
FESTIVAL
ROADSHOW

COMEDYFESTIVAL.COM.AU

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show

"...and – pop – out of the egg came a tiny and very hungry caterpillar"

Based on Eric Carle's books. Created by Jonathan Rockefeller.

One of the most-read and famous children's books of all time, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' emerges off the page in a masterful theatrical experience for the whole family.

Journey through Eric Carle's incredible stories as they come to life on stage in this enchanting show. Featuring some other delightful characters from three of Eric Carle's bestselling classics tales including, 'Mr. Seahorse', 'The Very Lonely Firefly' and 'The Artist Who Painted A Blue Horse'.

This brand new Australian made show will excite, educate and entertain new readers and first-time theatre-goers, while for those who grew up with these books will delight in experiencing one of the most popular children's books ever written. This is a timeless classic for all generations.

50 minutes with no interval.
Ages 3 to 7

"For first time theatregoers, this is a triumph of faithful storytelling and pattern recognition. For seasoned viewers it's a production that's beautiful to watch – no matter how old you are, or how long ago it was since you read a picture book."

Time Out

Adult	\$26
Friend	\$23
Concession	\$23
Student/U21	\$20
Group 8+	\$23

Wednesday
27 June

10.30am & 1.30pm

PRESENTED BY
JWR Productions
Australia &
Michael Sieders
Presents

CREATED BY
Jonathan
Rockefeller
Director Naomi
Edwards

PRODUCER
Michael Sieders

SET DESIGNER
James Browne

PUPPETS BY
Puppet Kitchen

COSTUME
DESIGNER
Andrea Espinoza

LIGHTING
DESIGNER
Nicholas Rayment

COMPOSER/
SOUND
DESIGNER
Nate Edmondson

COMPOSER
Steven Baker



Adapted for the stage by *shake & stir theatre co*

DIRECTOR
Ross Balbuziente

DESIGNER
Josh McIntosh

SOUND
DESIGNER
Guy Webster

LIGHTING
DESIGNER
Jason
Glenwright

FEATURING
Johnny
Balbuziente,
Leon Cain, Tim
Dashwood, Nelle
Lee and Nick
Skubij

ILLUSTRATION
CREDIT
Image by
Quentin Blake

PHOTOGRAPHY
CREDIT Photo by
Dylan Evans

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the *Australia Council for the Arts*, its arts funding and advisory body. Tour supported by arTour an initiative of the Queensland Government through *Arts Queensland*, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Roald Dahl's George's Marvellous Medicine

What starts as just another boring day for George quickly turns into a marvellous experiment of epic proportions!

On a good day, George can't stand his Grandma. She complains all the time, she's mean and she smells funny. On this particular day, Grandma is much more annoying than usual and George has had enough. "George – make me a cup of tea! George – rub my feet! George – stop growing!" Ugh. Wanting to put an end to her constant nagging, George creates a special medicine, greater than any medicine in the history of the world. What he doesn't expect is that this medicine may actually work – just not in the way he thinks...

The award-winning team behind the multi-Helpmann Award nominated Australian production of Roald Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes & Dirty Beasts* brings you this brand-new stage adaptation from the wacky mind of the World's No. 1 Storyteller. Direct from a sold-out season at the *Sydney Opera House*, *George's Marvellous Medicine* is packed (to the rafters) with mischief, music, magic and mammoth laughs. Just remember – do not try this at home!

Visit the Official Roald Dahl Website, which is packed with information and up to date news from the *World of Roald Dahl*, by clicking through to www.roalddahl.com.

shake&stir
theatre co

Qpac
QUEENSLAND
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTRE

ARTOUR



Australian Government

Australia
Council
for the Arts

Adult	\$26
Friend	\$23
Concession	\$23
Student/ U21	\$20
Group 8+	\$23

Wednesday
1 August
10.30am & 1.30pm

"A world-class performance with fantastic acting and wonderfully choreographed lighting and set design." Scenestr

"Hilarious - adults will enjoy as much as the kids, if not even more." Absolute Theatre



OnScreen Films

Our OnScreen films bring the world's finest entertainment to our big screen, captured live from the great international stages. See productions from the UK's National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, New York's MET Opera and Handa's Opera Australia on Sydney Harbour.

Join the regulars who never miss a screening and you'll find some great new friends as you savour the brilliance of the world's best performers. There are special discounts for *Friends of the MEC*, *Friends of the Gallery* and *Taree Film Society* members!



Tuesday 20 February – 10am & 7pm



Tuesday 20 March – 10am & 7pm



Tuesday 17 April – 10am & 7pm



Tuesday 15 May – 10am & 7pm

New titles are added monthly so check our website

Prices	Adult	\$25
	Concession	\$23
	Student/ U21	\$23
	Group 8+	\$20
	Friend of the MEC	\$20
	Friend of the Gallery/ Taree Film Society Member	\$20

TAREE ARTS COUNCIL

presents a new production of
Boublil and Schönberg's



A musical by
Alain Boublil and
Claude-Michel Schönberg
November 2018



Exclusive 'Friends of the MEC' and
Taree Arts Council members pre-sale.
Check the website for details.