

MEDIA RELEASE

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Merrigong announces limited re-opening for COVID-safe events

Wollongong's premiere performing arts organisation, Merrigong Theatre Company, has today cautiously announced plans to reopen for a small number of COVID-safe events from mid-September, six months after theatres were closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The announcement follows the extension of the Federal Job Keeper program, which coupled with generous private donations to the not-for-profit organisation, have provided the short-term lifeline needed to ensure that the Company can continue to deliver world-class performing arts experiences in the region.

The re-opening of Illawarra Performing Arts Centre and Wollongong Town Hall to events will see a number of changes to 'business as usual', including reduced audience capacities, increased distance between patrons, and new ticket refund terms for patrons who are unwell.

Among the handful of events confirmed at IPAC are the **world-premiere** of **Circa's** electrifying new contemporary circus work, [Sacre \(Sacred\)](#) (15 – 17 October) and the latest installment of the smash-hit children's series, [The 91-Storey Treehouse](#) (18 – 19 November). The Wollongong Town Hall will host events including improvised comedy night [Comedy Olympics](#) (11 Sep) and [Music in the Morning – String Along with Hollywood Classics](#) (14 Sep).

Merrigong's Artistic Director / CEO **Simon Hinton** said, *"Being unable to gather with our community for events for almost six months has been devastating. And while art is what has seen most of us through the last few months, it is also precisely what is needed for our community to recover."*



Art is unique in its ability to help us understand the world and our place in it. At Merrigong, we strive to present theatre that not only entertains, but that strengthens our community. Our capacity to serve our community is perhaps more relevant than ever,” he continued.

“In these times of great uncertainty, there is no crystal ball about what the coming months hold, but we are working hard to deliver a range of events in our region,” he continued. “We are a registered COVID-safe business, and want to reassure our wonderful community that we are doing everything we can to deliver safe and enjoyable experiences.”

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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