**Roleystone Theatre Inc.**

**2019-20 Pre-Budget Submission**

**Background:**

The Roleystone Theatre Inc 'lost' it's venue in 2018 due to structural concerns. The building was first constructed in 1922 and had been the home of the Roleystone Theatre Group (formerly the Roleystone Choral and Dramatic Society) for 85 years.

After a strong and inspiring campaign by the community, including over 5000 petition signatures, the Council resolved to re-build the Theatre.

**The need:**

This however leaves the Theatre Group without an appropriate venue for the period - estimated to be for a two year minimum. The Council has offered the use of the various halls in the local council area, primarily the Roleystone Hall, during this time period. The Roleystone Hall is a basic community hall, built with the intention of being a multi-function hall but with the height for badminton! Unfortunately this design means the acoustics of the hall are so bad that vocal clarity and quality are severely reduced, to the point of being unusable for live performances. The Council intend to build a stage on the floor of the hall at one end and are covering this cost. A stage alone does not create a performance space, especially with regards to the acoustics. In addition there is no set up for theatrical lighting at the hall (there is no lighting bar/truss at the hall).

The Roleystone Theatre Group held a Christmas Concert in this venue in December 2018 and hired acoustic curtaining. This acoustic curtaining made an immense difference to the venue. However the price was $500 for just that one performance! It would be $800-1000 to hire for each production season, and we have four seasons planned for this year alone. We also borrowed a lighting truss (a scaffold for hanging theatre lights from) allowing us to light a small stage with our own existing lights.

**Wishlist for submission:**

**\*First priority - Acoustic curtaining**

**We have four options to present for our acoustic curtain  -**

1. The cost of hiring the acoustic curtain once for one season (two weeks): $1000
2. The cost of hiring the acoustic curtain for all four seasons in 2019: $4000
3. The purchasing of the acoustic curtaining: **$4000** (with the idea to purchase the parts and put together ourselves - acoustic curtain fabric (fire-rated, dense black fabric) and curtain support poles (for raising the curtains and putting them in position).
4. The purchasing of the acoustic curtaining as above in point 3, PLUS additional black fabric and poles to create a front of stage wings area (so the audience cannot see the side of the stage, allowing actors and stage crew to wait off stage, and to move on and off without being visible): $4000 (as above) + $3000 = **$7000**

*The ideal situation would be purchasing the acoustic curtaining and associated poles so the group can make use of the hall for all their performances, and also rehearsals, with vastly improved acoustic properties.*

**\*Second priority - Lighting truss/es**

Lighting truss (6m wide) priced at **$1200 each** - ideally we require two trusses (one to light from behind and one to light from in front of the stage): $1200 for one, **$2400** for two trusses.

**Benefit to the group and community**

In the last 5 years the Roleystone Theatre Group has had over 15 000 audience members, with analysis showing these people have come from all over the metropolitan area, with approximately half being residents within 10km of Roleystone. These statistics show an immense connection to the community and the breadth of the service the group provides. In a more group-focussed analysis, a single production, like our 2017 production of Oklahoma! the musical for example, had over 8000 volunteer hours from the cast and crew alone. This shows the valuable opportunity the theatre group provides for volunteerism and community engagement through active membership ('act, belong, commit').

Any acoustic curtaining that would become the property of the Theatre Group would also be made available for any other community users of the hall (the hall is currently vastly under-utilised despite many local performers in the area, due to the extremely poor acoustics making it unusable for live performances).

The Roleystone Theatre Group has a long documented history of engaging with and supporting other community groups in their endeavours, including school groups, chaplaincy programs, youth arts programs, other community theatre groups and local musicians.

I would also like to note that our local state Member for Darling Range, Alyssa Hayden MLA and Federal Member for Canning, Mr Andrew Hastie have been highly supportive of our group and helping us in our search for funding.