



23rd March, 2020

Re: impact of COVID-19 on Bendigo Theatre Company operations & Season 2020

Dear Friends,

Yesterday, the Bendigo Theatre Company Committee of Management, together with the Tribe Committee, met to work through the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our ability to continue with Season 2020.

Given the tightening of restrictions on mass gatherings, and the move to shut down non-essential services in the next 48 hours, we are confident that we have made the right decisions.

To that end, and with heavy hearts, we announce the following:

- **B Sharp Chorus** rehearsals will be suspended until further notice with the hope that the June Recital may proceed, as scheduled.
- **Two and Two Make Sex** will be postponed, until Season 2021, pending contractual negotiations.
- **Tribe's One Act Play Festival** involvement will be postponed, with a view for inclusion in Season 2021.
- **Beyond Reasonable Doubt** will be postponed until late 2020 (exact date to be determined). Our greatest hope is for the current cast and production team to be able to bring this production to the stage.
- **We Will Rock You** auditions were held last weekend, and we were on the verge of a cast announcement until the landscape changed for us. **We Will Rock You** will be postponed, pending contractual negotiations, until Season 2021. The current Creatives, Production Team, and soon to be announced Cast, will be offered first right of refusal for involvement as part of the proposed 2021 production. With a good deal of work and planning already underway for this production, we sincerely hope that it will light up Ulumbarra in 2021.
- **Tribe's Cats** is intended to be performed as scheduled

All of the above decisions will be impacted by unfolding events over the next few weeks, and will be reviewed by the Committee of Management in early May.

As President, this is the toughest correspondence I have penned; in my ten years on the Committee, these are some of the most difficult decisions we have had to make.

We are heartbroken, and we know that many of you will be as well, but we feel that we have a duty to help stop the spread of COVID-19, and to protect the more vulnerable members of our community by reducing mass gatherings.

We will be back soon, bigger and better than ever. Until then, look after yourselves and the ones you love, and please, stay healthy.

All our love,

Abe Watson
President, Bendigo Theatre Company
on behalf of the Committee of Management