



YOUTH IN PERFORMING ARTS (YIPA)

Did you know?

- **YIPA** stands for **Youth In Performing Arts**
- **YIPA** is now in its 29th year.
- **YIPA** is a series of high quality variety concerts, inclusive of all types of entertainment, featuring young performers with outstanding talent drawn from across the Central Coast.
- **YIPA** provides an opportunity for youth with outstanding talent to perform in a professional venue.
- **YIPA** promotes and fosters the development of youth with outstanding talent through the support of adults with extensive experience in theatre and entertainment, including industry professionals.
- **YIPA** is inclusive and helps to develop a sense of community amongst the youth of the Central Coast.
- **YIPA** is not a competition. There is no comparison of items, individual or schools. Young people do what they like to do and do it well for the pleasure of performing in a high quality variety concert.
- **YIPA** is produced entirely by the professional staff and volunteers of Laycock Street Community Theatre. It is not affiliated with any school or any other arts organisation.
- **YIPA** encourages all of the performing arts. All forms of live entertainment are catered for in each concert program.
- **YIPA** helps young people develop confidence in themselves and their ability to contribute to being part of a team, as the production team regard each performer as a talented artist in their own right.
- **YIPA** helps to develop in young people an appreciation and acceptance of others through shared interests and experience.
- **YIPA** provides an opportunity for the wider community to see and appreciate the outstanding talent of young performers, and young performers to understand that their talent will be and is appreciated by a broad cross-section of the general public.

Who Can Enter YIPA?

- **YIPA** is open to any performer in any style of entertainment, so long as they have reached **the age of attending High School, and are no older than 21.**
- YIPA performers **must reside within the Central Coast LGA or attend a school / studio within that area on a fulltime basis.**

- Performers may appear in solo acts, with accompanists, as a duo, or in groups. New skills are honed as young people are provided with the opportunity to accompany other performers.
- Being non-school based, the program affords and encourages young people with a talent for performing from all over the Central Coast, from all educational institutions, and young people who are no longer at school.

Important Dates

- Auditions will be held during the month of March/April. Auditions are held in a variety of venues across the Central Coast, including Laycock Street Community Theatre, Valley View Public School, Secondary Schools and various music and dance schools. Auditions are also held by arrangements in youth centres, private homes, dance studio, drama studios and anywhere else the audition panel can arrange to see performances by youth with talent.
- Some of the younger/first time successful applicants will be invited to a separate rehearsal day. Here the performers will be given hands-on support, advice and skills development by trained theatre makers and entertainers, tutors in the performing arts, industry professionals and the YIPA production team.
- In 2020 the four YIPA concerts will be held at Laycock Street Community Theatre from **27th to 30th May 2020**.

History of YIPA.

YIPA has been successful for the past twenty eight years.

In 1991, Graham Morris of Gosford West Rotary Club suggested that the club sponsor a program whereby youth with outstanding talent on the Central Coast could showcase the skills in a series of concerts. Don Craig, then the Manager of Laycock Street Theatre, was asked if he could support the project. Don saw this as very practical way for the theatre to encourage youth while at the same time providing the general public with first-class entertainment.

Don approached Alf Taylor, a retired school teacher with considerable theatrical experience, to become Director of YIPA. The first series of concerts were delivered under Alf's stewardship on the Queen's Birthday weekend in 1992.

Thereafter YIPA became an annual event, with Alf remaining in the Director's chair for another seven years. In 2000 the Director's baton was passed to Chris Cox, who also has a strong background in theatre and education. Chris remained as the Director of YIPA until 2015 when the baton was handed over to Karen Morrow. Karen directed YIPA until the end of 2018. In 2019, Gary Jackson took on the role of YIPA Director.

Get Involved

For information about YIPA, please contact Gary Jackson, 0449 285051. You can also visit Youth in Performing Arts on Facebook or send an email to Youthinperformingarts@gmail.com