

MEDIA RELEASE

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Gladstone Region volunteers to bring GECC performance to life

Theatrical volunteers from across the Gladstone Region will converge at the Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre (GECC) on Wednesday, 21 August to help bring the performance, *The Young King*, to life.

Part of the children's theatre program, the highly interactive performance will see volunteers guide audience members through multiple sections of the GECC, before taking their place for the show.

Fully immersed in the story, the volunteers will also take part in an intensive character development workshop the day prior.

Gladstone Region Councillor Peter Masters said this would provide them with the acting mentorship and costuming advice they require to stay in character from the moment people step into the theatre.

"This performance enables our volunteers to share their enjoyment of stage productions by adding an interactive element to the theatre experience for our young audience members," Cr Masters said.

"Volunteers are greatly appreciated and valued for their willingness to be involved in our community.

"Council is pleased to support the performance which added a different level of excitement to the volunteering experience."

Some of the Gladstone Region volunteers offered an insight into why they wanted to be involved in *The Young King*, including:

Laura Williams playing *Nervous Nelly*

"After having such a positive experience in *Anything Goes*, how could I not? Working with the GECC and the local talent was an incredible experience and I couldn't wait to get back on board. I saw the opportunity to be a courtier in *The Young King*, a show filled with audience interaction and I knew I had to be a part of it. I can't wait to bring fantasy to life for all those who come to the show."

Madri Magic playing *Polly the Publicist*

"Having done my maiden voyage on the SS American in *Anything Goes* earlier this year; I was reminded of my immense love of the theatre! Getting involved in local community theatre is a great way to meet new friends and feel a part of your community. Being involved in theatre productions allows you to escape reality, gain self-confidence and self-esteem. I feel that being part of a production like this is developing my confidence and helping me to grow in many ways."

Wesley Walker playing *Old Faithful*

"I threw my hat in the ring because I find performing is a creative thing I can do; I get to build a character. Also, I use it as my downtime, my relaxation, my recreation and my recuperation."

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Joseph Poli playing *Polly the Publicist*

“I have a keen interest in drama and am wanting to have as much exposure to a variety of experiences. Most recently I participated in a drama workshop with NIDA.”

Kyra Dunnett, Costumer

“I decided to be involved in *The Young King* because I love being able to be a part of a show, getting into character, and generally just having fun.”

Kerry Whitaker, Costumer

“It's been such a pleasure performing in the Community Musicals at the GECC, so I wanted to have the opportunity to be involved with this innovative production. It is such a clever concept, so I'm really looking forward to it.”