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Come ‘Behind the Scenes’ as The Gawler Cultural Heritage Centre wins national award.

Town of Gawler’s ‘*Behind the Scenes: The History of Theatre and Entertainment in Gawler*’ exhibition has received the 2022 Interpretation Australia national award in the Interpretation Indoors: Under \$75,000 project category.

The exhibition, which opened at the Gawler Heritage Gallery in April, is a celebration of the history of theatre and music in Gawler over the last 170 years.

The initial concept for the exhibition came from a rare album of 1881 photographs of a children’s production of HMS Pinafore. The photographs are believed to be amongst the earliest Gilbert and Sullivan images in existence. The album is a prized part of the Gawler Heritage Collection.

Other parts of the exhibition highlight community productions, the importance of balls and dances as entertainment, and famous performers who hail from Gawler.

In their summation, the expert panel of judges commented, “It is fun, delightful, lighthearted and joyous, and really has the local community at its heart.”

Visitors are encouraged to leave their own memories of live performances, test their knowledge of musical instruments at the big band interactive, or take a selfie on the recreated 1880s stage. You can smell the stage paint, marvel at the costumes, and immerse yourself in the stories of entertainment in Gawler over the last 170 years.

More information on the awards can be found here <https://interpretationaustralia.asn.au/and-the-2022-winners-are/>

Quotes attributable to Gawler Mayor Karen Redman:

“Behind the Scenes is an exciting opportunity for visitors to literally step behind the curtain and immerse themselves in stories of theatre and entertainment,” Mayor Redman said.

“It’s exceptionally gratifying to see a second national award for heritage interpretation come our way as a result of this work, and the investment by Council. Town of Gawler values cultural heritage and good interpretation brings these stories alive.

“I’d like to congratulate Richard Browning of Synthetic Creative, Council Staff and everyone involved, including the Gawler Town Band and other individuals who loaned objects from private collections for this exhibition.

“The Heritage Gallery opened in April 2019 and since that time more than 27,000 visitors have experienced our exhibitions; that’s an incredible accolade for the Town of Gawler, and this award is further recognition that Gawler is a leader in this space.”

Quotes attributable to Exhibition Designer Richard Browning, of Synthetic Creative Services:

“I am absolutely thrilled to have won the award again, it shows that focussing on stories about the local Gawler community resonates with the judges and the visitors alike,” Mr Browning said.

“When we concept these exhibitions, it is with a lot of research and local knowledge from Cultural Heritage Centre Staff and volunteers, local heritage groups and members of the community. There is a lot of ‘Behind the Scenes’ activity in putting an exhibition like this together and it’s good that the whole team involved gets recognition.”

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The media may make contact with Gawler Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359