

Media Release: Picture This! Coming this Summer - to Rosebud

There are buildings that simply exist, and then there are buildings that seem to hold their breath, waiting for someone to notice they are still alive. The Broadway Theatre in Rosebud belongs firmly to the latter. From the street it appears unassuming enough, yet the moment you cross the threshold, you sense you have stepped into a time capsule that never quite agreed to stay shut.

'The Broadway' began its life in the hush of the silent era, when red velvet curtains fell like ceremonial drapery and a hidden orchestra carried every gesture to the back row. It was an unlikely palace in a coastal town better known for salt air and fishing boats, but therein lies its charm: grandeur marooned on the edge of the map. Once you listen to what unfolded here; the dances, dalliances and dreams; you realise the truth holds its own life.

This summer the doors of The Broadway open for Picture This! - an intimate immersive experience that ushers small audiences through the theatre's restless past. Presented by Forget Me Not Theatre and creator Luce Wirthensohn, Picture This! arrives with the boldness of a debut and the weight of the past.

Audiences will move through decades as though gliding through layers of film. From wartime revelry to sixties swing and beyond, each era reveals what a theatre can mean to a community perched at the coastal fringe.



But wait. This is not traditional theatre - it's Immersive. Small audience groups will be asked to walk, stand, and dance as actors revive stories around and through them. The performers, the staging, even the walls themselves conspire to give the impression that time itself has been coaxed into performing.

Rooms speak. Floors remember. And you, the observer, are drawn into a history that behaves less like a sequence of events and more like a living presence just out of reach. Picture This! is a reminder of what can happen when curious minds return to a space that never quite stopped dreaming.

Show Details

- **Location:** Broadway Theatre, Rosebud, Mornington Peninsula
- **Dates:** January 14th-20th, 2026.
- **Audience:** Small groups, intimate 20 tickets per session

Background

The show has deep tap roots. Luce Wirthensohn, a Peninsula-born actor and theatre maker, first encountered the Broadway Theatre as a child, sparking a lifelong fascination with its history. After leaving the Peninsula to study acting, they returned to Rosebud with a vision: to retell the theatre's story through immersive performance, blending historical fact with devised theatre.

In developing the performance, the creative team has explored archives, interviewed locals, and collected oral histories. These include memories from veterans and those who entertained US Marines in the dance hall days, reflections on projectionists and bouncers, and tales of how Denise Drysdale taught young women to Go-Go in the sixties. The story includes a unique collaboration with Bunurong Cultural Educator Jillian West who generously lends her story and words along with broadcaster Tracee Hutchison, film maker Stefan Raabe and cultural artist Lionel Launch. These fragments form the foundation for a devised performance that blends text, movement, projection, sound, and cine-theatre techniques.

The ensemble of young theatre makers, all under 30 are working closely with experienced tourism mentors along with filmmakers, cultural custodians, theatre mentors, designers, costume curators in support of the Broadway Theatre's revitalisation project spearheaded by Barnacle Studios. Forget Me Not Theatre and Picture This! is backed by major sponsors; Community Bank Southern Peninsula - Bendigo Bank, the Australian Cultural Fund, and contributions from local Rosebud business owners, support the team is particularly grateful for in the wake of other funding cuts.

Picture This! is both a homage and a reinvention. It is a living archive that celebrates community, history, and the creative possibilities that emerge when a historic theatre is returned to curious minds ready to listen, imagine, and perform.

For more information and to register interest:

Email: admin@forgetmenottheatre.com.au

Website: www.forgetmenottheatre.com.au

Tickets: www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1513788

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/forget.me.not.theatre/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/forgetmenottheatre>



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