

# MEDIA RELEASE

**“For Immediate Release”**

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## Daily Theatre a Festival Highlight

The lives of Darling Downs women throughout history is the theme of a play that will be performed at the Jondaryan Woolshed throughout the Australian Heritage Festival from this weekend.

The Jondaryan Woolshed, in partnership with the Empire Theatres Projects company, presents *All the Same*, an original work by local playwright David Burton.

The play explores the lives of three Darling Downs women over several generations: Georgia, a contemporary indigenous woman; Sally, a teacher in a one-teacher school in 1935; and Belle, who is loosely based on Keturah Small, one of the first European women to give birth on the Darling Downs in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

“*All the Same* is a great highlight of the Australian Heritage Festival,” Toowoomba Regional Council Mayor Peter Taylor said.

“Even though the Festival has been running for more than 30 years, it still comes up with something new each time. Just as the Festival brings history to life, so *All the Same* recreates the challenges women faced at various times in Darling Downs’ history.

“This Empire Theatres production is a great treat for theatre-lovers and history buffs and I congratulate Empire Theatres and the Jondaryan Woolshed team for bringing it to audiences at the Australian Heritage Festival.”

The play features local and visiting actors including Barbara Lowing, a well-known Brisbane actor; Belinda Misevski, a USQ graduate who starred in the Empire Theatre’s 2008 production of *Cabaret*; and Georgia Corowa, a recent graduate of the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts.

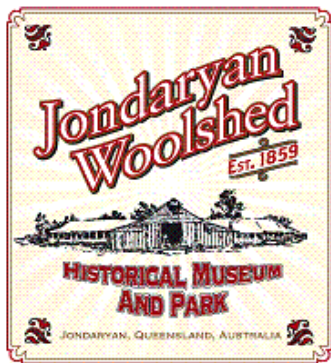
“The Empire Theatre Projects Company is proud to be involved in such a creative and interesting performance, tied in with what is already a successful Australian event, the Jondaryan Woolshed’s Australian Heritage Festival,” Empire Theatres Artistic Director Lewis Jones said.

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For further information, please contact:

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“In our research for this piece, we decided to bring to the fore the stories of the women who have contributed to Jondaryan’s rich history and to reflect upon this from a contemporary indigenous perspective.

“With the mission of extending the breadth and depth of the community’s engagement with the performing arts, the Empire Theatres Projects company is proud to deliver *All the Same* at the Jondaryan Woolshed as a pilot for the delivery of quality productions beyond our home venue.”

The Australian Heritage Festival (22 to 30 August) re-creates pioneer life on the Darling Downs through daily re-enactments, demonstrations and displays at the Jondaryan Woolshed.

Highlights include:

- Shearing and sheep dog demonstrations;
- Bullocks and draught horse demonstrations and competitions;
- More than 30 steam engines, as well as vintage farm vehicles and machines including Massey Ferguson and General Motors vehicles;
- Horse-drawn and tractor rides for the children and an animal nursery;
- The Ergon Energy Queensland Sportshear Championships (Saturday 29 August);
- Woolshed Bush Dances on 22 and 29 August;
- Bilby displays;
- Spinning, weaving and wool craft displays and products;
- Whipmaking and whipcracking, harness making and leatherwork;
- Sawmilling, shingle splitting and timberworking;
- Blacksmithing;
- Swaggies, bush characters and bush poetry;
- Pottery and woodturning;
- Cheese-making, beekeeping and milking demonstrations; and
- Wood stove cooking, plenty of billy tea and damper and home-cooked favourites.

Each day’s busy program begins at 9.00am with a Grand Parade daily at 12.30pm and closure at 4.00pm. *All the Same* is performed daily at 11:30am & 1:30pm.

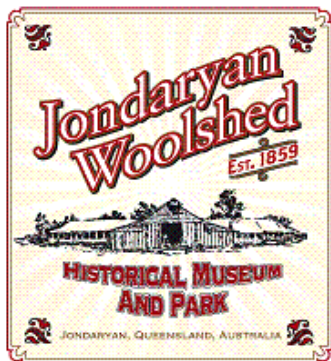
The Australian Heritage Festival offers an entertaining and affordable family day out. Day passes cost only \$15.50 for adults, \$9.50 for children and \$45.00 for families, with discounts for concessions and group bookings.

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The Jondaryan Woolshed is located three kilometres south of the Warrego Highway at Jondaryan. It is a 30 minute drive west of Toowoomba and only 2½ hours from Brisbane. Turn off the Highway at the Jondaryan Hotel and follow the signs to the Woolshed on Evanslea Road. Caravan, camping and motorhome sites are also available.

Further information and Festival programs are available at [www.jondaryanwoolshed.com](http://www.jondaryanwoolshed.com) or by calling (07) 4692 2229.

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