

MEDIA RELEASE



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GENESIAN THEATRE MOVES TO LARGER HOME IN ROZELLE 8 September 2020

The Genesian Theatre Company will move from the CBD to a much larger home at St Joseph's parish in Rozelle in mid 2021.

The community theatre company, which has entertained generations of Sydneysiders, and marked its 75th anniversary last year, has helped nurture the talents of world-renowned actors and directors including Bryan Brown, Judi Farr, Nick Enright and Baz Luhrmann.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has provided a theatre space to the Genesians for more than 60 years, helping it stage up to 150 performances each year. The Company has lodged a Development Application with the Inner West Council to undertake modest renovations to their new home in Rozelle, while maintaining heritage requirements.

A 132-seat theatre auditorium is planned in the existing parish hall. Outside of Company performances, the auditorium will be available for parish activities and for classes or training in conjunction with Sydney Community College.

The Administrator at Saint Joseph's, Rozelle, Fr Richard Waddell, said his parishioners were looking forward to welcoming the Genesians, who would add a fresh, exciting dimension to parish life.

The President of the Genesians, Mr Barry Nielsen, thanked the Archdiocese for its ongoing support and hailed the move to the Inner West parish as a great outcome.

"It is really exciting to see the proud tradition of the Genesian Theatre continue in this new venue at St Joseph's Rozelle, allowing current and future generations to enjoy high quality performances at an affordable price, while nurturing the careers of young performing artists at the same time," he said.

Subject to the approval of the DA, construction on the proposed auditorium will commence in early 2021, with theatre performances planned to commence by mid-year. The Archdiocese believes the new venue will help the Theatre Company expand its audience in an area of Sydney already regarded as an arts hub with public transport routes directly to the new venue, which is surrounded by restaurants and cafes.

Although the theatre is currently closed due to COVID-19, the Company is considering options to reopen in a COVID-Safe way as soon as restrictions on performance venues are lifted.

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