



ABN 94 873 005 034  
CAV Association No. A0052375A

29 September 2021

**ATTENTION : The Roxy Theatre Action Group**

To whom it may concern,

Theatre Heritage Australia Incorporated wishes to register support for the Roxy Theatre Action Group's proposal to renovate and preserve the heritage-listed Roxy Theatre, built in 1929 and situated at 65-69 George Street, Parramatta.

Fulfilment of the restorative proposal will facilitate this iconic theatre's reinstatement as a major performance venue. The restoration will also assist in preserving precious historic architecture, provide socio cultural and economic benefit to Parramatta's local and broader communities, and boost tourism by attracting theatre lovers to Parramatta for a memorable live theatre experience at the refurbished Roxy Theatre. Significantly, a transformed and renovated Roxy Theatre would add to the historic civic pride of Parramatta.

We support the Roxy Theatre Action Group's proposal to implement the following measures:

1. Reinstatement of this former theatre's dress circle and stalls to provide at least 1500 seats for audiences.
2. The addition of a full-size stage house and ancillary areas.

This restoration of the Roxy Theatre to its original configuration and magnificence will render the historic venue capable of presenting grand commercial productions and full size opera and ballet productions. Completion of the proposed restoration project will give the Roxy Theatre equal status with other Australian great theatres such as the Capitol Theatre in Sydney and Regent Theatre, Melbourne.

An example of successful renovation and preservation of a theatre of similar age to the Roxy Theatre is Melbourne's Regent Theatre. This grand picture palace which opened in 1929 survived

a flood, twenty years in darkness and threats of demolition to turn the theatre into a car park or tabaret. Thanks to the Marriner Group and Victorian State Government, the landmark Regent Theatre reopened in August 1996, beautifully refurbished and returned to its former glory. Further refurbishment by the Marriner Group in 2019 has opened a new era for the Regent Theatre.

Encouragement to preserve Australia's performance spaces is integral to Theatre Heritage Australia's Statement of Purpose, and we believe the importance of respecting and retaining historic theatres cannot be understated.

Heritage is vital for great cities, as is their entertainment infrastructure. This will become particularly important post-covid pandemic when live theatre can return and the general public seeks the positive benefits of live show performances.

Melbourne's Regent Theatre is a fine example of what can be achieved if wishing to preserve a theatrical treasure. Similarly, Parramatta's Roxy Theatre is already there, awaiting restoration with the potential to become a splendid jewel in Greater Sydney's theatrical and heritage crown.

Once again, Theatre Heritage Australia Incorporated supports the proposal of the dedicated Roxy Theatre Action Group to restore Parramatta's Roxy Theatre to its original splendour.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Piening', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Simon Piening  
**President**

*On behalf of Theatre Heritage Australia Inc.*