

**THEATRE COUNCIL OF TASMANIA**  
**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE TASMANIAN THEATRE AWARDS**  
**ADDRESS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**WREST POINT CASINO, SANDY BAY, SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2024**

Good evening, everyone. It is a great pleasure for me to join you at this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tasmanian Theatre Awards.

I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather, who flourished on Country as part of the South-East Nation of Aboriginal people. We honour them, and today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community, as ongoing custodians of Country.

Arts and culture are very important to our Tasmanian community. In addition, Greater Hobart's economy is more reliant on the contribution made by our arts and cultural economy than any other national capital city in our country.

Arts and culture are also of real value to our wellbeing and emotional and mental health.<sup>1</sup>

This is, of course, the premier event of the year for those who are involved with our theatre industry.

May I commend our Theatre Council of Tasmania and the Board Members for their support and development of our Tasmanian theatre. I thank all the Board members and volunteers for bringing this evening to fruition.

It is a testament to the depth and breadth of our theatrical talent that there are so many talented nominees. During this evening, we shall have more than 35 separate awards over four award classifications: Professional Theatre, Community Theatre, Musical Theatre and Other Awards.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theatreroyal.com.au/shows/value-cultural-economy-tasmania> accessed 22 Feb 24

I congratulate not only the winners in each of the categories, but also those who have been nominated. May I also note that all the nominees and winners rely heavily upon the theatre companies with which they are associated. These awards also reflect the work done by all these companies in the background.

May I also thank all of the judges and sponsors for their support for these awards. Without you, this evening would not happen.

Before I close, I would like to note that tonight a special person is being recognised with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Moya Deigan is a repertoire life member with over 25 years' involvement in all aspects of local theatre. She has been involved in theatre production, with a recent focus on production management, marketing and corporate roles.

She was also Executive Officer for our Theatre Council and established the state-wide Tasmanian Theatre Awards program<sup>2</sup>. That is why we are all here tonight. I am sure that we shall learn more about Moya later, but may I add my personal congratulations to Moya for that lifetime of service.

May I close and extend my thanks to our Tasmanian Theatre Council for your invitation to this celebration tonight.

It is now my pleasure to read the nominees (*four*) and announce the winners and present trophies in the Youth Achievement Category for both Community and Music Theatre.

Thank you.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://playhouse.org.au/about-us/board-and-committees/> accessed 22 Feb 24