

A salute to Roy Orbison

By Byron Peszko

International sensation John Stephan returns to Ipswich Civic Centre later this month performing 'You Got It!' - A Salute To Roy Orbison.

Known as the 'The Voice From Downunder', Mr Stephan returns from Las Vegas USA to perform to Ipswich fans.

Superstar Roy Orbison was one of the world's greatest and most successful rock n roll music legends of all time.

"The show is a salute to Roy Orbison and all his music and I've been doing the show on and off for the last five years. I lived in the United States for 20 years and became good friends with the Orbison family," said Mr Stephen.

With a string of National and International awards, Mr Stephan will be paying the ultimate homage to The Big O, showcasing all his classic hits together with his 15 world-wide number one hits including 'Pretty Woman', 'Crying', and 'I Drove All Night'. A special tribute to music legends, The Everly Brothers, will also be included.

This is the only show of its kind officially endorsed and presented by Roy Orbison's eldest son Wesley and features a spoken word contribution from Wesley with a narrative of Roy's intriguing yet tragic life.

Singing from the age of four, Mr Stephan says it's something that runs through his family.

"My mum and uncle were singers," he said. "It's just something I've always done."

He says one of his favourite parts of singing onstage is, "Affecting the audience and seeing that you can make them forget about some of the horrible things that are happening in the world at the moment, even if it's just for an hour or so."

Mr Stephan has toured Japan, USA, Europe and based himself in the USA starring in his show on the Las Vegas Strip, Maui & Nashville to thunderous applause and standing ova-



John Stephan returns to Ipswich Civic Centre later this month performing 'You Got It!' - A Salute To Roy Orbison. Pictures: SUPPLIED

tions. Stephan has shared the stage with some of the world's finest artists including Jewel, Keith Urban, and Taylor Swift while garnering strong support and friendship with some of the music industry's most prestigious producers and writers including Walter Afanasieff, Babyface, Dann Huff, and Vince Gill.

When asked how Australian audiences compare to overseas counterparts when per-

forming on stage, Mr Stephan replied saying, "Australians are great. If you're not good, they'll let you know. You've got to work a little bit harder for the Australian audiences but once you get them, they'll be your friends and supporters for life."

"Generally in Australia, people like to know you as a person. So I talk about myself a little bit and I'll go in and shake hands with every-



With over 10 million Roy Orbison albums sold worldwide, this is one show you won't want to miss.

one in the audience."

And for anyone wanting to pursue a critically acclaimed career like Mr Stephan.

"Do what you love and never turn down any opportunity because you don't know where it's going to go."

Mr Stephan will be playing 'You Got It!' - A Salute To Roy Orbison at the Civic Centre, Ipswich on Saturday 25 November.

Ipswich Lincoln Austin artwork nominated for awards

By Byron Peszko

West Ipswich resident Lincoln Austin is one of three locals nominated for his artwork 'I Saw Myself, In You, Wondering, How Did I Get Here' in the 2023 Queensland Regional Art Awards.

This year's theme for the 2023 QRRA is 'perspective' something Lincoln says his practice is all about. "My practice is all about perception and perspective and playing around with optics. It was too sweet a deal to say no to. It perfectly fitted that work and my philosophy and practice."

Mr Austin says the inspiration for his artwork comes from a death close to his heart, and a relationship that broke down soon after. Mr Lincoln also says having experience as a queer individual and being an outsider will sometimes see him looking at things differently to how other people see things.

He describes his artwork as, "Empathy assists us in imaging the world from the perspective of others. This artwork, existing in the space between image and object, depicts two 'views' spliced together and seen simultaneously. The surface topography distorts this image, allowing two (or more) people to look at the same thing, at the same time, yet see something quite different. This artwork rewards the viewer optically if they adjust their point of view, encouraging interaction and movement."

I saw myself, in you, wondering, how did I get here is a love lament, made in memoria of desperately seeking to understand the unique view of another, to the point of almost losing sight of myself."

Mainly a sculptor in his day to day life, Mr Austin says painting is something he doesn't touch on that often. "I was obsessed with the material itself, and discovered that I could form it. I thought it's not really a painting, it's kind of a painted three dimensional surface that makes sense."

Measuring 80.0 x 9.0 x 113 cm, Mr Austin says the synthetic polymer paint on aluminum composite board took several failures



Lincoln Austin with his artwork 'I saw myself, in you, wondering, how did I get here' has been nominated in this years Queensland Regional Art Awards.

before finally coming to fruition.

"Because of the masking, there's a lot of drying. It took three days, one to construct the surface, and two to make the painting itself. There were three final product designs that were successful out of seven attempts."

He says on being nominated in this year's 2023 QRRA, "It's wonderful. Representation is really, really strong and it's really exciting.

There's a boldness in the Ipswich community at the moment with creativity, which I'm really enjoying. There's a strength and confidence here which is really great."

And his advice on anyone wanting to pursue a career professionally in both sculpting or painting.

"It isn't easy, but it is incredible and incredibly fulfilling. I love my job, I know what a privilege it is to be able to do what I do. It's

hard, and there's financial struggles, but it's amazing."

"Step in, art is great. One of my mentors said 'art makes you live longer', and it's true. Engaging with creative ideas and activities is life affirming."

To keep updated on Lincoln's progress as well as other artists at this year's QRRA, head to flyingarts.org.au/.