



WAGGA WAGGA  
CIVIC THEATRE

Media Release  
EMBARGOED until 10:30AM  
Tuesday 3 June 2025

## WINTER WARMTH AND BIG LAUGHS RETURN WITH WAGGA COMEDY FEST 2025

The Wagga Comedy Fest is back and ready to chase away the winter blues with a huge lineup of national comedy stars, fringe favourites and local acts. Running across the June long weekend from Thursday 5 to Sunday 8 June, this year's program brings together the boldest names in Australian comedy and the finest local talent in a four-day celebration of warmth, wit and community.

The Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre is presenting a dynamic program of 21 shows and events, designed to bring audiences together for that special kind of magic that only live comedy can deliver.

Civic Theatre Manager Claire Harris says, "There's something incredibly heartening about sitting in a warm theatre on a cold night and sharing a laugh with your community".

"This year, we've got the big names, and a few brilliant unknowns you'll be glad you took a chance on."

The festival opens on Thursday night with local favourite event, The Great Wagga Comedy Fest Debate. Local personalities Jamie Way and Peter Casey return to lead the charge as team captains, with Leigh Ryan presiding as host and adjudicator. This uproarious showdown has fast become a crowd highlight, launching the weekend with big laughs, sharp takes and plenty of playful rivalry as Wagga identities go head-to-head to debate whether "*Money Equals Happiness*".

National heavyweights will take to the Civic Theatre stage across the weekend, with sold-out shows from Tommy Little and Dave Hughes proving just how much Wagga loves a laugh.

Joining the lineup are household names Melanie Bracewell, Luke McGregor, Sammy J, and Chris Ryan, each bringing their signature style and finely tuned wit to the Riverina.

But it's not all about the big names. Wagga Comedy Fest has built a reputation for throwing audiences into the unexpected – and loving every minute of it.

Out-of-the-box shows like the family-friendly *Karate Man*, a live-action video game on stage, and the wildly unpredictable Dilapidated Diva offer something truly different. And then there's Garry Starr – once a risk, now a Comedy Fest favourite.

"Take our word for it: trust the program, take a chance, and you just might discover your new favourite," Ms Harris advised.

Rounding out the weekend on Sunday night is *The B.S. with Jamie and Leigh: Sunday Live & Late!* – a raucous, unfiltered showcase of local insight and laugh-out-loud commentary.

After years of building their comedic chemistry on air and on stage, Jamie Way and Leigh Ryan will close the festival with all the sharp banter and cheeky irreverence audiences have come to love.

Between shows, audiences can retreat to the popular Laugh Lounge: a cosy marquee on the Civic Theatre lawns, where warmth, food and fun combine.

Live music will be in the lounge throughout the festival, thanks to some of the young musicians taking part in the theatre's music mentoring program *Plug + Play*.



"We are so pleased to see these emerging stars take the stage and showcase their amazing talents," Ms Harris said.

Local legends Pota Pasta and The Smoking Butcher will keep punters well fed with gourmet comfort food and mouthwatering smoked meats – the perfect pairing with a belly full of laughs.

"The Wagga Comedy Fest is more than just a collection of shows," Ms Harris said.

"It's a winter highlight, a gathering of funny people and fun-loving audiences, and a celebration of creativity and connection. There's never been a better time to dive into live comedy."

For more information, full program details, and to purchase tickets, visit [civictheatre.com.au/comedy-fest](http://civictheatre.com.au/comedy-fest) or contact the Box Office on (02) 6926 9688.

Full schedule and lineup below.

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## FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY 5 JUNE

- Gladys: A Musical Affair – 5pm & 7.30pm, Civic Theatre [7.30PM SHOW ALMOST SOLD OUT]
- The Great WCF Debate - 6:30pm, Riverina Comedy Club House [ALMOST SOLD OUT]

### FRIDAY 6 JUNE

- Tommy Little – I'm Not Proud – 6pm, Civic Theatre **[SOLD OUT]**
- Jeromaia Detto - When I Grow Up- 6pm, Riverina Comedy Club House
- Brown Women Comedy – FREE SHOW – 7.15pm, Playhouse
- The Gong Show – Hosted by Dane Simpson – 7:15pm, Riverina Comedy Club House
- Melanie Bracewell – A Little Treat – 8.30pm, Civic Theatre
- Breaking: The Musical – 9pm, Playhouse

### SATURDAY 7 JUNE

- Chris Ryan – Extreme Talent – 5pm, Playhouse
- Dave Hughes – WTF? – 6pm, Civic Theatre **[SOLD OUT]**
- Dilapidated Diva – On The Verge – 7.15pm, Playhouse
- Richard Glover – How to Change the World – 7.15pm, Riverina Comedy Club House **[SOLD OUT]**
- Richard Glover – Behind the Fridays – 8.30pm, Riverina Comedy Club House
- Luke McGregor – OKAY, WOW – 8.30pm, Civic Theatre [ALMOST SOLD OUT]
- Garry Starr – Classic Penguins – 9am, Playhouse
- Shad and Pete Save The World – 9.30pm, Riverina Comedy Club House

### SUNDAY 8 JUNE

- Karate Man – A Live-action Video Game – 4pm, Civic Theatre
- Bogan Bingo – 6pm, The Laugh Lounge
- Sammy J – The Kangaroo Effect – 6pm, Civic Theatre
- The B.S. with Jamie & Leigh: Sunday Live & Late! – 8.30pm, Civic Theatre



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## Media Opportunity

**What:** All the details of 2025 Comedy Fest

**Who:** Civic Theatre Manager Claire Harris, and Local Comedy talent, Jamie Way, Peter Casey & Leigh Ryan

**When:** Tuesday 3 June @ **10.30am**

**Where:** Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre, Burns Way, off Tarcutta Street, Wagga Wagga

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### Contact the Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre

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*A cultural facility of the City of Wagga Wagga.*

## Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre

The Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre entertains more than 65,000 audience members each year.

From its annual Subscription Season to the Wagga Comedy Fest, the Civic Theatre encourages discussion, enjoyment, learning and laughter throughout the community.

A cultural facility of the City of Wagga Wagga, the Civic Theatre features more than 200 productions and workshops each year.

The Civic Theatre was officially opened in 1963 and is now regarded as one of the best regional theatres in NSW.

### Connect with us:

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