

Media Release
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Stories from the Wayside - a unique theatrical show

The Wayside Chapel celebrated the move into its newly redeveloped building with a unique reality theatre show, ***Stories from the Wayside***.

The show was written verbatim based on interviews with 8 'Waysiders': visitors, volunteers & staff. The actors reproduced their subjects' voices with blowtorch accuracy - nothing was changed or altered - so that the audience received a direct download from the hearts and minds of the subjects.

The show was directed by Dean Carey, creative director and founder of Actor's Centre Australia, and produced by Angus Anderson. Carey and Anderson worked with a talented group of actors to give these rarely heard stories a voice.

"I love the immediacy of this style of theatre and the way it captures the heartbeat and truth within communities. I don't know of a theatrical format that can instantly personalise an issue or give voice to a community or culture like Reality Theatre. Hearing someone's voice and their words channeled through someone else allows the audience to immerse themselves with a sense of deep curiosity. This openness to inquiry connects audience and character in a unique and compelling way", Dean said.

Wayside CEO, Rev Graham Long said that we rarely hear the human stories of the people living and working around the streets of Kings Cross; rather, we usually hear only of people as problems to be fixed.

"Our stories have no element of setting forth social problems that need a solution but rather we show you stories that inspire and confront you with irresistible humanity. (People came away) with a renewed optimism and a new sense of the solidarity of all people. (People came away) with an acute sense that there is no 'us and them' but 'just us'", Rev Long said.

For further media information contact Katrina Mathieson at The Wayside Chapel on 02 9358 5582 or 0406 091 713. media@thewaysidechapel.com

The Wayside Chapel has provided unconditional love, care and support for people on and around the streets of Kings Cross since 1964. Today, under the banner of Love over Hate, Wayside runs a community services centre, youth space and outreach service, mental health program, community café, and Indigenous women's program; programs and services designed to ensure that the most marginalised members of our community have access to essential health, welfare, social and recreational services, as well as offering a place where people are welcome just to 'be'.