

This is my first term as president commencing in 2021 and it has been a quite a busy time for us all.

Unfortunately, due to COVID and all the restrictions placed on us, we have not been able to present as many performances as we would have liked. As a company, we have missed bringing our shows to life for our community and I am sure our community has missed "live" performances.

In these hard times we are very grateful to Brendan for applying for the \$20,000.00 Business Grant on our behalf and winning it. It gave us the opportunity to have some coppers in our accounts and the ability to then produce some shows.

We started with the amazing "The Drowsy Chaperone" in March. It was performed over two weeks at Riverlinks Westside. This was a spectacular show. The cast and crew did an amazing job. You were taken on a roller coaster of emotions ranging from happiness, to tears then back to joy. The production team and cast took the audience on a heart stopping ride. It was a great show to start back. With COVID, our audience was lower than normal and unfortunately, we did sustain a \$20,000.00 loss - those who attended loved the experience. I for one thought it was brilliant.

From there we went onto performing in our very own Blackbox – Blackbox Jazz – STAG sings Gershwin Songbook. We had to adapt to these COVID times, and all auditions were online and worked very well. This was an intimate experience for all those who attended. The live musicians and wonderful singers had everyone in the audience gasping. It truly shows our community is wanting live performances to come back.

Behind the scenes COVID hasn't slowed us down. The committee has been busy with procedure manuals, our memory board displaying our beloved past members is now up in our foyer. We named our wardrobe area after our wonderful Joyce Baker and presented "Dick's" corner for our beloved Dick Hutchinson.

The Blackbox is still undergoing upgrades. Flooring has been replaced and the Green Room and Make up Room is almost complete. A huge change for all. It is down to the hard work of many members volunteering their times on weekends etc. It does show what a great community we have.

We have purchased a new computer system which allows us to process tickets, food and drinks online. Making the entire process a lot smoother for all. Thank you to Ian for researching this for us.

Congratulations to Stefania Panella won a Georgy for best performance in a Cabaret/Concert at the 2021 Georgy Awards. The Christmas Party was held at the Varapodio Orchard – people brought food platters and enjoyed each other's company. We even sang some song – which isn't really unusual for STAG performers is it?? Troy was awarded a commendation for this work with STAG at the GV Volunteer Awards. He was so surprised and humbled by the nomination.

The committee has been learning "Teams" as this will be the new way, we communicate during a production to ensure we capture all documentation of our performances. We have had numerous working bees to clean up and sort out our props - thank you especially Noella and Carol who have spent many hours sorting this out and Sharon who has cleaned and culled our costumes, thank you to everyone who have attended these working bees to assist in preparation for our next production in the Blackbox – Steel Magnolias.

We will be revisiting our strategic plan shortly. Forward planning is what keeps us going. We will be able to "plan" and grow.

Don't worry we have many exciting things planned to move forward but that is something you will have to wait for.

I wish to thank each and every one on the committee for supporting me in my role as President in the past year. STAG is such a wonderful family and I look forward to being with it for many more years – for me personally 39 years so far just isn't enough. Thank you