

Testimonial for Christopher Johnson

I first came across Christopher's work when he submitted THE DOG LOGS to Darlinghurst Theatre for consideration as a co production. At the time I was General Manager and head of Marketing of DT, and since that reading I've become a steadfast fan. THE DOG LOGS went on to play a successful 4-week season. So successful in fact, that we felt compelled to bring it back six months later for a five-week season. During those seasons Darlinghurst Theatre averaged over eighty percent audiences.

Darlinghurst Theatre went on to co-produce Christopher's other two plays to date: BARNESY, THE HARBOUR AND YOU and BACKPACKER!, with great success. In all three cases we were able to launch successful return seasons.

What impressed me the most about Christopher's work was it's uniquely Australian flavour, without any compromise to quality. I also couldn't resist the extraordinary opportunity his plays presented for marketing purposes. During my time at Darlinghurst Theatre they were by far the easiest plays to sell, especially THE DOG LOGS. There were very few dog owners in the eastern suburbs of Sydney that didn't come to see that play.

In August 2004 I moved to Canberra with my wife to take up a position as program manager with the Tuggeranong Arts Centre. It hasn't taken me long to become involved in the local scene as an independent theatre producer, and the first play I would like to produce in Canberra is... you guessed it: THE DOG LOGS. I'm also eyeing off Christopher's other two plays (although I haven't told him that yet) and hoping he'll write more soon. There should be more Australian writers (producer/actors) like him – i.e: Good.

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