

WHAT'S NEWS

MEET: LEIGH BOSWELL, GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO AT THE YOUNG COMPANY THEATRE



Tell us about yourself:

My eldest boy Darcy just started Prep this year (what a nerve-racking experience!) and my youngest boy Cooper is turning 3 in May. My husband Tim referees in the National Basketball League and is also a local Real Estate Agent. Both sets of parents live in Cairns so it is great to have that support network close by.

What is your favourite thing about living in Cairns?

I think that my favourite thing about living in Cairns is its personal history for me. And now with a young family, being able to share it with them. I also love the mountains, beaches and three-degrees of separation - everyone knowing everyone!

Tell us about your business:

I started The Young Company back in 2009 as a not-for-profit organisation with the support of my family, a number of other local arts organisations, schools and an awesome team of professional youth theatre practitioners.

Today the company has grown to become an award-winning and nationally recognised professional youth theatre company that awakens children and young people's imaginations.

We conduct our programs throughout the Cairns region including Trinity Beach, Edmonton, Redlynch, Freshwater and Cairns City in our Adventure Theatre with lights, sound, projections, costumes, sets, props. You name it – we have it.

What inspired you to start The Young Company?

When I headed down to Brisbane to study my Bachelor of Theatre and Education I was introduced to the concepts surrounding Youth Theatre. I then travelled throughout Europe and America for two years exploring the concepts further. When I moved back to Cairns I decided to make the big leap and create my own youth theatre company.

Tell us about the different programs on offer:

Over the last eight years we have been able to develop a range of youth theatre programs for three to 25 year olds which cover everything from Acting, Musical Theatre, Singing, Dancing, Backstage Management, Technical Theatre, Directing, Internships, Costume and Prop Making, Mentorships, Improvisation.

We also do Drama Education Programs, where we visit both primary and secondary schools during school time and connect in with the curriculum.

How do you spend your free time?

I like to head down to the beach and enjoy the beautiful Cairns weather. My boys also love to head to Sugarworld and Paradise Palms to chill out too.