

# MARK & SHIRLEY LUCAS



Image: Shirley & Mark as “Caroline & Adam” – ‘Arcadia’ © 2006

Shirley and Mark Lucas are well known throughout South-East Queensland and New South Wales for their commitment to and participation in many regional drama festivals. Shirley and Mark are the founders and directors of Excalibur Theatre Company. Excalibur Theatre Company was established in 1994 as a vehicle to showcase Mark’s plays and has developed into one of the premier theatre companies in South-East Queensland.

Excalibur Theatre Company has competed at over 180 drama festivals throughout Queensland and New South Wales winning over 530 awards for their work.

Shirley is a well-recognised multi-award-winning director and actor. While Mark is a published playwright having written 30 plays, some of which have been performed in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Mark has won a multitude of awards for his writing, acting, directing and commitment to community theatre. To say that they know a little bit about theatre festivals is an understatement.

Shirley and Mark’s work has been seen for over three decades and is the benchmark standard for writers, directors and actors. Every year, several of Mark’s plays are performed and adjudicated at festivals throughout Australia. These range from contemporary dramas to farcical comedies to Gothic thrillers.

Mark’s view on writing is simple. “I like the audience to feel as though they are an integral part of what is being created on stage and to laugh at, cry with or taste the desperation of the scenes being played out before them. I want our audience to be involved in our story.”

Where the true passion in theatre lies for both Shirley and Mark is the mentoring and development of actors, directors and up and coming playwrights. They foresee the future of theatre being the development of youth by the experienced and knowledgeable mainstays of community theatre. They have adjudicated at drama festivals in Taree and Port Macquarie (NSW) and at KSP Festival, Mousetrap Theatre Festival, Ipswich Little Theatre Festival, Beenleigh Festival of One Act Plays, Sunshine Coast Youth Festival and the NananGO PLAYfest (QLD). Shirley and Mark have an ongoing relationship with Nanango Theatre Company to assist in developing theatre in the South Burnett region in rural Queensland. Mark has also run a number of master classes for youth performers and was a creative lead at Brisbane Grammar School in 2018.

Shirley and Mark are excited to be invited by the The Players Theatre to be their adjudicators at the 2023 Port Macquarie One Act Play Festival. Shirley and Mark have real festival experience and are looking forward to the challenge, the excitement and the raw energy of community theatre.