

14/10/2019

NEWSTEAD HOUSE

Finalist at State Awards

The Winners and Finalists of the **2019 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced on Thursday 19 September at a special presentation event, held at the recently opened Cairns Performing Arts Centre, Far North Queensland.

Newstead House was recognised as a **Finalist** for outstanding achievement in the category of Engagement: Organisations with Paid Staff for its project, ***Museum Theatre: The War Years – Americans at Newstead House***.

The War Years: Americans at Newstead House brought museum theatre to the historic Newstead House for the first time, using the 1846-built House as the stage. This engaging theatrical experience took audiences on a journey back to World War II, where in 1942, over one million U.S. Servicemen were based in Brisbane and Newstead House was commandeered by the American military.

The production was created and delivered in partnership with Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre. It was a walking theatre experience that saw the story of Marelle and Joe unfold through various rooms of the House and locations on the Newstead House cultural and heritage precinct. Targeting a teenage audience, it was believed that this “love” story would help students connect with the history of this iconic House.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, “Newstead House is commended for its engaging production of *The War Years: Americans at Newstead House*. The production showcased the Newstead House cultural and heritage precinct in

new and creative ways, while also highlighting the social conditions of the time, and the differences between the Americans and the Australians in simple tangible ways such as food, music, style, customs and language.”

The GAMAA were established by Museums & Galleries Queensland in 2004 to honour the achievements of our State’s individuals and organisations in striving towards excellence.

Robert Ryan, the Senior Co-ordinator Community Programs for Mackay Regional Council and 2019 GAMAA judge, presented awards to this year’s Winners and Finalists. The Winners received an exquisitely crafted trophy by Queensland artist, Lucy Quinn. Commissioned by M&G QLD, the trophies are generously sponsored by our long-standing Awards supporter, Brian Tucker Accounting.

The awards were hosted at Cairns Performing Arts Centre in front of representatives of Queensland’s public museum and gallery sector, including delegates of M&G QLD’s 2019 State Conference, *Opening Doors*, also presented in Cairns.

M&G QLD acknowledges the tremendous support of the 2019 GAMAA sponsors: Brandi Projects; Cairns Regional Council; Brian Tucker Accounting; Public Galleries Queensland; and Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Queensland).

For the full list of GAMAA Winners and Finalists see:

<http://www.magsq.com.au/cms/page.asp?ID=5036>

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