



Prepared by Shannon Gobell
Consultant to Measure Up! 2007

CUMMINS THEATRE

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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CITY/TOWN DESCRIPTION

Merredin is 262km east of Perth (via the Great Eastern Highway, 335km west Kalgoorlie, Western Australia and has a population of around 3,629 people. Merredin covers an area of 3372 square kilometres and is located on the national road and rail routes. Over 580,000 vehicles travel through the town annually.

Merredin is a regional business centre. It services a hinterland with a population of over 18,000 people and is the regional base for many government and commercial organisations. It supports quality facilities for business, education, health, transport and recreation.

Merredin has a population base of 3,629 is reasonably young with 67% under the age of 44 years. Its wheat transfer facility is one of the largest in Western Australia. Forty percent of Western Australia's wheat crop is grown within a one hundred km radius of the town.

EXTERIOR PHOTOS



View of front of venue



Main Entry Doors to Venue



3D view of Side of Venue



Rear of Venue (& Dressing Room doors)



Rear of venue, including space for car parking & truck parking



Loading Dock access at venue rear



Supper/Function Room entry



Venue Admin / Main Office

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Cummins Theatre is a beautiful old theatre in the most traditional sense, built in 1928, with a similar feel to a "Her Majesty's" style theatre, often only found in capital centres and hence makes it a very surprising find for any regional area. This venue is used fairly often (in regional terms) and there is also a very active repertory society that uses the venue for theatrical performances and rehearsals. The venue is an interesting layout for this style of old theatre though with fixed tiered seating at the rear and flat floor space between the tiered seating and the stage. The venue is licensed to seat 500 people, and provides 190 fixed seats in the tiered seating section at the rear of the venue and 300 marron padded chairs able to be placed into rows on the flat floor area.

The venue has beautiful high ceilings and a good sized stage with back of house facilities. Its worth noting that everything is very old and there have been various "add on's" over the years and hence the main theatre space has adjoining buildings and a few extensions. The venues auditorium has a wooden floor which is in reasonably good shape and a wooden floor on stage which has consequently been covered with 5mm tempered masonite and painted black for theatrical purposes.

Acoustically the venue is reasonably good, although if running theatrical performances would have the acoustics would take on a spatial effect on, especially if the venue was low on attendance numbers. The venue has both male and female toilets in excess of venue requirements and whilst the venue wasn't initially built obviously with disability access in mind it would appear that most additions to the building since (inc the reasonably modern toilets) are disability access compliant. The venue also has a good blackout.

The Cummins Theatre has a reasonable collection of furniture; including 300 padded chairs (marron in colour), 17 x 5' round dining/function tables and 30 x 1.2m Trestle Tables. There is minimal lighting and sound equipment for the venue and most of this equipment is either very old or in poor or non-functioning condition. All equipment is in need of servicing and requires electrical safety tags. There is probably enough equipment working though to have a simple lights on/off wash on stage and run pre-recorded playback.

There are a couple of options to load into the venue, depending on the type of event/function or performance. There is a loading dock door at the rear of the venue at ground level, this loads in past a dock area, up a ramp and onto the USR corner of the stage. This load in access though has plenty of width for good access, being 2445mm wide. Alternative more restricted load in access points include through various double door exits, through the supper room and through the front doors of the venue. These alternative load in access points will all take you in at Auditorium floor level though.

Power is surprisingly a bit of an issue and the venue could certainly benefit from a complete electrical overhaul including the installation of some more entertainment power on stage somewhere. In relation what is currently installed though there are 2 x 30amp 5pin 3phase outlets on stage. There is also an assortment of single phase 15A & 10A GPO's located on stage, in the kitchen and around the venue in general.

It's also worth noting that the flyline system is out of action due to its age and the associated safety issues, hence all flylines are at fixed heights. There are plenty of rigging opportunities though and if flying is required you may wish to bring your own chain motors or rope & pulley flying system.

In general the venue probably just needs a really good spring clean to throw out lots of junk, tidy and clean various areas to make them presentable or usable again, a good paint throughout (inc on stage), safety issues addressed and a small technical refurbishment. All in all though the venue is a gorgeous building and deserves to have some money spent on it to ensure its long life and maximise its usage possibilities.

TOURING TIPS

- If you have a larger show or require anything more than just a small vocal PA and a wash of stage light then I would recommend you tour all your own technical equipment (lighting, audio, etc).
- There would be some voluntary repertory society members who I'm sure may be available from time to time to help out, but there is no professional in house tech, hence for guaranteed reliability and technical skills you may wish to tour all your own event/show staffing including any crew for load in/out. You may be able to pick up some locals through the theatre though for smaller Bump In's and Out's.
- If using anything in the theatre you may need to get an electrician in to apply electrical safety tags, as at the time of Measure Up nothing carried a current tag.
- The venue does have a very old flying system which is in poor shape and hence the council have applied a "No Flying" rule to all flylines. Given this please note that lines are all at fixed heights and your show/event may have to adjust to meet this local venue requirement.
- The venue can get very warm in summer and very cold in winter, with only a few fans installed and hence audience number size could affect the climate in the venue.

This venue does have full time management on site and hence assistance with venue issues is never far away.

INTERIOR PHOTO'S



Auditorium - looking towards main entry end of hall (from stage)



Auditorium - looking towards stage end (from entry)



Stage in ANZAC Hall (from OP)



Stage Grid & (non-flying) fly bars/battens

DIMENSIONS - All dimensions in mm

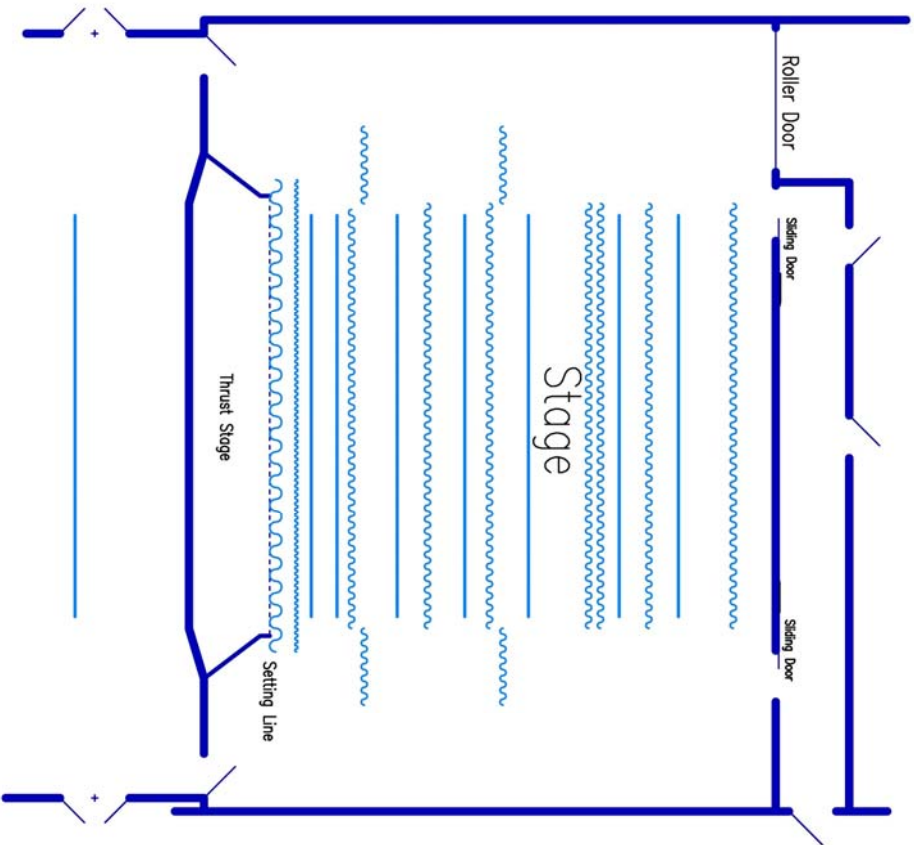
STAGE DEPTH (setting line to back wall)	8570
STAGE WIDTH (inc wings)	13240
STAGE HEIGHT	1300
PROMPT WING	2850
OPPOSITE PROMPT WING	2850
STAGE THRUST (setting line to front of thrust stage or apron)	1370
STAGE FLOOR TO CEILING	10843
STAGE FLOOR TO LX BARS (or available rigging points)	4770 9763
PROSCENIUM WIDTH	7460
PROSCENIUM HEIGHT	4665
AUDITORIUM DEPTH	17325 flat floor (+ 11480 fixed tiered seating)
AUDITORIUM WIDTH	12968
AUD FLOOR TO CEILING	
Centre	6960
Outsides	6220
AUD FLOOR TO LX BARS	5610

Cummins Theatre



Cummins Theatre	
DRAWN BY: Shannon Gobell	CHECKED BY:
DATE: 28/10/07	CITY/TOWN: Merredin
SCALE: 1:200 (on A3)	TITLE: PLAN
DRAWING NO.: 1.0	
Prepared for Country Arts WA	

Cummins Theatre Stage Plan



+7850mm	Border (Fixed)
+6920mm	Lx 3 (10 Circuits)
+6420mm	Black Curtain
+5920mm	Glitter Curtain
+5680mm	Border Tabs
+5400mm	Black Tabs
+4380mm	Empty Bar
+3950mm	Legs
+3720mm	Border
+3300mm	Lx 2 (10 Circuits)
+2670mm	Border
+2160mm	Empty Bar
+1890mm	Legs
+1835mm	Border
+1140mm	Empty Bar
+700mm	LX 1 (10 Circuits)
+450mm	Hard Border (Fixed)
+100mm	House Curtain
+3300mm	FOH LX 1 (12 Circuits)



*Please Note: Whilst all bars are fly bars due to safety concerns the house policy is that these do not fly, hence all are at fixed heights now. No bars are safe to fly.

*Please Note: All measurements are in millimetres and are taken from the setting line.

Cummins Theatre	
DRAWN BY: Shannon Gobell	CHECKED BY:
DATE: 28/10/07	CITY/TOWN: Merredin
SCALE: 1:100 (on A3)	TITLE: Stage Plan
DRAWING NO.: 1.1	
Prepared for Country Arts WA	

FLYING FACILITIES & DRAPES

FLYING SYSTEM	A very old flying system does exist but it is out of commission and hence all flybars are at fixed heights currently. House policy dictates no flybars can be moved for safety reasons.
MASKING	The venue has good blackout. Various masking is available on stage.
FOH CURTAIN	Yes, a reasonable quality house curtain is fitted on tab tracks. The house curtain is maroon in colour.
LEGS & BORDERS	There are 5 black borders, 1 hard border and 2 sets of black legs
OTHER DRAPES or CURTAINS	1 set of black curtains on tab tracks, 1 fixed back black curtain, 1 x glitter curtain. There are other drapes and screens in the venue that are not currently hung or fitted.
CYCLORAMA	None hung.

LIGHTING FACILITIES

3 PHASE POWER AND LOCATION	Two (2) x 30Amp 5pin 3phase outlets in prompt corner of stage.
OPERATING POSITION(S)	There is a projection room at the back of the venue but this would be difficult to operate from, but I would simply recommend on the auditorium floor at the back of the room or in the tiered seating somewhere or even from side of stage.
LIGHTING DESK	1 x Theatrelight Cuemaster Lx Console + Monitor
DIMMERS AND LOCATION	2 x Theatrelight 12ch Dimmer Racks in prompt corner, on mezzanine.
WIRED LIGHTING BARS NUMBER OF CIRCUITS AND LOCATIONS	There are 4 x wired lighting bars, 1 at FOH & 3 onstage. The FOH bar has 12 circuits and each onstage bar has 6 circuits.
PATCHING FACILITIES	Patching facilities are available in Prompt corner of the stage, on the mezzanine for the 30 distributed circuits as listed above. The patch is not well numbered and hence a hot lead will be required to flash out circuits before patching to one of the two available dimmer racks.
LAMP STOCK	<p>1 x CCT 650w profile 1 x Cyc Flood 5 x Patt 23 Profiles 4 x Par64 (110V) with splitters 7 x Selecon 1.2Kw Fresnel's 2 x 500w floods (domestic type) for dimmed House lighting 3 x Patt 223 Fresnel's 4 x Strand 500w Floods</p> <p>OTHER 1 x Quadpak 1 x 20m DMX lead 4 x Lx Stands 1 x 808 Followspot (no stand)</p>

LIGHTING FACILITIES cont.

ALTERNATIVE ONSTAGE LIGHTING POSITIONS	There are plenty of beams or bars you could rig from for the purposes of hanging lighting.
ALTERNATIVE FRONT LIGHTING POSITIONS	Using girder clamps you could rig trussing from a traditional FOH position in the auditorium.
TYPE OF CEILING/ POSSIBLE FIXING POINTS	Fibro board ceiling. There are several beams in the ceiling as mentioned above that trussing could be rigged from if required.
BLACKOUT	No, but easily achieved with a ladder and 4 x 8m border curtains.
LADDERS	None in venue, bring with you.
ONSTAGE 10AMP OUTLETS	There is an assortment of 10amp & 15amp GPO's around the venue.
FOH 10AMP OUTLETS	As above.
HOUSELIGHTS	Mixture of fluros and incandescent floods, with standard light switches. Although the house light switched onstage do not appear to work.
WORKING LIGHTS	Mixture of fluros and floods, as above.

SOUND FACILITIES

OPERATING POSITION (S)	No specific position, but I would again recommend the auditorium floor at the back of room somewhere or in the tiered seating.
SOUND DESK	1 x Soundtracs Topaz 24ch Mixing Desk; & 1 x Inkel 8ch self powered Mixing Desk
AMPLIFIERS	None
SPEAKERS	2 x Behringer self powered speakers 2 x EV Eliminator 1B Cinema Speakers
FOLDBACK	None
FOLDBACK AMPS	None
MICROPHONES	1 x Shure Beta58 Radio Mic & receiver (PGX4 system) 3 x Behringer dynamic mics
MIC STANDS	4 x mic Stands
CD OR CASSETTE PLAYERS	1 x Sony CD Player, (5 CD changing Platter)
SENDS	N/A

COMMUNICATIONS

TALK-BACK	None
TELEPHONES	Commander phone system through the venue including 1 phone at prompt corner on stage.
INTERNET	The main office is wired for internet, although I suspect that touring parties may not be able to access this council system. The town has Next G and hence Bigpond wireless modems will work.

ONSTAGE FACILITIES

CROSSOVER	There is a crossover at the back of the stage behind the last drape, although this area is cluttered with other set and soft drapes that seem to be stored there at the moment. There is an alternative crossover for the stage by using the dressing room corridor though and this is quite acceptable.
WING SPACE	Reasonable wing space is available and there is additional space flowing off the OP wing down the ramp and into the dock, where a green room can also be found. Approx 2850mm is available each side of stage.
TREADS TO FOH	At the moment the venue has an orchestra pit but this is covered by a set of steps the full width of the thrust stage for safety reasons. If these steps are removed and the pit is restored then access to the stage from the Auditorium would be via two staircases (one either side of stage) to the off stage wing spaces on the other side of the pros arch. In that instance there would be no access to the thrust stage from the auditorium unless a portable set of stairs is built.
LADDER	Yes, there is both a 12' 'A' Frame ladder and a tallescope available for the venue.
ROSTRA	There are 10 x 8'x4' rostrum's available in the venue (stored in the dock area currently)
BLUE WORKLIGHT	There are a couple of blue lights either side of stage but for some reason currently have yellow globes in them.

FRONT OF HOUSE FACILITIES (FOH)

SEATING	The venue is licensed to seat 500 people in the auditorium. The venue has fixed tiered seating and flat floor seating broken down as follows; 190 in fixed tiered seating and 300 in loose chairs on the flat floor. The Tivoli room (supper/function room) seats 90.
BOX OFFICE	There is a small stand alone traditional ticket booth which can be used for ticket sales in the venue, although it is very small. The ticketing is generally done through the theatre's main office though for pre sales.
BAR	Yes, in the Tivoli Room.
KITCHEN	Yes, there is a reasonably large commercial kitchen with range hoods and pro cooking facilities, inc gas cook tops, ovens, Bain Maries and cold room.
TOILETS	Male and female toilets are available, plus a disabled toilet is available.
AIR CONDITIONING	The Cummins Theatre is not air conditioned, however the Tivoli Room is. The larger dressing room upstairs is air conditioned also.
HEATING	The Cummins Theatre has no heating. The Tivoli Room has some gas heating systems.

BACKSTAGE FACILITIES

GREEN ROOM	Yes, downstairs BOH. Also could be used as a third large dressing room, as it has mirrors and sinks.
DRESSING ROOMS	There are two (2) dressing rooms, fitted with lights, benches and mirrors, one holds approx 5 to 8 people and the other will hold approx 20 to 25 people
TOILETS	There are BOH toilets although they are detached from the immediate dressing rooms.
SHOWERS	Yes, as above for BOH toilets
MIRRORS	Yes
LAUNDRY	Only a washing machine is available at the venue. There are a couple of laundry mat facilities in town that could be used.
IRONING	Yes, an iron and ironing board is available by arrangement with the venue.

BUMP-IN ACCESS

ACCESS DESCRIPTION	Load in is fairly simple at this venue with roller door access in from the car park area at the rear of the venue to the "dock" area. From the "dock" there is a ramp (full width of the roller door that comes up and onto the USR corner of the stage. The only problem is that dock access is at car park height and hence if you have a truck you will need a lifter or ramp down from your truck. If you wish to load in to the auditorium floor rather than the stage this too can be achieved very easily by loading in through the exit doors adjacent to the kitchen.
LOADING DOOR SIZE	The roller door access is 2445mm wide. The exit doors adjacent to the kitchen are 1180mm wide.
EXTERIOR LIGHTING	Various fluros and floods are located on the exterior of the venue.
PARKING	Plenty of parking is available on the street and at the rear of the venue. Parking for trucks and busses is available at the rear of the venue.
STORAGE	The loading dock area and ramp area is available for temporary show storage on site, provided they have been cleaned out by the venue in advance. Other permanent storage facilities are on site for theatre use.

EMERGENCY SYSTEMS

SMOKE ALARMS	No smoke alarms or fire alarm systems are fitted.
SPRINKLER SYSTEMS	None
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	Yes, various extinguishers are fitted.
FIRE HOSES	Yes, there is a fire hose reel fitted in the theatre
EMERGENCY EXITS	There are four main emergency exits for the theatre and also the main entrance can be used as an emergency exit too, making five exits.
EXIT SIGNS	Exit signs are fitted to all emergency doors.
MEDICAL CONTACT	The nominated first aid contact for the venue is the theatre Manager, Jane Bandurski. Please see medical contacts below for further info.

PRE-SALES

TICKETING SYSTEM	Tickets sold through the theatre management office. The seating can be sold as either reserved or general admission.
ADVERTISING POSITIONS	There is a Cummins Theatre advertising poster board located on the main street and in the foyer of the venue.
POSTERS/BANNERS	Posters can be put in the windows of the theatre and in various locations around town and neighbouring towns. There is an adjacent shopfront display space which can be dressed and utilised.
LOCAL PUBLICATIONS	The Merredin Wheatbelt Mercury newspaper is the local primary newspaper. Further to this there is a newsletter system the council produces and distributes.
LOCAL RADIO	There are few radio stations covering Merredin including; Hot FM 6MER (105.1fm), Radio West 6MD (1098am). For further information on radio stations in this area please refer to the following websites; http://www.ausradiostations.com/fmwa.html http://www.ausradiostations.com/amwa.html
WORD OF MOUTH	Word of mouth is a positive way to publicise something in Merredin and providing media releases of detailed info to a number of key businesses (i.e. visitors centre) would certainly spread the word.

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

HOSPITAL/DOCTOR	Merredin Medical Centre can be contacted at: 08 9041 2900 Merredin Hospital can be contacted on: 08 9081 3222.
PHARMACY	Merredin Savings Plus Chemist can be located at 102 Barrack St in Merredin and contacted on 08 9041 1311.
HARDWARE	Two Dogs Home Hardware (Mitre 10) can be located at 112 Barrack St in Merredin and contacted on 08 9041 1078.
COUNCIL	Local Shire Office: 08 9041 1611
POLICE, FIRE, AMBULANCE	For all emergency services contact: 000 Merredin Police: 08 9041 1322 Merredin Volunteer Fire Brigade: 0427 339 470 SES duty officer: 0427 412 266 St John Ambulance: 08 9041 2209
TAXI	No taxi service available
NEWSAGENT	Merredin Newsagency is on the main st at 100 Barrack St and can be contacted on: 08 9041 1161
VISITOR CENTRE	Visitor Centre contact number is: 08 9041 1666
ACCOMODATION	There are a few options, but I would highly recommend the Av-A-Rest Village given its ability to accommodate larger tour parties and conveniences; Av-A-Rest Village: 08 9041 1535