



Tuesday 26 April 2022

START OF MEDIA RELEASE

Blackbutt Avocado Festival seeks aspiring performers

The team behind the Blackbutt Avocado Festival is pleased to launch the *Resilience through Laughter* workshop series, welcoming clown and mask theatre specialist Clint Bolster to Blackbutt from June – September 2022.

The organising committee is calling for participants from the South Burnett to register for one of two **free** workshop streams:

1. **Youth group (ages 12 – 17):**

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/resilience-through-laughter-workshops-youth-tickets-319210125077>

2. **Open community group (ages 18+):**

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/resilience-through-laughter-workshops-community-tickets-319240094717>

Participants will have the opportunity to take part in a series of 5 workshops, learning performance techniques including comedy and non-verbal mask theatre, and how to apply these skills to a live group performance. Each workshop group will develop a live performance piece to be staged at this year's Blackbutt Avocado Festival on Saturday 10 September 2022.

President Jeff Connor said, "We are thrilled to welcome teaching artist Clint Bolster from Homunculus Theatre Company (Brisbane) to Blackbutt for these workshops. Last year our Committee was honoured to lead the development of the *Blackbutt Arts Strategy 2026* and this program is a direct result of this process. In our public consultation survey conducted last year, over 60% of respondents indicated they would like to see more arts workshops and classes offered in the Blackbutt district. We welcome performers of all abilities and experience levels to 'avo' go – no experience is necessary to take part."

Clint Bolster brings to Blackbutt over 15 years of performing and teaching experience, with regular performances at festivals and on stage across Australia and internationally (United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and New Zealand). Through Homunculus Theatre Company, Clint has delivered countless workshops, artist-in-residence programs, professional development workshops for teachers and performances for primary and secondary students, including many in regional Queensland.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Festivals Australia program. The Blackbutt Avocado Festival is supported by the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland and features on the It's Live! in Queensland events calendar.

For further information or comment, please contact Olivia Everitt (Arts Project Officer, Bloomin Beautiful Blackbutt Festival Inc.) on arts@avofest.com.au or 043 556 830.

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