



Dreamcast Theater Solomon Islands, bringing art to life

In 2005, Dreamcast Theater Solomon Islands established a community drama group as a collaborative and healing response following the period of civil unrest. *"We got together trying to come up with ways to create peace through theater performances,"* shared Jonathan Levo, Dreamcast's Film Director. He continued saying that, *"Kennedy Folasi, he was the one who brought the group together back then. Today, Dreamcast means 'Cast of Dreamers casting dreams with art every day'."*



Since their inception, the group has evolved to be an *"organisation that helps the broader local creative industry and artists to develop their talents through sharing their art. We provide a space for artists to collaborate and to cultivate their talents, and to create meaningful art for their personal and professional growth,"* he said.

In 2016, the group was officially registered as a social business managed by the Dreamcast Board and a Volunteer Creative Director, Neil Nuia.

"Cast of Dreamers casting dreams with art every day."

DREAMCAST THEATER

In 2018, they were given the opportunity to lease a building known as the 'DC Art Hub' and this has since allowed them to incorporate other arts apart from theater like film and photography. Now, Dreamcast is a close-knit family of musicians, dancers, photographers, actors, and film-makers.

"We create music, theater performances, films, photographs and dances. The main product that we're currently producing are films for various organisational NGOs and businesses. Our other clients include the Government and the general public. They identify with the products that we create, the art. It feels like it belongs to them."



"They identify with the products that we create, the art."



Reflecting on the group, Jonathan explained that *"being together with other young people and coming up with new ideas and new arts, it's something that you wouldn't be able to come up with on your own. This group of people, they're all coming up with different ideas and creative stuff, that's what's really special about Dreamcast Theater."*

With 20+ members now in their group, Dreamcast inspires *"creative young people to come together and create solutions to national problems such as unemployment and gender-based violence,"* said Jonathan.

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He further highlighted the role that Dreamcast plays in supporting and educating young people in Solomon Islands. *"We create awareness and go out to communities and engage youths to empower them,"* he said. *"We teach them to voice out against gender-based violence. We provide employment for youths who have no opportunity by providing the space for them to earn some form of income. They take part in programs that we provide and we then pay them. We also offer free shows to the public for those who can't afford the paid ones."* He added that to keep up with the payments for their office space, Dreamcast has worked hard, *"increasing our shows, coming up with*



creative ideas to produce our art products, and maximizing our consultancy services for creative films." The Theater has also adapted to address the societal concerns relating to the pandemic. *"With this economic problem and the COVID-19 pandemic, people have high anxiety,"* said Jonathan. *"We created a program to entertain people, bring them back to their roots and their culture."*

One of Jonathan's most memorable moments during his three years at



"Bring them back to their roots and their culture."



Dreamcast Theater was the opportunity to “shoot one of our feature films because I was the one directing it. It’s based on human rights and sponsored by The Pacific Community (SPC). Currently, it’s still in the editing phase, and should be out by the end of this year, or early next year.”

Dreamcast Theater started using Facebook in 2016, “to increase our visibility and to get new customers and clients.” Through the social media platform, they market themselves by sharing images of their colorful performances, the feature films and songs they produce along with notices of their stage shows.

“We are inspired by other organisations around the region and also the globe. We analyse the practices that others are successfully doing online and we apply that to ourselves as well,” noted Jonathan.

“We use Facebook Live where we interact with our followers online once every two weeks. The content ranges from doing a behind the scenes on feature films that we’re shooting with directors and casts or we provide other entertainment like music.”

“A special moment was when a donation was made to us by someone in Australia who watched one of our live events,” he recalled.

Dreamcast Theater provides a unique space for Solomon Islanders to grow their love and interest in the creative arts. Its artists also channel their energy into advocating and building awareness for social issues at the community level, making them influencers of positive change through creative expression.



“A special moment was when a donation was made to us...”





Dreamcast Theater

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