

Young Stars Set to Shine at Allusion Club Kids' Showcase

Hervey Bay is fast cementing its reputation as a creative hotspot, with local actress and producer Nicole Payten-Betts helping shape the next generation of performers - and drawing major screen industry attention to the Fraser Coast in the process.

Nicole, who starred in and produced the feature film *Double or Nothing* alongside Vince Colosimo and John Jarratt, now teaches more than 50 students each week through her drama school, The Allusion Club - Kids on Camera Training.

Next month, her students will step into the spotlight at the school's first End-of-Year Showcase, where highlights of



Nicole Payten-Betts.
Photo by Jade Schofield



Some of the 2025 AC Hervey Bay students. Photo supplied

their performances throughout the year will roll on the big screen for family, friends, and the local community.

"The kids have worked incredibly hard all year, and this showcase is their moment to shine," Nicole said. "It's about more than acting - it's about building confidence, creativity and a passion for storytelling, right here in Hervey Bay."

Nicole, a committee member for Screen Fraser Coast, has also teamed up with Queensland actress and media personality Jessica Stafford-Ewing to launch Scene 11 Productions, a new venture focused on creating original screen content in regional Queensland, with their launch project, a teen drama series set on K'gari and surrounds in the early stages of development.

In a big win for the region, award-winning actor and director Scott Major (*Neighbours*, *Heartbreak High*, *Darklands*) has joined the project as producer, writer, and director, with the trio spotted together around town researching in recent weeks.

"I love this part of the world, and it's incredible to see the momentum Nicole is building here," said Major. "Giving local kids professional training and opportunities through Allusion Club helps the next generation of actors find their voices."

Nicole believes this growing industry presence will have a lasting impact on the community and her students.

"This project with Scene 11 and Scott is just the beginning of what's possible here," she said. "Some of the kids I work with are already showing the kind of spark and raw talent that could take them straight onto professional sets - and now, with projects happening right here in Hervey Bay, those dreams are within reach."

The Allusion Club Showcase 2025 will be held at Big Screen Cinemas on Wednesday, 26th November.



Scott Major visits The Allusion Club Hervey Bay. Photo supplied

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