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Friday 20 November 2009
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what

What's Happening Around Town

A hilarious ride



NEW OFFERING: *Anchored* by Thomas Ray Ahwang.

New artist unveiled

A MESMERISING combination of carving and painting captures the differences between indigenous culture and the modern world in an innovative collection on display at the Pandanus Gallery, Palm Cove.

Torres Strait Islander artist Thomas Ray Ahwang and his ground-breaking artistic style were unveiled at the gallery last week.

Directors Anna and Paul La Fontaine recently discovered Ahwang and his unique work after one of his former teachers emailed an example to them.

"We were instantly drawn to Thomas' unusual technique of using numerous layers of painting overlaid with carving to weave a gentle and lyrical story about the pull between weak and strong in the natural world and his use of flora and fauna as the central metaphor," Anna said.

Communication is central to Ahwang's art and one of his larger pieces, *Anchored*, draws on images representing different forms of communication.

Pandanus Gallery is at Shop 2, Drift, Williams Esplanade.

● REVIEW

HOLD on tight and enjoy the ride.

Written by local playwright Victoria Carless, and the second play produced this year by JUTE with its Q150 Community Funding grant, *The Shining Path* is a thoroughly entertaining trek.

Following Len and Dale (Peter Marshall and Syd Brisbane) – two mates who were inseparable until a tragic episode in Peru more than 20 years ago – who embark on a madcap journey through Queensland in search of a prosthetic leg.

The action starts from the moment you enter the theatre, with actors Luke Kite and Sue Hayes – who both play a myriad of roles – interacting with the audience.

Then suddenly the performance starts and we are introduced to Len, who works for Consumer Complaints Division, taking calls from his box of an office with a sickeningly friendly and proper demeanour, topped with an unflappable attitude.

Len is quite at ease with dealing with all manner of problems; from a human finger in a pie to a Bunyip in the swimming pool.

Enter Dale, loud and foul mouthed, looking for the top



customer complaints officer.

Dale's complaint is quite simply, someone has stolen his leg.

And so the adventure begins.

Dale forces Len to join him in a chaotic journey by train across Queensland to find his missing leg.

Along the way they meet a swag of characters who would be very much at home in an episode of *The Twilight Zone* – such as pregnant Cheryl Mutton from Normanton who has 36 children and believes Jesus speaks to her from inside a baby food jar; a sinister icecream man who has come up with a new

suspiciously green flavour; and a man who has literally lost his soul.

While comedy comes very much to the fore in this lively production, there is a serious undertone – the catastrophic incident in Peru that has put a wedge between Len and Dale.

The Shining Path is an entertainingly funny ride that ultimately revolves around friendship, honesty and, in the end, redemption.

Pasco Rogato
The Shining Path is at JUTE Theatre until November 28, before heading to Malanda and Port Douglas. Tickets from Ticketlink, phone 1300 855 835.

Cairns artists awarded for works

CAIRNS Art Society members and guests late last month flocked to Cairns Regional Gallery for the official launch of the 63rd Annual Open Art Exhibition and announcement of the category winners.

A crowd of more than 300 people listened to judge Ludij Peden's comments on the successful submissions selected from more than 100 works of art.

Winner of the Cairns Art Society Award for Painting was Declan Delargy for *Intensity*.

"This vibrant work relies on sound compositional

skills. The effects of colour complementaries, directional flow and a focus that leads the viewer into the inner depths through to the beyond," Mrs Peden said.

Di Sant won the Ron & Marion Ireland award for her work *Colours of the Inlet*.

The Cairns Regional Council Award was taken by Margaret Upton for her entry *Carrying the Load*, noted by the judge as "an eye-catching work through inspirational placement of colours and their

complementaries, and the strong arrangement of shapes makes this otherwise mundane subject vibrate with energy."

Tableland artist Olga Kaptein was awarded the Cairns Art Society award for 3-dimensional work for *As Proud as a Peacock*.

The Unpackers Choice Award was given to Greg Dwyer for *Seven*, voted "outstanding" by the voluntary unpacking team as the most unique entry with an unusual theme.

The Cairns Art Society Exhibition is on display at Cairns Regional Gallery until Sunday, December 6.



AWARD WINNER: *Carrying the Load* by artist Margaret Upton.

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