

# JOHNNY CASH

THE LEGEND

*Written by Barry Ferrier*

A Music Theatre Production

SONGS BY THE LEGENDARY JOHNNY CASH  
'I HEAR THAT TRAIN A COMIN'

WITH DR BAZ  
ILONA HARKER  
& THE TENNESSEE TWO

# “I Hear That Train a-Comin’ : the Johnny Cash Story”

Country music superstar Johnny Cash was a music industry legend for over half a century, with an instantly recognisable rich, deep voice and a bare-bones musical style. The hit movie “*I Walk the Line*” introduced his dramatic life story and his unmistakable, tough music to a younger generation of music lovers. Johnny Cash fans now cover three generations. Even people who might secretly confess to hating Country Music are nevertheless enthusiastic about his legendary up-tempo hits such as *Folsom Prison Blues*, *Ring of Fire*, *Get Rhythm*, *I Walk the Line* - there are just so many great and unique songs in the Johnny Cash repertoire.

Those familiar with the popular bio-pic will know of the enduring love story between Johnny Cash and June Carter. A member of the iconic country music group The Carter Family, June grew up in showbiz and became an accomplished comedienne, singer, and song writer - a true music professional. Together they were a towering force in American Music.

Vocalist and writer Barry Ferrier has brought together a team of talented performers to create an immersive music theatre show based on the Cash Story and the interaction between these two gifted and unique music artists, told in the first person, with insights into what it was really like, as Johnny and June, and the Tennessee Two, Marshall and Luther, experienced the wild ride from poverty to stardom.

Barry has the vocal depth to emulate the unique Johnny Cash sound, and the vivacious and versatile actress Ilona Harker plays the three strong women in Johnny’s life with sparkle and humour, as she ‘hoots and hollers’ her way through this toe-tapping, side slapping mix of great songs and fascinating stories.





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**THE AUSTRALIAN JOHNNY CASH  
MUSICAL TRIBUTE SHOW !**

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**JOHNNY CASH : THE MUSICAL!**

All the greatest Johnny Cash hit songs are brought to stage with outstanding vocals and the stripped-down, bare-bones Johnny Cash rhythm.



An intriguing story and great hit songs!  
*Visit our website to view some live  
video excerpts from the show :*

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# More than a Tribute Show!

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## The Cast

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**Dr. Baz** as **Johnny Cash,**  
Rhythm Guitar

**Ilona Harker** as **(Mama) Carrie Cash**  
**Vivienne Cash (1st wife)**  
**June Carter Cash**

**Slim Pickens** as **Marshall Grant,**  
Upright Bass

**Warren Earl** as **Luther Perkins,**  
Electric Guitar

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## The Songs

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**I WALK THE LINE**  
**FOLSOM PRISON BLUES**  
**A BOY NAMED SUE**  
**COCAINE BLUES**  
**RING OF FIRE**  
**FIVE FEET HIGH AND RISIN'**  
**JACKSON**  
**16 TONS**  
**GET RHYTHM!**  
**LONG LEGGED GUITAR PICKIN' MAN**  
**DADDY SANG BASS**  
**HOME OF THE BLUES**  
**IF I WERE A CARPENTER**  
**HELP ME MAKE IT THROUGH THE NIGHT**  
**JUKEBOX BLUES**  
**GHOST RIDERS IN THE SKY**  
**WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN**  
**HEY PORTER**  
**SUNDAY MORNING COMING DOWN**  
**HURT**



# Music Theatre at it's best!

## About the Show

Featuring the contrasting voices and powerful stage presence of Barry "Dr. Baz" Ferrier and vivacious songstress Ilona Harker, this great new show is a musical tribute to the legendary country superstar Johnny Cash, his epic life story and love affair with partner June Carter, threaded through with a tongue in cheek look at Cash's wild side and his stormy off stage and on stage relationship with June.

The show captures Johnny looking back on his rise from humble beginnings on a dirt poor cotton farm... soaking up gospel and country music, the floods, hard work and a harsh, unloving father... to tough times on the Pontiac production line in Detroit, enlistment during the Korean war as a US airman, which took him to the honky tonk bars of Germany, where he began to hone his characteristic style and began writing his unique songs.. and on to his first marriage and rise as a music sensation and a recording artist for the legendary Sun Records, alongside Elvis and Jerry Lee Lewis.

The show strings together all Cash's greatest hits and signature tunes, as his fascinating, larger-than-life story unfolds, and woven through this rich musical journey is a fascinating glimpse into the darker side of his life, his drug taking, outlaw image and the Prison Concerts, and his epic, redeeming love story with lifetime soulmate June Carter, in her own right a child star of the famous country music icons 'the Carter Family'.

Reminiscing on the tough origins, their rise to stardom, and Cash's drug addiction, they laugh and joke, they fight and they harmonise, as they bring so many great songs to life, accompanied by the rockabilly rhythm of the *Tennessee Two* (with lush backing vocals from Slim Pickens on Bass and Warren Earl on twangy Fender guitar). It's a polished, entertaining, upbeat music theatre show to get you *ee-haa-ing* and your toes a-tapping!



Above : scenes from "I Hear That Train a-Comin' : The Johnny Cash Story".

# The Cast

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The Byron Bay area is famous internationally not only for its pristine beaches, but also for its uniquely creative culture and music scene, brimming with talent. Four of Byron Bay's finest individual entertainers have come together to form an outstanding vocal and theatrical combination.



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**Barry Ferrier** as Johnny Cash

Barry appeared in the original cast of *"Jesus Christ Superstar"* and *"Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat"*. He has written and performed theatre restaurant shows, 3 stage musicals and produced two cast albums. He was a recording artist for RCA, appearing on the ABC's *"Count-down"* and opening for *Ry Cooder* at the Palais, Melbourne. He played bass with chart topping pop group *"The Ferrets"*, and worked as music director & composer at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Brisbane. He was also band leader & guitarist for legendary diva *Eartha Kitt* on her 1994 Australian national tour. He has performed in Europe and the UK and at the Byron Bay Blues Festival, Gympie Muster, Splendour in the Grass, Airlie Beach Music Festival, Blues on Broadbeach festival and the Tamworth Country Music Festival.



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**Ilona Harker** as June Carter

Ilona Harker is a daring and captivating performance and burlesque artist, and songwriter. Born in the Northern Territory, Ilona moved to Sydney to study under Ian Miller at *JMC Academy*.

She then worked with *"Butterfingers"* in Brisbane, going on to form *'Sugartown'*, an all girl 5 piece country group, but the peace of country life called and Ilona moved to Brunswick Heads in Northern NSW to pursue a solo career. Ilona's debut solo album *'That Which Lasts'* is an independent album of extraordinary originality with lush and heart melting moments.

Ilona plays the three important women in Johnny Cash's life in *"I Hear That Train A-Comin' : the Johnny Cash Story"* and has stolen the show at every performance with her vibrant and funny renditions of these strong and interesting women.

# The Tennessee Two

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**Slim Pickens** as Marshall Grant

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Slim has spent his life as a professional bass player but over the past decade has carved out a successful niche as a solo delta blues performer specialising in slide guitar.

With long time music partner Barry Ferrier aka *Dr. Baz* he has toured and played festivals all over Australia and Europe. He is a multi-award winning record producer who has released 6 solo albums.

His "*Happy Trails*" album went to #2 on the Australian Blues & Roots Charts. His music has been heard on radio in the USA, South America, Europe & Australia. His latest album "*Hankering*" has been getting airplay on the BBC.

He brings rhythmic rockabilly upright bass playing to his performance as Johnny Cash's laconic friend and long serving bassist Marshall Grant.



**Warren Earl** as Luther Perkins

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Warren Earl is a virtuoso guitarist now based in Byron Bay. He has appeared at many festivals across Australia, including: Falls, Mullumbimby Music Festival, Splendour In The Grass, Garter-belts and Gasoline, Cooly Rocks On, Out On The Weekend Festival, Brisbane Gangster Ball, Blues On Broadbeach, Blues at Bridgetown, Woodford Folk Festival, and Broadbeach Country Music Festival.

Known for his top class guitar playing, Warren Earl has a sound of his own that is authentically 'retro' and he has bought that sensibility to his role as Johnny Cash's original guitarist Luther Perkins in the show.

Luther's playing was simple and sparse, and fundamental to the creation of Cash's signature "boom-chicka-boom" style.

# Oustanding Entertainment

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The Australian Johnny Cash Tribute Musical show "*I Hear That Train a-Comin' ; The Johnny Cash Story*" is offered in two formats:

- a one and a half hour, one act version great for corporate events;
- and a two hour, two act format with intermission, suitable for a dinner show or theatre context.

Full concert lighting and sound production can be supplied upon request.



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**It's a lot of fun!**

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Top line musical talent!

With a cast of highly experienced and polished entertainers - it's a show that is second to none in corporate and club entertainment.





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*// The best entertainment  
we've ever had in this club!*

*Bruce McGregor,  
Deputy Chairman,  
Burleigh Heads Bowls Club. //*



# I Hear That Train a-Comin' :

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## About Johnny Cash

*Who was Johnny Cash?* That's the intriguing question this stage show answers. Many people have some idea of the Johnny Cash story, but you will leave this entertaining and high energy musical offering with a deeper understanding of this remarkable and enigmatic music figure.

Johnny Cash (1932 – 2003) was an American singer/songwriter, guitarist, actor, and author, who was widely considered one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century and one of the best-selling music artists of all time, having sold more than 90 million records worldwide. He traditionally began his concerts with the simple "Hello, I'm JohnnyCash", followed by his signature song "Folsom Prison Blues". His best-known songs included "I Walk the Line", "Ring of Fire", "Get Rhythm" and "Man in Black".



*Barry Ferrier as Johnny Cash.*



Although primarily remembered as a country music icon, his genre-spanning songs and sound embraced rock and roll, rockabilly, blues, folk, and gospel.

This crossover appeal won Cash the rare honor of multiple inductions in the Country Music, Rock and Roll, and Gospel Music Halls of Fame.

*Ilona Harker & Barry Ferrier recreating the onstage chemistry of Johnny Cash and June Carter.*

# The Johnny Cash Story

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More than just a tribute show of songs, *"I Hear That Train a-Comin' : The Johnny Cash Story"* is a fun and informative journey, told through the eyes of the people that stood beside Johnny on his rise to fame.

*Left* : The Finale from the debut performance at *Twin Towns Club Auditorium* in Coolangatta.

## The Star

Cash was known for his deep, calm bass-baritone voice, the distinctive sound of his *Tennessee Two* backing band, a rebelliousness, coupled with an increasingly somber and humble demeanor, his free prison concerts, and a trademark look, which earned him the nickname *"The Man in Black"*.

He also recorded humorous novelty songs like *"One Piece at a Time"* and *"A Boy Named Sue"*; a hit duet with his future wife, June Carter, called *"Jackson"*, that was a domestic dispute set to music (followed by many further duets after their marriage); and railroad songs including *"Hey, Porter"*, *"Orange Blossom Special"* and *"Rock Island Line"*.

During the last stage of his career, Cash covered songs by several late 20th century rock artists, most notably *"Hurt"* by *Nine Inch Nails*, which won a *Grammy Award* and was featured in a powerful and moving music video that was painful in it's honesty and an eerie summing up of his life .



*Ilona Harker stars as June Carter.*



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