

# Ziggy played guitar for Mo

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KELLYVILLE pilot, electronic whiz and professional entertainer Ziggy Zapata has won the Mo Award for One Man performer Band.

A Mo Award is a reward and encouragement for members of the entertainment industry who achieve excellence in live performance.

Zapata, 59, received the award on at the Australian Mo Awards Presentation Ceremony at Bankstown Sports Club last month.

He was nominated in two categories: Instrumental or Vocal Instrumental Performer and One Man Performer Band.

"It's nice to know some people think I'm worth it," Zapata said.

"I do anything from classics to Mozart, the Mexican hat dance, medley from *Fiddler on the Roof*, country western and blue grass stuff," he said.

Zapata arrived in Australia from Europe with his family when he was five and settled in Melbourne.

He learned classical piano and studied at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music.

When he finished high school Zapata bought a guitar from a pawn shop. He practised for a month and landed his first professional gig.

It was the first step into the world of entertainment which has taken him to performing shows all over Australia.



After concert tours in Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth, in 1973 Zapata moved to Sydney where he headlined his own shows on the NSW club circuit.

He also travelled the world performing on a variety of cruise ships.

"A major highlight of my career was the series of performances at the prestigious Perth Concert Hall with *Goon Show* star the late Sir Harry Secombe," Zapata said.

In the 80s Ziggy appeared in many big productions at the Bankstown Town Hall Theatre Restaurant, then the biggest and best venue of its type.

In 1993 he wrote, produced and starred in his own comedy musical show called *Viva Zapata* which had a great run there.

"I've been around the traps and I'm still flat out doing shows, the 59-year-old said.



Ziggy Zapata has won a Mo Award.