

MELBOURNE
FRINGE
FESTIVAL

FRINGE

**FESTIVAL
REPORT 2016**

ABOUT MELBOURNE

**BRAVERY
COLLABORATION
DIVERSITY
INCLUSIVITY
INDEPENDENCE**

Melbourne Fringe is a celebration of cultural democracy and art for everyone. By embracing diversity and a spirit of independence, we create a unique space for artistic self-expression linked to the life of our great city. That's why Melbourne Fringe is the most adventurous, inclusive, all-encompassing multi-artform festival in Australia. Every year we feature thousands of artists from every discipline you can name (and a few others besides) performing 400+ events in over 160 venues to an audience in excess of 350,000 people.

Melbourne Fringe is the place to go for pure, unadulterated, uncurated and unexpected artistic discovery. We help artists develop and provide a platform for a vast, diverse range of voices, in celebration of the idea that when we come together, we create a safe space for risk taking. We find ideas from the margins and shout them to the world. We love the weird and strange, the different and queer, the misfits and the freaks. We're here to challenge perceptions and shake up the hierarchy, to be brave and unafraid, to explore the boundaries of art and to change the way you see the world.

STEP INTO THE LIGHT:

**A Note from Melbourne Fringe
Creative Director & CEO**

In 2016, Melbourne Fringe asked our city to look at itself in a new light. Its citizens stepped out of their comfort zones to face our bold provocation: illumination awaits the brave. And artists, audiences and innocent bystanders took up our cultural offerings, celebrating artistic expression at its loudest and artistic discovery at its brightest.

Our work is about creating connections and interconnections, making invisible things visible, coming together and looking around to see new perspectives. Of course, our own creation, the city-scaled light sculpture and sound installation *Sky Light* did this literally, connecting building across the Yarra using giant beams of laser light, but programs across our festival implemented this idea in other ways. While celebrating the diversity of independent, experimental and alternative art, profiling work by artists with a disability or who are Deaf, bringing together ideas that celebrate Melbourne's status as UNESCO city of literature, and creating a raft of new programs for and by children and young people, this year's Melbourne Fringe proudly celebrated Melbourne's cultural democracy – the opportunity for everyone to participate in the cultural life of our city.

Our focus is always on the innovative little guys who make the biggest cultural impact – the artists of Fringe. We're here for them, as a platform for the outsider: for the young, the queer, the Deaf, the culturally diverse and the bravest artists with the boldest ideas. Our country needs artistic expression and new ways of thinking now more than ever. Melbourne Fringe works to support their important work by enabling extraordinary, innovative, challenging art, that makes us see our world like we've never seen it before. Remember: illumination awaits the brave.



Simon Abrahams
Creative Director & CEO
Melbourne Fringe

FRINGE

“

MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL IS PART OF THE DNA OF VICTORIA'S ARTS INDUSTRY. FRINGE IS A CHAMPION OF NEW CREATIVE TALENT AND NEW IDEAS.”

Martin Foley MP
Minister for Creative Industries



2016 FESTIVAL: AT A GLANCE

PROGRAM

EVENTS
464



FRINGE
PRODUCED
EVENTS

26



TICKETED
EVENTS

363



NON-TICKETED
EVENTS

75



VENUES

179



PERFORMANCES/
SESSIONS

3,366

ARTISTS & VOLUNTEERS

PARTICIPANTS
3,716



VICTORIAN
PREMIERES

339



AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERES

288



VOLUNTEERS

218



VOLUNTEER HOURS

3,162

ECONOMIC

ECONOMIC
IMPACT

\$14,584,878

\$ SPENT AT
BOX OFFICE

\$1,486,727

ATTENDANCE

AUDIENCE AT FREE AND
TICKETED EVENTS

351,466

AUDIENCE AT
TICKETED EVENTS

75,443

HUB ATTENDANCE

39,000

AUDIENCE GROWTH

2016 **351,466**

2015 **335,494**

2014 **322,738**



AVERAGE TICKET PRICE

\$22.71



NO. OF TICKETS SOLD

65,689

MEDIA REACH

MEDIA
VALUE

\$7,439,087



FACEBOOK

FOLLOWERS
27,196

19%
increase

REACH
485,927

218%
increase



TWITTER

FOLLOWERS
25,941

10%
increase

REACH
195,570

76%
increase



INSTAGRAM

FOLLOWERS
3,759

75%
increase

#melbfringe REACH
145,290



YOUTUBE
VIEWS
24,148

21%
increase



WEBSITE
VIEWS
3,193,225

261%
increase



ENEWS
SUBSCRIBERS
28,427

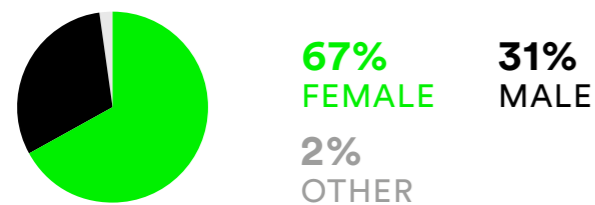
12%
increase

AUDIENCE PROFILE

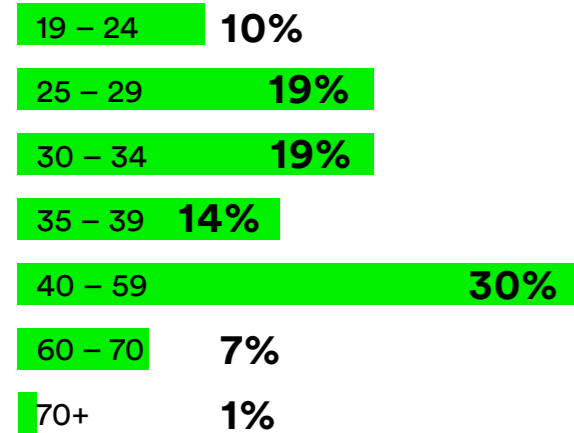


Photos by Theresa Harrison

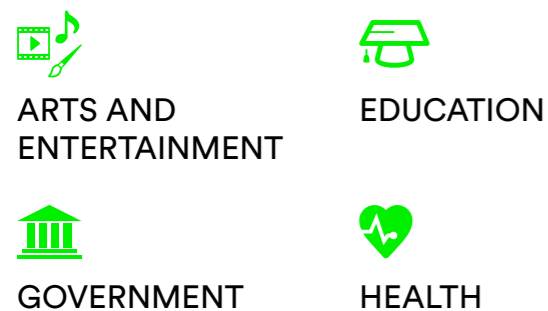
GENDER



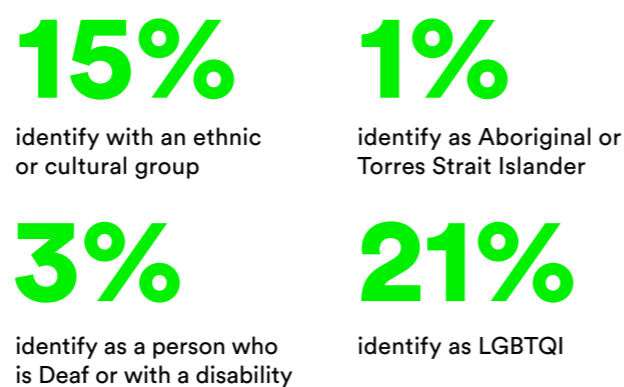
AGE



TOP OCCUPATIONS



DIVERSITY



TOP VISITING SUBURBS:

Brunswick	Footscray
Northcote	Preston
Richmond	Melbourne CBD
Brunswick East	Kensington
Fitzroy North	Carlton
North Melbourne	Fitzroy



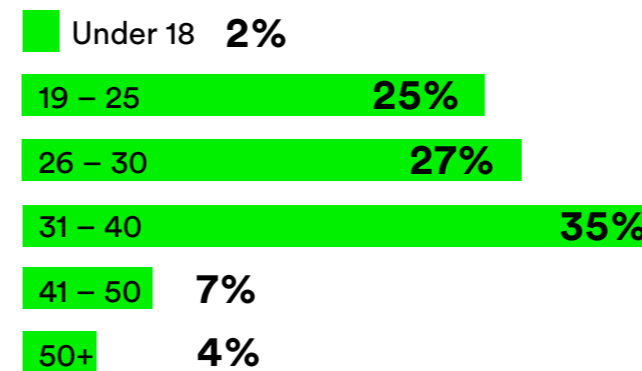
ARTIST PROFILE



“ I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH MELBOURNE FRINGE FOR OVER A DECADE AND THROUGHOUT THAT TIME I HAVE PERFORMED MY OWN WORK, WON AWARDS TO TOUR TO OTHER CITIES, PRODUCED FRINGE CLUB EVENTS, BEEN A PERFORMANCE AND COMEDY JUDGE AND MET LIFELONG FRIENDS AND COLLABORATORS. NONE OF THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE FESTIVAL.”

Bron Batten
2016 Melbourne Fringe artist

AGE



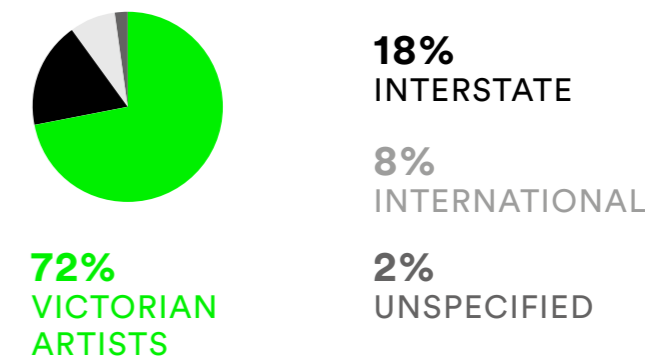
TOP REASONS FOR PARTICIPATING

1. Access to new and/or different audiences
2. Networking opportunities
3. Marketing and publicity
4. Artist resources and support
5. Opportunities to present work to national promoters

TOP ARTIST SUBURBS

- MELBOURNE CBD
- BRUNSWICK
- PASCOE VALE
- FOOTSCRAY
- NORTHCOTE

ORIGIN



CREATIVE PROGRAM

ATTENDEES

220,482

73% of audiences felt engaged, engrossed or absorbed by the Creative Program

70% of audiences felt the Creative Program made them experience something new or different

Melbourne Fringe commissions leading independent artists to produce large scale public artwork for the people of Melbourne. We inspire artists to take risks and push boundaries and present work that challenges the way we view the world around us.

Led by a theme of illumination, the 2016 Creative Program included five events: *Sky Light*, *White Beam*, *Kids vs Art*, *Bellbird* and the 30th anniversary of *Fringe Furniture*. Over 220,000 citizens stepped into the light and saw their city and themselves like they'd never seen it before.

“

ACTING AS THE FESTIVAL'S IMMERSIVE AND STUNNING CENTREPIECE COMES THE MOST AMBITIOUS KEYNOTE PROJECT IN MELBOURNE FRINGE'S STORIED HISTORY.”

Beat Magazine

SKY LIGHT

To launch the 2016 Festival, Melbourne Fringe commissioned artist Robin Fox to present the most ambitious project in the organisation's history. *Sky Light*, a city-scaled laser light public artwork connecting Melbourne's iconic CBD buildings, drew **204,655** spectators to each side of the Yarra River and captured the gaze of thousands of Melbourne CBD's nightly visitors. *Sky Light* was at once a light and sound project, transforming the way we understood the architecture of our own city.

“

EVERY CORNER OF THIS YEAR'S FRINGE PROGRAM HAS SOMETHING WHOSE UNORTHODOX LOCATION MIGHT HAVE YOU REVISITING YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF MELBOURNE.”

Sunday Age

Photo by Peter Tarasiuk

WHITE BEAM

The Festival culminated with another major illumination work by Robin Fox, *White Beam*. Inviting passersby to look up, the single focused beam of white light hovered tantalisingly out of reach, soaring across Prahran's Grattan Gardens for the final four nights of the Festival. Backed by an electronic soundtrack and swathed in mist, the beam pulsed and built to a crescendo performance every 15 minutes.

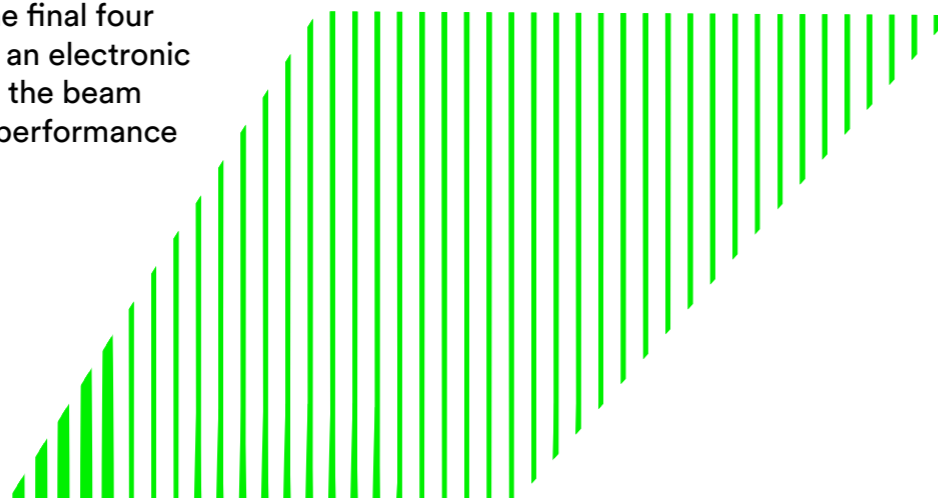


Photo by Theresa Harrison

BELLBIRD

Melbourne Fringe teamed up with Artplay and Polyglot to present *Bellbird*, an interactive musical installation for children and their families. Brass bells were attached to hundreds of streaming ribbons suspended in mid-air.

Across the first weekend of the school holidays, **1,279** kids and parents were blindfolded and guided through the space, creating their own playful soundtrack through movement as they wandered through the space.

“

MY LITTLE GIRL IS VISION IMPAIRED. I FOUND THIS SO WONDERFUL. KNOWING HOW BEAUTIFUL THE WORLD CAN BE THROUGH SOUND MAKES ME HAPPY. I THOUGHT THAT THE ROOM WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH SMALLER WHEN I COULDN'T SEE IT. THAT GAVE ME SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.”

Bellbird attendee



Photo by Jason Maling



FRINGE FURNITURE 30: REDESIGN

Photo by Theresa Harrison

KIDS VS ART

What happens when eight kids descend on the Festival program? Four brutally honest, hilarious and insightful podcasts.

Kids vs Art was a podcast series directed by Jackson Castiglione and Jason Maling of Field Theory and co-produced by Arts House and Melbourne Fringe. Children aged between 8 and 12 were handed the mic and let loose on the world of contemporary art and performance.

With **5,309** streams and downloads, people tuned in each Thursday to hear the hilarious, insightful and cutting comments from Fringe's elite team of reviewers.

“

THESE CHILDREN, WHO HAVE PROVEN THEMSELVES TO BE INSIGHTFUL, FUNNY, AND CUTTINGLY CRITICAL, ARE ABLE TO READ THE WORK PURELY AS IT STANDS. THE PODCAST REMINDS US NOT ONLY TO LISTEN TO CHILDREN MORE – AND THAT CHILDREN ARE MORE INTELLIGENT AND CAN TAKE ON MORE RESPONSIBILITY THAN WE OFTEN ASSUME – BUT IT ALSO REMINDS US TO LISTEN TO OURSELVES MORE, TOO.”

Jane Howard
Kill Your Darlings

Fringe Furniture reached a momentous milestone this year celebrating its 30th anniversary. Sparked by an interview on Triple R in 1986, *Fringe Furniture* founder Bruce Filley initiated what would one day be the longest running event in Melbourne Fringe history. He returned this year to present a brand new work in this year's exhibition alongside 37 alumni.

To mark the occasion we encouraged designers to look back to the experimental origins of the exhibition's history with the theme of 'redesign'. Over **5,213 people** visited the exhibition over 14 days, taking in 85 works by 77 artists. We commissioned a new series of works to accompany the exhibition; *Scent Lingers* by leading visual artist Robbie Rowlands.

75 design enthusiasts attended our Artist Talks, spotlighting artists and makers from the local design industry. We also presented Audio Described Tactile Tours to increase access for people who are blind or have low-vision.

“

THIRTY YEARS ON, FRINGE FURNITURE HAS EARNED ITS OWN REPUTATION NOT ONLY AS THE LONGEST-RUNNING MELBOURNE FRINGE EVENT, BUT AS A BREEDING GROUND FOR SOME OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST WELL-KNOWN DESIGNERS.”

Assemble Papers

INDEPENDENT PROGRAM

EVENTS
438

VENUES
179

PARTICIPANTS
3,409

ATTENDEES
130,984

Over 18 days in September, Melbourne was transformed by a Festival created by and for the people. We turned the spotlight on Melbourne's independent artists; illuminating **3,409 participants** in **438 events** at **179 venues across Melbourne**.

United by a common ambition of adventure, art-making and risk-taking, this year's participants embraced the Festival's value of cultural democracy as established, emerging and amateur artists stood side-by-side to present the largest festival in Melbourne Fringe history.

THE OTHER FILM FESTIVAL

We were thrilled to partner with Arts Access Victoria to present The Other Film Festival. Featuring nine free events across three nights at State Library Victoria, **48 speakers**, artists and filmmakers came together to present **32 films** about the lived experience of disability and the Deaf community to more than **750 attendees**.

OPEN BOOK

Presented in partnership with Melbourne UNESCO City of Literature Office, Open Book supported artists to present nine events at this year's Festival. Each event responded to the provocation of casting a new light on Melbourne and its relationship with literature.

“**MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL IS AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF CULTURAL DEMOCRACY AND ART. BY EMBRACING DIVERSITY AND SELF-EXPRESSION, THE FESTIVAL CREATES A UNIQUE AND TRULY WONDROUS PROGRAM EACH YEAR.**”

The Trend Spotter

“

WITHOUT MELBOURNE FRINGE, I FEAR MANY OF MY PLAYS WOULD END UP SITTING IN MY DESK DRAWER. INSTEAD, THE MELBOURNE FRINGE HAS PROVIDED ME THE OPPORTUNITY, AND SUPPORT, TO COLLABORATE WITH ARTISTS, REACH A WIDE RANGE OF AUDIENCES AND GET MY PLAYS 'OUT THERE'. THERE ARE NOT MANY OPPORTUNITIES LIKE IT. FOR AN EMERGING ARTIST, IT IS A VITAL FESTIVAL THAT CELEBRATES NEW WORK, RISK AND CREATIVITY. I WILL ALWAYS BE THANKFUL TO FRINGE FOR THE DOORS IT HAS OPENED AND THE PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS IT HAS STARTED.”

Katy Warner
2016 Melbourne Fringe Artist

CHURCH by Mama Alto
Photography by Jacinta Oaten

MELBOURNE FRINGE HUB AND CLUB

FRINGE HUB

The Fringe Hub is the bright and dazzling nerve centre of the Festival. Stretching across Arts House, Errol's Café and the Lithuanian Club, the Festival-programmed Hub venues showcased a phenomenal cross-section of Fringe events and experiences, all within walking distance. It is the place where innovation happens, as voices new and familiar alike push the boundaries of artistic experimentation and possibly good taste.

EVENTS

75

ATTENDEES

39,000

FESTIVAL CLUB

Deep within the Fringe Hub lies the pulsating heart of Melbourne Fringe, the Festival Club. A participatory, inclusive, energised space – 20,750 attendees were invited to a new experience every night with 15 uniquely curated events. Open six nights of the week, the multifaceted program boasted incomparable diversity and multiple art forms including film, storytelling, contemporary dance, interactive events, music and so much more. Both on stage and off, the Club represented the young, the queer, the large, the small, artists with disability, the culturally diverse; the bravest people with the boldest ideas.

EVENTS

15

ATTENDEES

20,750

“

THE MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL IS ONE OF THE MOST ADVENTUROUS, INCLUSIVE, AND ARTISTIC FESTIVALS THE COUNTRY HAS TO OFFER.”

Compare the Market

MORE THAN

40%

of audiences attended 2 to 3 events at the Festival Club

84%

of audiences were satisfied or very satisfied with the Club Programming

FAMILY PROGRAM & KIDS CLUB

FAMILIES AT THE FRINGE HUB

Over the first week of school holidays, Arts House was transformed into a destination for kids and families who wanted more out their entertainment. We hand-picked seven splendid kid-friendly shows from across our Independent Program to showcase at the Hub. From comedy to puppetry, circus to music, our Family program was the antidote to holiday blues.

95% of audiences were satisfied or very satisfied with the Family Program.

KIDS CLUB

In yet another first for Melbourne Fringe, we took the ever-popular model of our Festival Club and applied it to an equally political, inclusive and participatory space for kids and their families with our first ever Kids Club.

Across the final week of the Festival, thousands of kids and adults ran wild with unexpected, hilarious, accessible, unique and inclusive programming across six free events. Crossing art forms and disciplines, our Kids Club encouraged and inspired families to engage with content that celebrated diversity and challenged conservative ideas of art for children.

ATTENDEES

2,031

90% of audiences were satisfied or very satisfied with the Kids Club



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

MELBOURNE FRINGE ON TOUR

Melbourne Fringe on Tour delivered a selection of the best independent shows from the last two Festivals to regional venues throughout Victoria. In 2016, Fringe on Tour took **four** works from the Melbourne Fringe Festival to **seven** venues across Victoria.

TOUR READY

Tour Ready assists Melbourne Fringe artists to extend the life of their show beyond the Festival. We invited arts industry presenters from across Victoria, interstate and overseas to attend Melbourne Fringe events so that they can find suitable shows for their future programs.

2 NETWORKING SESSIONS

26 PRESENTERS

61 ARTISTS

INFO SESSIONS

Our Info Sessions are targeted at participants who have never presented at Melbourne Fringe before as well as artists who are emerging in the field. Each session focuses on the best practice skills essential to producing work at a Festival, from crowdfunding and marketing to how to produce sustainable and accessible events.

9 INFO SESSIONS

187 ARTISTS

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

As part of a year-round dedication to up-skilling artists and bringing together all levels of the arts community, we ran a Creative Workshop Series in partnership with Arts Centre Melbourne. Facilitated by some of Melbourne's leading creative practitioners including Sammy J, The Rabble and Maxine Beneba Clarke, the series was designed to highlight contemporary practice, covering practical skills like producing and grant writing as well as less tangible concepts such as situating art in public space and devising performance.

7 WORKSHOPS

10 FACILITATORS

118 ARTISTS

BUZZCUTS

Presented in partnership with Express Media, Buzzcuts supports emerging writers and broadcasters to publish previews, reviews and critical analysis of the Festival.

The program provided emerging journalists with exposure to a range of performances and arts events, and the opportunity to publish reviews, preparing them for professional critical arts writing.

6 WORKSHOPS

2 EDITORS

41 ARTICLES PUBLISHED

RALPH MCLEAN MICRO-GRANTS

The Ralph McLean Micro-grants program offers two small grants and mentorships to enable artists from diverse backgrounds to present their first ever Melbourne Fringe work.

The 2016 recipients were **Rechelle Gayler** and **Jessica Moody**.

Ralph McLean (1957-2010) was Chair of Melbourne Fringe from 1986-1991 and a member of our Board until 1998. His passion was celebrating diversity and art in all its forms. This initiative is supported by family and friends of Ralph McLean.

366

ARTISTS

participated in our Artist Development Programs in 2016



CHURCH by Mama Alto,
Photography by Jacinta Oaten

COMPASS

“

AT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, MELBOURNE FRINGE PROVIDED SUPPORT AND KNOWLEDGE – THE WORKSHOPS IN PRODUCING, FINANCIAL SKILLS, BUDGETING, PROJECT LOGISTICS AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES MEANT THAT THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMEONE TO ASK ADVICE FROM AND CHECK IN WITH. THE FRINGE STAFF HAVE BEEN ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT, PROFESSIONAL AND DEDICATED TO DIVERSITY AND ACCESSIBILITY.”

Anna Seymour
2016 Compass participant

In 2016, we launched a brand new artist development initiative to support artists from diverse backgrounds with and without a disability to present work at the Festival.

Compass invited 11 participants to take part in a six-month mentorship and workshop program that provided business skills and industry connections to help advance their careers.

Participants were paired with industry mentors and gained access to professional networks, learnt about project management and marketing skills, and received producing support for their Fringe event.

In an independent program evaluation conducted by Deakin University, Compass participants identified a lack of funding, lack of networks and lack of producing skills as the primary obstacles for participation in the arts. During the post-event focus group, the 2016 participants noted that the most significant skills they obtained through the program addressed each of these primary obstacles. Participants noted improved skills in managing people, self-organisation, self-promotion, self-advocacy, the “show biz vocabulary,” and a better understanding of the skills needed to succeed as a producer. Several participants highlighted the benefit of the network/relationship with their mentors, as well as the larger network of Fringe.

The 2016 Compass program was proudly supported by Gandel Philanthropy, Media Super and the Australian government through the Department of Communication and the Arts’ Catalyst—Australian Arts and Culture Fund.

2016 MENTEES:

Kristina Arnott
Maxime Banks
Andrew Follows
Rechelle Gayler
Arie Rain Glorie
Matilda Houlihan
Natasha Jynel
Santino Marino
Jessica Moody
Emma Riches
Anna Seymour

2016 MENTORS:

Jude Anderson, Punctum Inc
Maude Davey, Independent Artist
Susan Doel, Footscray Community Arts Centre
Charlotte Hilder, Arts Centre Melbourne
Laura Milke Garner, Producer
Jodee Mundy, Independent Artist
Vanessa Pigrum, Chunky Move
Mariaa Randall, Independent Artist
Andrew Tetzlaff, RMIT
Freya Waterson, Independent Producer
Josh Wright, Arts House

22 MENTEES AND MENTORS

11 WORKSHOPS AND SESSIONS

11 PRODUCTIONS

48 INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES

3 EXHIBITIONS



PARTNERSHIP ACTIVATIONS



Photos by Theresa Harrison



At Melbourne Fringe, we approach our partnerships like we approach our art; unexpected, creative and bold.

BANK AUSTRALIA TICKET BOOTH

Bank Australia and Melbourne Fringe joined forces to commission visual artist George Rose to merge the vibrant brands, bringing to life our Bank Australia Ticket Booth. Acting as a 20-foot street-level billboard for the duration of the Festival, the two brands stood proudly side by side for more than 430,000 visitors to see.

Located in the heart of the CBD at City Square, tourists and Festival-goers alike visited the booth to buy tickets, learn more about the Festival, meet our Festival Fortune Teller, and get their heads around the enormous Festival program.



BANK AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN PROUD PARTNERS WITH MELBOURNE FRINGE FOR FOUR YEARS AND WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THIS UNIQUE FESTIVAL BECAUSE WE SEE A GREAT SYNERGY BETWEEN OUR TWO ORGANISATIONS – BOTH ORGANISATIONS ARE FIERCELY INDEPENDENT AND COMMUNITY-ORIENTED. OVER OUR YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP, MELBOURNE FRINGE HAVE BEEN A SUPPORTIVE, FLEXIBLE AND OPEN PARTNER THAT CONSISTENTLY AIMS TO UNDERSTAND AND EMPHASISE OUR UNIQUE POSITION AS A RESPONSIBLE BANK. WE'RE EXCITED TO KEEP WORKING WITH MELBOURNE FRINGE INTO THE FUTURE."

Damien Walsh
Managing Director, Bank Australia

NANDO'S PERI-PERI SPOTLIGHT STAGE

We partnered with Nando's to deliver our first ever PERi-PERi Spotlight Stage featuring the hottest acts at this year's Festival. Located at Federation Square, more than 1,000 people flocked to see a veritable who's who of this year's program.

Featuring 15 acts from across the Festival, children and families gathered to enjoy an afternoon of free entertainment supported by Nando's.

ATTENDEES

1,180

70%

of our audiences are more likely to think positively about a brand because they are associated with Melbourne Fringe

FESTIVAL FORTUNE TELLER



Photo by Theresa Harrison

In 2016, our Independent Program experienced a massive 13% increase. More than ever, our audiences needed a new way to navigate the enormous program. Enter our Festival Fortune Teller. Supported by Creative Victoria's Marketing Innovation Fund, audiences could seek spiritual guidance in person at our Bank Australia Ticket Booth or play online at the Melbourne Fringe website. Through a series of binary questions, the Fortune Teller would get to know you and determine the events you were destined to see at this year's Festival.

PEOPLE PLAYED ONLINE

2,000+

112

people had their palms stroked in person

STAFF

MELBOURNE FRINGE STAFF

Creative Director & CEO Simon Abrahams
Business & Operations Manager Hadley Agrez
Creative Program Producer Dan Koop
Acting Independent Program Producer Xanthe Beesley
(Independent Program Producer Felix Preval to April)
Marketing & Development Manager Abby Elisha
Funding Manager Pauline Cady
Marketing and Development Coordinator Emily Alvis
Festival Administrator Emma Bannerman

FESTIVAL STAFF

Artist Services and Access Coordinator Tom Noble
Artist Services and Access Officer Paula van Beek
Associate Producer, Events Jo O'Callaghan
Associate Producer, Creative Program Vanessa Wright
Marketing & Development Officer Melissa McShane
Production Manager, Festival Tom Abud
Production Manager, Sky Light & White Beam Emily O'Brien
Production Coordinator Bart Mangan
Ticketing Manager Dan Giovannoni
Visual Designers, Fringe Furniture: Hannah Moriarty & Brooke Wallington
Volunteers Coordinator Libby Lynch

FRINGE HUB STAFF

Fringe Hub Manager Steph Speirs
Front of House Managers Tom Browne and Stu Jeanfield
Bar Managers Phoebe Taylor and Brogan Walker
Visual Designer, Fringe Club Eugyeene Teh
Lighting Designer, Fringe Club Gosling Productions
Bank Australia Ticket Booth Manager Alexina Coad
Festival Fortune Tellers Telia Nevile and Charles Purcell

CONSULTANTS

Bookkeeping Sam Ryan (S.A.Y.S.O Pty Ltd)
Content Agency Department Of The Future
Copywriter Chris Flynn
Graphic Design Sweet Creative
Legal Norton Rose Fullbright
Photography Theresa Harrison and Max Milne
Publicity Zilla & Brook
Risk Management Bill Coleby (Coleby Consulting)
Ticketing and Registration 3d Resourcing
Web Design Mecca Medialight

BOARD

Chair Gideon Obarzanek
Deputy Chair Nicholas Verginis
Company Secretary Juanita Pope
Treasurer Liza Gelt
Directors Kirsty Ellem, Nicky Klempfner
(Katerina Andronis to February, Jennifer Beckman-Wong to May, Fiona Sweet to June)
Observer Chris Booton

We could not have delivered this Festival without the help of 218 dedicated volunteers who contributed an extraordinary 3,162 hours of their time.

AWARDS



Photos by Theresa Harrison



MELBOURNE FRINGE LIVING LEGEND AWARD

AWARDED TO RINSKE GINSBERG

The Living Legend Award goes to an individual who has inspired and facilitated high quality work that provides an exemplar to the Melbourne Fringe community.

Rinske Ginsberg personifies the Fringe spirit, supporting independent artists, devoting her life to emerging practice, daringly shifting the focus of artistic development and providing sector leadership above and beyond the call of duty.

MELBOURNE FRINGE AWARDS

With more than 460 events taking place in over 170 venues across town, judges for the 2016 Melbourne Fringe Festival have had their work cut out for them.

131 independent judges saw 294 eligible events across every genre of the Festival.

AWARD WINNERS

People's Choice Award, supported by Bank Australia: *A Prudent Man*

CATEGORY AWARDS

- Best Cabaret: *Vanishing Act*
- Best Circus: *Sediment*
- Best Comedy: *Sammy J - Hero Complex*
- Best Dance: *Emptying the Bucket*
- Best Kids: *The Adventures of Broer & Zus*
- Best Live Art: *The internet is where innocence goes to die and you can come too*
- Best Music: Adam Page - *Chairman of the Beard*
- Best Performance: *Blind Spot* and *Dion*
- Best Venue: Hare Hole - Hares & Hyenas
- Best Visual Arts: *Fifty Shades of Blak*
- Best Words & Ideas: *Between Two Lines*

TOURING AWARDS

- WA Tour Ready Award, supported by FRINGE WORLD: *A Prudent Man*
- SA Tour Ready Award, supported by Adelaide Fringe: *Onstage Dating*
- QLD Tour Ready Award, supported by Brisbane Powerhouse: *ISLAMOFARCIST*
- NSW Tour Ready Award, supported by Sydney Fringe: *Tina Del Twist GOLD CLASS*
- New Zealand Tour Ready Award, supported by New Zealand Fringe: *The internet is where innocence goes to die and you can come too*
- Ballarat Cabaret Award, supported by Her Majesty's Ballarat: *Shaken*

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

- Best Emerging Visual Artist or Curator, supported by West Space: Hannah Presley, *I Never Painted My Dreams; I Painted My Reality*
- Best Emerging Circus Performer, supported by ACAPTA: Anna Murray, *The Element of Consequence*
- Best Emerging Producer, supported by Auspicious Arts: Deifferent Theatre, Jessica Moody and Ilana Gelbart
- Best Emerging Writer, supported by Emerging Writers Festival: Christian Taylor, *How Can You Sleep At Night?*
- Best Emerging Indigenous Artist, supported by The Wilin Centre: Rechelle Gayler
- Temperance Hall Award, supported by Phillip Adams BalletLAB: *HardQueer DeathPony (You've Had Worse Things in Your Mouth)*

Outstanding Access Award, supported by Arts Access Victoria: Mama Alto Productions

New Original Circus, supported by CircusOz: Jess Love, *Notorious Strumpet & Dangerous Girl*

Market Ready Award, supported by Regional Arts Victoria: Natasha Phillips and Renae Shadler, *RESTORE*

Liveworks Experimental Arts Award, supported by Performance Space: Gold Satino

Innovation in Culturally Diverse Practice, supported by Multicultural Arts Victoria: *Salty*

The Discovery Award, supported by Melbourne Festival: *Andre Tonight!*

Arts House Evolution Award: Alice Dixon, Caroline Meaden and William McBride

FRINGE FURNITURE AWARDS

Sustainable Design Award, supported by Banyule City Council: *Fhable* by Anthony Nelson

Tait Award for Design Innovation, supported by Tait: *Ondale* by Alexandra Pontonio

Emerging Designer Award, supported by Craft: *Kerfiture* by Alison Lyons, Joel Donaldson, Danny Triebert

The Craftsmanship Award, supported by Handsome & Co.: *Barkeep* by Matt Potter

ISM Objects Award for Lighting Innovation, supported by ISM Objects: *Hex Table Lamp* by Richard Greenacre

Best Student Design Award, supported by Tongue and Groove: *Babylon* by Ren Cruden-Smith

MELBOURNE FRINGE SUPPORTERS

DISCOVERER – \$5,000+

Sally Browne

EXPLORER – \$2,500+

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The Big Group

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Juanita Pope
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Pinky Watson

ACCOMPLICE – \$200+

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Rosemary Walls
Anonymous (2)

FRINGE COMMUNITY – UP TO \$200

We would also like to thank all of our wonderful Fringe Community donors that give so generously. Thank you for your ongoing support.

LEGACY

Thank you to Mark and Tamara Boldiston for their generous bequest to Melbourne Fringe.

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