

MELBOURNE
FRINGE



MELBOURNE FRINGE
ANNUAL REPORT 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Melbourne Fringe respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, work, play and hold our Festival and events.

We acknowledge that the oldest living culture in the world has been kept alive by a rich and continuing history of storytelling, music, dance, art and language.

We pay our respects to the people of the Kulin Nations and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past and present, who maintain an enduring spiritual and cultural connection to the land. Sovereignty was never ceded.

KALKADOOIN BY ARKIE BARTON, DEADLY FRINGE, MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL 2019. PHOTO BY MICHAEL JALARU TORRES.

MESSAGES

“You can’t keep a good Fringe down.”

Robert Reid, *The Saturday Paper*, 2021



Stephanie Hamilton
Acting Chair
of the Board

Where do we start when trying to encapsulate 2021? Covid-19 has had far reaching impacts across the globe and has decimated our city as we know it. Melbourne was the hardest hit region in Australia with a prolonged period of lockdown and restrictions. Outside of effectively 18-months of lockdowns, there was significant hesitancy and nervousness to “return to normal”. Today we are seeing how this is having lasting effects on mental health, behaviour, city visitation and notably engagement with the arts.

As testament to extraordinary resilience, Melbourne Fringe was able to deliver a Festival amidst the crisis. The Festival delivered in October, was markedly different to the one launched a couple of months earlier in August. That Festival was lost and a new one was reimagined and delivered within a short couple of weeks when an extended lockdown was again confirmed. The majority of in-person events were cancelled or postponed, with many works pivoting to digital.

The resolve and determination of the Fringe team, under the exceptional leadership of Simon Abrahams, meant that a program of arts was delivered when it was needed most. Artist satisfaction with the Festival was at an all-time high – 97.5% saying they would present work at Fringe again. And Fringe was able to direct much needed support to the independent sector with \$646,805 financial assistance to artists.

On behalf of the Melbourne Fringe staff and board, I want to thank Sam Strong for his excellent leadership as Chair of the Board. Thank you to our Federal, Victorian and local governments for your continued investment, as well as all of the donors, partners and sponsors for your support during an almost impossible year. Most importantly thank you to the entire Melbourne Fringe team and all of the independent artists who were in involved in this festival like no other.

Next year, Melbourne Fringe celebrates its 40th year – we can’t wait to celebrate this milestone with you!



Simon Abrahams
Creative Director
& CEO

Annual reports are the forever record of what happened, so even though we all know this now, here’s a message to anyone from the future reading this: 2021 was unthinkable hard. It took everything we had to give and then took some more. But as our phoenix festival showed – we are resilient and strong and we absolutely never, ever give up.

We planned one truly excellent Festival – full of great ambition and artistic risk – and then we delivered a completely different Festival, full of innovation and heart. We opened our venue and closed it, and opened it, and closed it so many times, we’ve lost track. Through everything, we kept smiling, and kept working to ensure that our artists’ work could be realised, and that’s the thing that really matters.

We proved that artists will always meet unexpected challenges with creative solutions. We kept growing in every way, expanding our year-round programs that support and sustain artists and uplift our communities of focus, supporting the sector, and championing the Fringe way with our commitment to cultural equity and provoking social change.

We elevated design discourse to new heights and we turned up the volume on voices from the margins. We doubled down on our commitment to fostering a strong and equitable independent arts sector by investing in the development of artists, arts workers and audiences. We broke down barriers and pumped-up skills and shouted from the rooftops.

We shared the stories of our extraordinary artists with the people of this beautiful city.

Together we built (and re-built) the astonishing program documented in these pages. We’re so proud of what we made in 2021. We hope you’re proud of us, too.

2021 FAST FACTS & FIGURES



"I felt like we were part of something that was defying the odds, that was demonstrating to the world that with a positive, generous, accepting and inclusive spirit nothing is impossible."

Melbourne Fringe Festival artist and ShowSupport recipient 2021.

206 EVENTS TOOK PLACE

- 139 Festival events
- 35 Fringe Common Rooms events
- 32 Workshops, panels and forums
- 81 of these were in-person events
- 125 of these were digital events

1,153 PARTICIPANTS

- 564 Emerging artists
- 338 LGBTQIA+ artists
- 66 First Nations artists
- 23 Deaf artists
- 82 Disabled artists
- 339 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse artists

434 EVENTS

Cancelled

35,201 ATTENDEES

365 TIMES SIMON SAID:

"Everything is going to be OK."

163 ARTISTS

Received financial assistance

\$646,805

In financial assistance to artists

156 DAYS

Spent working in our pyjamas

1 MILLION

Tears cried

696 MILLION

Media reach

\$6.4 MILLION

Media value

2 FESTIVALS

Planned

1 FESTIVAL

Delivered

BLUNDERLAND, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS, 2021. PHOTO BY WILL HAMILTON-COATES.



BLUNDERLAND, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS, 2021. PHOTO BY WILL HAMILTON-COATES.

OUR IMPACT

Melbourne Fringe empowers anyone to realise their right to creative expression, this drives our work and is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that access the arts and creative expression are fundamental human rights and vital to a creative, cohesive, optimistic and empathetic society.

WE MEASURE OUR IMPACT ACROSS THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Self-realisation
- Knowledge
- Inclusion
- Belonging

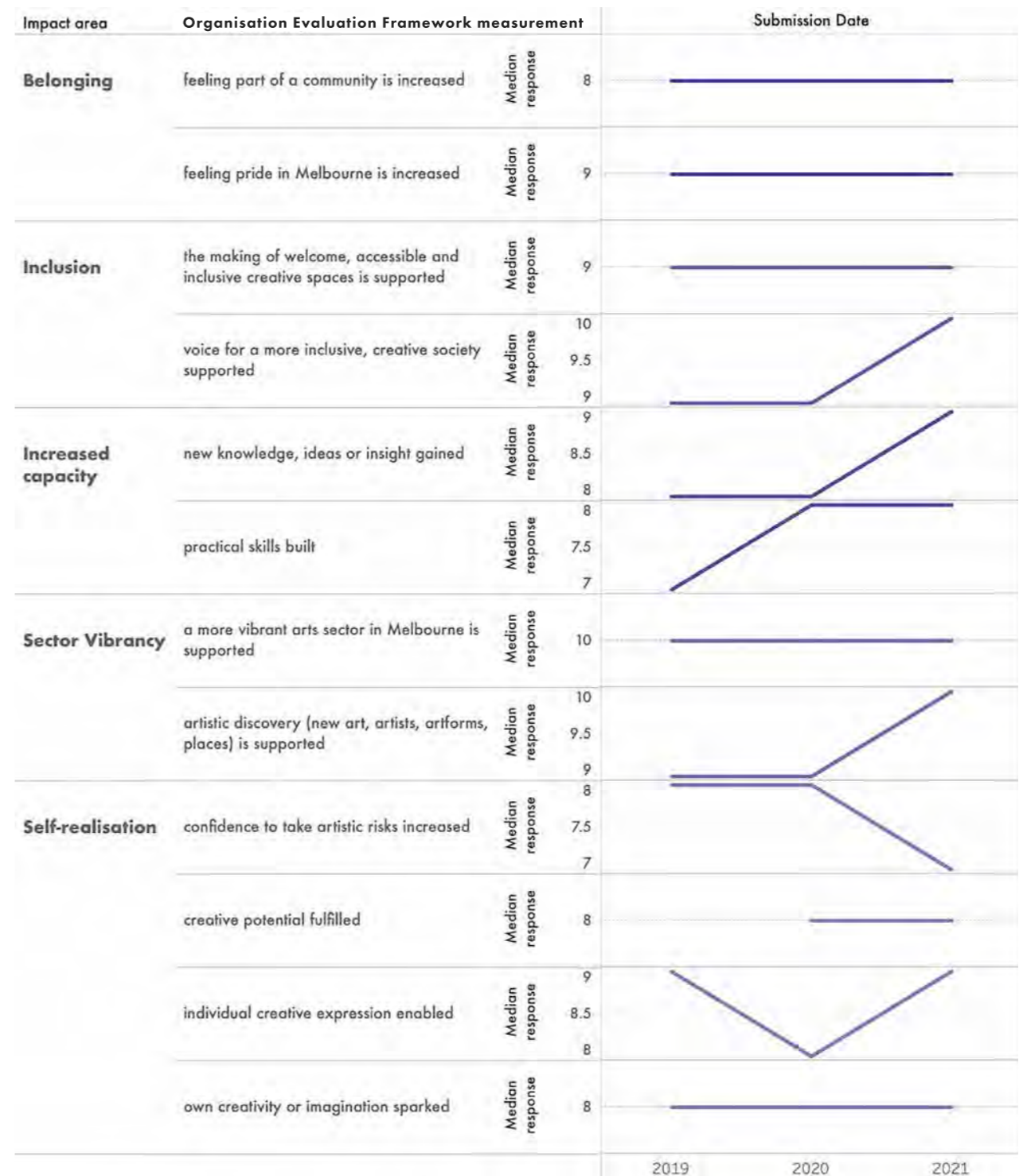
Across three years of measuring our impact, we have noticed some interesting trends and outcomes:

- In 2021, we have already reached **two thirds** of our 2025 Organisation Evaluation Framework targets
- On average, we have seen an improvement between 2020 and 2021 across **every impact area**
- During the pandemic (2020 and 2021) we delivered better results across most impact areas than in 2019

- Fringe consistently performs best in the areas of **inclusion**, our artists feel that we support an inclusive, creative society and **sector vibrancy**, in that we are a platform for new and vibrant art
- Our artists experience a greater level of confidence in taking **artistic risks** (median response 8), and rate higher in gaining **new knowledge**, ideas and insights (median response 9), enabling their individual **creative experience** (median response 8) and in **sparking their creativity or imagination** (median response 9). These results indicate to us that artists are feeling genuinely supported by program initiatives

Respondents in our communities of focus experienced a decrease in **Sector Vibrancy** in 2021, most likely due to the border restrictions and lockdowns during the pandemic, and this may go some way to explaining the stagnancy in civic pride.

2021 EVALUATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS



JUNIPER WILDE, WILDE NIGHT IN, MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL 2021. PHOTO BY J FORSYTH.

OUR SUPPORT: MONEY FOR ART



BLINDERLAND, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS, 2021. PHOTO BY WILLIAM HAMILTON-COATES.



CLUB TRISH, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS, 2021. PHOTO BY WILLIAM HAMILTON-COATES.

“I thank you for picking my poetry project and helping a struggling artist such as myself, to bring storytelling to life in the community. Also, I thank the awesome Melbourne Fringe team for their guidance and support as well.”

Melbourne Fringe Festival artist and Ralph Mclean recipient 2021.

In 2021 we continued growing our Money for Art program, putting cold hard cash in the hands of artists so they can get on with doing what they do best: making art. Two years of cancelled gigs and tours, lost box office revenue and repeated lockdowns has left the industry reeling, with independent artists disproportionately impacted. Money for Art is our way of finding the gaps that artists often fall through and filling them. With cash.

“Thank you so much for this, I really appreciate it – it’s so great that there is this support available to artists.”

Phoenix Fund recipient, 2021.

Ralph Mclean Microgrants

Our Ralph Mclean Microgrants program supports artists facing structural disadvantage by reducing barriers to participation in the festival, particularly from our communities of focus including First Nations, Deaf and Disabled, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and LGBTQIA+. This year, we supported 20 artists with microgrants covering investments such as registration fees, venue hire, access service costs and much more.

These grants continue the great work of Ralph Mclean, former Chair of Melbourne Fringe and champion of diversity and inclusion. They are supported by the Persephone Foundation and a very generous gift from a Friend of Fringe.

Jewel Box

We continued our partnership with Jewel Box Performances, offering support to artists who identify as First Nations or People of Colour to help them present their work at the Festival. Three artists were supported with grants covering commissioning fees, registration costs, bespoke marketing assistance and guidance from both the Melbourne Fringe and Jewel Box Performances teams.

Phoenix Fund

We launched our Covid-recovery Phoenix Fund to support artists in crisis, who were at risk of falling through the cracks and were ineligible for other forms of government assistance. Open to any artist facing significant financial hardship, \$16,000 in Phoenix Funds were distributed to help cover living expenses including rent, bills and other necessities, as well as to reclaim sunken costs such as venue hire for shows that didn’t happen or the cost of costumes that were worn.

The Phoenix Fund is generously supported by a significant gift from Peter Wilson and was supported by John and Lorraine Bates, Shirrah Comeadow, Emer Harrington, Linda Herd, Robyn Landsdown and Ian Murphy.

Artists Helping Artists

Donations (and the people that make them) come from all sorts of places. This year two artists – the powerhouse duo Jude Perl and Annie Bourke – pooled their resources and supported Akansha Hungenahally to create their new work *Don’t Ask*.

ShowSupport

This artist-meets-donor matchmaking service connects independent artists with amazing private donors interested in commissioning new, original work to premiere in the Festival. These commissions are incredibly meaningful to artists and give donors the opportunity to help usher into the world some extraordinary new projects. ShowSupport has been generously supported by Rosemary Forbes and Ian Hocking, Craig Semple, Dr Jenepher Martin, Christopher Reed, Rosemary Walls and Pinky Watson.

Digital Discovery Commissions

We commissioned two artists to create new works that challenge the way we think about digital art and performance. We commissioned Djovan Caro and Vida Rajan to create new digital works that sparked discovery, innovation and experimentation within the digital space. Both of these works delayed presentation until 2022.

New Voices Commission

Now in its second year, our New Voices Commission supported Didem Caia to develop their play at a residency at Fringe Common Rooms. Generously supported by the Malcolm Robertson Foundation, Didem postponed the final presentation of the work to the 2022 Melbourne Fringe Festival.



Cash for Creatives

Once again, our Cash for Creatives was a highly successful microgrant program that provided 29 artists with small grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 help cash flow the creation and presentation on new work at the 2021 Festival. These grants not only helped cover the cost of registration, they also provided seed funding for new and exciting projects.



Supported by the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative.

Monash Microgrants

Monash Microgrants provided Monash students with the opportunity to present their work at this year’s Festival.



Festivals Moreland Development Program

Our Festivals Moreland Development Program commissioned three projects to support artists who either lived, worked or wanted to present their work within the City of Moreland. These \$5,000 microgrants covered registration fees and helped cash flow new work.



Your Space

Supported emerging Deaf and Disabled artists through a personalised mentorship program.



OUR PEOPLE: ARTISTS

“Melbourne Fringe has enabled me as an artist to push my work in new directions. Giving me platform and momentum in my career. I think Melbourne Fringe is the best fringe festival in Australia – and I’ve been to ‘em all.”

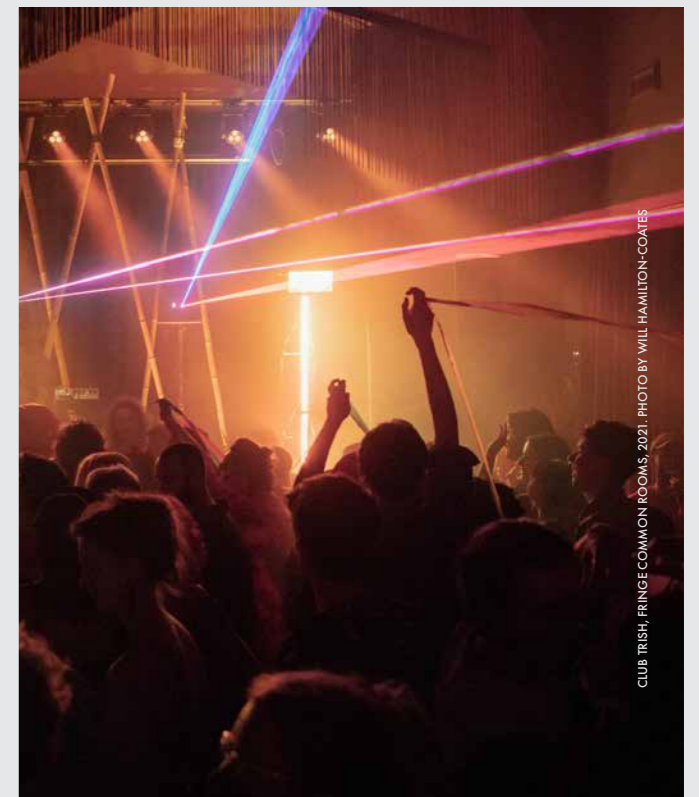
Jonathan Hawkins, Melbourne Fringe Festival artist 2021.



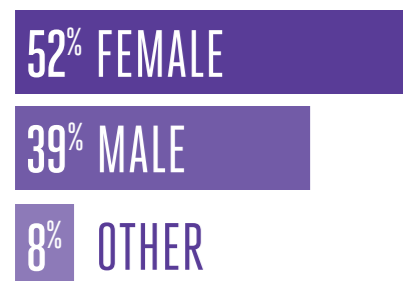
OUR PEOPLE: AUDIENCES

“I think it’s great that you pulled together another year of Fringe – instead of stepping away from the challenge. We all really appreciate it.”

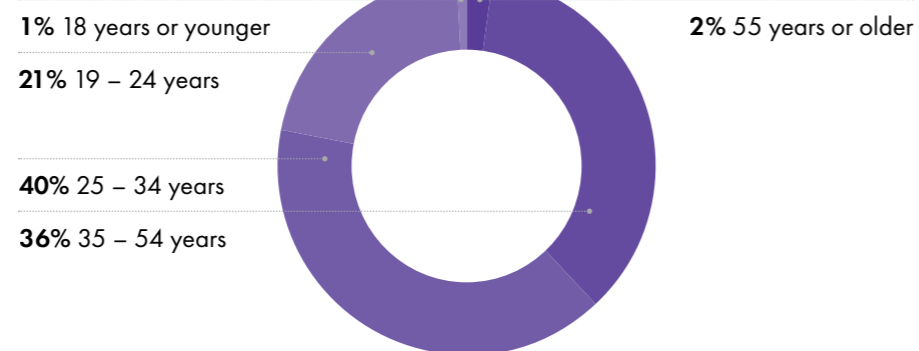
Audience member, Melbourne Fringe Festival 2021.



Gender

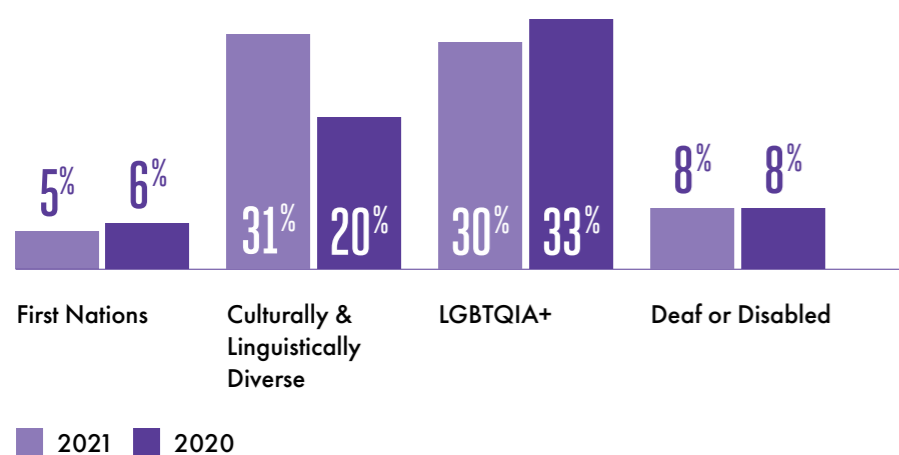


Age

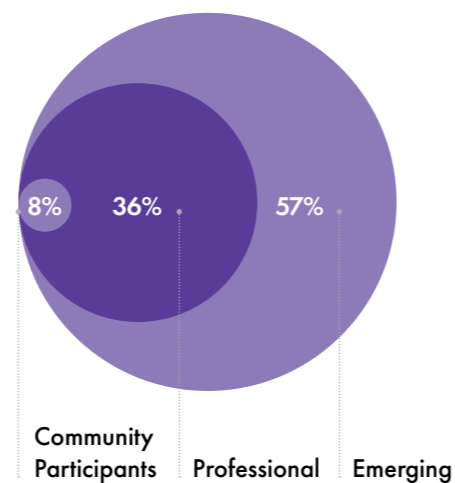


Diversity

Artist who identify as:



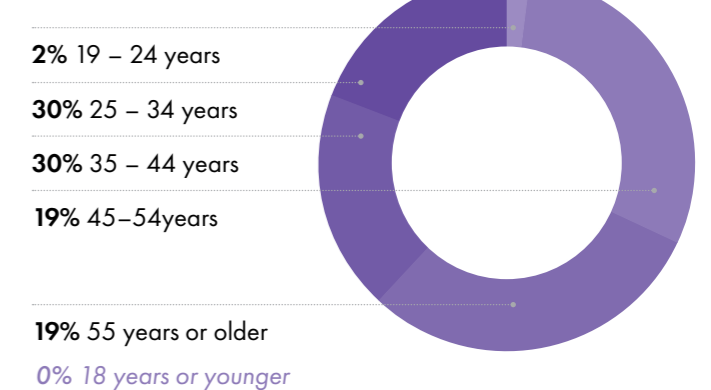
Experience



Gender

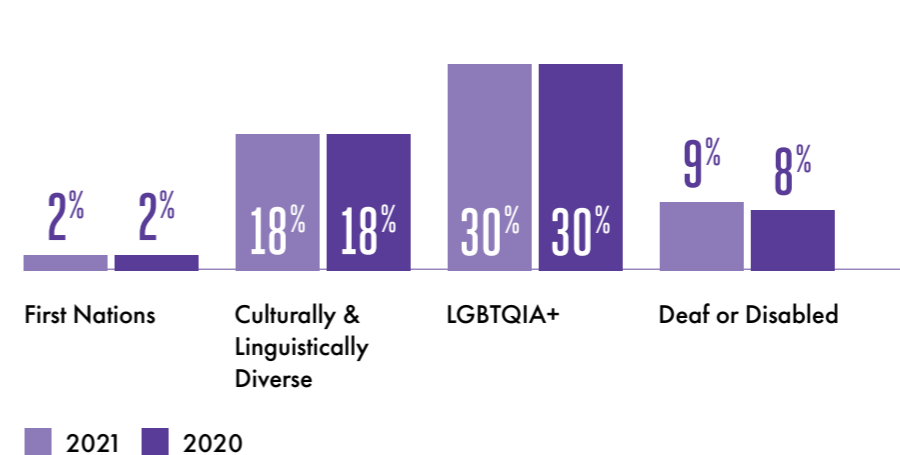


Age



Diversity

Audiences who identify as:



Audience Satisfaction Rating



Net Promoter Score





CLUB TRISH, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS, 2021, PHOTO BY WILL HAMILTON-COATES.

35
EVENTS

104
ARTISTS

3,965
ATTENDEES

Fringe Commons Rooms, our year-round venue at Trades Hall, was served the same curve-balls as every other live arts venue in 2021, but we're proud to say that due to our dextrous programming capacity and the dedicated work of the Fringe Common Rooms team, Trades Hall was a (socially-distanced) flurry of activity.

We rang in the year with a summertime Midsumma program that brought new artists and audiences to Fringe Common Rooms (and smashed our bar targets) – and we're thrilled to say that this relationship with Midsumma will continue to grow into the future as we become one of their Hub venues.

Even through restrictions and extended lockdowns, Fringe Common Rooms was home to 35 events, including YIRRAMBOI Festival events, Deadly Fringe artist events, as well as (count them!) TWO sold-out real-life sweating-on-strangers dance parties! Plus we hosted fortnightly digital dance parties online, which not only kept Fringe Common Rooms working but ensured Melbourne could keep dancing during lockdown.

In another bold step in our bid to fill Fringe Common Rooms with artists all year round, we launched the Melbourne Fringe Common Rooms Artist in Residence opportunity. We announced that six artists would receive free venue hire plus \$5,000 in cash to make their art. This year's Artist in Residence are NazAree Dickerson, Harriet Gillies and Marcus McKenzie, Jonathan Homsey, Belinda Locke, The People (Morgan Rose and Katrina Cornwell) and Cam Venn. With the bulk of these residencies disrupted by you-know-what, we're excited to host these artists – and heaps more sweaty dance parties – in 2022 and continue embedding Fringe Common Rooms in the DNA of the cultural life of the city.

“The team at Fringe empowered us with agency and autonomy in a beautiful heritage building, something that is so rare in Australian artist residencies.”

Fringe Common Rooms, Artist in Residence, 2021.

THE FESTIVAL- THAT-NEVER-WAS

Before we had to transition the 2021 Festival to a digital format due to the restrictions facing Victorians at the time, we'd planned to present a Festival jam-packed with commissions, new programs, old programs, old programs re-imagined, choirs, films, immersive works, public art, games, fashion parades, plays, gigs and heaps (HEAPS) of cracker parties that would have filled up theatres and pubs and performance spaces all over Melbourne. Launched full of optimism and hope in August, the program was full of beautiful, extraordinary, dangerous, wild, celebratory, revelatory art, made by many thousands of artists.

478
EVENTS

2,928
ARTISTS



HARLEY MANN, ART GUIDES THE WAY, MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL 2021. PHOTO BY DUNCAN JACOB.

139 EVENTS

974 ARTISTS

31,319 ATTENDEES

125 DIGITAL
EVENTS

81 IN-PERSON
EVENTS



JUNIPER WILDE, WILDE NIGHT 'N', MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL 2021. PHOTO BY J FORSYTH.

PHOENIX FESTIVAL

Across the 18 days of our Phoenix Festival (30 September–17 October), we supported 974 artists to transform their events into digital or socially distanced art to reach audiences locked down in their homes. We presented 139 works to over 31,319 art-hungry audiences, who logged on from lounge rooms and bedrooms to watch live art from across the world and right here in Melbourne.

“Put your preconceptions to the side, because digital art is far from the stale Zoom meetings you might have experienced. Artists have responded to Melbourne’s current situation with creative zeal, presenting everything from at-home dance parties to karaoke sessions, psychedelic audio explorations and even live events held (in adherence to all current restrictions) out in the wild.”

Nicole Dowse, Time Out, 2021



FRESH(ISH) OFF THE BOAT BY HE HUANG, MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL 2021. PHOTO BY J FORSYTH.



HARLEY MANN, ART GUIDES THE WAY, MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL 2021. PHOTO BY DUNCAN JACOB.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Open Access Program

As always, the beating heart of the Festival is our big, bold and adventurous Open Access Program – a celebration of freedom of artistic expression and independence. And in 2021, this program was proof that artists always meet unexpected challenges with creative solutions.

“This year’s Fringe is a good way for arts lovers to enliven the last days of lockdown, and to mentally prepare as we ease ourselves back into live performance.”

Cameron Woodhead, *The Age*, 2021.

Art Guides the Way

Kicking off the Festival with a bang, *Art Guides the Way* celebrated the resilience of the independent arts in the only way we knew how – with a live-streamed digital party where 10,000 (recently-defunct) program guides were turned into art. Imagined and delivered in less than three weeks, 10 commissioned artists transformed hundreds of program guide pages into high fashion couture, dance routines, electronic music, even a COVID-shaped piñata (whacked harder than any piñata in history). Part ritual, part exorcism, all Fringe, *Art Guides the Way* was a nod to the Festival that should have been, a glorious summoning of the Festival to come and proof that art really can guide the way.



KARIM DANCE, ART GUIDES THE WAY, MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL 2021. PHOTO BY DUNCAN JACOB.



8 SESSIONS
18 ARTISTS
685 TICKETS SOLD

WE BUILT THIS CITY, MELBOURNE FRINGE 2021, PHOTO BY TERESA HARRISON

Faces of Fringe

Now in its third year, *Faces of Fringe* celebrated the creativity and resilience of Melbourne's independent artists by transforming the hoardings along the Melbourne City Baths and provided pedestrians with a creative intervention as we learned how to move around our city once again. This free outdoor exhibition showcased 10 unique artworks created in collaboration with photographer Sarah Walker, illustrator Sophie McPike and 14 artists participating in the Festival. To create the work during lockdown, Sarah Walker and Sophie McPike devised an innovative creative process including instructional videos for home photography, Zoom directed photoshoots and camera images edited into a high quality artworks.



FACES OF FRINGE, MELBOURNE FRINGE 2021, PHOTO BY NICK ROBERTSON

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Signature Events
We Built This City

For one weekend in early December, Metro Tunnel Creative Program, Melbourne Fringe and Polyglot transformed University Square into a giant playground and construction site for kids in *We Built This City*. Emerging from a year of lockdowns and disruptions, children and their families were invited to come together to create unique structures, inspired by the radically different landscapes of the pandemic to build the cities and towns of their imaginations. Artists dressed brightly as construction workers roamed the site and a DJ provided a banging soundtrack to celebrate the work's 20th anniversary and the amazing feat of engineering happening right under our feet, as part of the Metro Tunnel project.



1 EXHIBITION
16 ARTISTS
5,250 ATTENDEES

FACES OF FRINGE, MELBOURNE FRINGE 2021, PHOTO BY NICK ROBERTSON



MULTIPLY, 2020. PHOTO BY GREGORY LORENZUTTI



6 EVENTS
102 SESSIONS
86 ARTISTS
618 ATTENDEES

FRINGE FOCUS TAIWAN, MELBOURNE FRINGE 2021. PHOTO BY NICK ROBERTSON.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Signature Events

Multiply: The Film

Multiply: The Film chronicles the story behind the making and presentation of Stephanie Lake's transcendent and profound participatory dance event *Multiply* presented at Melbourne Fringe Festival 2020. Celebrated Australian filmmaker Rhys Graham caught on film this celebration of the creativity and resilience of our city that saw hundreds of physically distant dancers performing Lake's work in public. Over the course of 30 minutes, it documents Stephanie and her collaborators' experiences of delivering the impossible – a mass participatory dance event in a global pandemic. After premiering at the Melbourne International Film Festival, we brought it back for a return screening, with audiences able to stream it directly into their homes.

Multiply is supported by Daniel Besen, the Canny Quine Foundation and Linda Herd and James McCaughey.

Multiply has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

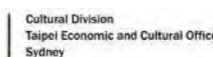


Fringe Focus Taiwan

Fringe Focus Taiwan brought the work of some of Taiwan's best emerging and experimental virtual reality artists to the Festival for the second year of this international collaboration between Melbourne Fringe and the Ministry of Culture, Taiwan. A specially produced 'out-of-festival' season in November saw works featuring a time-travelling mermaid from an alternate dimension, a voyeuristic journey through a male sauna, flying fish migrations, memory-uploads, a traditional indigenous ceremony and a wedding android. This live VR experience was presented at Loop Project Space and Bar, and was a chance to check in with other worlds at a time when we couldn't leave our own.

“Chou Tung-Yen has created a stylish and disorienting work, full of artfully constructed tableaux of individuals, couples and groups of men having sex.”

Cameron Woodhead, *The Age*, 2021.





ILAN EL, STELLA LAMP, 2021. IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.



MARTA FIGUEROA, STARDUST LAMP, 2021. IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.



KATHLEEN PRENTICE, MELT CONSOLE, 2021. IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Signature Events Design Fringe

In 2021, Melbourne Fringe's iconic, avant-garde furniture exhibition Fringe Furniture evolved into Design Fringe, a program showcasing all types of object design including furniture, fashion and sculpture, as well as an expanded public program of workshops, talks, mentorships, tours and a designer-in-residence program. This year, the program's thematic focus of "home" acknowledged that our own dwellings often provide the inspiration for exceptional design.

The digital transition saw the original exhibition at Linden New Art re-imagined as *Designers on Your Doorstep*, a digital hub on Linden's website that presented an intimate portrait of participating designers, their inspirations and their bold new works through a beautiful, bespoke e-magazine and catalogue. An accompanying outdoor public art project showcased a selection of the diverse and thought-provoking work on posters in the streets and directed audiences to the website.

Now in its fourth year, our Design Fringe for Gender Equity initiative achieved gender parity with 54% of designers identifying participating in the program identifying as female and 4% as non-binary. Our Gender Equity program supports women and non-binary artists and designers through subsidised registration fees, mentorships and a keynote presentation.

Our Public Program of events, supported by Monash Art, Design and Architecture, found a nationwide audience through its online delivery, which saw us offer our three recorded keynote events on-demand. Over 430 audience members engaged with the program and its areas of focus: Disability Access and Inclusion, Gender Equity, Sustainability and First Nations Design.

15 EVENTS

50 PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

8,289 ATTENDEES

Storybank

In preparation for our 40th birthday celebrations and in partnership with State Library of Victoria, Melbourne Fringe began seeking stories from the millions of artists, audiences, volunteers, staff and supporters who have shaped the last 40 years of Fringe. Crowd-sourced online through a custom-built website, these oral histories put the untold stories of Fringe on the permanent record, recording a diversity of voices and experiences that will enter the State Library's permanent archive and form part of our broader celebrations and exhibition at the 2022 Festival.



WALTER'S BACE, MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL 1988. PHOTO BY PONCHAWKES.



DEADLY FRINGE



BLAK BEAT, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS, 2021. PHOTO BY NICK ROBERTSON.



BLAK BEAT, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS, 2021. PHOTO BY NICK ROBERTSON.

“I have learned much about my craft and I have developed more self-belief as a result of this experience. Being awarded at Fringe means a lot to me as a First Nations artist and I look forward to continuing to tell my stories through theatre.”

Brodie Murray, ShowSupport recipient 2021.

7 EVENTS

36 ARTISTS PARTICIPATING AT THE FESTIVAL

430 ATTENDEES

Deadly Fringe unearths and nurtures new contemporary First Nations artworks. Throughout 2021, the program kept adapting in response to the challenges faced by the pandemic. We employed two emerging First Nations producers as Deadly Fringe Coordinators: Kimberly Lovegrove and Digby Mercer oversaw an incredible program of artistic excellence, prioritising care, cultural support and community connection.

Eleven First Nations-led projects were delivered in the 2021 Festival (4.7% of proceeding events) and 13 events were cancelled or postponed after the pivot to digital. Among the hugely successful presentations that did happen, Kungari Comedy was a smash hit – featuring six emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander comedians, the night ended with an incredible lip-sync battle with the winner taking home the inaugural Kungari Comedy trophy at Fringe Common Rooms.

The following works were presented at the Festival:

Billy's Choice by Brodie Murray (winner 2021 Best Emerging Indigenous Artist)

Resin Jewellery with Hollie Johnson and Koorie Heritage Trust

Blak Jewellery Finding Past, Linking Present presented by Koorie Heritage Trust

What is Blak Design? Conversation Panel presented by Koorie Heritage Trust

SERVO BINGO presented by Dane Simpson (livestreamed from Wagga Wagga)

MATRIARCH presented by Sandy Greenwood

Design Fringe: Meet First Nations Designer Nicole Monks in conversation

Six Deadly Fringe commissions, including four performance and two design projects, were originally planned for presentation in 2021, but with the pivot to a digital festival format, all six artists made the decision to postpone their works in favour of an in-person outcome in 2022.

Our relationship with cultural partner Koorie Heritage Trust continued to strengthen. We partnered to deliver public programming during the festival centred around their Blak Design program and supported them to deliver the events digitally, and they upheld and guided us with cultural support and advice.

Cultural Partner:

the Aesop Foundation

Australian Government
Indigenous Languages and Arts

trawalla
foundation

Supported by Craig Semple

KOORIE
Heritage Trust

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

We continued to make big, bold moves towards our goal of universal access and in 2021 we expanded our commitment to providing inclusive employment, employing two new colleagues with lived experience of disability to join the Fringe team. Inclusive employment positions are a gamechanger for Melbourne Fringe - increasing the number of staff with lived experience of disability at Fringe contributes to increased levels of participation with our programs by Deaf and Disabled artists and communities and deepens sector-wide engagement with access and inclusion. Our Access and Inclusion program positions Melbourne Fringe as a clear leader in access in the Victorian and national landscapes, and the way is prepared for rapid expansion in this space.

This year's program outcomes included:

- 105 Deaf and Disabled artists presented work across the year at Fringe
- \$47,000 provided in financial support to Deaf and Disabled artists
- 28% of artists reported engaging with our Access Advisor, with 100% of these artists reporting that they found the information useful and supportive.

We also published a research paper conducted by independent consultants Patternmakers who worked with us 2018 – 2020 to evaluate our three year Access and Inclusion program. The paper captured the significant increases in participation by Deaf and Disabled artists in our Festival, from 3.8% in 2019 to 8.3% in 2020 and this trend has continued to 8.8% in 2021 (despite the pandemic). Over time, the program has resulted in more accessible events within Fringe programs and embedded access is not only seen as more interesting by artists but more impactful for audiences.

“Being a part of Melbourne Fringe Festival was an opportunity to grow as an emerging artist whilst empowering my community to tell their authentic stories. It meant everything to me.”

Sam Martin, Pah! Deaf Storytelling Night Melbourne Fringe Artist, 2021.

Key stats:

- 440 Deaf and disabled artist registrations were recorded between 2018 and 2020
- 1 in 3 Fringe artists consulted with the Access & Inclusion Coordinator about making their work accessible in 2020
- 68% of Deaf and disabled artists felt welcome at Melbourne Fringe in 2020
- 86% of Deaf and disabled artists feel that Melbourne Fringe is 'accessible and inclusive to all artists'
- 9% of audience members identified as Deaf or Disabled
- 76% of Deaf and disabled audience members in 2020 felt welcome at Melbourne Fringe
- 33 requests for access were received by the organisation at the most recent in-person Festival in 2019
- 4 in 5 audience members report their access needs were met in 2019

440 DEAF & DISABLED ARTIST REGISTRATIONS

4 IN 5 AUDIENCE ACCESS NEEDS MET

The report also found the following:

Melbourne Fringe's Access and Inclusion Program has shifted every aspect of the organisation's work.

Access Advisor Carly Findlay has championed change and staff have embraced the challenge of embedding accessibility across every function.

The program has achieved significant impacts for Deaf and Disabled artists - and is shaping the careers of non-disabled artists.

Disabled artists say that Melbourne Fringe is providing a platform to share diverse perspectives and helping them develop their careers. Over time, the program has resulted in more accessible events within Fringe programs. Importantly, works about a wide range of topics can be accessed by Deaf and Disabled audiences, not just works about the experience of disability.

Embedding access in the creative process is leading to better outcomes for artists and audiences.

Artists who have incorporated 'aesthetic access' into their practice appear to be among the most impacted by the program. Non-disabled artists who collaborated with access consultants during the creative development process had rewarding experiences and are now more committed to making accessible work in the future. Embedded accessibility is not only seen as more interesting by artists, but more impactful for audiences.

Melbourne Fringe is hailed as a 'trailblazer' that is increasingly influencing change in other organisations.

Wider impacts of the program are beginning to emerge, with other arts organisations hiring Access Coordinators and adopting Melbourne Fringe guides and resources. The Melbourne Fringe website is held up as the 'gold standard' for an accessible website.

Continued investment over time will help see works by Deaf and Disabled artists impact mainstream Australia.

There are promising signs that the program's impacts will continue to unfold in the coming years - particularly as the emerging artists supported through the program (both Disabled and non-Disabled) further develop their careers and start working with more organisations.

Over time, the program has resulted in more accessible events within Fringe programs and embedded access is not only seen as more interesting by artists but more impactful for audiences.

Cultural Partner:



SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Resource Hub

We launched our fully accessible Resource Hub, our one-stop-info-shop for artists covering everything from marketing and budgeting to grant opportunities. Over 70% of participating Festival artists referred to the Resource Hub, designed to provide artists with all the info they need to help them self-produce their events.

Panel Discussions and Salon Sessions

We ran 10 free panel discussions and salon sessions for Festival participants this year, covering all aspects of event registration, marketing and producing, and connecting Melbourne Fringe staff directly with artists to provide them with bespoke advice specifically related to their events. We kept expanding our digital Resource Hub for artists too and produced a series of Quick Chats videos designed to help artists navigate self-producing.

Our Salon Sessions are supported by The Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance at Monash University.



Artist Services

Our dedicated and expanded Artist Services team worked with thousands of artists across the two festivals (the one we planned and the one we delivered) and supported artists who chose to transition their in-person events to digital.

Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones is our comprehensive professional development program that offers pathways to progress emerging arts workers in experience, confidence and career planning towards becoming our future arts leaders. Stepping Stones provides staff with formal professional development, guided mentorship and career planning sessions.

The Fringe staff who participated in the 2021 Stepping Stones program were Ali Coad, Ashleigh Morris, Anna Nalpantidis, and Lucy Pitt.



JUNIPER WILDE: WILDE NIGHT IN, MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL 2021. PHOTO BY J. FORSYTH.



DAZZA AND KEIF REENACT THE TITANIC MOVIE PLAYING ALL THE ROLES, 2021. PHOTO BY J. FORSYTH.

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Awards

Best in Festival Awards

The Best in Festival Awards are judged by the Melbourne Fringe judging panels. The judging panels are a team of over 30 industry practitioners, drawn from a diverse range of fields and backgrounds. All works are viewed by at least two panel members in order to be eligible for consideration.

Best Work in Festival Award

Little Monster – Telia Nevile
psyche404error – Margot Tanjutco

Best Work by an Emerging Artist Award

Juniper Wilde: Wilde Night In – Alex Hines

Spirit of the Fringe Award

Our Hair, Our Culture, Our Stories – Pasifika Storytellers Collective

Artist Development Awards

Presented by a range of our partner organisations these awards recognise achievement in specific fields and provide mentoring and professional development opportunities within these fields.

Access Award

Supported by Arts Access Victoria
Pah! Deaf Storytelling Night – Sam Martin

Best Adaptation from Stage to Screen

Supported by Theatre Network Australia
psyche404error – Margot Tanjutco

Best Emerging Indigenous Artist

Supported by Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts & Cultural Development (VCA & MCM)
Brodie Murray for *Billy's Choice*

Best Performance Ensemble

Supported by Theatre Network Australia
YUMMY: How to Make a Western – YUMMY Productions

Best Emerging Producer

Supported by MILKE
Isabella Perversi for *What rhymes with orange?*

Best Emerging Writer

Supported by the Emerging Writers' Festival
Margot Tanjutco for *psyche404error*

Best Practice in Cultural Equity

Supported by Multicultural Arts Victoria
The People of Cabaret: We Are Here – The People of Cabaret

Emerging Company Incubator Award

Supported by Monash University's Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music & Performance
PONY CAM

Hybrid Touring Market Ready Award

Supported by Regional Arts Victoria
Streaming Seamen! The Digital Sea Shanty Spectacular – The Shanties Choir, with Alex Morris, Beatrice Lewis, Victoria Falconer-Pritchard, Will Hannagan and Cameron Stewart

The Art Unbound Award

Supported by Experimenta
JSMR – Jessica Stanley

The Headroom Award

Supported by RISING
Ruthless World – Ken Chau, Derrick Duan, Roshelle Fong, Paxus Productions, Christie Widiarto and Helen He

The Phantasmagorical Award

Supported by Temperance Hall
That One Time I Joined the Illuminati – Lou Wall

Sound and Technical Excellence Award

Supported by Front of House Productions
Hey Hey It's Lockdown! – Game Boys Comedy

Young Creatives Award

Supported by SIGNAL
Brodie Murray for *Billy's Choice*

Touring Awards

Presented by Festivals from across Australia these awards provide assistance to present your work at one of our partner festivals. These awards are chosen by representatives from the partner festival.

The NSW Tour Ready Award

Supported by Sydney Fringe
YUMMY: How to make a Western – YUMMY Productions

The NZ Tour Ready Award

Supported by New Zealand Fringe
Juniper Wilde: Wilde Night In – Alex Hines

The QLD Tour Ready Award

Supported by Brisbane Comedy Festival
That One Time I Joined the Illuminati – Lou Wall

The SA Tour Ready Award

Supported by Adelaide Fringe
Streaming Seamen! The Digital Sea Shanty Spectacular – The Shanties Choir with Alex Morris, Beatrice Lewis, Victoria Falconer-Pritchard, Will Hannagan and Cameron Stewart

The WA Tour Ready Award

Supported by FRINGE WORLD Festival
Dazza and Keif Reenact the Titanic Movie Playing All the Roles – Dazza & Keif

Design Fringe Awards

Best in Experimental Design Award

Jessica Broad for *Bento*

Best in Furniture Award

Anthony Yang for *7 Teardrops*

Best in Homewares and Object Design Award

Madison Elrick for *Here you go*

Best in Lighting Award

Marta Figueiredo for *Stardust Lamp*

Design Fringe Mentorships

Supported by the Victorian Women's Trust

- Aviva Same for *Dismembrum*
- Jillian Stevenson for *Baggage*

Design Futures Award

Supported by Authentic Design Alliance

- Marta Figueiredo for *Stardust Lamp*
- Kathleen Prentice for *Melt Console*
- Kirby Bourke for *Simple(y) (a)chair*
- Jillian Stevenson for *Baggage*
- Lauren Haynes for *Foli side table/stool*

Design Innovation Award

Supported by MPavillion
Marta Figueiredo for *Stardust Lamp*

Special Awards

Presented by Melbourne Fringe along with some of our key partners, the Special Awards recognise excellence from our participants in ways that aren't covered by the Artist Development awards. This includes recognising technical excellence, emerging talent, great feminist work, outstanding venue management and much more.

Best Feminist Work

Supported by MC Security
Juniper Wilde: Wilde Night In – Alex Hines

Industry Trivia All-Star Champion Award

RISING

Director's Choice

Simon Taylor's Comedy Picnic – Simon Taylor

People's Choice Award

YUMMY: How to Make a Western – YUMMY Productions

Melbourne Fringe Living Legend

Dr Lou Bennett AM



GET TOASTY, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS, 2021. PHOTO BY ANA JAIN.



GET TOASTY, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS, 2021. PHOTO BY ANA JAIN.



GET TOASTY, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS, 2021. PHOTO BY ANA JAIN.

MONASH UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Now in the second year of our partnership, Melbourne Fringe and Monash University came together to once again, pull out all the stops – and then when all those stops had to stop, we pulled out some more. Together we provided Monash students with meaningful, industry based experiences and are proud to nurture the artists and artworkers of tomorrow.

Internships

Our highly successful internship program went from strength to strength with Monash students participating in 16 internship positions in a mix of in-person and online placements. Despite moving in and out of lockdown, working from home and event cancellations, the participating students gained valuable work experience, developed and refined their skills on-the-job, built professional networks and applied their academic knowledge in an industry context.

Showcase Performance

After planning for an in-person presentation, the final year performance students at Monash, deftly guided by award-winning director and theatre-maker Stephen Nicolazzo, performed a monumental pivot during lockdown to create and present *Body Horror* – a visceral, bloody piece of experimental theatre and dance that ran digitally from 13 – 17 October.

Work Integrated Learning Opportunities

Both Fringe and Monash are committed to fostering the next generation of artists and artworkers and after a series of successful lectures in 2020, we once again supported students academic learning by contributing industry insights and perspectives into their formal course work. Fringe staff delivered a lecture and a series of videos and live Q&As on topics ranging from marketing to accessibility and inclusion.

Career Advice Salon

We offered the opportunity for six students to undertake in-depth career advice sessions with Melbourne Fringe Creative Director & CEO, Simon Abrahams. Simon conducted two two-hour salon sessions, working with each student to design a career plan. This holistic approach to career development looks at the interconnected web of connections in the arts and looks to broaden and strengthen students' skills by utilising networks.

“Body Horror is just great – an ambitious idea that surpasses expectation again and again. Perfectly embracing the digital form, this work is sure to be one of the highlights of Melbourne Fringe 2021”

Arts Review, 15 October 2021

“I’ve learnt how to apply creativity strategically to achieve goals, how to remain organised when managing a lot of information, how to work collaboratively, how to communicate clearly and effectively, how to listen and accommodate everyone’s ideas.”

Monash intern, 2021.



CLUB TRISH, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS, 2021. PHOTO BY WILL HAMILTON-COATES.

SUPPORTERS

Adventurer – \$100,000+

Maureen Wheeler AO
and Tony Wheeler AO

Creator – \$10,000+

Canny Quine Foundation
Debbie Dadon AM
Jewel Box Performances
Phlyssa Koshland
Monica Lim and Konfir Kabo
James McCaughey
Craig Semple
Paul Wheelton AM KSJ
and Angela Wheelton
Peter Wilson
Anonymous (1)

Discoverer – \$5,000+

Sam and Monica Abrahams
Rosemary Forbes and Ian Hocking
Dr Jenepher Martin
Persephone Foundation
Rupert Myer AO
Vallejo Gantner

Explorer – \$2,500+

David Hanrahan
Rosemary Walls
Pinky Watson
Anonymous (1)

Innovator – \$1,000+

Penny Bartram
John and Lorraine Bates
Annie Bourke
Sally Browne Fund, a sub-fund of the
Australian Communities Foundation
Jason Craig
Susanne Dahn, a giving fund
in the APS Foundation
Ron and Margaret Dobell Foundation
Luke Exell
Natalie Hickey
Fiona McGauchie and James Penlidis
Maggie Maguire OAM
(of MOGGS, a sub-fund of
Australian Communities Foundation)
Filanthi Nalpantidis
Gideon Obarzanek
Jude Perl
Promotix Pty Ltd
Christopher Reed
Anne Runhardt and Glen Reindel
Jacky and Rupert Sherwood
Toby Sullivan
Peter Wetenhall and Jo Horgan
Anonymous (1)

Rabblrouser – \$500+

Simon Bedford
Nicole Birrell
Chris Cheers
Alison Currie
Eloise Curry
Carolyn and Peter Creswell
Helen Donnard
Wesley Enoch AM
Liza Gelt
David Geoffrey Hall
Graeme Gherashe
Stephanie Hamilton
Emer Harrington
Damien Hodgkinson
Mike Hyde
Helen Kolawole
Robyn Lansdowne
Karen Large

Sonia Lindsay
Heather Martin
Melissa McShane
Ian Murphy
Tye Norman
Kaylene O'Neill
Eddie Paterson
Ian Pidd and Sue Giles AM
Juanita Pope
Lucy Schnall
Sam Strong
Leonard Vary and
Dr Matt Collins AM QC

Accomplice – \$200+

Dennis Altman AM
Sophie Bainbridge
Megan Batchelor
Nicole Beyer
Michelle Buxton
The Camm Family
Richard Chambers
Caroline Chesterfield
Melinda Clarke
Joseph Clifford
Linda Coombs
Denise Damianos
Helen and Matt Franzi
Laura Milke Garner
Wilma Giles-Corti
Rinske Ginsberg
Jock Given
Kerri Glasscock
Paul Gonzalez
Deb Green
Ian Greer
Jerry Hodgins
Toby Jeffs
Daniel Kilby
Clair Korobacz and Dan Koop
Benjamin Lee
Daniel Leighton
Pete Manasantivongs
Sam McMillan
Georgie Meyer

Jason Murphy
Sarah Neal
Tim Orton and Barb Dennis
Fiona Patten MP
Mark Pazolli
Danny Pearson MP
Julian Pocock
Andrea Proctor
Lynette Radovan
James Ralston
Bertha Rubin and Ron Elisha
Andrea Stahel
Tim Stitz and Petra Kalive
Kate Torney OAM
Liz and Kevin Walsh
Julia White
Claire Wilcock
Gael Wilson
Anonymous (2)

Fringe Community – Up to \$200

We would also like to thank all of our wonderful community of donors that give so generously. Thanks for your ongoing support – You're all legends.

Legacy

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

PARTNERS

Major Government Partners



Major Sponsor



Government Partners



International Government Partners



Local Government Partners



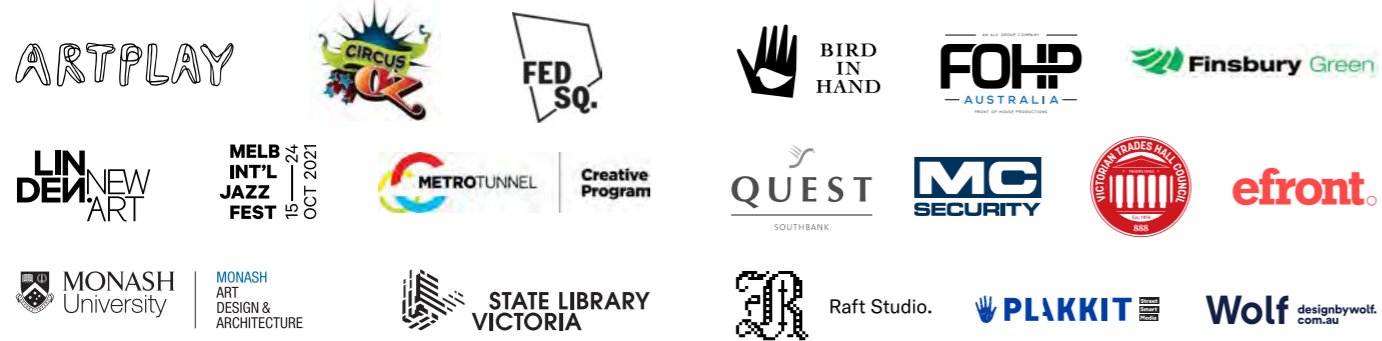
Supporting Partners



Philanthropic Partners



Program Partners



Production and Supply Partners

Cultural Partners



Media Partners



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Eden Cotter-Longworth

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Will Dawson

Business & Systems Manager

Lucy Pitt (to June 2021)

Business & Operations Manager

Louise Richardson (from July 2021)

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Branding & Creative Agency

Raft Studio

Pro Bono Legal Advisers

Shiff & Company

Registration System

Eventotron

Risk Management

Emily O'Brien

Ticketing

Red61

Uncle to Melbourne Fringe

Wesley Enoch AM

Website

efront and Design by Wolf

Board

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Sam Strong (to 22 October 2021)

Deputy Chair

Stephanie Hamilton

Company Secretary

Juanita Pope

Treasurer

Rob Camm

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Joel Bray, Alison Currie (to 13 December 2021), Kirsty Ellem, Michael Hyde, Sonia Lindsay, Rupert Sherwood

Fundraising Advisor

Maggie Maguire OAM

FINANCE



CLARE BARNES, THE CHRONIC CABARET, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS, 2021. PHOTO BY NICK ROBERTSON



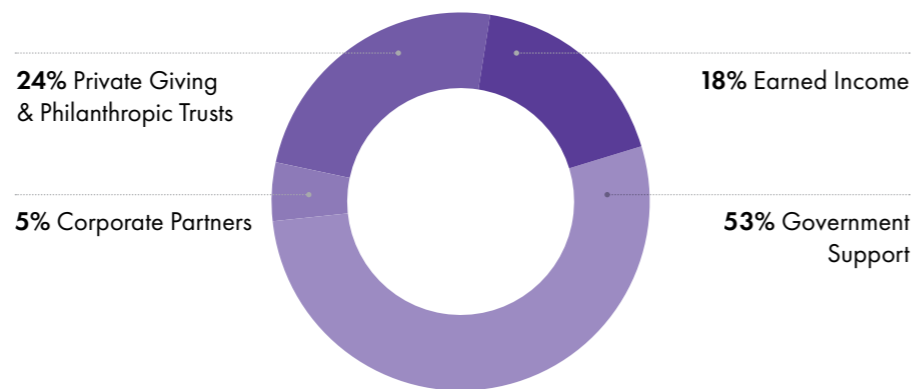
BLUNDERLAND, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS, 2021. PHOTO BY WILL HAMILTON-COATES

This an overview of our Fringe finances. Just remember folks, this is a summary only and not intended to replace the information you can find in our 2021 audited financial statements.

2021 was another challenging year for the arts sector, but Melbourne Fringe managed to weather the worst of the storm, largely thanks to our amazing supporters and to Government support. Even though we weren't able to sell tickets or drinks for much of the year, our overall turnover still grew on 2020 by 8%, reaching \$3.28 million.

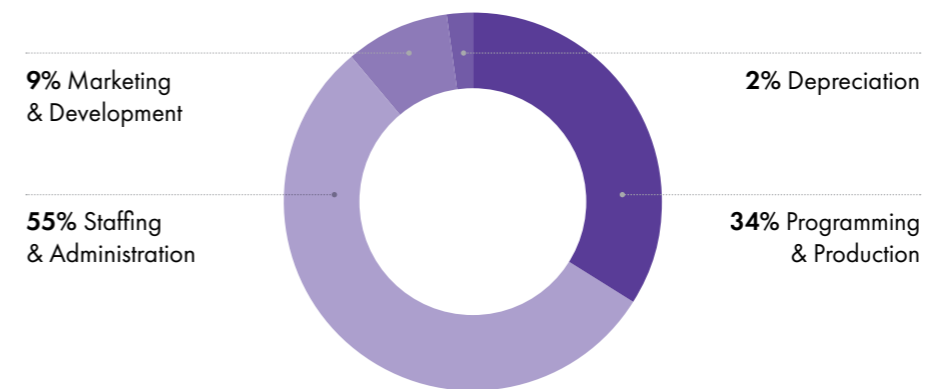
Income

Philanthropy increased by 6% on 2020 (in itself a record high), with almost \$790,000 in income from our amazing donors, trusts and foundations. Government income also rose by 6% and at \$1,730,704 was responsible for just over half of our income in 2021 – largely due to the various temporary Covid-19 support programs that allowed us to keep paying artists (and rent!) while we couldn't earn income. On that subject, we received \$608,932 in ticket sales, venue hire, bar sales and other earned income – 18% higher than 2020, but still a fraction of a non-pandemic year.



Expenditure

Despite all the lockdowns and cancelled events, we were still able to pay over \$646,000 to artists in the form of grants, commissions and artist ticket sales. Programming & Production costs remained low at 34% of overall expenditure, reflecting the lack of in-person events. Thanks to government support including JobKeeper, we were able to keep on the majority of our staff, which resulted in 55% of total expenditure. We are slowly growing our proportion of marketing & development expenditure, reaching 9% in 2021.



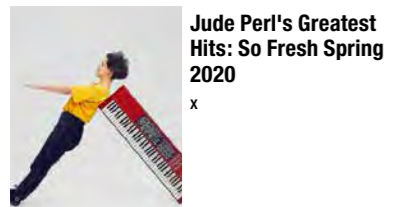
EVENTS LISTINGS

CABARET



Breasts Become Her
Miss Cairo puts her breast foot forward to create her first ever solo show - all about her newly formed boobs.
It's a tale of two titties.

COMEDY Created and Performed by Miss Cairo



Jude Perl's Greatest Hits: So Fresh Spring 2020
x

COMEDY Written and Performed by Jude Perl



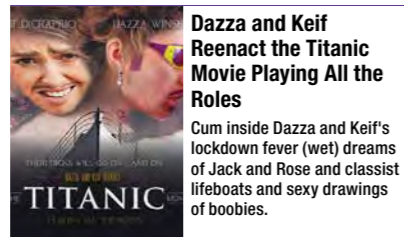
Selina Jenkins - BOOBS
Jenkins' distinctive style of storytelling marries humour and heartbreak amongst cleverly written songs and thought provoking anecdotes.

STORYTELLING Presented by Stonnington Presents - So Soiree



Streetlight #1
Deaf performers share stories of the days of Deaf clubs in the 80s-90s when Deafs chatted under streetlights at the end of a night.

CONTEMPORARY Written and Directed by Chelle Destefano



Dazza and Keif Reenact the Titanic Movie Playing All the Roles
Cum inside Dazza and Keif's lockdown fever (wet) dreams of Jack and Rose and classist lifeboats and sexy drawings of boobies.

COMEDY Performed by Dazza and Keif



Lousical the Musical
x

COMEDY Created by Lou Wall



Sex, Lies & Betrayal - Memoirs of a Hollywood Star
Set to a lavish vintage score, the glossy world of Hollywood & the scandals behind the scenes come to life in this true tell-all story.

THEATRE Performed by Karla Hillam



That One Time I Joined The Illuminati
Multi-award winning comedian Lou Wall spent 5 months trolling the Illuminati. Wall's critically acclaimed show returns to Melbourne Fringe.

COMEDY Created and Performed by Lou Wall



Dynasty: Drag & Dumplings
Inspired by Old Shanghai cabaret, DCWYYC? is a drag and dine experience celebrating Asian culture in an outrageously camp way!

VARIETY Created by Dyan Tai



OLD - Little Monster
Inner demons, what are they, and why are they here?
(Let's gag them and throw them right off of the pier)

STORYTELLING Created and Performed by Tella Nevile



Siete: The Seven Deadly Sins
An immersive cabaret touching on themes of sex and sin.
A barrage of burlesque, a cacophonous cabaret, a spoken word smorgasbord. An exodus.

BURLESQUE Presented by Stella Del Lure



The Aspie Hour
The Aspie Hour is an informative and delightfully irreverent cabaret from talented cabaret team, Sophie Smyth and Ryan Smedley.

MUSIC Presented by Stonnington Presents - So Soiree



The People of Cabaret: The Parlour Takeover
An award-winning collective here to send out a rallying cry of fabulousness.

VARIETY Presented by Stonnington Presents - So Soiree



The People of Cabaret: We Are Here
A spectacular variety gala showcasing an abundance of the finest cabaret legends and rising superstars in Naarm!

VARIETY Presented by The People of Cabaret



Who's The Man?
Every stiff wrist. Every puffed chest. Every discreet whisper of the words "vodka raspberry". It was the act that couldn't flop.

THEATRE Performed by Teale Howie



Wild by Night
Big orchestra, new genius, fresh-minted music, next-gen talent, hectic dance floor!

CONTEMPORARY Directed by Moira Finucane



Welcome to Blunderland
Blunderland is an evening that is as naughty as it is wholesome, and as raunchy as it is sweet.

VARIETY Presented by Stonnington Presents - So Soiree



YUMMY: How to Make a Western
In a cabaret film experience YUMMY explores how to make a spaghetti western, redefining both cabaret and manifest destiny. Yee-haw!

EXPERIMENTAL Created and Performed by YUMMY Productions

CIRCUS

COMEDY



Werk It - Tight Fit

An all star, late night, high energy, circus comedy romp. Celebrating spandex, high-vis, vitality and vigour.

CABARET

Presented by
Stonnington Presents - So Soiree



A Happening.

Provocative. Avant-Garde. A third word. The Artist will transcend reality with six unique staged Happenings in the Dadaist tradition.

ABSURDIST

Performed by
Jenni Townsend



Belligerent

Jaxson & Carmelo have been described as Belligerent by past lovers, come find out why. Stand-up exploring gay sex, relationships & failures.

STAND UP

Created and Performed by
Jaxson Garni and Carmelo Costa



Blake Everett and Oliver Coleman: Dig Their Own Graves

The adventures of two shovel salesmen known as the Shovel Brothers, on the run from an evil Russian mobster over a shovel deal gone awry.

SKETCH

Presented by
Stonnington Presents - So Soiree



Cal Wilson - Live

Cal Wilson is as engaging as she is hilarious. Her playfulness and storytelling prowess has her selling out shows across Australia.

STAND UP

Presented by
Stonnington Presents - So Soiree



CarmenGetHER

This asset-rich cash-poor cougar sings up a storm on top of her ex's Construction Site!

CABARET

Created and Performed by
Diana Emry



Claire Hooper - Live

Hey Melbourne! It's time to leave your house and spend a night laughing with Claire Hooper. Lucky you.

STAND UP

Presented by
Stonnington Presents - So Soiree



Cloverlea

Twin sisters and ageing soap stars, Christine and Christina, still think they're on the show that ended when the world did.

NEW WRITING

Written and Performed by
Beth Knights & Georgia Powick



Damian Callinan & Paul Calleja: The Wine Bluffs

After intoxicating sold-out audiences across the country The Wine Bluffs are here to do what they do best: bullshit about wine.

SATIRE

Presented by
Stonnington Presents - So Soiree



David Massingham's Little Sketch Book of Horrors

Prepare for hilarious & macabre sketch comedy that reviewers call "a glorious masterpiece" (Plus Ones) & "a must-see show" (Weekend Notes).

SKETCH

Written and Performed by
David Massingham



Ethnic City

A comedy variety show featuring the best talented performers of colour in Melbourne through a mix of stand-up, improv, sketch and cabaret.

VARIETY

Created by
Brendan Wan




Fresh (ish) Off the Boat

The zig-zag semi-autobiographical journey of a "Chinese Chinese" finding herself across different continents away from her home.

STAND UP

Written and Performed by
He Huang




Game Boys Comedy present "The Best of GB24"

x

IMPROV

Created by Game Boys Comedy



Hey Hey It's Lockdown!

The online antics continue with Game Boys Comedy!

IMPROV

Created by Game Boys Comedy



It's Tonight! with Spanish Fuk Boi

Tonight! with Spanish Fuk Boi is a late night talk show starring Spanish Fuk Boi, and his friends Mr Coo Coo the pigeon and Pancakes the Clown

Starring
Spanish Fuk Boi



Things That Get My Goat

Quiche Lorraine, back hair and eisteddfod trauma. These hot topics and many more told through, song, banter and downright frivolity.

CABARET

Performed by Luke Belle



Two Little Dickheads: Kapow!

Two massive wang heads dazzle you with their silly faces & together you build... Dicktopia. Kapow! Songs & cats included at no extra cost.

SKETCH

Created and Performed by Two Little Dickheads



Woah, Alyssa! 3

Hey skanks, we're Col and Fil, hilarious gay boyfriends! Join us for our Gibbo-nominated, campy and very sexual sketch comedy extravaganza!

SKETCH

Directed by Mark Bonanno




Josh Glanc - The Best Bits

Josh Glanc has won a host of comedy awards and sold out shows around the world. Just killer character comedy. No froth.

ABSURDIST

Presented by Stonnington Presents - So Soiree



Juniper Wilde: Wilde Night In

x

SATIRE

Created and Performed by Alex Hines




Lockdown Love Story

UK based Comedy highlighting the ups and downs of dating during a pandemic. Get ready to witness the greatest love story ever told, kind of.

DIGITAL

Created and Performed by Alice Florde and Charlie Dryden



Zoë Coombs Marr - Live

Don't miss spending an hour laughing with comedy mastermind Zoë Coombs Marr!

STAND UP

Presented by Stonnington Presents - So Soiree



LuisVision

A virtual 360° exhibition of catchy music, dance, lessons and beautiful cats hosted by Lessons with Luis from the comfort of your own home!

IMMERSIVE

Presented by Lessons with Luis



Murder Village: An Improvised Whodunnit

It's Agatha Christie, improvised! Step into the world of 1950s England as Melbourne's funniest improvisers craft a new whodunnit each night.

IMPROV

Presented by David Massingham




One Man 12 Angry Men

Utilising your new-fangled smart devices, choose from a roster of twelve unique characters, some angry, some quite sweet actually.

INTERACTIVE

Created and Performed by Alexander Richmond



Patrick Collins - The New Nine

x

STAND UP

Created and Performed by Patrick Collins



Poopie Tum Tums

x

SKETCH

Created and Performed by Patrick Durnan Silva and Honor Wolff



SERVO BINGO

Self-isolation has got us looking out the window and over to the servo a little more than usual... Welcome to Dane Simpson's Servo Bingo.

STAND UP

Performed by Dane Simpson



Simon Taylor's Comedy Picnic

A picnic where Simon performs stand-up in Carlton Gardens to a maximum of four people from a single vaccinated household the way God intended.

STAND UP

Performed by Simon Taylor



Sit on My Face: An Intimate Night with The Harry Morrissey Official

A fuse of dance, comedy and drag for short attention spans. It's extra, OTT, deep, insightful, stupid, poignant and pointless.

BURLESQUE

Performed by Harry Morrissey



The Amazing Cannonball Flower

We bring stories to life! We perform a mix of sketch, theatre, and stand-up; with a lot of comedy and a lot of heart!

THEATRE

Performed by Aarti Vincent, Kru Harale and James G Warren



The Book Club

Join us for a profound literary experience. The Book Club is a night full of twisted humour, sketch comedy & explosive song & dance numbers.

SKETCH

Written and Performed by Alice Albon and Sam Coats



The Cafe Sessions Sketch Comedy

Original characters: VFL loving mums Fran & Mavis plus more. FAM has toured to country communities and now they're coming to the big smoke!

SKETCH

Presented by Frustrated Artistic Mothers - FAM Events & Productions



The Course for Understanding Life's Turmoils and Learning to Intuit Future Events

I'm just typing in this box because I have to, obviously it's not going to end up in the printed guide because that's been printed hehe x

DIGITAL

Created and Performed by Eddie Pattison

DANCE AND PHYSICAL THEATRE



Where do I Begin?? (Passive Show)

Witness authentic non-verbal dance/live performance art, with moments of Auslan and a 15 minute improvised sound installation.

EXPERIMENTAL

Performed by
The Demographic Dance OFF



Where do I Begin?? (Proactive Show)

Dance/Perform live digitally with The Demographic Dance OFF. Share in moments inspired by D/deaf culture and get connected by great vibes.

EXPERIMENTAL

Performed by
Proactive Show Audiences/The Demographic Dance OFF



[Infinite Affection]

A collaboration between first and third generation Greek migrants, this show is a ritual celebration of ageing, migration, and intimacy.

EXPERIMENTAL

Created and Performed by
Luke Macaronas and Christos Konstantinidis



An Ice Thing to Say (Touring)

In an icy land of ruins, a human being and a polar bear are meeting in an encounter of surviving the Anthropocene Era.

DEVISED



Analects of Aliveness

We are dancers with Down syndrome. We have vivid & complex stories to tell. Watch. Listen. We will fill your hearts & enlighten your minds.

CONTEMPORARY

Performed by
the emotion21 dancers



Cuts

We zoom out, lose our edges, overlap, creating assemblages of human and non-human, each contaminated by its encounters with the other.

DIGITAL

Created by
Sarah Aiken



Drishti

x

EXPERIMENTAL

Artists
Govind Pillai & Raina Peterson (Karma Dance)



Drishti - Audio Described

x

EXPERIMENTAL

Artists
Govind Pillai & Raina Peterson (Karma Dance)



EGG

Dance, clowning & a cheeky life-sized egg; EGG is a solo work questioning all things fertility, motherhood & making big life decisions.

★★★★★

COMEDY

Presented by
Erin Fowler Movement



Evocación

What does FLAMENCO evoke for you? Joy, longing... sorrow? Enjoy an evening of Andalusian culture with award-winning artists.

FLAMENCO

Directed by
Zoe Vélez



Is it Working?

A danced reimagining of our customer-service selves. Join us in this interactive performance as we work our 'day' jobs out of context.

EXPERIMENTAL



O Mother, Kamakshi...

A rare bakti composition.

DIGITAL

Presented by
Christina Prakanthan



Sounds Of

Sounds Of is a hybrid experience.

Part dance and movement workshop with a live music performance, and part digital arts exhibition.

EXPERIMENTAL

Artists
Adrina Petrosian, Jon Saroglu & Sherif El-Moghazy



Star Spangled Banter

Star Spangled Banter unravels how cultural and political phenomena sit within our body & how we can expunge it one booty-shake at a time.

EXPERIMENTAL

Created and Performed by
Jonathan Homsey



Together Alone

An exploration of lived experiences of isolation and coming together.

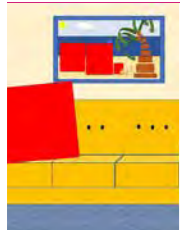
Frustration. Boredom. Loneliness. Craving connection. Reunited again.

CONTEMPORARY

Presented by
cFour Collective

EXPERIMENTAL

KIDS




A Red Square
A USB is delivered to your home. Your name is on the envelope.

HOME DELIVERED **Starring**
A Red Square



Art Guides the Way
Think we wouldn't be creating a *moment* to open the Festival?! Think again!

COMMUNITY **Presented by**
Melbourne Fringe




Audible Cubicle
The sounds of Melbourne in lockdown - in the toilet.

INSTALLATION **Created by**
Ania Reynolds and Carl Polke



Big Business Time Band
Sentient mouldy food have shaken up the office. Will Cheryl, Beryl and Jeremy save the Boss? Come quick, help us clean up this mouldy mess!

THEATRE **Written and Directed by**
Caito Zacharias



I'm a Raindrop, Get Me Outta Here! (Creative Development)
3 Raindrops meet in a cloud after spending years apart - What they discover about the Earth drives their mission to tackle Climate Change!

PHYSICAL THE- **Presented by**
SpudPuppy Productions




Polyglot At Home
Children and families are invited to create and play, using bits and pieces you probably have at home.

PARTICIPATORY **Presented by**
Polyglot Theatre



Dumplings Darling: Love Without Borders
A heartwarming live performance of storytelling, love, and handmade dumplings - celebrating what brings us together and sets us apart.

HOME DELIVERED **Created and Performed by**
Ania Reynolds and Alisa Tanaka-King




Hazy Gaze
This is a video work about the gaze. Starting from the existence of the fictional poet Araki Yasusada, I think about acting and existence.

CONTEMPORARY **Created by**
Tomohiro Minematsu and Marino Satomi



Living Live
We don't remember our birth cause it was just too much! While Living Live, we develop, we connect, we learn and we mature. Or do we??

CONTEMPORARY **Created by**
Ken Chau, Derrick Duan, Roshelle Fong, Paxus Productions & Christie Widlarlo



Resin Jewellery with Hollie Johnson and KHT
N/A - printed guide already printed.

WORKSHOP **Created and Performed by**
Hollie Johnson (Guna/Kurnai, Monero Ngarigo).




Squishy Taylor and the City-wide Ghost Plague
Squishy Taylor has a mystery to solve and she needs your help! An adventure for your family to share at home.

PARTICIPATORY **Presented by**
The Inhabitants




The Little Nests
The Little Nests explores the instinctive need to build a nest or home as a place to rest and as somewhere to feel safe.

WORKSHOP **Presented by**
Melbourne Fringe and ArtPlay



Paradise Lots
Theatre Company Pony Cam teams up with a group of young artists to transform an inner-city car park into a sprawling performance space.

THEATRE **Directed and Created by**
Pony Cam



psyche404error
Psyche is alone
Eros is online
[[Aphrodite is cancelled]]
Forget your body, you don't need it where we're going. Vibes feelings wifi only.

HYBRID **Directed and Created by**
Margot Tanjutco



Ruthless World
In this psychedelic spoken word and projection art performance, join a heart-broken poet on her bizarre journey in search of self love.

PERFORMANCE **Created by**
Ken Chau, Derrick Duan, Roshelle Fong, Paxus Productions & Christie Widlarlo



We Built This City
Build a city of skyscrapers, tunnels and sprawling estates using only your imagination and thousands and thousands of cardboard boxes.

INTERACTIVE **Created by**
Polyglot Theatre




The Big Local Arts and Climate Expo
It's big! It's local!
It's an expo of art about climate change!
Showcasing artists whose work engages the community in innovative ways.

COMMUNITY **Presented by**
Terfingerz x City of Yarra



UnderEden WALKMAN *Explorers Edition*
You are the WALKMAN. Choose your explorer. A series of site-specific sci-fi audio adventures to create and interact with invisible realities.

SOUND WALK **Created by**
STRANGEM Performance Collective



VFF
Hang out over FaceTime with award-winning performance artist Brian Feldman. Only 18 tickets available (one per day).
★★★★ - DCMTA

ONE-ON-ONE **Livestreamed from**
Washington, D.C. (30 Sep, 12-17 Oct) & Oklahoma City (1-11 Oct)

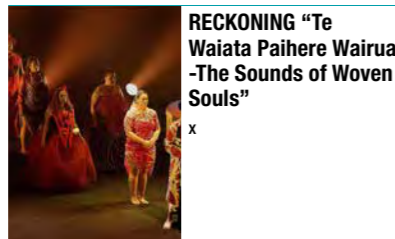
MUSIC

PARTIES AND SOCIAL EVENTS



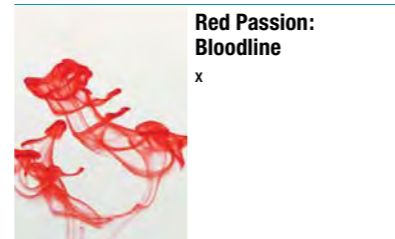
Queer-aoke (2021)
Join Bae Marie and some extra special guest performers for this rambunctious late night karaoke party celebrating queer artists and anthems!

PARTICIPATORY Produced and Performed by Bae Marie



RECKONING "Te Waiata Paihere Wairua -The Sounds of Woven Souls"

THEATRE Directed by Samuel Gaskin & Michala Banas



Red Passion: Bloodline

EXPERIMENTAL Presented by Melbourne Fringe and Campani



Before Bed Ritual
This before-bed ritual is a chance to self-nurture in an ensemble at sun down, inducing a restoring and fulfilling sleep.

COMMUNITY Presented by Melbourne Fringe



Digital Dance Club with All The Queens Men
A fabulous free online social event for the rainbow community and allies. All welcome!

PARTY Presented by All The Queens Men



Mr McClelland's Finishing School presents Club Fringe at Home

PARTY



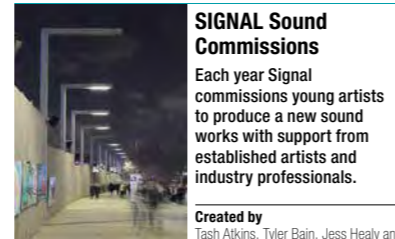
Seamen! The Sea Shanty Spectacular
Gather your crew and shake your pirate booty as Melbourne's newest cult choir perform a bounty of seafaring songs with a modern pop spin!

FOLK Musical Director Alex Morris



Selina Jenkins Sings

ACOUSTIC Created and Performed by Selina Jenkins



SIGNAL Sound Commissions

Each year Signal commissions young artists to produce a new sound works with support from established artists and industry professionals.

Created by Tash Atkins, Tyler Bain, Jess Healy and Kiera Varrrese, Judah Johnson, and Anne Hsuyn

EXPERIMENTAL



Night Visions

DANCE Created by The Huxleys



Real Hot Bitches presents: a Real Hot Bitchtacular... LIVE!
More is More! Join us for passionate 80's dance, joyfully-absurd performances, DJs & dancefloor fun!

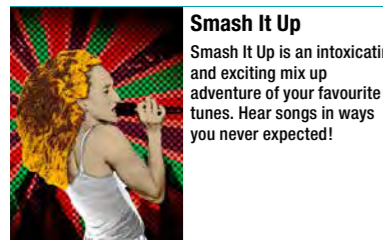
VARIETY Created and Performed by The Real Hot Bitches



The 2021 Melbourne Fringe Festival Awards Ceremony

Our coveted Awards Night caps off the 2021 Festival in style with a night of captivation, commiseration and celebration.

COMMUNITY Presented by Melbourne Fringe



Smash It Up
Smash It Up is an intoxicating and exciting mix up adventure of your favourite tunes. Hear songs in ways you never expected!

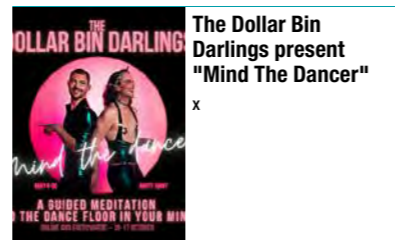
POP Created and Performed by Kara Ciezki



Streaming Seamen! The Digital Sea Shanty Spectacular

Gather your crew and shake your pirate booty as Melbourne's newest cult choir perform a bounty of seafaring songs with a modern pop spin!

FOLK Musical Director Alex Morris



The Dollar Bin Darlings present "Mind The Dancer"

x

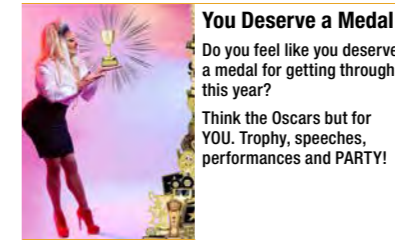
DIGITAL Presented by The Dollar Bin Darlings



Touring 101 with Regional Arts Victoria

Join Regional Arts Victoria's friendly Programming Team for a casual chat about the basics of touring through regional Victoria.

NETWORKING Hosted by Regional Arts Victoria



You Deserve a Medal

Do you feel like you deserve a medal for getting through this year? Think the Oscars but for YOU. Trophy, speeches, performances and PARTY!

PARTICIPATORY



The Musical Comedy Jukebox
Disney to Dolly, Billy Joel to Broadway. Originals, covers. You control comedy songwriter Richard Thornton's show. Sundays are kid-friendly!

COMEDY Performed by Richard Thornton



WCB: Sigil

Dark and unnervingly sexy, 'WCB: Sigil' is an exploration of musical spell-casting.


EXPERIMENTAL Written and Directed by WCB

THEATRE



000 The Play
As the pandemic changes the nature of relationships, has it exacerbated certain relationship dynamics more than others? Watch what unfolds.

IMMERSIVE Produced by Melbourne Creatives



A Christmas Carol
One actor, twenty characters, one festive evening!
A unique adaptation recreating Scrooge's world using lighting, sound and a wooden chair.

ADAPTATION Created and Performed by Will Bligh




A Hundred Words For Snow by Tatty Hennessy
With Dad's ashes in hand, Rory sets off in the footsteps of all the dead explorers, for one last expedition – to get Dad to the North Pole.

STORYTELLING Written by Tatty Hennessy



Dog Park
When the body of a schoolboy is found in an off-lead park covered in dog bites, it exposes the seamier side of the Cavoodle-wielding locals.

NEW WRITING Written by Sally Faraday



Grass
Grass is the story of Ellie, a young woman clinging to the promise of a better tomorrow. A digital one woman theatre show.

DIGITAL Artist Annabelle Mitchell




Janet's Vagrant Love
A story about love, loss and raising Blak men. With an original score, Elaine tells the story of Janet and unrequited love or lack thereof.

CABARET Directed by Gina Rings




Matriarch
x

DRAMA Performed by Sandy Greenwood



MKA: The Monster's Kind
I'm waiting for the abyss to gaze back. Yell back. I have questions. Namely: If monsters are so scary, why do they still hide under my bed?

EXPERIMENTAL Created and Performed by Ty Liebelt (whalespiel)



People Who Throw Themselves In Front Of Trains
Over the course of 24 hours, three strangers' lives will hit top speed, all hurtling towards the same intersection.

DRAMA Written by Tamara Natt and Brianagh Curran




Sammy's Big 6th Birthday Bash!
Don't bring a thing except your happy, smiling selves! Maybe a change of underwear, too. This show is strictly adults only.

IMMERSIVE Written and Directed by Malith




Holiday
The journey of humanity's simple complexities performed by acclaimed British/Australian actors Richard Pyros and Amesh Edireweera.

DRAMA Produced by Quiet Riot and The Artillery



JSMR
You've probably heard of ASMR, and probably haven't heard of Jessica Stanley. Step inside, get comfy, and experience the unholy union: JSMR.

EXPERIMENTAL Created and Performed by Jessica Stanley



Medea and Jason - A Mini Musical
Medea was written 431 BC by Euripides. This version is different. Did she kill her children? "It's an intelligent show"- BAREFOOT REVIEW

MUSICAL THE- Written and Performed by Loucas Loizou



Oedipus Rex, The King - A Mini Musical
Oedipus searches for the murderer of Laius, to end the plague ravaging Thebes. Destiny? "He kept me captivated for an hour" - Radio Adelaide

MUSICAL THE- Written and Performed by Loucas Loizou



POLES Melbourne Fringe
Ever wondered what it's like to strip? A dark comedic examination of love, sex, and taking your clothes off for money.

NEW WRITING Written and Performed by Amelia Pitcher



Foreign Body
White. Immigrant. Mum. Good girl. One woman grapples with labels and wrestles with her past using stories, songs and South African slang.

COMEDY Created and Performed by Candice D'Arcy




Homer's Odyssey - A Mini Musical
Odysseus is singing and telling stories of Trojan war, the Cyclops, Circe, Penelope and more. "Passion, pathos and humor" - The Advertiser

MUSICAL THE- Written and Performed by Loucas Loizou



'Masha in Translation' by Roxana Paun Trifan
Navigating through bounded cultural and social issues, a trans migrant actor proposes an intercultural account of Chekhov's Masha.

STORYTELLING Presented by Book of Dreams Theatre and Theatre Works




Memoir of a Tired Carer
Something lurks in the corners of this nursing home. James can see it. He's not sure anyone else can.

RADIO PLAY Created by Oliver Bailey




Oh Yuck, It's Me
Since she was little, Jessie fantasized about dying. This show's about finding a will to live while the world burns. Also there's a clown.

COMEDY Created and Performed by Jessie Ngaio




Rat King
An episodic web-scape. Watch the world disintegrate as you click along and discover the hidden morsels in this online tenement.

DEvised Created and Performed by VCA Theatre Co'22 - Cooper McDonald, Sophia Derkenne, Kate Weston, Luey Kemp-Mykyta, Charlie Veitch, Sebastian Fendall, Maddi Formosa, Jaimee Doyle, Eleanor Golding, Agnese Perri & Freyja Black




A Rain Walk
NA

KIDS Presented by Melbourne Fringe



AKA (also known as)
New school, new you. You can choose to be whoever you want to be. Don't mess this up.

DEvised Created and Performed by VCA Theatre Co'22 - Jett Chudleigh, Lauren Swain, Chris Hansen, Molly Mechen, Maxine Palmerson, Iris Simpson, Ivy Crago, Daphne Gerolymou-Papadopoulos, Tahla Jameson & Vitoria Hronopoulos




AL'USRA
An in-depth look at family through the eyes of Islamic high school students.

VERBATIM Performed by Benji Wragg, Dia Taylor & Lauren Huggard



BODY HORROR
BODY HORROR is a thrilling, erotic and hallucinatory theatrical experience inspired by 70's and 80's horror cinema.

HORROR Directed by Stephen Nicolazzo



Death Row Dollies
Woven from the verbatim accounts of women who fell in love with Death Row inmates, Dollies examines love, control, and human behaviour.

RADIO PLAY Curated by Samantha Jacobszoon




'ART-'
A bilingual (English and Chinese) theatre work about 'three men and a canvas'.

EXPERIMENTAL Directed by Fini Liu



Billy's Choice
Wamba Wamba country. Young Billy is confronted with decisions about his future. As well as buried family secrets. What choice will he make?

NEW WRITING Written by Brodie Murray



BRINK
We invite you... welcome... please come into the lab... FUZE examine the phenomenon of otherness under the microscope.

DEvised Performed by FUZE ENSEMBLE



Bottom by Willy Hudson
Locked in his bathroom during a tragic third date, Willy questions if being a 'bottom' in the bedroom means being a 'bottom' in life.

COMEDY Written by Willy Hudson



Rudy & Cuthbert Too
A party hosted by two of the most inexperienced, naive party hosts to have ever hosted. Warning! This will leave you incredibly happy.

COMEDY Presented by Rudy & Cuthbert



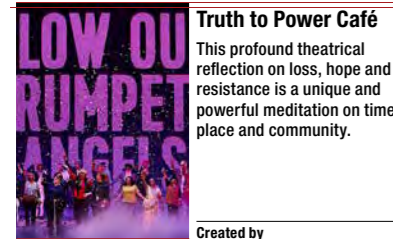
Shattered
A fast-paced, comedic and heartbreakingly raw solo show about dating, dysfunction, and sexual devastation - told through 35+ characters.

DRAMA Written and Performed by Diana Varco



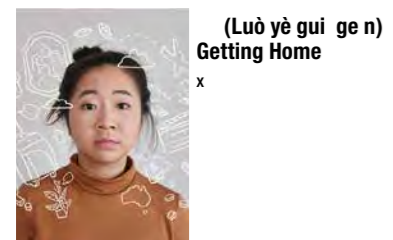
The Shy Manifesto by Michael Ross
Callum is proud to be shy & thinks you should be too - because what this noisy, crazy world needs right now is a bit more self-restraint.

STORYTELLING Written by Michael Ross



Truth to Power Café
This profound theatrical reflection on loss, hope and resistance is a unique and powerful meditation on time, place and community.

DIGITAL Created by Jeremy Goldstein with Henry Woolf and directed by Jen Heyes



(Luò yè guī ge n) Getting Home

NEW WRITING Written and Performed by Cheryl Ho



Run by Stephen Laughton
Encompassing a world beyond space & time, an endearingly cocky 17 year-old Yonni learns what it means to love & lose, to rebel & to grieve.

STORYTELLING Written by Stephen Laughton



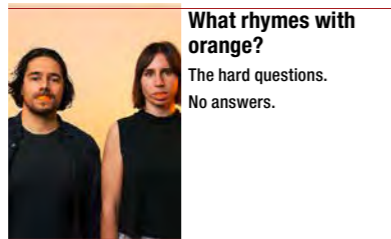
Sweet Hindsight
A story about two women exploring the connection of seeing one another, but unsure of dating. However, we experience the moments in reverse.

Written and Directed by Letitia Kellion



Tree Confessions
A tree tells us her story, reminding us that human beings and plants live in one interconnected ecosystem.

SITE SPECIFIC Written by Jenny Lyn Bader



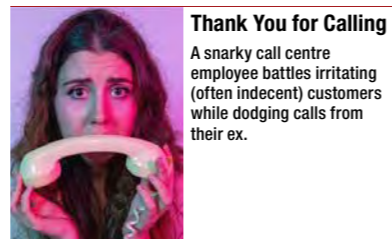
What rhymes with orange?
The hard questions. No answers.

DRAMA Written by Isabella Perversi



SAME-SAME 2.0, No Strings, Theatre Today
A live online theatre/dance performance between disabled performers in Australia and Singapore.

DIGITAL Presented by No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability and Theatre Today



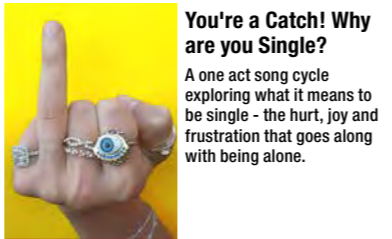
Thank You for Calling
A snarky call centre employee battles irritating (often indecent) customers while dodging calls from their ex.

COMEDY Written and Directed by Emlyn Sugden



Triple Bypass: Three Ten Minute Plays About Living for Death & Dying for Life
Consisting of 3 short plays, we take the audience on a journey of emotions ranging from fear & hate to delight & joy.

DIGITAL Written by Deena M.P Ronayne



You're a Catch! Why are you Single?
A one act song cycle exploring what it means to be single - the hurt, joy and frustration that goes along with being alone.

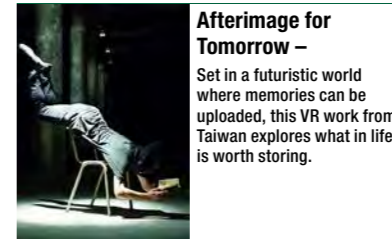
MUSICAL THE- Written and Produced by Sarah Wynne

VISUAL ARTS AND FILM



A Song Within Us – Oli
The spirit of Taiwan's indigenous peoples comes alive in this captivating technological experience of music and dance.

VIRTUAL REALITY Written and Directed by Fangas Nayaw



Afterimage for Tomorrow –
Set in a futuristic world where memories can be uploaded, this VR work from Taiwan explores what in life is worth storing.

VIRTUAL REALITY Written and Directed by Singing CHEN



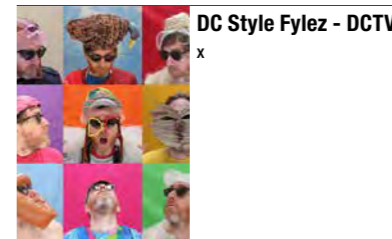
APHIDS x METRO Hoardings
APHIDS is celebrating our history rich of experimental and artist led collaboration on the public hoardings on Franklin St, Melbourne.

EXHIBITION Presented by APHIDS



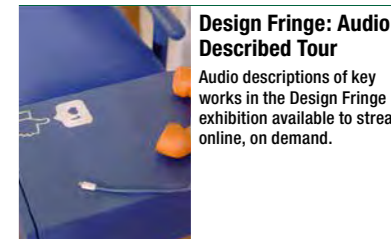
Blak Jewellery - Finding Past, Linking Present
Contemporary jewellery exhibition by 11 Victorian First Nations Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and designers.

EXHIBITION Presented by Koorie Heritage Trust



DC Style Fylez - DCTV

PERFORMANCE Created by DC Style Fylez



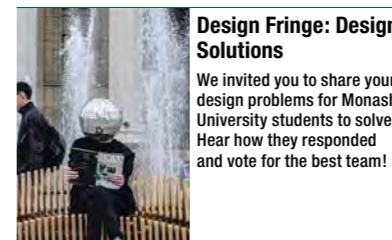
Design Fringe: Audio Described Tour
Audio descriptions of key works in the Design Fringe exhibition available to stream online, on demand.

TOUR Presented by Melbourne Fringe



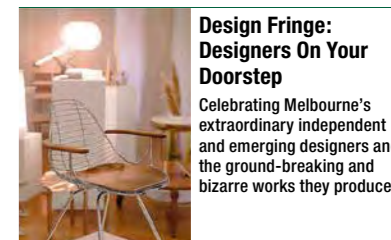
Design Fringe: Auslan Tour
Video tours in Auslan of key works in the Design Fringe exhibition, available to stream online, on demand.

TOUR Presented by Melbourne Fringe and Linden New Art



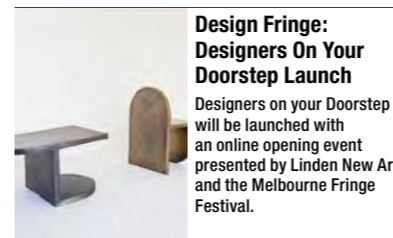
Design Fringe: Design Solutions
We invited you to share your design problems for Monash University students to solve. Hear how they responded and vote for the best team!

DESIGN Presented by Linden New Art



Design Fringe: Designers On Your Doorstep
Celebrating Melbourne's extraordinary independent and emerging designers and the ground-breaking and bizarre works they produce

DESIGN Presented by Melbourne Fringe and Linden New Art



Design Fringe: Designers On Your Doorstep Launch
Designers on your Doorstep will be launched with an online opening event presented by Linden New Art and the Melbourne Fringe Festival.

DESIGN Presented by Melbourne Fringe and Linden New Art




Design Fringe: The Politics of Design
Intersectional designers discuss how they design from a political perspective and the potential for design to make real change in the world.

DESIGN Presented by Melbourne Fringe



Faces of Fringe 2021: The World You Want To Make
Artists Sarah Walker and Sophie McPike will create a series of epic portraits featuring a diverse array of Fringe Festival artists.

EXHIBITION Artists Sarah Walker & Sophie McPike



Frequency
Flow State. Musician subjects will be painted on canvas, whilst the artist rides a skateboard. 11 aura portraits produced within Pentridge.

EXPERIMENTAL Directed by Brett Ashby




Fringe Furniture 34
In 2020 we created a Fringe Furniture exhibition like no other. Re-mounted online, we invite you to enter the 3D world of Fringe Furniture 34.

DESIGN Presented by Melbourne Fringe



In the Mist –
Acclaimed theatre director Chou Tung-Yen reveals the underground gay culture in this voyeuristic journey through a male sauna.

VIRTUAL REALITY Directed by CHOU Tung-Yen



IT-ME: TIME Traveller Beta2021 –
Join Taiwanese artist Betty Apple as she introduces you to Beta – a futuristic mermaid, creature from an alternate dimension.

EXPERIMENTAL Created by Betty Apple



Material World
A tactile, multi-dimensional contemporary textile exhibition.

EXHIBITION Curated by Peter Douglas and Jodie Kipps.



Mechanical Souls –
A sumptuous wedding is about to take place. Mrs. Song hires wedding androids to help with the ceremony. But something has gone wrong.

VIRTUAL REALITY Directed by Gaëlle Mourre



Multiply - The Film
A film chronicling one of the most profound experiences of 2020 - emerging from lockdown for Multiply, a dance experience by Stephanie Lake.

DOCUMENTARY Directed by Rhys Graham



Offing –
The indigenous people of Orchid Island in Taiwan – a small haven – celebrate the migration of the flying fish.

VIRTUAL REALITY Directed by Shih An Chen



On The Move, The Place To Be
Has living local morphed into the New Global? Have recent times created regional variations of shared experiences in the urban environment?

PUBLIC Filmed and Produced by John Hipwell




Reclaiming Narratives (Online exhibition)
Melbourne Artists respond to I Am Not A Virus: A digital exhibition confronting Covid racism.

COMMUNITY Curated and Produced by Diversity Arts Australia, Curatorial Collective



Shadow tails
x

DOCUMENTARY Directed by Jeff Achtem



SIGNAL Screen Commissions
Each year SIGNAL invites applications from young artists to produce a new public art work for projection on the SIGNAL Screen.

PROJECTION ART Created by Mohamed Chamas, Hudson Grant, Jennifer Tran, Anne Wagner, and Yundi Wang

WORDS AND IDEAS




#txtshow (on the internet)
"I've spent a lot of time on Zoom in 2020, and can't recall an hour anywhere near as entertaining as this curious Fringe experiment." – AAR

PARTICIPATORY Livestreamed from Washington, D.C. (a 4-km walk from the Embassy of Australia)



Anti-Lockdown Ode
Tom Tanuki's ode to the bizarre anti-lockdown movement, and to our only true, eternal freedom: to punch on in Coles over groceries.

STORYTELLING Created and Performed by Tom Tanuki



Artists in Conversation - Maiko Yamamoto & Robbie Blake
Live from Canada, Town Choir's lead artists discuss the creative process behind their mass choral work.

MUSIC In Association With The Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance, Monash University




Design Fringe: Gender, Safety and Design
A panel discussion focusing on design's gender and non-disabled biases, highlighting designers working towards a more inclusive future.

DESIGN Presented by Melbourne Fringe



Design Fringe: Meet First Nations Designer Nicole Monks
Meet First Nations multi-disciplinary creative Nicole Monks in an intimate conversation with Linden Director Melinda Martin.

DESIGN Presented by Linden New Art



Design Fringe: Meet the Designers
Join Linden's Curator, Juliette Hanson in an intimate conversation with designers from Design Fringe.

TALKS Presented by Linden New Art in association with Melbourne Fringe




Design Fringe: Strange Bedfellows - Drag Queens and Mid Century Modern
Strange Bedfellows brings together 2 speakers talking for 20 minutes each, in tag-teamed lectures about drag and modern design.

TALKS Presented by Linden New Art



Design Fringe: The Sustainability Masterclass
Sarah K presents her Sustainability Masterclass in a small group workshop. Learn about how to embed sustainability into your practice.

DESIGN Presented by Melbourne Fringe



Dhulka of Poetry
A spoken word artist from Somalia shares stories about his homeland and the world. A statement of truth in three languages.

POETRY Written and Performed by Mohamed Sudi



Fringe Debate: Break the Internet
Should we break the internet, or has it already broken us? Join us for a night of electrifying debate, hosted by Lou Wall.

COMEDY Presented by The Wheeler Centre and Melbourne Fringe




Let Me Get Something Off My Chest
Come down to Trades Hall to hear what is making some of Victoria's longstanding LGBTIQ+ artists and activists laugh, cry or sigh this year.

TALKS Produced by Sam Elkin



Melbourne Fringe Story Bank
Ahead of our 40th birthday, share your most vivid Melbourne Fringe memory. Record it online or at the Festival Hub to be part of our story.

STORYTELLING Presented by Melbourne Fringe & State Library Victoria



MTalks - Artists in Conversation: Matthias Schack-Arnott
Get inside the mind of this artist and composer as he talks about his sonic installation, Groundswell.

Presented by
Melbourne Fringe in partnership with MPavilion


TALKS



Our hair, our culture, our stories
For Pacific Islanders, our hair is our connection to identity, ancestors and source of pride. For one session, we celebrate our hair, untamed.

Performed by
Pasifika Storytellers Collective


STORYTELLING



The Market Record
A self-guided tour from your fridge to the Preston Market

Artists
Dan Koop & Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

TOUR



Namummaa fi Wantoota Namummaa Qancarsan - Humanness and What Took It
NA

Artist
Soretti Kadir

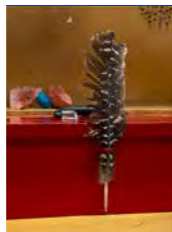
EXPERIMENTAL



Pah! Deaf Storytelling Night
Pah! Deaf Storytelling Night brings together d/Deaf storytellers to share personal tales celebrating their identity & intersectionality.

Created by
Sam Martin


STORYTELLING



What is Blak Design? Conversation Panel
N/A - printed guide already printed.

Hosted by
Tom Mosby

DESIGN



Never Said Motel: Room Service
Catharsis, closure and new beginnings. A solo writing journey from home.

Created by
Tamzen Hayes

PARTICIPATORY




Telescope - In the Voice of the Writer
Readings of work by writers with a disability.

In Association With
Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre

STORYTELLING



WORDS & IDEAS



Access & Inclusion Workshop
Amanda Lawrie-Jones from Accessible Action will run a 90 minute workshop that will provide disability awareness training to improve access and inclusion outcomes. The session will be tailored to Melbourne Fringe and offer a fresh perspective on embedding access and inclusion for artists and staff. Please note, this is a digital event that will occur on Zoom.

PRESENTED BY
Melbourne Fringe

VENUE
Digital Fringe
Digital Fringe, Melbourne

TIME
Wed 15 Sep 9:00AM
(90 mins)

TICKETS
Free

WORDS & IDEAS



Amazing Babes
Calling all amazing babes!
THIS EVENT IS NOW TAKING PLACE ON ZOOM. Tickets are available through the Emerging Writers' Festival website. Click here to book. A live storytelling event gathering some of our most adored artists to honour the babes that helped shape their lives in this intimate night of joyful storytelling. Wonder in admiration as we celebrate the many wonderful humans that our artists have chosen to applaud – from the fictional to the foundational and beyond. Includes the announcement of the winner of the Rachel Funari Prize. With: Dr Denise Chapman, Dr Jeanine Leanne, Yamiko Marama, Amarachi Okorom and Astiel Adan Sanchez. Hosted by: Stone Motherless Cold

PRESENTED BY
Emerging Writers' Festival

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Tue 22 Jun 7:00PM
(90 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20, Conc \$15

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



BLAK QUEENS: AUNTY (2021)
A fierce and fabulous First Nations, queer party!
Unfortunately this event will no longer proceed.

Ticket holders have been contacted. Hosted by The Beat Entertainment & RECK NING SOUNDS team, AUNTY is a celebration of Music, Black Women, Queer Icons, Indigenous Royalty and everything FABULOUS in between. The anthems that define ballroom culture are more than just old club hits, they also glorify the spirit of queerness and femininity; flipping words like "cunt" and "pussy" from put-downs into the highest praise. This unforgettable night celebrating our Blak Queens will feature a high-camp cocktail of artists, DJs, pop-up performances, impromptu voguing and delectable drink specials. AUNTY wants you to be the ferocious QUEEN you are and step out onto that dancefloor like you are the love child of Beyoncé & Lizzo. Dress to impress in a look that taps into your most opulent and Indigenous tastes (you might even win a prize)! #Yassss #AuntyAUNTY is the closing party of BLAK QUEENS – a week-long venue takeover of Fringe Common Rooms by queer, BIPOC artist collective, RECK NING SOUNDS. In association with Beat Entertainment, RECK NING SOUNDS is Melbourne's leading LGBTIQ & BIPOC entertainment group renowned for their original concepts and deep heart.

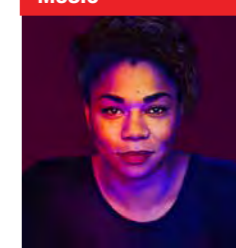
PRESENTED BY
RECK NING SOUNDS and Melbourne Fringe

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 31 Jul 9:00PM
(360 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20

MUSIC



BLAK QUEENS: Cle Morgan
A night of soul music sounds from an iconic Blak Queen
Unfortunately this event will no longer proceed.

Ticket holders have been contacted. Good vibrations and sounds for the SOUL, served deliciously hot. This Blak Queen has been gracing the Australian screen and theatre stages for many years. With a recent break, it's now time for Cle Morgan to return to the stage on her own terms and RECK NING SOUNDS are here to help her in this new chapter. Made even more special by the opening act, Theah, one of Melbourne's freshest musical talents (who just so happens to be Cle's daughter), this night of sumptuous sounds will replenish you, body and soul. This event is part of BLAK QUEENS – a week-long venue takeover of Fringe Common Rooms by queer, BIPOC artist collective, RECK NING SOUNDS. In association with Beat Entertainment, RECK NING SOUNDS is Melbourne's leading LGBTIQ & BIPOC entertainment group renowned for their original concepts and deep heart.

PRESENTED BY
RECK NING SOUNDS & Melbourne Fringe

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Thu 29 Jul 7:00PM
(180 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$25

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Tue 27 Jul 6:00PM
(210 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$10

BLAK QUEENS: Night Market

A queer, BIPOC & Allies marketplace filled with funky beats & fabulous treats for all

Unfortunately this event will no longer proceed.

Ticket holders have been contacted. Internet shopping not giving you that in-person retail rush? Want to support your local queer, BIPOC artists and businesses? Night Market is one-night-only queer community & allies marketplace stacked with the finest artists, creatives and style makers from local queer and BIPOC businesses. Brought to you by the fabulous people at Gay Stuff Market and RECK NING SOUNDS, Night Market will give Fringe Common Rooms at Trades Hall a full glow-up into a flawless, queer hub, filled with fashion, art, homewares, accessories, pleasure products, vintage pieces and saucy books. All for sale, all for you. All these exceptional purchases making you thirsty? The Common Rooms bar will be open for your drinking pleasure, hunty. I mean, who doesn't love to sip whilst you shop in style? This event is part of BLAK QUEENS – a week-long venue takeover of Fringe Common Rooms by queer, BIPOC artist collective, RECK NING SOUNDS. In association with Beat Entertainment, RECK NING SOUNDS is Melbourne's leading LGBTQI & BIPOC entertainment group renowned for their original concepts and deep heart.

PRESENTED BY

RECK NING SOUNDS & Gay Stuff Market & Melbourne Fringe

MUSIC



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Fri 30 Jul 7:00PM
(240 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$25

BLAK QUEENS: The Merindas

Melbourne's own contemporary Indigenous R&B and Electropop duo

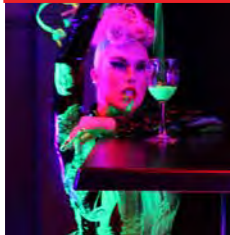
Unfortunately this event will no longer proceed.

Ticket holders have been contacted. What can we say about this ICONIC duo? They're fierce, they're everything the world needs more of right now and they are Indigenous ROYALTY. Fringe Common Rooms will be truly blessed by the presence of these two fabulous musical mistresses of fusion First Nation sounds. They might even share some of their new material (if we're lucky)! "The Merindas are the synthesis of warrior queen, blending their sultry tones and energetic stage presence. The Merindas create an atmospheric fusion of Indigenous, electro-tribal pop sounds in an extraordinary presentation of choreographed movement and slay attire." -Triple J Unearthed The Merindas will be supported by Breanne Peters. This event is part of BLAK QUEENS – a week-long venue takeover of Fringe Common Rooms by queer, BIPOC artist collective, RECK NING SOUNDS. In association with Beat Entertainment, RECK NING SOUNDS is Melbourne's leading LGBTQI & BIPOC entertainment group renowned for their original concepts and deep heart.

PRESENTED BY

RECK NING SOUNDS & Melbourne Fringe

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 10 Jul 9:00PM, Sat 14 Aug
9:00PM, Sat 11 Sep 9:00PM
(360 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$30

Blankë Pøp (2021)

A Neon Cabarave

Unfortunately the September edition of Blankë Pøp will not be able to proceed due to Victorian restrictions. A rebel rave for misfits and queers, Blankë Pøp is the welcoming and unhinged party of your dreams. It's an unearthly delight - a neon playground where we dance and chill and love openly, visited by performers that inspire with audacity. The performers at Blankë bleed self-expression and acceptance, and their respect for sexuality and self love is contagious.

PRESENTED BY

Scratch Arts

MUSIC



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Wed 28 Jul 7:00PM
(180 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$15

BLAK QUEENS: RECK NING SOUNDS Single Launch Party (2021)

A party celebrating RECK NING SOUNDS' first single

Unfortunately this event will no longer proceed.

Ticket holders have been contacted. After capturing hearts and souls with its Melbourne Fringe Festival debut, it's time to start sharing the music of RECK NING with the world! The first single from the powerful show to be released will be celebrated the only way we know how: a PARTY full of Wairua culture, waiata and dance. The release of the single and video screening of Reck ning. The bar will be open, the cast of RECK NING will be performing a song or three and we will debut the Music Video that's features 20 First Nations performers filmed here in Naarm. Reckoning is about reclaiming our power.

Reconnecting with and rediscovering our Ancestry.

Rediscovery of our indigenous blood lines.

Reclamation of the parts of ourselves we've forgotten and been made to forget. This event is part of BLAK QUEENS – a week-long venue takeover of Fringe Common Rooms by queer, BIPOC artist collective, RECK NING SOUNDS. In association with Beat Entertainment, RECK NING SOUNDS is Melbourne's leading LGBTQI & BIPOC entertainment group renowned for their original concepts and deep heart.

PRESENTED BY

RECK NING SOUNDS & Melbourne Fringe

MUSIC



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Thu 24 Jun 7:00PM, Thu 16 Dec
7:00PM
(240 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$30

BlakBeat

A fusion of traditional and contemporary indigenous music to make you want to dance till dawn!

A lilt of smoke, the Riverland echoes and we can feel the sand and saltwater rushing through the veins of Amos's voice as he carries the Song lines from the desert to our ears. Musician and beat master Amos Roach will share his unique take on Australian Reggae, a sound that combines the rhythms of didgeridoo, new beats and guitar into original songs, as well as family ballads and rock that shake the ground. He'll be supported by punk folk guitarist, Benny Clark, a proud Kurnai and Djab Wurrung man, and new dance troupe Murrundaya Yepengna, fresh from opening YIRRAMBOI Festival. Benny Clark creates stories of culture and truth, blending punk leanings with folk tradition. Better known as the drummer for many Australian hip hop and heavy acts, Benny has finally taken a step out on his own to bring you his solo project. Hilarious heartfelt lyrical dynamic Beats and great hip hop are the norm with Crooked TP & Benny Vee! Bursting into the Beats you'll have to dance as you hug your loved one with their brand of romantic humour. "Murrundaya Yepengna" (Life/Lively Dance) opened Yirramboi 2021 under the direction of Amos Roach and have been widely acclaimed for their innovation, grace and exciting, interactive performances. Directed by Amos Roach himself and soon to dance at the acclaimed 'Laura Dance Festival' in FBQ, Murrundaya Yepengna will honour our stage to open the event and create a cultural dance performance that engages as it entertains. Free entry for Unwaged Mob subject to capacity on

CABARET



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Fri 2 Jul 9:00PM, Fri 13 Aug
9:00PM, Fri 19 Nov 6:30PM, Fri 19
Nov 9:30PM, Fri 17 Dec 6:30PM,
Fri 17 Dec 9:30PM
(120 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$35

BLUNDERLAND

Psychedelic NYC Clown Cabaret Sensation

New York City Sensation BLUNDERLAND is an evening that is as naughty as it is wholesome and as raunchy as it is sweet. Please join us for a delectable variety show with all the whimsical, surreal, and psychedelic you can handle, served HOT and ready to dazzle you! Featuring an incredibly talented line up of artists to be announced soon! Leave all expectations at the door and prepare to be titillated. Drawing from the finest burlesque, circus, cabaret, and queer scenes, BLUNDERLAND is a trip down a rabbit hole of scintillating surprises you won't soon forget.

This night is hand-picked, juicy, and super fresh for your pleasure darlings. This is not a night for the meek and we serve nothing mild here. Please come prepared for anything! You are BEAUTIFUL

You are BLUNDERFUL

Be your own icon

Dress to impress and JOIN US!!! Upcoming BLUNDERLAND Shows

Friday 19th November - 9.30pm (doors 9pm) - this event is seated

Friday 17th December - 9.30pm (doors 9pm) - this event will be a mix of seated and standing

WORDS & IDEAS



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 11 Sep 1:30PM
(60 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$10

Can You Keep a Secret?

MWF Teens

Catch authors Gabriel Bergmoser and Sophie Gonzales as they share stories of teenagers whose secret identities come completely unstuck. Bergmoser's novel The True Colour of a Little White Lie centres on a geeky teen who reinvents himself on a family ski trip, with chaotic consequences. Gonzales' Perfect on Paper is about a queer high schooler who gives anonymous love advice for a fee, but is blackmailed in exchange for keeping her identity a secret. Under 18s must be accompanied by a guardian.

PRESENTED BY

Melbourne Writers Festival

COMEDY



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Tue 23 Mar 7:00PM
(60 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$15, Conc \$10

Class Clowns : Victorian State Final

Check out Victoria's NEXT BIG THING in the state final of this one-of-a-kind comedy competition

Join the search for Australia's funniest teens in the Victorian State Final of Class Clowns! For over two decades, Melbourne International Comedy Festival's Class Clowns has helped hundreds of funny, young peeps hone their comedy potential. From stand-up, sketch, physical to musical comedy, it's a smorgasbord of laughs, with comedians vying for a spot in the National Grand Final. Previous participants include Annie Louey, Joel Creasey, Josh Thomas, Aaron Chen and many more. To book for the Melbourne Heats, please head to this link melbournefringe.com.au/event/class-clowns-victoria-state-heats. Under 18s may attend this event but a parent or guardian MUST be present. Interested in participating? If you're a class clown aged 14-18 who loves writing or performance, why not enter the competition? Participation is free and includes a workshop with a professional comedian, plus the opportunity to perform in front of an audience! Visit www.classclowns.com.au for details.

PRESENTED BY

Melbourne International Comedy Festival & Fringe Common Rooms

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 27 Mar 11:00PM, Sat 3 Apr
11:00PM, Sat 10 Apr 11:00PM,
Sat 17 Apr 11:00PM
(180 mins)

TICKETS
Free

Common Rooms Bar - Up Late

Saturday night and we're feeling alright!

Looking for your late-night lurk? A hidden gem inside Trades Hall, the Fringe Common Rooms Bar welcomes you with delicious cocktails, artist drink specials, a chill-out lounge, sweet tunes, and a very shiny disco ball. Free entry, Saturdays 27 March - 17 April, 11pm til late.

COMEDY



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Fri 19 Mar 7:00PM, Sat 20 Mar
1:00PM, Sat 20 Mar 5:00PM
(60 mins)

TICKETS
Free

Class Clowns : Melbourne Heats

The search is on for Australia's funniest teens!

Check out the NEXT BIG THING in the Melbourne heats of this one-of-a-kind secondary school comedy competition! For over two decades, Melbourne International Comedy Festival's Class Clowns has helped hundreds of funny, young peeps hone their comedy potential. From stand-up, sketch, physical to musical comedy, it's a smorgasbord of laughs, with comedians vying for a spot in the National Grand Final. Previous participants include Annie Louey, Joel Creasey, Josh Thomas, Aaron Chen and many more. HEAT ONE - Friday 19/3 - 7pm

HEAT TWO - Saturday 20/3 - 1pm (this session is no longer going ahead)

HEAT THREE - Saturday 20/3 - 5pm To book for the STATE FINAL on Tuesday 23/3 - 7pm, please head to this link: melbournefringe.com.au/event/class-clowns-victorian-state-final. Under 18s may attend this event but a parent or guardian MUST be present. Interested in participating? If you're a class clown aged 14-18 who loves writing or performance, why not enter the competition? Participation is free and includes a workshop with a professional comedian, plus the opportunity to perform in front of an audience! Visit www.classclowns.com.au for details.

PRESENTED BY

Melbourne International Comedy Festival & Fringe Common Rooms

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 11 Dec 5:30PM
(540 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$30

Club Trish

Dance Club with Juicy Sensations

Juicy tropical sensations

Light up your aromatic dreamscape

As you move through a summer's night Find yourself immersed in pulsating pink and red light, eyes locked across the room, surrounded by an undulating haze. It's dreamy, it's juicy – Club Trish finally returns after long hiatus. With vivacious colour and spirit reminiscent of the São Paulo carnival, Club Trish will deliver sweet tunes from our resident DJs, live electronic and acoustic music, flavourful performances plus site-specific immersive lighting displays and experimental visuals. So grab your tickets and let us take you on a journey through colour, light, music and dance! Tune up:

Claddy
Salvador Ricardo
HipHopHoe
Berkay Mete w Camille Feghali
Dj Niamh
D.Tyrone
Club Trish Djs Performance:
Livelaughlockdown™ Light & Visuals:
John Carolan
Marc Pascal

WORDS & IDEAS



VENUE
Digital Fringe
Digital Fringe, Melbourne

TIME
Mon 30 Aug 2:00PM
(45 mins)

TICKETS
Free

Conversations on the Fringe: Activism

Nailing Accessibility and Allyship

Art + activism = ARTIVISM. Bookings are essential for this Zoom event. Fringe is as much about creating a community as it is about creating art, so join us for this essential conversation about accessible activism, access and allyship (oh my!) We're moving past disability access 101 and dreaming about the progress we'd like to see in the arts sector - the importance of embedding accessibility, activism (when art becomes activism to create meaningful change) and how to be a good ally. Led by Carly Findlay (Access Advisor at Melbourne Fringe), this conversation features powerhouse artists and arts workers Sarah Houbolt (Creative Producer - Arts Access Victoria), Madeleine Little (Festival Director: Undercover Artist Festival at Access Arts) and Olivia Staaf (Winner of the Access & Inclusion Award for "A Recorded Companion" as part of Melbourne Fringe Festival in 2020). If you've been looking for ways to increase accessibility and be a good ally in the way that you create and present your work, then this is the conversation for you. Please note: this event will be hosted on Zoom and a recording will be uploaded onto the Melbourne Fringe Resource Hub following the session.

PRESENTED BY

Melbourne Fringe

WORDS & IDEAS



Conversations on the Fringe: Self-care

It's more than a bubble bath...

Bubble baths are nice - but have you heard of self care? We know that putting on an independent event in the middle of a global pandemic can be, well, exhausting and stressful! That's why in this session, we'll be talking all things wellbeing, self-care (the real kind), and how to manage stress before, during and after your season. Led by Ashleigh Morris (Program Coordinator - Artists & Venues at Melbourne Fringe), this conversation features psychologist, Chris Cheers, who specialises in working with artists, plus a mix of previous Fringe artists who will be able to give you lots of tips and tricks for your Festival season. Expect practical tips for looking after yourself and your team, and plenty of lessons from those that have been around the block. Please note: this event will be hosted on Zoom and a recording will be uploaded onto the Melbourne Fringe Resource Hub following the session. Bookings are essential for this Zoom event.

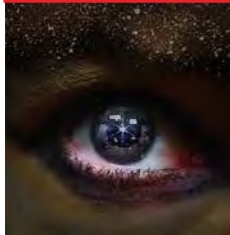
VENUE
Digital Fringe
Digital Fringe, Melbourne

TIME
Mon 6 Sep 2:00PM
(45 mins)

TICKETS
Free

PRESENTED BY
Melbourne Fringe

DANCE & PHYSICAL THEATRE



Drishti

Performances and a party by Govind Pillai and Raina Peterson!

This event is no longer going ahead.

Ticket holders have been contacted. This event takes place on the stolen lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation who are the traditional custodians of the land. We pay our respects to all Elders, past, present and emerging, and extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Sovereignty has never been ceded.

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Thu 2 Sep 7:00PM
(300 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20

For one night only, Raina Peterson and Govind Pillai (dancers and creators of Drishti, Bent Bollywood, Third Nature, Kala and In Plain Sanskrit) are gathering for an unmissable evening of film, performance and party, party, PARTY!

The crew will be screening their award-winning new work Drishti, before performing new material together for the very first time since 2019.

Afterwards, DJ MOHINI (Mohini Sharma, creator of Drishti's original soundtrack) will spin the decks late into the evening playing smashed banga mixes of Gotho Grind, Weirido Pop Remixes, Industrial sweat stains, and a special set of remixed Bollywood and hard desi beats!

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



Fanny Paq - A Queer Dance Party (2021)

A very, very Queer Dance Party

Unfortunately due to the restrictions on dance floors in Victoria this event is unable to proceed.

Ticket holders have been contacted. The folks at Fanny Paq are famous for some pretty epic, cute parties and the time has come to inhabit Fringe Common Rooms for a very special Fanny Paq party! Expect a night of dancing and mingling with the cutest, friendliest, most lovely queer gang. All facilitated by the best non-binary, butch and femme DJ's from Melbourne. Get in quick, tix will def sell out! Fancy a pre-party queer speed dating extravaganza? Get tickets for Fanny's Queer Speed Dating happening 5-8pm at Common Rooms here! Get full price tickets for both speed dating and party and we'll give you a cheeky 25% discount on both! **Discount applied automatically at check-out!

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 7 Aug 8:00PM
(360 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20

CABARET



Crazy In Love - Garret Lyon

Voice like an angel. Fierce like Queen B.

Garret Lyon's set list of crowd favourites and originals explores his experiences of love: love for his family, friends, falling in and out of it, and finding it within himself. A Darumbal and Wullil-Wullil man from Rockhampton, Garret has taken his talents and charm from the country to the world stage. As an original artist, he's a powerhouse pop performer. He rocked Bourke St Mall at YIRRAMBOI's BARRING YANABUL in 2019, opened for TLC on their Australian tour and has spent 10 years on Australian and overseas stages in lead musical theatre roles. Fringe Common Rooms is a licensed venue, under 18s must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

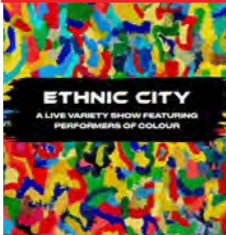
VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Thu 13 May 9:30PM
(60 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20, Conc \$15

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY
Garret Lyon

COMEDY



Ethnic City

A comedy variety show featuring the best talented performers of colour in Melbourne.

Ethnic City returns to the stage for 2021! Featured on ABC, The Age and Herald Sun, Ethnic City is the most exciting live comedy show in Melbourne. Performing since 2019, this award-winning variety show features the best-talented performers of colour in Melbourne through a mix of stand-up, improv, sketch comedy and cabaret. Our all-star line up of acts includes 2021 RAW Comedy Finalists, He Huang, Japanese-Australian ventriloquist Showko and Australia's first All-South Asian improv ensemble, Yes Ghandi! Don't miss out, book now! Doors: 7pm

Show Start: 7:30pm This event has an interval.

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Wed 16 Jun 7:30PM
(90 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$22, Conc \$17

CREATED BY
Brendan Wan

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



Fanny's Queer Speed Dating (2021)

Unfortunately this event will no longer proceed.

Ticket holders have been contacted. A queer speed dating extravaganza hosted by The Loose Moose. An evening of fun and interesting speedy dates with cute AF activities for anyone who identifies as LGBTQIA+. This event is open to all from Melbourne's queer communities and we ask that everyone come with an open mind and be respectful of each other's differing abilities, ages, sexualities and identities. There are no categories, this is ALL-in speed dating! There will be name tags that also include space to put your pronouns and any other info you want people to know about (like you're poly/bi/up for mates only or living with your parents or 45 cats...) Some people will be there for dates, others for mates, whatever you're after, you'll find it in a room full of lovely queer humans! Your tickets gets you:

- A welcome drink (beer, wine, bubbles or soft drink)

- An evening of fun and interesting speedy dates

- Heaps of activities to keep you entertained including convo starters and a little craft! Fancy making a very queer night of it? Get tickets for our Fanny Paq - Queer Dance Party happening 8pm till late at Common Rooms here! Get full price tickets for both speed dating and party and we'll give you a cheeky 25% discount on both! **Discount applied automatically at check-out!

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 7 Aug 5:00PM
(180 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$45

CURATED BY
Fanny Paq Events

WORDS & IDEAS



Finding Yourself

MWF Teens

Due to COVID-19 border restrictions that affect participants in this event we are not releasing tickets at this time. We are working through contingencies and will provide updates soon. Subscribe to the MWF eNews for updates and ticket releases. A panel of Australian novelists shed light on coming-of-age novels that navigate the space between getting lost and finding yourself. Hear their inspiring stories, which include a girl caught between cultures who must speak up for justice; a First Nations teen finding the courage to come out; and an exchange student in Paris fighting for change. Featuring Samera Kamaledine (Half My Luck), Gary Lonesborough (The Boy from the Mish) and Kate O'Donnell (This One Is Ours) on stage with Leanne Hall. Under 18s must be accompanied by a guardian.

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 11 Sep 3:00PM
(60 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$10

PRESENTED BY
Melbourne Writers Festival

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



Get Bent Fest!

A one-night-only mini-fest hosted by multi-award winning comedian Lou Wall

Hello darlings! Get Bent Fest! is an all night gala extravaganza flashing you a delicious line-up of Melbourne's finest queer acts. Join award-winning comedian Lou Wall for an exclusive, one-night-only event bringing together the best performances from the Midsumma Festival program, our city's grandest drag royals, and DJs from across the rainbow road together in one screamingly over-the-top festivalette. COVID not invited. So bust the binary! Smash supremacy! Ride the rainbow! And Get Bent at Common Rooms for the bloody crowning of Midsumma Festival's newest ill baby. You'll have a gay old time. Featuring special guests Dazza & Keif, with more acts to be announced. Sounds like a kiki! Get Bent Fest! is supported by Creative Partnerships Australia and is raising funds to directly support the development of new theatre work by emerging queer artists in Melbourne. For every dollar raised, Creative Partnerships Australia will match it. So show your support for our nearest and queerest creative workers! Pick a price and show your support: Full Price: \$25

Give a little: \$35

Give a lot: \$50

PRESENTED BY
Justin Nott

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 24 Apr 7:00PM
(420 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$25

MUSIC



Glee Club

Melbourne's favourite singalong is back!

Melbourne's original singalong is back! It doesn't matter if your voice is fit, rusty or only been heard in the shower - we guarantee no solos, no scary bits and you can drink as much as you like while you sing! The festivities will be led by Australia's favourite piano man, Trevor Jones, and we know you'll leave feeling great and with a song stuck in your head. We're celebrating all our favourite songs and we'd love you to join in! Doors open: 6:30pm

Singing starts: 7pm! Upcoming singalongs, book now: The Beatles! (Tues 15 Feb)

Whitney Houston! (Tues 15 Mar)

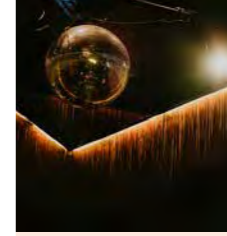
VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Tue 6 Jul 7:00PM, Tue 3 Aug 7:00PM, Tue 7 Sep 7:00PM, Tue 9 Nov 7:00PM
(75 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20

HOSTED BY
Vicky Jacobs

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



Fringe Common Rooms Block Party

We're back, we're ready to party, and you're invited

Hello Melbourne! We're (re)opening the doors to our year round venue Fringe Common Rooms and we can't wait to welcome you all back in! At long last, help us warm up our home of independent arts, events, parties and gigs, and celebrate the launch of our upcoming program. Mr Weir will be on the decks spinning your favourite party hits, plus get a sneak taste of the exciting things we have in store for you this year with pop-up performances from Anna Go Go, Blanké Pop and more... Drink specials and good vibes guaranteed.

Patrons under 18 must be accompanied by a guardian.

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Fri 21 May 7:00PM
(300 mins)

TICKETS
Free

PRESENTED BY
Melbourne Fringe

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



Get TOASTY

Settle in for a cosy evening of immersive live performance

To spice up your Wednesday night, join us at Fringe Common Rooms for a cosy evening showcasing a range of performances by talented 'n' coming local female-identifying artists. Come on down to Trades Hall and grab a hot chocolate or mulled wine to warm you up, while you enjoy a wide range of musical and dramatic pop-up performances. Get TOASTY will create an immersive artistic experience in an intimate setting, enhancing the connection between performer and audience. From jazzy saxophone, to dramatic monologues, dance pieces and pop songs on keyboards - soak up creative energies with a drink in your hand and a smile on your face. See you there! Doors at 6:30pm, performances from 7pm.

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Wed 14 Jul 6:30PM
(120 mins)

TICKETS
Free

MUSIC



Glee Club's Moulin Rouge singalong

Melbourne's favourite singalong is back!

Melbourne's original singalong is back! This month we're celebrating all our favourite songs from one of our favourite movie musicals and we'd love you to join in. It doesn't matter if your voice is fit, rusty or only been heard in the shower - we guarantee no solos, no scary bits and you can drink as much as you like while you sing! Our singalong queen, Vicky Jacobs will be leading the festivities and we know you'll leave feeling great and with a song stuck in your head. Doors open: 6:30pm

Singing starts: 7pm

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Tue 4 May 6:30PM
(75 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20

COMEDY



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Wed 7 Jul 7:30PM, Wed 4 Aug
7:30PM, Wed 18 Aug 7:30PM
(60 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$14.50

Great Speeches in History

The most famous historical speeches that never actually happened!

Unfortunately Great Speeches is no longer proceeding. Ticket holders have been notified. Prepare to warp the space-time continuum with fictionalised speeches from pivotal moments in history, both real and imagined. To keep us from tearing our hair out as we live through a time we couldn't make up, six comics take the stage to deliver satirical sermons, raw rants and lewd lectures so fake they're almost believable. What great figures will debate themselves? What imagined trials have we overcome? What lectures, debates, arguments, pleas, states of the union, public readings, stand up sets or health and safety inductions have been recorded for all time? There's only one way to find out – with Pedro Cooray, Nat Harris, Jack Vening, Emma Holland and Scout Boxall joining us on 18th August and more great acts to come! Patrons under 18 must be accompanied by a guardian.

PRODUCED AND HOSTED BY
Elyce Phillips and Scott Limbrick

WORDS & IDEAS



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 11 Sep 11:30AM
(60 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$10

Hidden Worlds

MWF Teens

Travel through time to hidden realms with fantasy writer Karen Ginnane (When Days Tilt), in conversation with Amie Kaufman. The teen hero of Ginnane's debut novel swoops through Victorian-era London to a parallel city to solve her mother's disappearance. Under 18s must be accompanied by a guardian. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 border restrictions, Garth Nix is no longer appearing in this event.

PRESENTED BY
Melbourne Writers Festival

COMEDY



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Tue 1 Mar 8:00PM, Thu 3 Mar
8:00PM
(55 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20

IGNORE/OLDFRINGE: Josh Glanc: Preview/Trial/Sex/Buyer Beware

Winner Best Comedy Adelaide Fringe Weekly Awards 2017 & 2018

This show was meant to be in September. Just think about that! Over the last two years Josh clocked up an impressive 293 days in lockdown – which is what happens when you spend 2020 in London and 2021 in Melbourne (the 3rd and 1st most locked-down cities in the world). To celebrate his return to the stage he's giving you a special sexy preview of his new show. It's going to be so sexy. Watch out. Don't miss one of Australia's "most exciting emerging talents" (The Age). Listed by the Herald Sun as one of the comics to see. 'Josh Glanc is an hour of out-loud laughing with the delicious uncertainty of what the heck is coming next' 1/2 Adelaide Advertiser 'Bizarre, provocative, random, clever... go see him' 1/2 The Advertiser. 'master of craze' The Guardian 'An extraordinary talent' The Scotsman, UK

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY
Josh Glanc

COMEDY



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Thu 16 Sep 7:00PM, Thu 11 Nov
7:00PM
(120 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$25

Kungari Comedy (2021)

Presented by Kungari Entertainment and Deadly Fringe

Enjoy an evening of big laughs from Victoria's funniest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander comedians! This line up of deadly talent will blow you away with hilarious stories and unique perspectives on being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in Australia. Featuring: Aunty Denise McGuinness Kimmie Lovegrove MC; Ben Moodie. And following the comedy, don't miss first Koorie Lip Sync Battle! Plucky competitors will bring their A-games to the stage, ready for some legendary lip sync. Who will go down in history as the Koorie Lip Sync Battle Champion?

PRODUCED BY
Kungari Productions

MUSIC



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 19 Jun 6:00PM
(150 mins)

TICKETS
Free

Kutcha Edwards - Album Launch

Kutcha is a songman, not simply a songwriter.

Kutcha Edwards launches his extraordinary new album 'Circling Time'. This album is profound and a timely reminder of the incredible depth and talent of one of the most inspiring voices within the country. Kutcha's songs and stories on 'Circling Time' are reflections on some of the highs, lows and formative chapters of this iconic singer songwriter's life journey. Produced and engineered by Andy Stewart at Mill Studio, the album was predominantly recorded during the 2020 lockdown. 'Circling Time' is insightful, reflective and deeply moving. It features the culturally poignant and celebratory song 'Singing Up Country', a heart rending tribute to his mother in 'Mrs Edwards' and the anthemic 'We Sing' featuring a chorus of known & emerging vocalists from across the globe. Kutcha's music creates physical & spiritual rhythms that transcend & connects all of us to the universal themes of love, family and country.

COMEDY



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Thu 19 Aug 7:30PM, Thu 4 Nov
7:30PM
(120 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20

Lemon Comedy

Inclusive comedy at its best!

Love comedy, but sick of dick jokes and boring, sexist quips? You'll feel right at home and ready to laugh your heart out at Melbourne's leading diversity showcase night at the beautiful (and accessible) Fringe Common Rooms. Lemon Comedy is a hilarious, uplifting and inclusive variety show that celebrates comedians of colour, female-identifying and non-binary comedians, comedians from the LGBTQIA+ communities, disabled comedians and comedians living with mental illness. November 4th line-up to be announced! Guaranteed good times, book now! Doors: 7pm

Show start: 7.30pm

Interval: 8.20pm (15mins)

Show end: 9.30pm Mob tickets are available for this event. Mob tickets are for Australian First Nations audience members who self-identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

PRODUCED AND HOSTED BY
Annie Louey

COMEDY



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Thu 18 Mar 7:30PM
(120 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20

Lemon Comedy - March

Inclusive comedy at its best!

The city's premier diversity night finds its home at Fringe Common Rooms. The show celebrates comedians of colour, female-identifying and non-binary comedians, comedians from the LGBTQIA+ communities and disabled comedians or comedians living with mental illness. Headlined by Sel Jenkins, our exciting line-up includes Sashi Perera, Alistair Baldwin, Heather Joan, Sonia Di Iorio and a secret international act! Doors: 7pm

Show start: 7.30pm

Interval: 8.20pm (15mins)

Show end: 9.30pm Mob tickets are available for this event.

Mob tickets are for Australian First Nations audience members who self-identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

PRODUCED AND HOSTED BY
Annie Louey

WORDS & IDEAS



VENUE
Digital Fringe
Digital Fringe, Melbourne

TIME
Mon 13 Sep 2:00PM
(60 mins)

TICKETS
Free

Let's Talk: COVID-Safety

Make sure your Fringe event is COVID-Safe

Need some expert advice when it comes to COVID-Safety? Melbourne Fringe risk consultant Em O'Brien is here to talk you through all you need to know, including drafting COVID-Safe plans, how to safely rehearse and present your work, how the government restrictions affect you, and what regulatory obligations you have as an independent artist and venue. There will be plenty of time for a Q&A, so bring all your burning questions. If you can't make it, don't stress - it will be recorded (and we'll be strongly advising you to watch it back!) This session will be Auslan interpreted and will be recorded and uploaded to the Melbourne Fringe Resource Hub following the event.

HOSTED BY
Em O'Brien

EXPERIMENTAL



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Tue 30 Nov 7:00PM
(90 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$10

Live the Film

Where cinema meets music meets theatre

Live the Film is an immersive live theatre multimedia experience set in Fringe Common Rooms. It brings together cinema, music and theatre to feature locally made films with a live soundtrack by Translucid and theatrical performances! Sitting individually, and yet together in one room, audience members can expect to see, hear and experience new works by independent directors and performers. Due to the inherent randomness of an improvised soundtrack and the actors' live interaction with the movies, Live the Film will be an unpredictable night of intertwining stories and virtuosic performance. Tickets are free, but all proceeds from our \$5 and \$10 ticket will go directly to our artists.

PRODUCED BY
Mia Rowland, Noah Koschade & Patrick Edwards

COMEDY



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Thu 29 Apr 7:30PM
(120 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20

Lemon Comedy - Pride Edition

Lemon Comedy goes rainbow

We're celebrating Midsumma with a special Pride Edition of Melbourne's favourite inclusive comedy night. Hosted by radio duo 'Annie and Ando' from JOY94.9, Australia's only LGBTQ+ radio station. They'll be joined by comedians Margot Tanjutco, Hannah Arbutnot and Grace Jarvis, plus drag king Justin Teliquire and headlined by the tour de force of drag, burlesque, cabaret, singing and dancing Miss Cairo. Author Nevo Zisin will be joining us for an exciting interview and copies of their latest book 'The Pronoun Lockdown' will be available for purchase. Lemon Comedy has a global following with shows selling out in London and Melbourne. Previous guests have included local acts Dazza and Keif, Selina Jenkins and Dilruk Jayasinha. Doors: 7pm

Show Start: 7.30pm This event is part of Midsumma Festival.

HOSTED BY
'Annie and Ando' from JOY94.9

WORDS & IDEAS



VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Wed 15 Sep 12:00PM
(90 mins)

TICKETS
Free

Let's Talk: Dealing with Uncertainty

Just because it's familiar doesn't mean it's easy.

Bookings are essential for this Zoom event. Uncertainty is something artists are all too familiar with - even more so given what's going on in the world right now. This 90 minute workshop presented by Fringe favourite arts-focused psychologist Chris Cheers is all about dealing with uncertainty - whether that's what to do now that you've had to cancel your show, what on earth you should do next, or not knowing if your show can go ahead. Chris will guide you through some useful and practical strategies for learning to cope with loss, managing grief and taking care of your mental health during these upside down times. Bring your questions - and your feels - and let's tackle this uncertain future together.

PRESENTED BY
Melbourne Fringe

WORDS & IDEAS



VENUE
Digital Fringe
Digital Fringe, Melbourne

TIME
Mon 2 Aug 2:00PM
(120 mins)

TICKETS
Free

Marketing with MILKE

A marketing how-to from producing guru Laura Milke Garner

Welcome to Marketing 101. This digital workshop is jam-packed with practical information about how to let the world know about your Melbourne Fringe event, on a budget. Designed for independent producers and self-producing artists across all disciplines, you'll learn all the basics: defining your audience, how best to use social media (including social media advertising), setting and following marketing timelines, and plenty more. Plus a Q&A with host Laura Milke Garner will let you ask all your burning questions about how best to market your 2021 Melbourne Fringe Festival event. Whether you're a first-time-Fringer or you've been around the traps, there's something for you in this marketing how-to. Hosted by Laura Milke-Garner (MILKE), an award-winning producer, mentor and advocate for the arts in Australia. She has been producing events, shows and touring productions for over 20 years. In 2008, she established her own company MILKE to help artists produce their work, while also providing 1:1 mentorship, workshops and online courses for artists and producers looking to develop their artistic careers. Please note: this event will be hosted on Zoom.

HOSTED BY
MILKE

WORDS & IDEAS



Melbourne Civic Commission Info Session

All your burning questions answered by Creative Director & CEO Simon Abrahams.

Join Melbourne Fringe's Creative Director and CEO Simon Abrahams for a live Q&A on the Melbourne Civic Commission, presented by Melbourne Fringe and Naomi Milgrom Foundation.

Do I have to be from Victoria? Can I apply every year? What is the meaning of life? All these questions and more (well, maybe not the last one...) will be covered in this free Zoom session. This is your chance at \$100K, so get your questions answered and give yourself the best chance at success! Please note: This live session will be recorded and uploaded onto the Melbourne Fringe website.

HOSTED BY
Simon Abrahams

VENUE
Digital Fringe
Digital Fringe, Melbourne

TIME
Mon 9 Aug 6:00PM
(45 mins)

TICKETS
Free

WORDS & IDEAS



Melbourne Conversations: Growing Up Disabled in Australia

Please be assured that this event will still take place as an online event. If the in-person element is unable to happen, in-person tickets will transition to digital tickets. One in five Australians has a disability, and yet the voices of people navigating disability in their life are drastically underrepresented in media and news. Compiled by writer and appearance activist Carly Findlay OAM, Growing Up Disabled in Australia is an anthology sharing diverse stories from over 40 writers with a disability or chronic illness. Three of the book's contributors will lead a conversation about the representation of disability and share some of their stories negotiating disability in their lives. Growing Up Disabled in Australia is the fifth book in Black Inc's highly acclaimed Growing Up series, showcasing Own Voices and exploring what it is to grow up in Australia. Important Event Information This discussion will be held at Fringe Common Rooms and live-streamed to the Melbourne Knowledge Week social channels, meaning there are two ticket types available: in-person and digital. As live attendance is limited, due to COVID-19 restrictions, please be thoughtful as you decide which ticket type to reserve. If you reserve an in-person ticket and then are unable to attend, please email boxoffice@melbournefringe.com.au so we can return your ticket. Attendees who register for a digital ticket will receive a link to join the livestream on the day before the event as well as an hour before this conversation. You do not require a social media account to join the digital conversation. Fringe Common Rooms is an accessible venue. There will be an Auslan interpreter at this

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Thu 25 Feb 6:30PM
(90 mins)

TICKETS
Free

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



Mr McClelland's Finishing School (Online)

Tunes Direct To Your Own Private Dance Floor!

As lockdown continues, we all need a chance to dance it out! Join us from your safe space Friday night at nine for three hours of dance floor power direct from Melbourne DJ Legend Andy McClelland's living room!

VENUE
Digital Fringe
Digital Fringe, Melbourne

TIME
Fri 20 Aug 9:00PM, Fri 3 Sep 11:59PM, Fri 17 Sep 9:00PM
(180 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$10.50

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



Mr. McClelland's Finishing School - Special Edition

The best little indie-pop night in Melbourne with extra special guest performers and more!

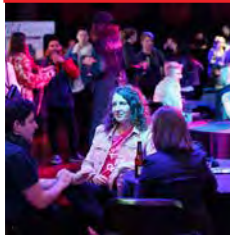
Now in our 12th year, Mr. McClelland's Finishing School has a long and storied history with Melbourne International Comedy Festival, so we're pretty pumped to be rocking out at Fringe Common Rooms this March and April! Come join Melbourne DJ legend and award-winning comic Andrew McClelland as he plays nothing but the tunes you love, alongside special-guest DJs from across the festival. We're getting back to our late-night roots with doors at 10.30pm and playing through until 3am, and, if that's not enough, we have a few extra surprises up our sleeves for these special edition shows... We all missed out on partying at festivals last year, so in 2021 we're going extra hard! See you there!

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Fri 26 Mar 10:30PM, Fri 9 Apr 11:00PM
(240 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



Melbourne Fringe Festival Salon Sessions

Got questions about participating in the Festival this year? Fringe staff are here with answers!

Thinking about registering in the 2021 Melbourne Fringe Festival but have a bunch of questions for the team and want to catch us IRL for a chat? Then our series of Salon Sessions are a great opportunity to do just that! In the lead up to the Festival this year, we'll be hosting a number of informal drop-in events, where we've rallied up a bunch of Fringe staff to come along and chat to artists and producers about their projects in 2021. Whatever it is you want to speak to us about, whether you're curious about taking part, are a Fringe newbie or a seasoned pro, we're on hand to help. Get out your diary now because you won't want to miss these; Tuesday 25 May, 6 - 7pm at Fringe Common Rooms

Tuesday 22 June, 12-1pm on Zoom

Tuesday 13 July, 6 - 7pm at Fringe Common Rooms

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Digital Fringe

TIME
Tue 25 May 6:00PM, Tue 22 Jun 12:00PM, Tue 13 Jul 6:00PM
(90 mins)

TICKETS
Free

PRESENTED BY
Melbourne Fringe

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



Mr McClelland's Finishing School

Mr. McClelland's Finishing School Returns!

For the first time since March 2020, Finishing School is coming to you live from Fringe Common Rooms with people dancing live and in person! LIVE AND IN PERSON! We're going to kick things back into gear with three weeks of dance. So, on Friday February 12th, 19th and 26th, we're lighting up the dancefloor from 9pm - midnight with three hours of non-stop McClelland DJ action! We still have to abide by capacity restrictions, so we're only selling 30 tickets to each night. If you get enough of your mates together, you can basically book the place out yourself! Or, if you're a solo dancer, just think of all the room you'll have to throw shapes! All tickets are \$20. We're also going to broadcast via Zoom (as we have been for so many months now), because we know that 30 tickets isn't many, and you might still wanna join in. All tickets to the stream are \$5. See you on the dance floor!

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Fri 12 Feb 9:00PM, Fri 19 Feb 9:00PM, Fri 26 Feb 9:00PM, Fri 5 Mar 9:00PM
(180 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20

THEATRE



No Ball Games Allowed

Join us, for a very special one night preview performance of Kristen Smyth's new play

Unfortunately due to Victorian Lockdown this performance will no longer proceed.

Ticket purchasers have been contacted. No Ball Games Allowed explores the world near the bottom of a series of high rise towers, a world where a young woman disappears and her life is remembered by her mother, a life of moments and opportunities that were never fully grasped, that could have been different. The play speaks to regret and family trauma and encourages us to examine our true selves and ask how much do we really know of our loved ones and their inner lives? Doors: 7pm

Show start: 7.30pm Music by:

Robert Downie and Rachel Lewindon Development supported by Theatre Works

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Wed 21 Jul 7:30PM
(60 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$15

WRITTEN BY
Kristen Smyth

MUSIC



Off The List Records: Takeover 1

A night of accessible live music, direct from the Melbourne underground

Unfortunately due to Victorian Lockdown, this event has been postponed to early 2022.

Ticket holders have been notified. Off The List is taking over Fringe Common Rooms with a line up that will feature a mix of able-bodied and disabled artists, including Melbourne-based experimental musician Celiac, World Sick and The Amplified Elephants! There will be zines and merch for sale and a solid line up of Melbourne's finest, so come along, say hi to the Off The List crew and enjoy an inclusive night out. The event is wheelchair accessible, there will be seating available and a sensory pack for attendees if needed. Unfortunately there is no Auslan available for this show. If you have any specific access requests or require further information at this stage please don't hesitate to contact the Fringe Common Rooms Box Office Team.

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Thu 12 Aug 8:00PM
(210 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$15

PRESENTED BY
Off the List Records

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



Mr McClelland's Finishing School

The best little indie-pop night in Melbourne!

Mr. McClelland's Finishing School returns to live, in-person dance floor foolishness for two huge events before the end of the year! We've been waiting so long to get you back out on the d-floor and on November 26th we finally get to party!

November 26th - our 13th birthday - yep, we're a teenager now, and we're gonna stay up way past our bedtime and party!

December 10th - our annual 90s night! Our annual celebration of that storied decade of music. Wall-to-wall bangers guaranteed. DJ Andrew McClelland and his guest DJs will play from 9pm - late, all tix \$15. (Limited tix at the door.) See you on the dance floor!

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Fri 30 Apr 10:00PM, Fri 14 May 10:00PM, Fri 28 May 9:00PM, Fri 11 Jun 9:00PM, Fri 25 Jun 9:00PM, Fri 9 Jul 9:00PM, Fri 26 Nov 9:00PM, Fri 10 Dec 9:00PM
(360 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$15

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



Mr McClelland's Finishing School (March)

The best little indie-pop night in Melbourne is back!

Finishing School is back! Dust off your dancing shoes and jive back into Fringe Common Rooms. We're so excited to be lighting up the dancefloor again from 9pm - midnight with three hours of non-stop McClelland DJ action! From The Smiths to The Who, from Weezer to The Supremes, from Belle & Sebastian to Prince, from Pulp to Vampire Weekend, you will dance your arse off (finally!). We still have to abide by capacity restrictions, so we're only selling 30 tickets to each night. If you get enough of your mates together, you can basically book the place out yourself! Or, if you're a solo dancer, just think of all the room you'll have to throw shapes! All tickets are \$20. See you on the dance floor! Upcoming sessions: Friday 12th March, 9pm Sign up to the Melbourne Fringe e-News or like Mr. McClelland's Finishing School Facebook page for event announcements!

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Fri 12 Mar 9:00PM
(180 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



PassionPOP

Spend one sweet day celebrating pop's Songbird Supreme at PassionPOP!

Unfortunately due to Victorian Lockdown our August PassionPOP party will not proceed.

Ticket holders have been contacted. Dig out your super fan t-shirts, flick through your CD wallets and dust off your dancing shoes - it's time to get ready for PassionPOP!

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 24 Jul 9:00PM, Sat 28 Aug 9:00PM
(240 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20

Led by Anna Go Go, the legendary mass-dance master and thrower of kick-ass pop culture parties, and featuring a live band led by Sex on Toast's Angus Leslie, PassionPOP is a brand-new party night of joyful, judgement-free good times. Each month the PassionPOP crew will honour a different pop artist that we all secretly love (but are sometimes embarrassed to admit!). In July we'll be feeling all the Emotions with the Hero, the Heartbreaker, the Honey... Mariah Carey! With iconic 90s ballads, noughties RnB pop perfection and a whistle register only dogs can hear, Mariah is the perfect diva to get the full PassionPOP treatment. All we want for Christmas (or a night in July, whatever) is a night of Mimi! There'll be Video Hits-worthy, classic choreography, and the party kicks on 'til late with beloved DJ Mr Weir (Honcho Disko, The Outpost, 1992-1-Oh!) spinning hit after hit.

Upcoming PassionPOP Parties! Mariah Carey - July 24th

PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



Popchops Down Under | A Queer Dance Party

Why don't you come join my party?

Tickets onsale Tuesday 29th June at 5pm! Look at moi please! Popchops is back and we're not here to f*ck spiders! On July 17th we'll be serving up our usual pop cheese with just a little Vegemite.

POPCHOPS: DOWN UNDER is a one-off event celebrating homegrown bangers. Whether you're queer, gay, bi, trans, non-binary or 'a couple'a Sheilas' it's time to break out the stubby holders, singlets and fannos for a night where gay pride and bogan pride collide.

Popchops' DJs Andy & Simon will be spinning an Aussie-heavy set with bops from Dannii to Ricki-Lee, Troye to Mauboy & "I Should Be So Lucky" to "Jack-Jack-Jackie".

We'll be joined by some of Melbourne's fave queens for some bloody ripper shows you'll frothin' for including reigning Miss First Nation icon Cerulean, Olympic Gymnast Max Drag Queen and Pop Princess Aubrey Haive!

Like pop music itself, Popchops is an escape from reality. A night for absolutely everybody to pop a bottle (fill me up), come

MUSIC



Pre-Commune

Bold and daring music based visions

This event has been postponed to Wednesday 1st September
Ticket holders have been contacted I left no stone unturned
Left my world burning

I rearranged the rivers

For my own purpose

Ceaseless in my destruction now left with nothing Pre-Commune is a night of music in promotion of 'Commune', a gothic multi-media opera to take place at the Melbourne Fringe Festival 2021. Featuring music performances and video projection by Louise Terra, Walls and Waves, The Omega Point with choir, and aural ambience delivered by Apolett (DJ Set). The night will also launch two music videos 'My Guitar is So Warm' from Walls and Waves, and 'High Rise' from The Omega Point.

PRESENTED BY

The Omega Point, Louise Terra & Walls and Waves

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Thu 15 Jul 8:00PM, Wed 1 Sep
8:00PM
(180 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$14

MUSIC



Queer-aoke (2021)

Karaoke at its queerest!

Led by the incomparable Bae Marie and featuring extra special guest performers Tash York and Reuben Kaye, Queer-aoke is a rambunctious late night karaoke party celebrating music's biggest queer names. Throw on a lewk, warm up that voice, dust off those dancing shoes and join us at Common Rooms to sing your heart out with an evening of music by divas of any variety including Lady Gaga, Elton John and Robyn! Sequins are essential. Tash York - Scenestr

Melbourne Fringe 2020

Best Cabaret - Nominee Reuben Kaye - Time Out

Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2021

Most Outstanding Show - Nominee

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Fri 23 Apr 10:30PM
(210 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$15

WORDS & IDEAS



Tell Me How It Started

MWF Teens

Being a teen is tough, but what happens when life really puts your courage to the test? In this panel event, three novelists reveal the inspiration behind YA stories of young women facing down fears — from a former child actor, to a dreamy young artist, to the friends of an abducted student. Don't miss Danielle Binks (The Monster of Her Age), Kate O'Donnell (This One is Ours) and Leanne Hall (The Gaps) as they reveal the origins of their ideas on stage with Melissa Keil. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 border restrictions, Will Kostakis is no longer appearing in this event.

PRESENTED BY

Melbourne Writers Festival

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 11 Sep 10:00AM
(60 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$10

EXPERIMENTAL



THE DAVENPORT SÉANCE

Brave participants are needed for a séance. Do you believe in the afterlife? Dare to take a seat?

Famed UK psychologist/sceptic Richard Wiseman and TV comedian/paranormal enthusiast Lawrence Leung invite you to be part of a supernatural experiment. "The Davenport Séance" is a unique, fully immersive 30min experience that takes place in dark Victorian-era room. Twenty (un)lucky souls will go on a haunting journey into 19th century spirit mediumship from Melbourne's hidden past. A bell will be rung. Lamps will be switched off. The séance will begin... Seats are limited, so book immediately. This special event will sell out. Please note: The performance duration is approx. 30mins and there is a strict lock-out/no latecomer policy. Perhaps stay away if you have a heart condition. This immersive event is part of the 2021 Melbourne Magic Festival program.

DEvised BY

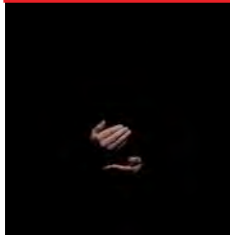
Lawrence Leung and Richard Wiseman

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Tue 29 Jun 7:00PM, Tue 29 Jun
8:00PM, Wed 30 Jun 8:00PM,
Wed 30 Jun 9:00PM, Thu 1 Jul
7:00PM, Thu 1 Jul 8:00PM, Thu 1
Jul 9:00PM
(30 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$20

THEATRE



Safe Space

What does safe space mean to you? A poetic performance in Auslan.

Unfortunately Safe Space will no longer be able to proceed. Chelle Destefano has been researching the meaning behind safe space for Deaf people and she's realised it is more than just a room. Safe space could be a person we trust, a faculty, a group or gathering. From her personal lived experience as a Deaf person, Chelle has created a poetic work that tells the story of the history of abuse towards the Deaf community and raises awareness of the ongoing issues of oppression and unsafe feelings.

This performance will be in Auslan, along with captioning and voice-over to invite blind, low-vision and English speaking audience members to experience this beautiful poetry.

Doors: 7pm

Show start: 7.30pm

PRODUCED AND PERFORMED BY

Chelle Destefano

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Tue 20 Jul 7:30PM, Wed 8 Sep
7:30PM
(45 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$15

DANCE & PHYSICAL THEATRE



Shower Thots - Work in Progress

This is wet; this is thotty; this is reality.

Shower Thots (a social slang for that 'ho' over there) is the second development exploring the symbolism of the solo character in the bathroom. Referenced across cinema, music and theatre, the solo character in a body of water is a constantly melancholic persona submerged either in sensual bliss or death. Shower Thots expands the trope of shower thoughts and proposes audacious alternatives to the gaze and a focus to the micro. Enter the bathroom of a queer person in lockdown; Shower Thots is a time capsule to a private bathroom in the peak of lockdown. This work in progress stars Damian Meredith with original music by Gala Hallelujah set onto a local choir. Join Jonathan as he shows excerpts from the work followed by a panel discussion for feedback. If you are keen to join the volunteer choir email Jonathan at jonathanhomsey.com by 15 June 2021. This project was developed in 2020 under Chunky Move's Solitude program, supported by the Tanja Liedtke Foundation.

CHOREOGRAPHED BY

Jonathan Homsey

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 10 Jul 1:00PM
(90 mins)

TICKETS
Free

CABARET



The Roaring Twenty-Twenties

Reclaim the decade!

The roaring twenties are back and better than ever!

We didn't exactly start on the right foot this decade, so let's try it again. Let's start with recapping past highlights and where better to revisit than the art deco and swinging parties of the nineteen-twenties? Fun fashion, funky music, off the hook parties are what we hope to revive with a showcase of performances amongst a flapper-tastic ambiance. This modern twenties party features emerging artists that will inspire you to start the new decade with a bright outlook on everything that lies ahead. Victoria has been through enough the past two years and deserves a night of fantastic entertainment. Music to get the foot tapping, comedy to shake out those laughs, silent film to pay homage to vintage charm, or a relaxing respite in the exhibition lounge. Dressing jazzy for this occasion is encouraged! So what do you say, Old Sport? Come along for a night of jazz, feathers and emerging artists that will get your blood pumping for the twenties, the sequel!

PRODUCED BY

Bree Oldmeadow and Danielle Roche

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Wed 1 Dec 7:00PM
(90 mins)

TICKETS
Free

WORDS & IDEAS



YA'II Are Doomed: Dystopian Fanfic Showcase

MWF Teens

Strap yourself in as a showcase of the country's most imaginative writers for young adults present a new piece of fanfiction about their favourite characters from literature, TV and film surviving (or not) the end of the world. Whether it's a zombie apocalypse, alien invasion or all-out cybergeddon, expect the unexpected as some of pop culture's best-loved icons are dropped into dystopian scenarios. Featuring Gabriel Bergmoser, Danielle Binks, Sophie Gonzales, Melissa Keil and host Amie Kaufman. Under 18s must be accompanied by a guardian. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 border restrictions, Samera Kamaledidine, Garth Nix and Will Kostakis are no longer appearing in this event.

PRESENTED BY

Melbourne Writers Festival

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Sat 11 Sep 5:00PM
(60 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$10

COMEDY



Taking Up Space! - POSTPONED

A celebration of inclusive comedy in Melbourne

Bits & Pieces and Clare Rankine Productions proudly presents: TAKING UP SPACE! An inclusive comedy night focusing on women and underrepresented comedians and spaces. The night will be a mini festival highlighting emerging stand ups and the rooms that support them, along with a round table discussion about the fantastic new inclusive spaces in Melbourne, hosted by Joanne Brookfield. TAKING UP SPACE! takes pride in providing a place where everyone can feel relaxed, comfortable, and welcome. This is a night with all types of comedians and all forms of comedy. With an incredible line-up of Melbourne's best emerging comedians, drinks and dancing after the show under the Common Room's disco ball, this joyful event is not one to be missed!

PRESENTED BY

Bits & Pieces Comedy and Clare Rankine Productions

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Thu 5 Aug 7:00PM, Thu 17 Feb
7:00PM
(180 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$25

COMEDY



Tardy: Ready and Disabled

So many stereotypes, so little time.

This event has unfortunately been cancelled.

Ticket holders have been notified. Queer. Autistic. Veteran. So many stereotypes. Late to the party. Late bloomer. Late diagnosed. Jacci Pillar was born to be late, but better later than never. Join Jacci, a nonbinary, neurodivergent truth bomber and occasional anthropologist in the comedy therapy circle for a quirky, comedy conversation. The show is presented as an autistic's not-so-anonymous meeting in the art of being literal and the politics of autism diagnoses for people born with vaginas. "You're a bit tardy"... isn't that derived from R... Remember the R word? Let's burn it down! Queer. Autistic. Veteran. Late to the party. Late bloomer. Late diagnosed. But NOT TARDY. Jacci Pillar was born to be late, then bullied by people who hurried and messed everything up. If you think names like tardy or lazy or other ableist slurs should burn in hell but still want the right to insult people who deserve it, then this show is for you. Join Jacci, a nonbinary, neurodivergent truth bomber and occasional anthropologist in the comedy therapy circle for a quirky, comedy conversation.

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY

Jacci Pillar

VENUE
Fringe Common Rooms
Cnr Victoria and Lygon St, Carlton

TIME
Tue 10 Aug 7:30PM, Tue 24 Aug
7:30PM
(55 mins)

TICKETS
Full \$15



KAMA DANCE, ART GUIDES THE WAY, MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL 2021. PHOTO BY DUNCAN JACOB.

