

Festival Report

*Everything was art



2017*

MELBOURNE

FRIN
G E

14 SEPT - 1 OCT 2017

About Melbourne Fringe 2017

"Fringe is unlike any other arts festival. It is the highlight of the Melbourne arts and culture calendar celebrating bold ideas and the unconventional."

~Kara Bertocini, AU Review.

PO PO MO CO. Post-Apocalyptic Body-Slam. Melbourne Fringe 2017. Photo by Theresa Harrison.



Melbourne Fringe is a big, bold and gloriously messy celebration of independent art, where for 2.5 weeks each September, everything is art (if you are prepared to be as brave as our Fringe artists are).

Our open access Festival champions cultural democracy - this is art for everyone. We celebrate freedom of artistic expression (we love it!), we take voices from the margins and amplify them across the city. Fringe embraces risk by relinquishing curatorial control because we are owned - wholly, joyfully and completely - by our participants and our audiences.

Our artists are culture-makers, risk-takers, world-shakers and Fringe works year-round to help them create, present and promote their work. Fringe supports independent artists to take the 'next step' in their careers - whether it's a Festival first-timer

attending a Fringe FAQ Session or helping a mid-career artist land that commission. This year, Fringe supported over 3,000 artists participating in 449 events across 172 venues to share their work with an audience of over 361,000 people (and then some).

Our core values of bravery, collaboration, diversity, inclusion and independence drive us. We create a platform for everyone: the young, the queer, the disabled, the culturally diverse, the bravest artists exploring the boldest ideas, and we are here to challenge and to shake up the hierarchy.

Out of the Echo Chamber

A Note from the Creative Director & CEO

There was something in the air at Melbourne Fringe in 2017. Maybe it was the political uncertainties around the world, or maybe it was something closer to home. I'm not sure. I just know that this year Melbourne Fringe's artists were devoted to doing things differently.

They jumped on our provocation this year to get 'out of the echo chamber'. We asked our participants and our audiences to stop scrolling through their social media feeds, full of their own opinions shoved back in their faces, and instead set the challenge to think differently, listen to new voices and privilege opinions coming from outside the mainstream.

I really do believe that Melbourne Fringe is our greatest celebration of cultural democracy - the intersection between art and citizenship - and our exciting Festival commissions proved it. *Pivot* explored the role of conversation in our democracy, *The Children's Party* looked to empower the largest demographic excluded from our political system, and *Congress* gave the microphone to unheard voices. Our Deadly Fringe initiative resulted in two extraordinary new Indigenous works - the multi-award-winning smash *Biladurang* and the community-led *dis place*.

But it's the 414-odd shows in the un-curated program that form the heart of the Festival. This year's focus on feminist, queer and multicultural works saw some of the strongest work (and ticket sales!) in many years. We had 43 shows from overseas, artist residencies, exhilarating club events for kids and for adults, and a sell-out smash hit water ballet about the menstrual cycle. What could be more Fringe than that?

Melbourne Fringe shifts our city's cultural ecology both in obvious ways and in more subtle ways, changing the viewpoints and broadening the horizons of Melbourne's citizens. So be warned: we'll be forcing you out of your echo chamber for a long time to come.

Simon Abrahams
Creative Director & CEO



A Note from the Chair of the Board

Not a week goes by in Melbourne without some festival going on but Melbourne Fringe - made by the people, for the people - is a Festival that truly responds to an ever growing potential and continues to expand each year. Our artists and audiences are not only expanding but increasingly are drawn from a wider cross section of our diverse community.

While Fringe is a proudly open-access, un-curated festival, it doesn't mean that everyone has the resources, knowledge or the experience to participate equally. This year, Fringe has continued to actively open its doors wider and reach further into communities that are traditionally not well represented in our Festival or in contemporary arts and culture in general.

As we continue to pull the fringes of society's cultural practices into a more central focus, we are busy working with the prevailing establishments to advance experimentation from within cultural institutions. The performance art event *Discordia* was the recipient of our inaugural *Take Over! Residency* with Arts Centre Melbourne, a thrilling collaboration between independent artists and an established venue.

Our record breaking ticket sales this year is the result of a concerted strategic plan to continually improve our services and provide strong outcomes for our artists and our shows. This is just one aspect of the exciting ambition across Melbourne Fringe, from the many enthusiastic volunteers all the way to the Board. Over the last two and half years, the board and the organisation has undergone significant structural change to support a highly enthusiastic and vision-driven Festival.

The Board of Melbourne Fringe are proud and delighted with this year's outcomes and are excited to continue to grow Melbourne Fringe with the support of the Festival team, our artists, our cultural institutions and above all with the citizens of Melbourne.

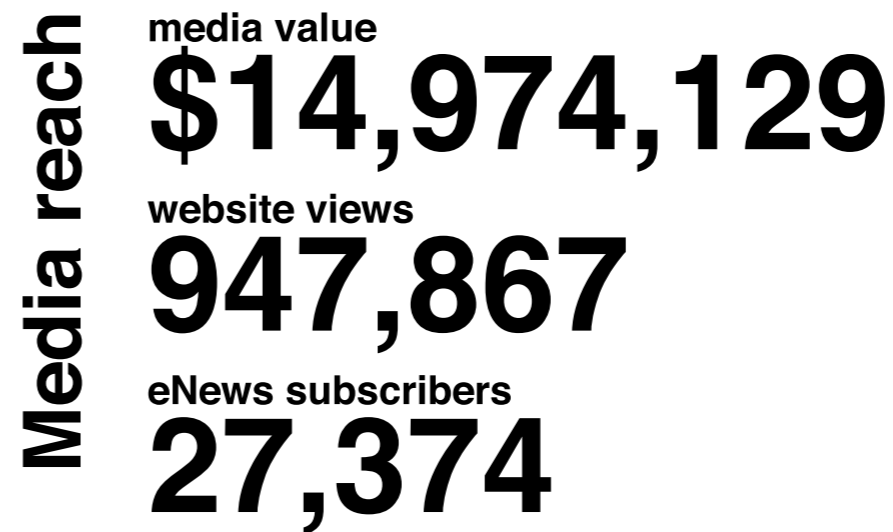
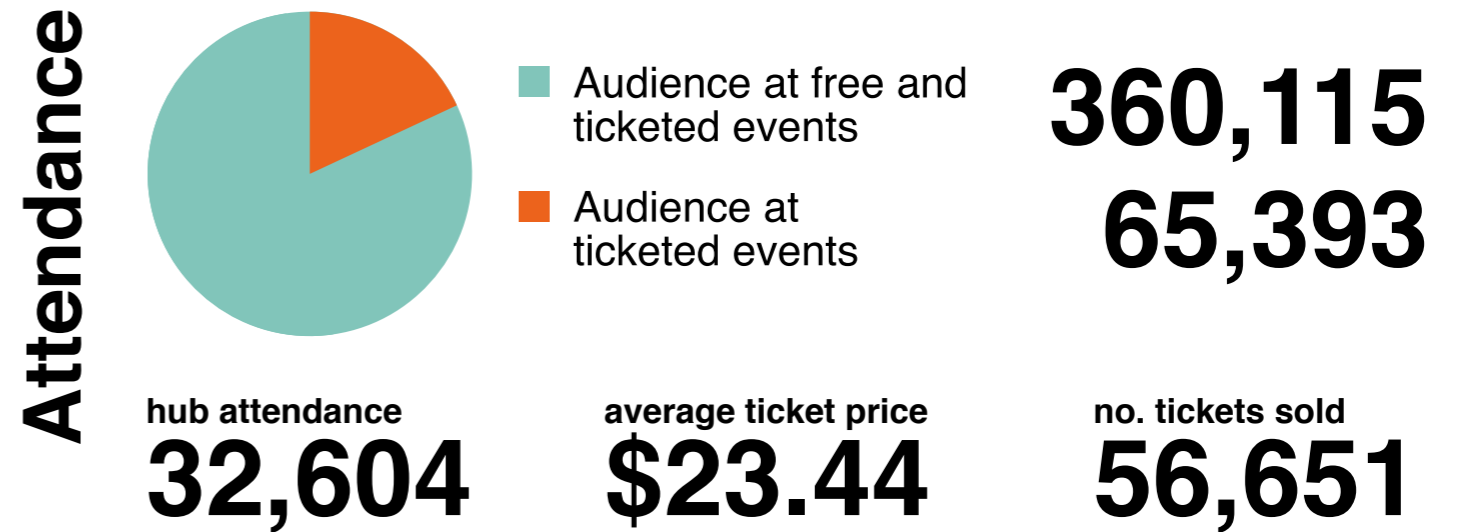
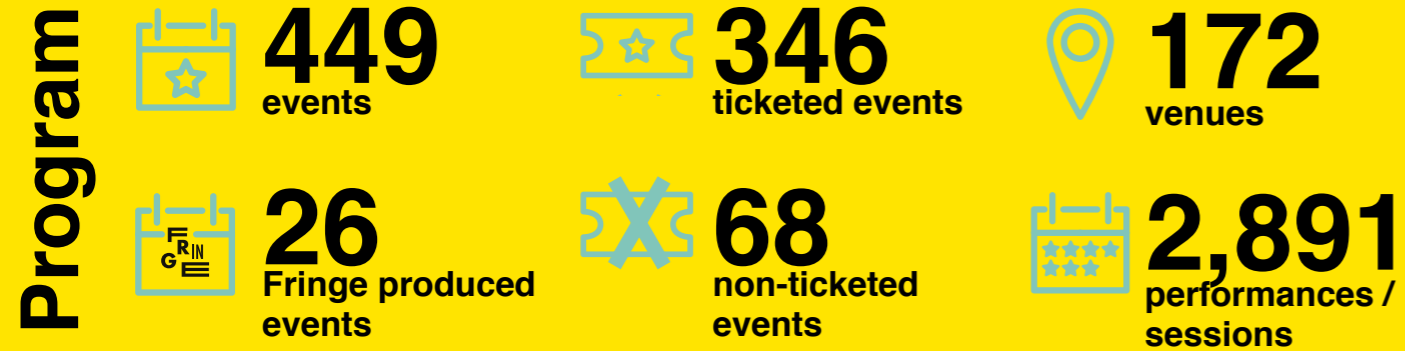
Gideon Obarzanek
Chair of the Board



"At the Festival's heart is its open access ethos, where everyone is welcome and both artists and audiences get to try something new. This creates a unique atmosphere, always supportive, often surprising and at times exhilarating."

~Martin Foley MP, Minister for Creative Industries.

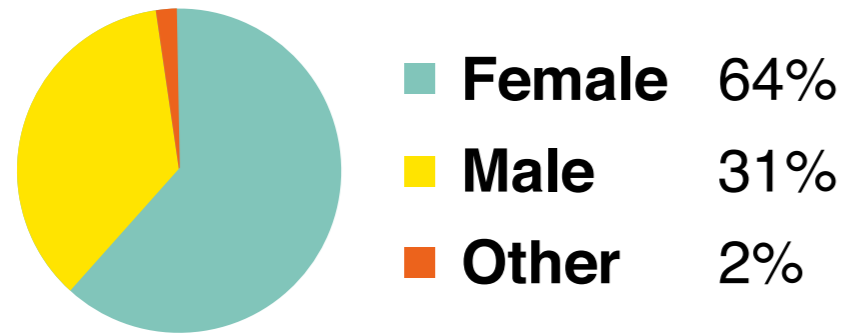
Festival 2017 Snapshot



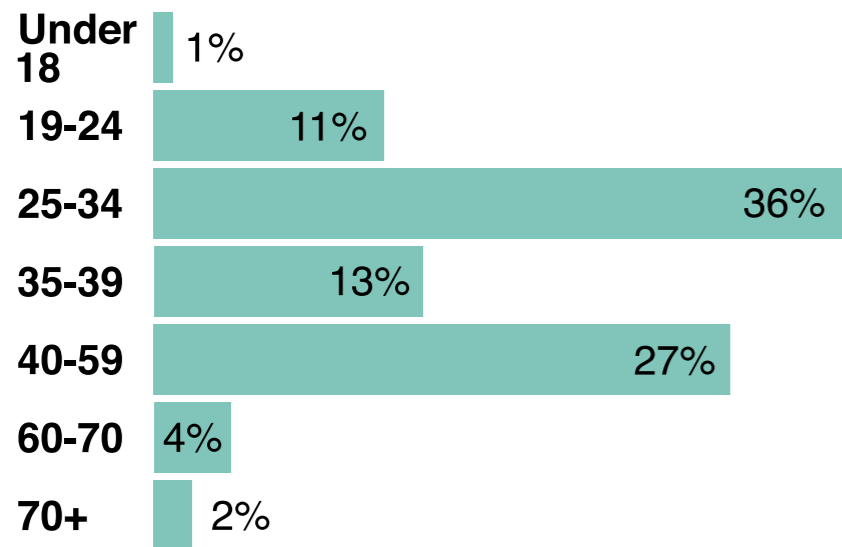
	Followers	Reach
Facebook	29,286	839,553
Twitter	27,526	289,241
Instagram	5,383	

Audience Profile

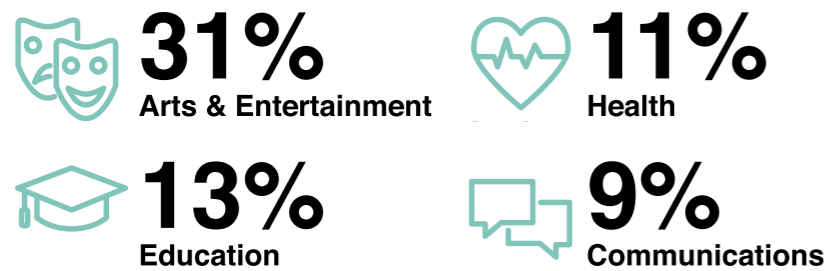
Gender



Age



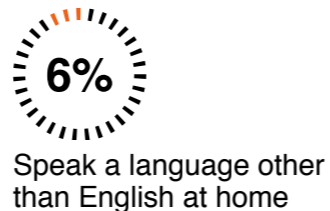
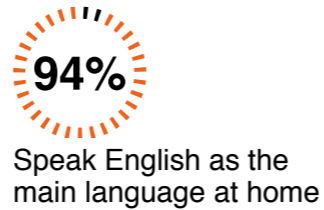
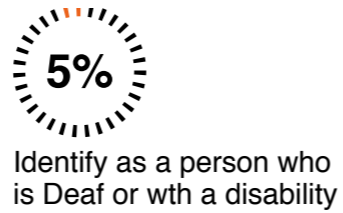
Occupation



Motivations

1. Support the independent arts
2. For fun
3. Celebrate Melbourne's art community
4. Discover new artists
5. Explore new ideas

Diversity



Top visiting suburbs

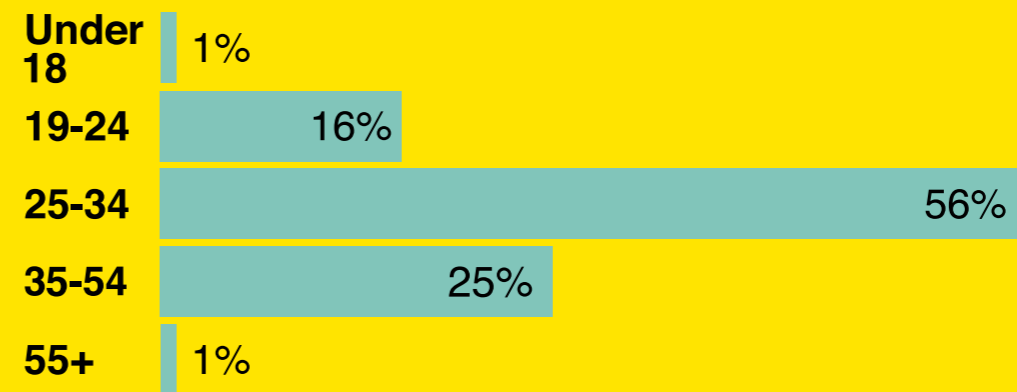
Melbourne CBD
Brunswick
Northcote
Richmond
Coburg
Clifton Hill
Footscray
Carlton North
Fitzroy
St Kilda

Artist Profile

"Melbourne Fringe provides a platform to make work...that challenges you as a performer. To make work that appeals to your hopes for the future of live performance. This level of autonomy provides the opportunity to push your boundaries as a performer, and the boundaries of your audience."

~Sam Russo, Melbourne Fringe participant.

Age



Origin



Reasons for participating

1. To reach new audiences
2. Development opportunity
3. To raise my profile in the industry
4. To try something new
5. As a testing ground before taking the event to other venues/festivals

Top artist suburbs

Carlton
Coburg
Footscray
Brunswick
Collingwood

Creative Program

Attendees

248,977

85% of audiences experienced something new or different at the Creative Program

71% of audiences felt engaged, engrossed or absorbed by the Creative Program

Our Creative Program is an important piece of the 'cultural democracy' puzzle of arts participation. Each year, Fringe commissions leading independent artists to create bold, new artworks that put the process of art-making directly into the hands of the citizens of Melbourne. Our 2017 Creative Program kick-started conversations across the city and invited you, the citizens of Melbourne to step out of your own personal echo chamber.



Pivot, Fed Square. Melbourne Fringe 2017. Photo by Gregory Lorenzutti.

Melbourne Fringe and City of Melbourne in association with Fed Square presents

Pivot

by Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey

"The experience of riding the seesaw is one of sheer joy: your body, caught in that deliciously gentle rhythm of flight, is nurtured into open curiosity by a voice responding to the exclamations or thoughtful questions that enter your mind during play."

~Esther Anatolitis, Writer.

For the duration of the Festival, we transformed the city into a playground for adults with *Pivot*, a live art conversation kick-starter engaging people in a tête-à-tête mediated by semi-intelligent talking seesaws. Fringe commissioned award-winning independent artists Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey to create a work that poked, prodded and counselled you and your playground counterpart as audiences seesawed their way to equilibrium.

244,497 people encountered *Pivot* with 15,560 seesaw riders from every age group, background and culture.

12 artists

16 days

15,560 seesaw riders

Pivot was commissioned by Melbourne Fringe and City of Melbourne. This work was originally developed with support from Fed Square.



Australian Government
Catalyst—Australian Arts and Culture Fund



Glitter and Snatch, Post-Apocalyptic Body Slam. Melbourne Fringe 2017. Photo by Theresa Harrison.

The Children's Party

Melbourne Fringe and Arts House present

by Ben Landau, Alex Walker and House of Muchness



The Children's Party, Festival Club - Arts House, Melbourne Fringe 2017. Photo by Sarah Walker.

Playground politics got serious this Fringe.

The Children's Party, Australia's first child-led political party, pitched their vision of the future to Australians via several high-profile media appearances and then to a packed house at their inaugural convention. Guided by Lead Artists Alex Walker, Ben Landau and the House of Muchness, our group of pint-sized politicians aged 8-12 years tackled the big issues of today – climate change, asylum seekers, cats vs dogs, cyber-bullying – and shaped party policy in front of our very eyes. The little leaders-in-waiting voted with their voices, their feet and the odd table tennis bat.

"We might have less experience, but that doesn't mean we don't have views and beliefs. Kids might bring new ideas to the table, or different ideas, and different doesn't mean worse, it just means new."

~Tara, Children's Party Member 2017.

Part participatory art project, part social provocation, part the juiciest episode of Q&A you've ever seen (and they should know, they appeared on it) the members of the Children's Party ripped open the echo chamber, stepped right out of it and showed the know-it-all adults how to really listen to each other.

"Every political party needs a launch so The Children's Party convention at the Melbourne Fringe Festival had its members and its young audience performing and debating issues."

~Heather Zubek, Crinkling News.

26 workshops
57 Children's Party participants
252 attendees

Melbourne Fringe and Darebin Arts present



Congress, Melbourne Fringe 2017. Photo by Gregory Lorenzutti.

10 community members
10 writers
10 dancers
231 attendees

"Congress takes the political convention of the first speech and hands the microphone over to those who usually go unheard."

~John Bailey, The Age.

We closed the 2017 Festival with *Congress*, a glorious celebration of people power and a citizens' assembly unlike any other. Acclaimed performance makers All The Queens Men, brought their life-affirming brand of participatory art to the Northcote Town Hall, pairing ten members of Darebin's diverse community with professional wordsmiths. Together, these couples created the first speeches of those often unheard.

"The content of each speech has been left to the contributors to find a space for people who are not really represented in our political sphere, despite the fact that they make up what's brilliant about being an Australian."

~Tristan Meecham, Lead Artist, All The Queens Men.

Standing in front of a full auditorium, the members of *Congress* delivered their speeches (with just the right amount of glitz and glam); their public declarations of the deeply personal pulling a range of diverse experiences, identities and stories into focus. *Congress* empowered participation in the artistic process by members of the community who might not have otherwise participated in Fringe. It encouraged us to listen to our neighbours, and their neighbours and their neighbours in a celebration of our citizens and our city.

Congress

by All The Queens Men

Fringe Furniture 31

Melbourne Fringe presents

"(Fringe Furniture)...showcases some of the most thought-provoking industrial design in the country."

~Lucinda McKimm, *Broadsheet*.



Fringe Furniture 31. Abbotsford Convent. Melbourne Fringe 2017. Photo by Theresa Harrison.

Arts Centre Melbourne in association with Melbourne Fringe presents

Take Over! Residency

What happens when you unleash a group of independent artists on Arts Centre Melbourne? You get *Take Over!* – a residency initiative supporting leading artists to develop and present innovative new performance work at Melbourne Fringe. Eight astonishing artists worked in residence developing *Discordia*, a brilliantly bizarre performance installation created especially for the Festival.

Discordia introduced a new religion to the world, leading its audience members through the darkest corners above, behind and below the Fairfax Studio, sometimes with a paper bag on your head. Driving this beautifully strange religious recruitment was a sect of prawn-worshipping rose beige humans, the Discordants – James Andrews, Gabi Barton, Holly Durant, Benjamin Hancock, Simone Page Jones, Hannah Fox and Will and Garrett Huxley.

"Embracing the chaos and absurdity of existence can bring its own peace." ~Hannah Fox, *Discordant*.

15 participants
11 performances
1,084 attendees



Discordia was developed with the assistance of Arts Centre Melbourne in association with Melbourne Fringe and supported by the Australia Council for the Arts. This project has been generously supported by Monica Lim and Konfir Kabo and Lorraine and John Bates.

Melbourne Fringe invited UK-based risk takers (and risk-chasers) Forest Fringe to Melbourne's West for the *Forest Fringe X Melbourne Fringe* international residency - 10 days of art-making, mischief making and some serious deep thinking. Forest Fringe co-directors Andy Field (UK) and Deborah Pearson (UK/CAN) together with Associate Artist Mish Grigor (SYD) were joined by local artists Shian Law, Stuart Bowden and Zarnie Morcombe for the *Forest Exchange Lab*, a week of art-making, exchanging ideas and new collaborations.

Two Days of Action invited the artists of Melbourne to join the Forest Exchange Lab for 8 hours of performance-making. Each day finished with an Afternoon Assembly, a chance for brave audiences to witness the fruits of a hard day's performance making, from a live art banquet at The SUBSTATION to a dance piece up escalators and on rooftops in Footscray.

There was a chat in Laverton, a panel discussion at the Wheeler Centre as well as Forest Fringe co-founder Deborah Pearson's acclaimed live art documentary performance *History, History, History* at The SUBSTATION.

"*History History History* is a remarkable and nuanced meditation on connection and chaos, how history is both constructed and out of our control, both ever-present and irretrievable."

~John Bailey, *Realtime*.

7 events
42 participants
480 attendees



Forest Exchange Lab. Melbourne Fringe 2017. Photo by Max Milne.

Forest Fringe X Melbourne Fringe Residency



101 participants
117 artworks
3,200 attendees

Fringe Furniture 31 invited the artists and designers of Melbourne to consider the transcendental power of design - how the practical objects we use every day might help bring us closer together, spark conversation and give way to new kinds of communication. The stunning Abbotsford Convent once again threw open its doors to *Fringe Furniture*, an annual open access exhibition featuring 101 emerging artists and exhibiting 117 artworks.

Over 3,200 people visited *Fringe Furniture*, which featured work ranging from furniture to lighting, homewares to wearable objects. Professional inclusive arts practitioners delivered two Tactile Tours for 14 people who were blind or experience low vision, and 66 design enthusiasts attended two Artist Talks.



program independent



oneSELF. Testing Grounds. Melbourne Fringe 2017. Photo by Theresa Harrison.

"Melbourne Fringe Festival is back for its whopping 35th year allowing our creative culture to flourish within the margins of diversity."
~Kara Bertoncini, AU Review.

Our Independent Program is the beating art (art pun!) of cultural democracy – the idea of art for everyone. For 2.5 weeks this September, the personal was political in an exhilarating program of 414 events in 172 venues across 12 different artform categories. Our Independent Program provides a space where established, emerging and amateur artists stand side-by-side, making Melbourne Fringe the most inclusive multi-artform festival in Australia.

"If something is labelled 'comedy', there is an expectation that it's got to be funny... but Fringe suggests experimentation, evolution, discovery, an artistic will and I love that."
~Lawrence Mooney, Melbourne Fringe Participant.

events
414
venues
172
participants
3,068
attendees
95,843

Fringe Hub

events

64

attendees

33,724

"Each year, thousands of people flock to venues across the city in pursuit of the pleasure that exploring the boundaries of art presents."

~Laura Egan, *Il Globo*.

The Fringe Hub is the epicentre of all things Fringe and this year featured a bold program of 64 events across venues at the Lithuanian Club and Arts House. The Fringe Hub is where artists push boundaries (and sometimes people's buttons), experiment with form and meet their audiences face-to-face. Artists activated a range of spaces across the Fringe Hub, from comedy in the cavernous Main Theatre to microscopic performances in the corridor (quite literally, a performance down the lens of a microscope). The Fringe Hub is a place where art sparks new conversations and new ideas are born.

"Returning to the Festival each year is an exciting, provoking and challenging experience. As an independent theatre maker I return each year to the Fringe Festival because of the deep level of autonomy it gives me to create new work, and access an audience that is hungry for it."

~Sam Russo, *Melbourne Fringe Participant*.



Amanda Morris, *Post-Apocalyptic Body Slam*, Melbourne Fringe 2017. Photo by Theresa Harrison.

Festival Club

events

15

attendees

18,187

"It's that time again, when bold independent artists take over the city and the North Melbourne Town Hall heaves with parties." ~*Time Out* 2017.

The Festival Club is our meeting place, our town hall, our city square - the jewel in the Fringe Crown (if you will). Whoever you are, however you identify, you are safe and welcome at the Festival Club. It's a space where everyone can meet on equal ground, share a drink and be treated to something new and surprising. A diverse program of 15 events transformed the space from a cabaret venue to a sit-down theatre and everything in-between. Surprising performance art, emotionally raw poetry, white fragility on parade (#LOL) and banging beats - all of this and more was up for grabs this year at our Festival Club.

Melbourne Fringe and ArtPlay present

Kids Club

events

5

attendees

920

"Melbourne Fringe Festival returns ... with lots of imaginative and creative children and family programming." ~Joyce Watt, *TOT - Hot or Not*.

Melbourne Fringe teamed up with ArtPlay to create a rip-snorting program of events for our littlest Fringe-goers at our Kids Club. Some of Fringe's most childish artists led 920 small human beings and their families on strange and wonderful Butoh adventures, transcendental yogic stomps, rainbow jungle jams and a dance party just for kids. There was dancing, joy, high-pitched squealing and just a little bit of chaos (the way we like it). Just like our Festival Club, our Kids Club is a safe space, where kids can be whoever or whatever they want to be.



Kids Club, Melbourne Fringe 2017. Photo by Theresa Harrison.



Sarah Ward, Gabi Barton and Niki Wilks. Post-Apocalyptic Body Slam, Melbourne Fringe 2017. Photo by Theresa Harrison.

Tour Ready
2 networking sessions
35 delegates
55 participants

Tour Ready equips artists with the skills to create a sustainable practice and extend the life of their work beyond the Festival. If Melbourne audiences loved it, why not try Bendigo, Perth, Auckland, Edinburgh or beyond? Tour Ready invited industry professionals from across Victoria, interstate and overseas to attend Melbourne Fringe and see events they might be interested in programming at their own venues, events or festivals. In the lead up to the Festival, Fringe offered a Tour Ready Info session to artists to prepare them with the skills and knowledge required to develop a work for touring purposes. Our artists then put these skills to the test at two networking sessions at the Festival Club where our artists met the Tour Ready delegates in a relaxed (but still uber professional) environment.

Fringe FAQ Sessions
8 Fringe FAQ Sessions
247 participants

Our Fringe FAQ sessions lend a helping hand to emerging producers and first-timers presenting work at the Festival. Experienced arts practitioners led the sessions, each full of practical information to help artists produce a successful Fringe event. Each session focussed on best practice skills essential in creating work at Fringe, from producing sustainable and accessible events to marketing and finding the cash.

Creative Workshops
13 workshops
20 facilitators
182 participants

Our Creative Workshops are part of the hardcore hands-on support Fringe provides independent artists, helping them with the creative nuts and bolts to produce their work. Facilitated by leading practitioners including Candy Bowers, Jane Bodie and Darren O'Donnell of Canada's Mammalian Diving Reflex, this year's workshops were designed to question and challenge contemporary art practice including participatory performance, decolonising theatre, art and accessibility and queering the classics.



Ralph Mclean Microgrants

The Ralph Mclean Microgrants Program reduces barriers to participation for artists from diverse background by offering small grants to cover the cost of registering an event at the Festival. This year we were delighted to offer microgrants to Rebecca Djentuh, Tanya Hodza, Jose Inostroza, Abbie Madden and Romy Vager.

Ralph Mclean (1957 – 2010) was both an arts legend and on the Board of Melbourne Fringe for over 10 years. His passion was celebrating diversity and art in all forms and we are proud to continue his legacy.

“Melbourne Fringe 2017 was my first ever fringe experience, performing and putting on a show. I couldn't have been better looked after or more warmly welcomed and supported by a Festival.”
~Abbie Madden, Ralph Mclean Microgrant Recipient.

City of Moreland Microgrants

In Fringe, a little can go a long way, which is why we were thrilled when the City of Moreland worked with us to deliver a new initiative to help cover the registration fees for Fringe artists living or presenting Fringe works in the City of Moreland. The 2017 recipients were Owen Collins, Joanna Cooney, Patrick Francis, Tom Gittings, Shannan Lim, Annie Louey, Elyce Phillips, Cameron Rose and Nikki Spunde.



Artist Development

Deadly artists + Deadly ideas = Deadly Fringe.



Deadly Fringe

“dis place features a collective of emerging First Nations artists, who all respond to displacement as a result of colonisation and its ongoing repercussions. The future-focused act is performed through a mix of mediums in a temporary space.” ~Em Nicol, SBS.

This year we launched Deadly Fringe, a brand-new Artist Development program that unearthed and nurtured two new performance works for the Festival.

Deadly Fringe provided support and mentorship for artists Joel Bray (Wiradjuri) and Kate ten Buuren (Taungurung) and emerging producers Kalinda Palmer (Kyikina) and Levi Weston (Noongar) to produce work at the Festival. Together with our partners at ILBIJERRI Theatre Company and the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development, Fringe supported the development of *Biladurang*, Joel Bray’s award-winning dance work drawn from the Wiradjuri creation story of the platypus, and Kate ten Buuren’s *dis place*, a collective exploration of gentrification and displacement.

*“Deadly Fringe was an amazing opportunity that has more than opened doors for me. It battered them down and left a great, big gaping hole in the wall! As an emerging, Indigenous performance-maker being a part of Deadly Fringe gave me the exact balance of mentoring and support with artistic freedom to make my work *Biladurang*.” ~Joel Bray, Deadly Fringe Artist 2017.*

performance works

2

Fringe Awards

3

sell-out performances

8

attendees

180



Melbourne Fringe Awards

At Fringe, we take our awards program very seriously. Our awards are a chance to celebrate the diversity that our open access Festival creates and acknowledge the amazing work that has been produced. This year, a team of 102 expert industry professionals raced around town and saw over 280 eligible events across all artforms. They then bunkered down, deliberated, discussed and debated, and the award goes to...

Best in Category Awards

- Best Cabaret – Becky Lou, *Seen & Heard*
- Best Circus – Joshua Phillips, *The Man in the Mail*
- Best Comedy – The Travelling Sisters: *NOO SHO*
- Best Dance – Siobhan McKenna, *Utterance*
- Best Kids Event – Sarah Austin, *ONLY A YEAR*
- Best Live Art – St Martins, *For The Ones Who Walk Away*
- Best Music – ROSE ALEA – *NIGHT SONG*
- Best Performance – Joel Bray, *Biladurang*
- Best Visual Arts – Josephine Fagan, *Diaspora*
- Best Words and Ideas – Nikki Tran, Sumudu Samarawickrama, Christina Taylor, *SideKicked*

Special Awards

- Spirit of the Fringe – Kaitlyn Rogers, *Can I Get An Amen?!*
- Venue of the Year – Testing Grounds

Bank Australia People's Choice Award

The Clams, *Crimson Tide*

Fringe Furniture Awards

- Production Ready Award** presented by Like Butter
Edie Kurzer – *Narrow Minded Bookshelf*
- Best Student Design** presented by Tongue and Groove
Morgan Doty – *CYMK_chair*
- Tait Award for Design Innovation** presented by Tait
Josh Carmody – *The Remnants*
- Award for Best Design – Sustainable Material & Practice**
presented by Banyule Council
Morgan Doty – *CYMK_chair*
- Emerging Designer Award** presented by Craft
Nancy Ji – *Archie*
- ISM Objects Award for Lighting Innovations**
presented by ISM Objects
John Budd – *Lucienne Vessels*
- Out of the Echo Chamber Award**
presented by the Abbotsford Convent
Nancy Ji – *Archie*
- Craftmanship Award** presented by Handsome & Co
Hugh Makin – *Passage Credenza and Linus Table*

Touring Awards

- The New Zealand Tour Ready Award**
supported by New Zealand Fringe
The Travelling Sisters: NOO SHO
- The NSW Tour Ready Award** supported by Sydney Fringe
The Maze
- The QLD Tour Ready Award** supported by Brisbane Powerhouse
Rama Nicholas in *The Lucky Ones*
- The SA Tour Ready Award** supported by Adelaide Fringe
Can't Face Cabaret
- The Summerhall Award** supported by Summerhall, Edinburgh
The Maze
- The WA Tour Ready Award**
supported by FRINGE WORLD Festival
Joint winners: *CACTUS AND THE MIME* & *How To Kill the Queen of Pop*

Artist Development Awards

- Arts Access Victoria Access and Inclusion Award**
supported by Arts Access Victoria
Deaferent Theatre – *The Vagina Monologues*
- Arts House Evolution Award** supported by Arts House
Joel Bray – *Biladurang*
- Best Emerging Circus Performer**
supported by Theatre Network Australia's CaPT Initiative
Annalise Moore & Andre Augustus – *No Frills Cabaret*
- Best Emerging Indigenous Artist**
supported by Wiliin Centre (VCA & MCM)
Laila Thaker – *Prayers to Broken Stone*
- Best Emerging Performance Ensemble**
supported by Theatre Network Australia
The Very Good Looking Initiative – Let's Get Practical! Live
- Best Emerging Producer** supported by MILKE
Abbie Madden – *Blindful*

- Best Emerging Artist or Curator** supported by BLINDSIDE
Genevieve Grieves – For the video work *Lament* from *GET THE PICTURE* at Blak Dot Gallery
- Best Emerging Writer** supported by Emerging Writers' Festival
Emma Hall – *Ode to Man*
- Innovation in Culturally Diverse Practice**
supported by Multicultural Arts Victoria
Urban Outer Projects – *Vessel*
- Liveworks Experimental Art Award**
supported by Performance Space
The Hunt – The Hunt perform 'Woman in Car'
- Market Ready Award** supported by Regional Arts Victoria
Joel Bray – *Biladurang*
- Original New Circus** supported by Circus Oz
PO PO MO CO present *Recreation & Leisure*
- Queer Development and Mentorship Award**
supported by Midsumma Festival
Christopher Bryant – *Intoxication*
- Temperance Hall Award** supported by Phillip Adams BalletLab
Siobhan McKenna – *Utterance*
- The Discovery Award** supported by Melbourne Festival
Julia Croft for her works *'If there's not dancing at the revolution, I'm not coming'* and *'Power Ballad'*

Melbourne Fringe Living Legend Award

Awarded to Richard Watts

The Living Legend Award goes to an individual who has inspired and supported innovative and challenging art, providing an exemplar to the Melbourne Fringe community – and it's impossible to imagine that community without Richards Watts at the centre. An arts writer and broadcaster, Richard is a champion of the independent arts, supporting extraordinary art making, shaping critical thought and providing a platform for voices from the margins to be heard.

2017 Melbourne Fringe award winners. Photo by Matto Lucas.





Bank Australia Ticket Booth, Fed Square. Photo by Theresa Harrison.

Bank Australia & Melbourne Fringe

Proudly Unconventional

Bank Australia and Melbourne Fringe's proudly unconventional partnership continued for a fifth year, celebrating our shared values of independence, integrity and community. The Proudly Unconventional Campaign increased the visibility of our partnership and leveraged promotional opportunities.

Over 500,000 people saw our brands standing proudly side by side at the Bank Australia Ticket Booth installed at Fed Square for the 2.5 weeks of the Festival. Our Take 5 ticket campaign was a runaway success delivering a \$5 discount on full price tickets for all shows – audiences saved \$5, Bank Australia paid the artist \$5, everybody won. Limited tickets were available each day and daily allocations were selling out before you could even finish your morning coffee.

We are delighted to continue working with our best mates / all-round legends / champions of the arts Bank Australia.

Melbourne Fringe + Bank Australia
= proudly unconventional.

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

People

Melbourne Fringe Staff

Creative Director & CEO – Simon Abrahams
 General Manager & Deputy CEO – Hadley Agrez
 Creative Program Producer – Dan Koop
 Independent Program Producer – Xanthe Beesley
 Marketing & Development Manager – Miranda Borman
 Sponsorship Consultant – Abby Elisha
 Funding Manager – Pauline Cady
 Festival Administrator – Shirrah Comeadow
 Administrative Assistant – Paula van Beek

Festival Staff

Associate Producer, Creative Program – Kristina Arnott
 Associate Producer, Events – Cameron Stewart
 Artist Services Administrator – Tom Browne
 Artist & Venue Liason – Tom Noble
 Development Coordinator – Stephen Pyk
 Emerging Producers – Kalinda Palmer and Levi Weston
 Event Coordinator, Kids Club – Paula van Beek
 Exhibition Designers, Fringe Furniture – Isabel Holloway and Maddy Davidson
 Exhibition Manager, Fringe Furniture – Megan Stewart
 Festival Administration Assistant – Dan Giovannoni
 Marketing Coordinator – Michelle Tseng
 Production Coordinator – Bart Mangan
 Production Manager, Festival – Tom Abud
 Production Manager, Creative Program – Emily O'Brien
 Ticketing Coordinators – Will Corner and Caitlin McNaughton
 Ticketing Manager – Danny Delahunty
 Volunteer Coordinator – Libby Lynch (until August) and Claire Connors
 A big thank you to our University Work Placements Adam Ridgeway, Bec Fitzgibbon, Caitlin Petereit, Duyen Nguyen, Priscilla Luu

Fringe Hub Staff

Fringe Hub Manager – Steph Speirs
 Bar Manager – Jacinta Oaten
 Front of House Managers – Erin Hutchinson, Nathan Pettenon
 Visual Designer, Festival Club – Yvette Turnbull
 Lighting Designer, Festival Club – Gosling Productions
 Underground Club Coordinator – Brogan Walker

Consultants

Bookkeeping – Sam Ryan (S.A.Y.S.O Pty. Ltd.)
 Branding and Advertising Agency – J. Walter Thompson Melbourne
 Copywriter – Dan Giovannoni
 Graphic Designer – Jane Delany and Paula Filippone
 Photography and Production – J. Walter Thompson Melbourne and The Cannery
 Photography – Theresa Harrison, Bryony Jackson, Gregory Lorenzutti, Matto Lucas and Sarah Walker
 Publicity – Zilla & Brook
 Social Media Consultant – Dave Pocock
 Risk Management – Bill Coleby (Coleby Consultancy)
 Registration System – Eventotron
 Ticketing – Red61
 Website – efront and hello creative

Board

Chair – Gideon Obarzanek
 Deputy Chair – Nicholas Verginis
 Company Secretary – Juanita Pope
 Treasurer – Liza Gelt
 Directors – Kirsty Ellem, Sarah Wickham, Ben Lee, Mike Hyde and Nicky Klempfner
 Observer – Chris Booton

Friends of Fringe

Melbourne Fringe is a not-for-profit organisation supported in part by government funding and our corporate, philanthropic and cultural partners. It takes a lot to make a Fringe happen, but it's heaps easier with fantastic mates like these on our side.

Discoverer - \$5,000+

Daniel Besen
James McCaughey

Innovator - \$1,000+

Monica and Sam Abrahams
Sally Browne Fund, Australian Communities Foundation
Jane Bourjau and Paul Muller
Carolyn and Peter Creswell
Rosemary Forbes and Ian Hocking
Phlyssa Koshland
Mark Licciardo
Dr Jenepher Martin
Gideon Obarzanek
Peter Wetenhall and Jo Horgan
Paul Wheelton AM

Rablerouser - \$500+

Fiona Brook, on behalf of Zilla & Brook
Steven Carew
Jason Craig
Ron and Margaret Dobell Foundation
Sue Giles and Ian Pidd
David Geoffrey Hall
Michael Hyde
Dr Richard WF King AM
Nicky Klempfner and Marcus O'Reilly
Kath M Mainland CBE
Liz O'Brien
Kaylene O'Neill
Craig Semple
Jill Smith in honour of Joan Kirner
Heidi Victoria MP
Rosemary Walls
Susan Woodward

Accomplice - \$200+

Ros Abercrombie
Sarah Austin and Nicholas Verginis
Nicole Birrell
Richard Chambers
Chris Cheers
Liza Gelt
Rinske Ginsberg
Matt Jones
Caroline Lambert
Ben Lee
Jayne Lovelock
Rose Luker
Maggie Maguire OAM
Peter Manasantivongs
Fiona Menzies

Georgie Meyer
Max Milne
Matthew Morse and Paris Jansen
Alice Nash and Nicole Beyer
Sarah Neal
Lou Oppenheim
Felix Preval
Juanita Pope
Pauline Robert
Bertha Rubin and Ron Elisha
Andrea Stahel
Leonard Vary
Pinky Watson
Nicholas Wimbush
Angharad Wynne-Jones
Anonymous (1)

Fringe Community – Up to \$200

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

Legacy

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

Melbourne Fringe acknowledges the support of the late Betty Amsden AO DSJ, recognising her interests in participation, young people and career pathways.

Partners

Principal Partner



Major Government Partners



Federal Government Partners



Local Government Partners



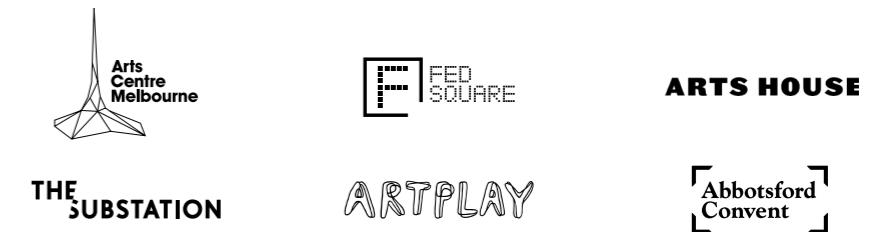
Philanthropic Partners



Festival Partners



Program Partners



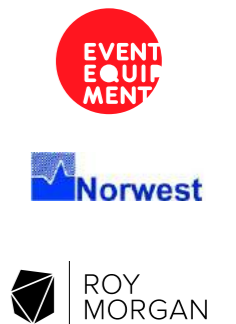
Festival Supporters



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Cultural Partners



Media Partners



Front Cover image: Rebecca Djentuh. *Strength in Visions*
Back cover image 1: Photo of the Clams. *Crimson Tide*

