

MELBOURNE

# FRINGEE FESTIVAL



# ACTION HEROES

30 SEP — 19 OCT 2025

# WOMINJEKA

Melbourne Fringe respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, work, play and hold our Festival.

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.



FESTIVAL HUB: TRADES HALL, IMAGE BY JUNGGRAPHIC

## JOIN THE MOVEMENT (LITERALLY)

A NOTE FROM THE CREATIVE DIRECTOR,  
SIMON ABRAHAMS

Yesterday's ideas won't solve the challenges of today. To build the world of tomorrow, we need new ways of seeing, being, and doing. That's where artists come in.

Art helps us imagine a way forward, but vision alone isn't enough. Change happens through small, steady acts of courage, care, and creativity – not just from governments and institutions, but from all of us.

The 2025 Melbourne Fringe Festival is a celebration of Action Heroes. I'm not talking about the kind of hero who wears a cape, and undies on the outside (though hey, you do you). I'm talking about the kind of hero who understands that change comes from individual action – connecting, building, showing up.

This year's Festival centrepiece commission, *Power Move*, brings that vision to life. Every shimmy, box-step or bold action across its interactive outdoor dance floor generates real, usable kinetic energy to fuel the whole project off-grid.

The 'Action Heroes' theme powers participatory works right across the Festival, asking everyday people to do more than watch – to make, move, speak, build, dance, dream. To take part in shaping the kind of world we want to live in.

As always, our Open Program invites anyone to take part – no gatekeepers, no velvet ropes. It's a space for action heroes of all kinds: artists who turn their creativity into connection, who bring their humour, their weirdness, their grief, and their joy into the open, and invite curious audiences to leap into the unknown with them.

Alongside it, the 2025 Curated Program showcases electric new works from First Nations artists, d/Deaf and Disabled voices leading artform-defying projects, young people taking control of the mic, queer excellence, and artists pushing at the very edges of experimentation. Together, the Open and Curated Programs fuel the Melbourne Fringe Festival, sparking big ideas and amplifying vital conversations.

So what will you find at the 2025 Melbourne Fringe Festival? New perspectives, new stories, the occasional goosebump. You'll stumble across strange little shows in unexpected corners, and join in epic feats of collective participation. You'll see something that makes you want to call your best mate immediately, or just sit in silence for a minute, letting it all land.

This isn't a festival that tells you what to think. It's one that invites you to feel, imagine, and most importantly, take action.

So grab your metaphorical cape (or literal one – again, you do you!) and join us for the 2025 Melbourne Fringe Festival. See something. Do something. Change something. Fringe is ready when you are.



# HOW TO FRINGE

## HOW TO... BUY TICKETS

**ONLINE**  
[melbournefringe.com.au](http://melbournefringe.com.au)

Your one-stop shop for all event information and bookings. You'll find everything you need to know, from the most up-to-date event listings, access information, to ticket types and discounts.

**PHONE**  
**(03) 9660 9666**

Our phone lines are open 10:00am–5:00pm, Monday to Friday pre-Festival, and 11:00am–8:00pm daily during the Festival.

If you need to, you can reach the Ticketing team through the National Relay Service at no additional charge.

**IN PERSON**

Get your tickets the good-old-fashioned way, by visiting our in-person Box Office at the Trades Hall Festival Hub from 1-19 October.

**Opening Hours:** Wed–Sat 5.30pm, Sun 4.30pm 'til the last show goes in.

**Trades Hall, Cnr Lygon & Victoria Sts, Carlton.**



Scan for more information on concessions, companion and carer cards

## HOW TO... GET CHEAP TICKETS

**CONCESSIONS**

Concession card holders get discounts to most events, and in these heady cost-of-living times, we'll be honest and say we won't be checking your card. If you say you need the concession price, that's good enough for us.

**GROUPS**

Many events offer discounts when you book multiple tickets.

**BLAKTIX**

Select events offer tickets for \$10 or less for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audience members.

**PREVIEWS**

Select events offer preview prices — the artists get to test their work and you, the guinea pig, get a cheaper ticket.

**HUMP DAY**

Select events offer a special ticket price for Wednesday shows.

**HUB CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

Members get 25% off tickets to select events across the Festival + some cheeky discounts at Festival Hub bars.

## HOW TO... FIND HOT SHOWS THAT JUDGES AND AUDIENCES ARE LOVING

Want to know what's buzzing during the Festival? Check out our Crowd Pleasers page to find which events Fringe Awards judges and savvy audience members have seen and recommended (and where you too can add your own hot picks). Jump straight to what's popular once the Festival starts at [melbournefringe.com.au/crowd-pleasers](http://melbournefringe.com.au/crowd-pleasers)

**JUDGES' PICKS**

Don't take our word for it — take theirs! Judges' Picks are shows that have been given certified, verified hot-pick-approval from our awards judging panel. You could be catching a future award-winner.



Look for this icon on events on the website to see what the judges have been loving.

**LEAVE A COMPLIMENT**

Seen a Fringe show that tickles your fancy? Let us (and other punters) know with Audience Compliments. You can leave a compliment on the event webpage. Maybe someone else will have their best Fringe experience yet thanks to your event-selecting prowess. The event with the most compliments will win the coveted People's Choice Award.



Look for this icon on event webpages to see what everyone's saying.

## MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE

With warmer weather brightening our days, we welcome the shimmer and glow of the Melbourne Fringe Festival. Springtime sees more than 3000 artists celebrating artistic expression in every form, during this much-loved event.

City of Melbourne welcomes the verve and generosity of a Festival that truly transforms this city. Outside the mainstream, Fringe amplifies voices from the margins and gives so many people access to the arts. That's the very best of Melbourne — creative and inclusive.

As a long-term supporter, we value the collective buzz. All over our city, audiences will gather at venues such as the Meat Market, Fed Square and the Festival Hub at Trades Hall, not to mention theatres, cafes and alleyways.

It's affordable, it's unpredictable and — like the very best of festivals — Melbourne Fringe is unmissable.

**NICHOLAS REECE**  
Lord Mayor

## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Melbourne Fringe is an epic celebration of what makes Melbourne special; creativity, community and talent, where everyone is welcome.

Over 20 days, the Festival returns to breathe energy and excitement into our city with hundreds of creative events spanning theatre, music, comedy, visual art, dance and more.

The Victorian Government is proud to back Melbourne Fringe — a diverse and inclusive festival with dedicated initiatives that strive to increase access and representation, and nurture creative careers.

Fringe is a place to discover something new, where artists can explore new ideas, and where Victorians of all ages, and from all walks of life, can get involved.

Congratulations to the Fringe team and to the many incredible people who bring this Festival to life.

**THE HON. COLIN BROOKS MP**  
Minister for Creative Industries

## HOW TO... SEE WHAT'S ON TODAY



The Daily Diary is your day-at-a-glance guide to everything happening across the Festival. From morning mayhem to late-night delights, it lists every event happening today, in time order, so you can easily find a show that fits your schedule. Whether you're planning your whole day or just filling a gap between drinks and dancing, this handy tool has your Festival adventures covered. Scan the QR code and check back daily — no two days at Fringe are ever the same!

## HOW TO... FIND ACCESSIBLE EVENTS

Melbourne Fringe is committed to access and inclusion for all people. The most in depth and up-to-date accessibility information is available on the Melbourne Fringe website, [melbournefringe.com.au](http://melbournefringe.com.au)

You can search and filter for all access information on the What's On page ([melbournefringe.com.au/whats-on](http://melbournefringe.com.au/whats-on)) to easily find the events and venues that meet your access needs.

Check the **Accessibility** section on each event page for dates of performances with accessibility provisions (such as Auslan interpretation, captions, sensory-friendly performances and more).

Our Ticketing team is always happy to discuss any specific access needs.

You can book tickets on our website or by calling **(03) 9660 9666** or via email at [boxoffice@melbournefringe.com.au](mailto:boxoffice@melbournefringe.com.au)



Scan to visit the **Accessibility** page on our website for detailed descriptions of the accessibility provisions at Melbourne Fringe Festival events

# LIGHT UP THE DANCE FLOOR!



POWER MOVE, CONCEPT: LINDA CATALANO ARTWORK: DREZ, 2025, IMAGE BY MAX ROUX

## THE POWER MOVE DANCE FLOOR IS CALLING, AND IT'S GOING TO BE ELECTRIC. LITERALLY.

Taking over the Fed Square Forecourt during the 2025 Melbourne Fringe Festival, *Power Move* is not your average boogie. This sprawling, technicolour installation invites the public to shake their groove thing on an interactive kinetic dance floor that transforms movement into clean, green energy. Every two-step, shimmy and twist powers the music, lights and artscapades of the event, with the ultimate goal of powering the party entirely off-grid.

The idea came from Creative Producer Linda Catalano's fascination with energy, in all its forms. "I'm going to start off being a bit hippy," she laughs. "But this came from the idea that human beings are all energy. And we are currently in an environmental crisis, partly around how we use energy. So, if we are always consuming energy, but we are energy, how do we harness that? And while we're having this crisis in the environment, we're also seeing a surge in technology. Is there a way that energy and technology can meet? Can art power itself?"

Inspired by Berlin nightclubs experimenting with energy-generating dance floors, Catalano began imagining what it might look like to bring that underground concept into broad daylight. "I thought: what if we unleash that kind of energy in a public space? Let's throw it out as a challenge to the people of Melbourne, to try and generate as much energy as we can." Every day at 5.30PM *Power Move* will feature upcoming DJs in a program called *Killer or Filler - Home DJ Takeover*. DJs will compete to see who can generate the most electricity by encouraging people to move with their outstanding curation of tunes. There's also plenty of opportunities for members of the public to live out their DJ dreams by contributing to sets across the Festival.

Catalano is working with a team of designers and curators to deliver a vibrant, interactive program designed deliberately to encourage intergenerational, cross-cultural movement of any ability. From K-pop showcases to breakdancing duels, community-led dance sessions to live DJs, *Power Move* is a radically inclusive invitation to participate, not just spectate. "Because moving in whatever capacity we can is integral to our spirits as human beings," Catalano says, "as well as the many health and social benefits that come with it." Whether you're a seasoned mover, a kid in gumboots, a wheelchair user with a sweet spin, or a Nonna keen to show off her best vogue, there's a space for you here.

At its core, *Power Move* is about power — not just the kilowatt kind, but the kind we generate when we act together. The kind that can light up a square, a city, or a movement. "Even the smallest amount of energy can create an impact," says Catalano.

Catalano is working with Technical and Lighting Designer Paul Lim and Immersive and Interactive Designer Justin Dwyer to translate this data into a responsive, playful experience, set against artwork by renowned Melbourne street artist Drez. "There's something really fun about that," Catalano says. "Even though we're not yet at the point where technology can harness all our energy to fully power all the elements of the party, we can make a start. If the result is that we move more, what's the harm in that?"

In a world grappling with disconnection and overwhelm, *Power Move* offers a joyful alternative: a way to move with others, generate change, and see the impact of collective effort - quite literally - under your feet.

Let's dance!

CURATED PROGRAM

Melbourne Fringe and Fed Square present

## POWER MOVE

Concept by Linda Catalano for Quiet RIOT

Where: FED SQUARE - SWANSTON ST FORECOURT

When: VARIOUS TIMES, 30 SEPT-19 OCT 2025



Scan for more detailed *Power Move* event information

*Power Move* is commissioned with Principal Partner support from the Naomi Milgrom Foundation.

# THE OPENING NIGHT GALA: YOUR MELBOURNE FRINGE STARTER PACK HOSTED BY SAMMY J

OPENING NIGHT GALA, 2009EE-2023.  
IMAGE BY NICK MICKYRIGS



## There are hundreds of shows at Melbourne Fringe. So where do you start?

You start with the *Opening Night Gala*, a one-night-only showcase packed with talent, energy and a hand-picked selection of the 2025 Festival's boldest, brightest acts.

Held at the iconic Capitol Theatre on Tuesday 30 September, it's a sneak preview of the creative risks, big ideas, and bold artistic voices that will define this year's Melbourne Fringe Festival.

Think of it as a box of Favourites in Fringe form – a genre-jumping 90-minute sampler of side-splitting comedy, sharp-tongued cabaret, and wild-card wonders you didn't see coming. And yes, you get to taste them all.

## This year's Festival theme? Action Heroes.

But not the cape-wearing kind. This is about the artists. The experimenters. The risk-takers. The cultural instigators who use their art to challenge, delight, and imagine new futures – all while being ridiculously entertaining. The Gala gathers some of the loudest, most captivating and smartest voices from across the program, and lets them fly.

If the Fringe program is the deep dive, the Gala is the first splash. Or cannonball, depending on your style.

## Why this night matters.

Melbourne Fringe is one of the country's most important platforms for independent, experimental and emerging art. It's where future icons cut their teeth, actual icons come to experiment, and where the experimental becomes iconic. The *Opening Night Gala* acts as a cultural pulse check, a backstage pass into what artists are feeling, questioning and fighting for right now. "Curating the *Opening Night Gala* takes enormous forethought," says Creative Director, Simon Abrahams, "because you have to represent the many genres, talents and wild spirit of the Festival in one 90 minute event. We want to make sure audiences feel something, have a great night, and discover loads of new talent along the way."

For audiences, it's a night of pure discovery. You might rock up not knowing a single name on the bill, and leave with a list, a crush, a new obsession, and a group chat full of ticket links.

That's the best thing about the Gala: it's more than entertainment; it's a head start on your Fringe adventure.

## What to expect.

Expect surprises. Expect a bang-on opening number, a hilarious host, and a stack of short-form performances from emerging voices and underground icons. Expect the unexpected. Expect to want more.

And yes, expect a purple carpet.

Hosted by Fringe star Sammy J, the Gala is Melbourne's most creatively dressed night of the year. If you're up for it, we encourage you to come to the show dressed as your childhood hero – whether that's a caped crusader, a footy player, or your mum in high heels and a don't-mess-with-me attitude. There's a purple carpet, Fringe style paparazzi and a willing-crowd to join the party.

When asked what they'll be wearing on the purple carpet this year, Fringe staff had all kinds of answers:

*"Aquabat, which was my own combined superhero of Aquaman and Batman. Basically, just Batman but he could go under water."*

*"My older sister. Then I can also steal some of her clothes."*

*"Eddie from 'Ab Fab.'"*

*"Ms Frizzle from 'The Magic School Bus'. I don't know if she was consciously my hero at the time, but upon reflection she was. Which explains a lot."*

*"Claudia Kishi from 'The Baby-Sitters Club.'"*

*"Harriet the Spy."*

*"Is it appropriate to come as a horse?"*

The 2025 Melbourne Fringe Festival *Opening Night Gala* is a call to action: take the leap, back the brave, and step boldly into the most fearless cultural event of the year.

Line-up to be announced. Trust us, it slaps.

CURATED PROGRAM

## OPENING NIGHT GALA

Where: THE CAPITOL,  
113 SWANSTON ST

When: TUESDAY 30 SEPT 7.30PM



Scan the QR code to secure your tickets

# FIFTY SPINNING TUBES. FIFTY HUMAN VOICES.

CURATED PROGRAM

*VOICES* by Pulsing Heart is a free, monumental sound-and-light installation powered entirely by you. It's a living, glowing choir that only comes to life when people play together.

## VOICES

### Where & When:

ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE FORECOURT (30 SEPT-7 OCT)  
COMMONWEALTH RESERVE, WILLIAMSTOWN (9-11 OCT)  
BYRON PLAZA, FOOTSCRAY (17-19 OCT)



Scan for more information



VOICES, PULSING HEART, 2025. IMAGE BY TYR LIANG & XPLORER MEDIA

CURATED PROGRAM

# NEW QUEST UNLOCKED

## MELBOURNE FRINGE AND MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL GAMES WEEK TEAM UP FOR AN EPIC FUSION OF PERFORMANCE, PLAY AND PARTICIPATION.

This October, Melbourne Fringe and Melbourne International Games Week collide for a mega co-program that's bold, interactive and unlike anything you've played before. An epic 2vs2 freestyle dance battle *Power Move: Cypher Quest - Interactive Dance Battle* inspired by ACMI's Game Worlds leads a lineup stacked with next-level experiences. Game on!



Scan to see all 2025 Melbourne Fringe x Melbourne International Games Week events

# THE ART OF THE GAME

From glittering goalposts to high-camp team huddles, *The Winner Takes It All: Exhibition* turns sporting stereotypes on their head. See photographs from the mass participatory photoshoot *The Winner Takes It All* by The Huxleys, a stand-out event at the 2024 Melbourne Fringe Festival. This outdoor exhibition captures the glorious collision of sport, performance and queer celebration.



THE WINNER TAKES IT ALL, THE HUXLEYS, 2024. IMAGE BY THE HUXLEYS

CURATED PROGRAM

## THE WINNER TAKES IT ALL : EXHIBITION

Where: STREETS OF PRAHRAN, CITY OF STONNINGTON (VARIOUS LOCATIONS)

When: 30 SEPT-19 OCT

STALUNCH ASF, AMELIA JEAN O'LEARY, 2023, IMAGE BY BENNY CLARK

# FROM THE STAGE TO THE STREETS

DEADLY FRINGE SHOWCASES FIERCE FIRST NATIONS TALENT

Deadly Fringe is back for its ninth year, presenting a genre-spanning program that puts First Nations voices at the centre of Melbourne's cultural landscape. From its roots as a modest commissioning initiative, it has grown into one of the most vital and distinctive platforms for First Nations artistic expression in the country.

"Deadly Fringe is an opportunity that diversifies the cultural landscape of Melbourne," says Program Coordinator, Peta Duncan. "By providing funding for First Nations artists, particularly emerging artists, to create and experiment, it offers something that doesn't really exist anywhere else."

This year's commissions reflect that creative freedom. In *Kummargii Yulendj Barring Gadhaba // Projections of a Current Future*, Boon Wurrung Elder Professor N'arwee't Carolyn Briggs AM voices a city-wide projection bike tour that traces the hidden waterways of Naarm. "It's such a fun idea. You get to ride down Elizabeth Street on your bike while discovering the histories that exist under the pavement," says Duncan. "And N'arwee't is working alongside her granddaughter on the visual art, so that intergenerational collaboration is really special."

Theatre collective A Daylight Connection brings *THE BLOK!*, a fiercely clever satire on authorship, control, and future-making. Cynda Beare's *Poems of a Transsexual Nature* is a poetic, provocative solo work exploring identity, grief, and going to Country for the first time – a major debut from an emerging artist straight out of university. "The program includes artists with a huge range of experience," says Duncan. "We've got respected Elders like N'arwee't, right through to someone like Cynda who's just starting out, and that's really exciting to see on the same platform."

This year's program includes work spanning dance, fashion, sculpture, and visual art: *Ngambaa* by Amelia Jean O'Leary; *Blak Sovereignty* by sustainable fashion designer Off the Plantation aka Natisha Tabua; and *How I See You*, a sculptural weaving installation by Madeleine Mercer.

"I'm definitely excited about the mixed genres that we have this year. All the works are so different from one another. It's a really beautiful mix that came together naturally," Duncan says. "We've got a fashion element, a weaving installation, dance, projection. And for the first time, the full program is led by women and trans artists."

Deadly Fringe continues to uncover emerging talent and foster long-term creative development through mentorship, and community engagement. "It's an essential resource," says Duncan. "Last year, we brought together past commissioned artists to assess the program, and it was clear how important this opportunity has been, especially for artists who might not otherwise be visible."

CURATED PROGRAM



Scan the QR code to see all 2025 Deadly Fringe events

# PUTTING ACCESS AT THE HEART OF THE ART

## RADICAL ACCESS REIMAGINES WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN ACCESSIBILITY ISN'T AN AFTERTHOUGHT; IT'S BAKED INTO THE ENTIRE CREATIVE PROCESS.

Olivia Muscat describes her new work *Is Anyone Even Watching* as "a 2000s theatre kid fever-dream exploration of trying to exist as a blind girl in the sighted world – but with glitter and sparkles."

The project is part of Radical Access, the Melbourne Fringe program commissioning new works from d/Deaf and Disabled artists that challenge form and embed accessibility into the heart of the creative process.

For Muscat, articulating how disability-led practice informs her work isn't straightforward: "I approach everything with not just my access in mind but other people's. That's just how I think."

The work is unapologetically playful, blending autobiography, nostalgia, and a healthy dose of dance. "Not professional dance," Muscat laughs. "Sleepover girls dance." It also speaks to a deeper tension in her practice: "It's a weird contradiction about me: totally blind; extremely visual person. So I'm making an extremely visual piece of theatre, and it's important to me that that is accessible to my own community."

Access here isn't an afterthought – it's baked in. Take the pre-show dance class she and her team are offering: before every performance (not just one "accessible" one), audience members who want extra context – because of blindness or low vision or any number of reasons – can come in, learn some of the moves, and get a feel for the show's choreography. "To me, there's nothing more alienating than sitting in a theatre and everyone's laughing and you're like – wait, what's the joke? This way, everyone has access to the same information, albeit in different ways."

She's not the only artist thinking this way. Teneille Clerke, co-founder of art collective Fast Fashion, is creating *Wasteworlds*, an interactive installation set in a distant future overrun by clothing waste, made in collaboration with Snuff Puppets. "100 years in the future the only thing left to do is... make fashion," Clerke grins. Across a week of workshops, kids transform textile waste into outfits, culminating in a six-hour, non-stop runway show. "There's only one rule in *Wasteworlds*: someone must always be serving a look."

Like Muscat, Clerke sees access as a creative driver. *Wasteworlds* responds with tactile installations, creative audio descriptions recorded by children during the workshops, and a live poet commenting the runway, with the audience invited to join in.

Both artists agree that access is an engine for creativity, not a limitation. "It is a bit of a mind bender," Muscat says. "What comes first – the access or the art? Prioritising access just asks you to think carefully about your choices. And that allows for more creative, interesting ideas to come out." Clerke adds: "As artists it's a really fun provocation – how can access be part of the art itself?"

IMAGE BY ALEXIS DESAULNIERS-LEA



CURATED PROGRAM



Scan the QR code to see all 2025 Radical Access events



FLESH MIRROR, REBECCA JENSEN, WEAVE MOVEMENT THEATRE AND COLLABORATORS, 2025. IMAGE BY GREGORY LORENZUTTI

# TALKING TABOO, TATTOOS AND SURRENDER

## UNPACKING THE 2025 PULSE PROGRAM WITH SIMON ABRAHAMS

Pulse is back for 2025, and it's beating louder than ever. The Melbourne Fringe program that champions radical, risky, and ambitious art returns with brand new works that push form, challenge expectations and ask you to surrender yourself (and sometimes your phone... or your skin) to art. Dan Giovannoni sat down with Melbourne Fringe Creative Director and CEO, Simon Abrahams to chat about this year's Pulse program, audience trust, and why risk is the point.

**DG:** Simon, when we spoke last year, you called Pulse "the place where leading independent artists take their biggest creative risks." What does that look like in 2025?

**SA:** It looks like letting a tattoo artist permanently ink your body live on stage. It looks like being submerged in an 80-person choir, all in balaclavas, while a trumpet-playing swan wails around you. It looks like surrendering a lock of your hair to a giant plait that wraps around The Edge at Fed Square as people share raw, unfiltered stories about reproductive rights. Sometimes it's discomfort. Sometimes disorientation. But always: exhilaration. Pulse is about backing artists to go all in and encouraging audiences to go with them.

**DG:** OK, let's talk about the tattoos. What's going on there?

**SA:** *Tattoo Show* is like a live art truth-or-dare. A volunteer is interviewed on stage by the Rawcus ensemble – an incredible company of Disabled and non-disabled artists – while a tattoo artist designs then inks them live. The kicker? The volunteer doesn't get a say in the design. It's an act of trust, generosity, and risk for everyone in the room.

**DG:** Wild. No big deal, just a permanent reminder that you went to Fringe! That idea of trust comes up in *The Quieter You Become* too, right?

**SA:** Absolutely. It's an immersive sound work where you're surrounded by a forest of speakers. The sound moves around you, shifts perspective, and plays with what you think you're hearing – to the point where you start questioning whether you can even trust your own senses.

**DG:** It feels like surrender is a bit of a theme this year.

**SA:** Spot on. Every work in Pulse asks the audience to give something up – control, comfort, caution. In *Requiem for a Cuddle* it's something literal (your phone), in *UNWOMAN (the protest)* it's a personal story, and in *Flesh Mirror* it's your preconceptions of otherness. But in doing so, you get this intensely rewarding, once-in-a-lifetime experience. Pulse is about more than watching something passively. It's about showing up and being open. You're part of creating the experience.

**DG:** So basically, come prepared to let go of something.

**SA:** Exactly. Your comfort, your phone... maybe your epidermis.

**DG:** Love it. High risk, high reward.

**SA:** That's Pulse, baby.

CURATED PROGRAM



Scan the QR code to see all 2025 Pulse events

# KIDS THESE DAYS (KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY'RE DOING)

## THIS YEAR'S XS PROGRAM SEES KIDS TAKE THE REINS: BUILDING WORLDS, BREAKING RULES, AND ASKING THE QUESTIONS ADULTS OFTEN AVOID.

XS is Melbourne Fringe's program of experimental, contemporary and live art for children. This year, two standout works, *THE CENSOR* and *The Square*, hand the power to kids to ask big questions about rules, choices, and how we make sense of the world.

In *THE CENSOR*, designed for kids aged 10+, a group of children have built an imaginary society on an island with a mysterious lighthouse. When the lighthouse drops forbidden things – lollies, horror movies, even vodka – a kid-run council decides what's allowed and what's not. The work started with a simple question: *if kids could choose what content they consumed, what would they really pick?*

"At first we were thinking just about banned books and stuff," says one of the children in the cast. "But then we realised censorship is kind of everywhere – like the internet, or even when you stop yourself from saying something because it's too much."

Led by adult artists Cassandra Fumi and Vidya Rajan, the group, aged 9 to 16, had to figure out their own boundaries in the making of the work too. "If something's a bit scary or not OK for the little kids, we work it out together," they explain. "Like when someone played *The Shining* trailer – we all decided that the younger kids should leave the room for that bit."

THE CENSOR, DEvised BY CASSANDRA FUMI AND VIDYA RAJAN WITH 10-16 YEAR OLDS, 2025. IMAGE BY DARREN GILL



Meanwhile, in *The Square*, a different group of children are running a live public game that asks audiences where they stand on all kinds of bold, funny and surprising statements. Lead artist (and certified adult) Alex Walker of House of Muchness explains: "The young people ask a question, and then the audience must move to stand next to a sign with one of three answers: 'Yes', 'No', or 'Maybe,'" she says.

The children at the heart of the project say they'll be making hundreds of statements, and the public will be able to add their own in real time too. The questions will be practical, weird, funny, serious... Some of the kids' suggestions include 'I think I'm great at parallel parking', 'I believe in witches', and 'I have a habit I need to change.'

Being out in public means thinking carefully about what's okay to ask, but also watching people surprise themselves and each other. "It's cool because sometimes you realise other people think the same as you, even if you thought you were the only one," says one of the children. The beauty of the game is that nothing lasts too long. "You might be standing by yourself for one question, then suddenly everyone's next to you on the next one," grins another. "And we'll be modelling bravery for everyone," he adds. "Because sometimes standing alone feels scary – but if that's your truth, that's your truth."

Made by kids for kids, both projects show that when kids are in charge, they don't just play – they ask serious, clever and funny questions about how the world works, reminding us that sometimes the questions are just as important as the answers.

CURATED PROGRAM

Scan the QR code to see all 2025 XS events



# YOUR GLOBAL FRINGE ITINERARY

## INTRODUCING PASSPORT

No airport queues. No long-haul flights. Just groundbreaking art from around the world, right here in Melbourne.

Passport is a new boundary-pushing Melbourne Fringe program which brings some of the globe's most exciting international performance makers to our city. Through world premieres, bold touring works and creative cultural collisions, these creatives will ignite ideas and spark discussion in local artists and audiences alike.

It's about fresh perspectives, global exchange and the kind of artistic encounters that leave a mark. Come see what the world's been making. Passport is your boarding pass.

### YOUR ITINERARY:

#### FIRST TRIMESTER

**Artist:** Krishna Isthia

**Boarding Call For:** People who say "chosen family" with their whole chest.

**Purpose of Visit:** Radical intimacy and queer family-making.

**Must-see:** Live on-stage interviews with potential sperm donors.

**Simon's Travel Tip:** Whether you're enthusiastically watching or putting your swimmers forward, this is unlike anything else on the Fringe calendar. *First Trimester* is raw, tender, and quietly revolutionary. It's an open-hearted dive into what it means to build queer family on your own terms. You'll laugh, you'll maybe tear up, because this is more than theatre: it's a living, breathing celebration of family you'll want to witness for yourself.

📍 **Arts House**

#### INSTRUCTIONS

**Artist:** SUBJECT OBJECT

**Boarding Call For:** Tech sceptics and anyone who's ever yelled at ChatGPT.

**Purpose of Visit:** A theatrical experiment in AI, consent, and late-stage capitalism.

**Must-see:** A brand-new actor each night who is unrehearsed, unfiltered, and at the mercy of digital unpredictability.

**Simon's Travel Tip:** See a glitch in the matrix, live on-stage. *Instructions* is a theatrical tightrope walk where no two nights are the same. The story will unspool line by line, blurring the boundaries between tech, fiction, and something frighteningly real. Expect equal parts mind-bending, moving, and a little bit meta (not the Zuckerberg kind).

📍 **Festival Hub: Trades Hall**

#### SH!T THEATRE: OR WHAT'S LEFT OF US

**Artist:** Sh!t Theatre

**Boarding Call For:** The quietly grieving, the loudly coping, and anyone who's recently said, 'I'm fine' through gritted teeth.

**Purpose of Visit:** Gig theatre and a gathering, singing through the sadness and finding comfort in collective noise.

**Must-see:** Stories of grief and survival stitched together with folk songs, humour, and a sense that sometimes it's totally fine to not be okay.

**Simon's Travel Tip:** This one's for your inner softie. Come for the folk music, stay for the singaround. That's when the show spills into the bar, the audience will become the choir, and connecting will look like sharing a pint and song.

📍 **Festival Hub: Trades Hall**

UK

UK

UK

#### HANDLE WITH CARE

**Artist:** Ontroerend Goed

**Boarding Call For:** Anyone who's ever wanted to push the red button and see what happens.

**Purpose of Visit:** World premiere of a high-concept, low-footprint performance where the audience takes centre stage, proving that theatre can travel the world without the environmental cost.

**Must-see:** A performance with no actors, no set. Just a box, a set of instructions, and an audience ready and willing to bring it to life.

**Simon's Travel Tip:** This isn't a traditional show where you sit back and watch. When the box is opened, the performance begins, and you – the audience – become the actors, the directors, and the collaborators. If an escape room was a theatre show (or a theatre show was an escape room), this would be it. Truly extraordinary theatre making.

📍 **Festival Hub: Trades Hall**

#### MASS EFFECT

**Artist:** HIMHERANDIT Productions

**Boarding Call For:** People who live for the exhilaration of a sweaty cycle class, with tunes pumping, muscles burning, and the rush of pushing yourself harder. Or people who'd rather watch than do it themselves.

**Purpose of Visit:** An explosive physical performance that channels the grit, drive, and camaraderie of team sport into a full-body endurance ritual that celebrates what happens when people push past their limits together.

**Must-see:** What starts like a group workout quickly spirals into something wilder as seven dancers and twenty locals push through sweat, breath, and beat to find their second wind. Bodies moving, music pounding, energy rising.

**Simon's Travel Tip:** This one's a full-body experience. The sweat, the stamina, the sheer drive of it all builds into a wave of energy that hits the whole room. If you've ever needed a reminder of what the human body can do, don't miss this.

📍 **Meat Market**

BELGIUM

DENMARK

#### NIGHTWALKS WITH TEENAGERS

**Artist:** Mammalian Diving Reflex

**Boarding Call For:** Night owls ready to ditch the ordinary and dive into a nocturnal adventure.

**Purpose of Visit:** This isn't just a walk. It's a suburban night raid led by local teens who know all the hidden corners and off-limit spots. It's your chance to break routine, get off the beaten path, and discover the city's wild side after dark.

**Must-see:** Teens leading you down back alleys and secret hideouts, sharing unvarnished stories and filling the quiet with electric tension. Expect a night where the city's familiar streets feel alive and unpredictable.

**Simon's Travel Tip:** Keep up or get left behind. Put your phone away and prepare for a night of unexpected discoveries. These teenagers aren't just showing you around, they're inviting you to see the city through their eyes.

📍 **Meet at Wyndham Cultural Centre**

CANADA

CANADA

#### SPEED DATING WITH CACTI

**Artist:** Mammalian Diving Reflex

**Boarding Call For:** Yoga lovers, plant whisperers, and anyone craving stillness in a chaotic world.

**Purpose of Visit:** A uniquely slow, meditative journey led by a kaleidoscope of characters, exploring the wild edges where science meets spirituality.

**Must-see:** An 88-year-old storyteller, a stand-up comedian, teens, and more guiding you through unique rituals, playful commentary, and reflective moments in the Royal Botanic Gardens.

**Simon's Travel Tip:** Forget rushing. This is about slowing waaaaay down. Let the moment stretch out around you as you move through this strange, beautiful meditation on presence.

📍 **Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne**

#### 두물머리

#### DUMULMEORI (WHERE TWO RIVERS MEET)

**Artist:** KIM Chosul and JANG Haneul (Korea) with locals Michelle Heaven, Alisdair Macindoe and curator Brendan O'Connell

**Boarding Call For:** People who love when two flavours mix and create a whole new taste.

**Purpose of Visit:** A rare chance to witness four remarkable solo works from Korea and Australia side by side. This is international collaboration in real time, where different styles, stories, and traditions meet through movement.

**Must-see:** Four dancer-choreographers each take the stage with their own voice, their own energy, and their own story. Together they build something bigger than any one performance; a powerful, shared experience that resonates across cultures.

**Simon's Travel Tip:** This is one of those nights you'll keep thinking about. You'll feel the difference in each dancer's style, but you'll also feel the connection between all of the performances. These will be moments that speak without saying a word.

📍 **Dancehouse**

SOUTH KOREA

IMAGE BY JORDON ROSSI & EMILY DRAKE



Scan the QR code for all 2025 Passport events

DURATED PROGRAM

# DESTINATION: TAIWAN

## 聚焦地點：臺灣



YOUR ITINERARY: 精彩的臺灣行程如下:

### WE NEED A FLOWER

**Artist:** Double and Cross Theater Group

**Boarding Call For:** Parents, carers, and little ones ready to share a moment of gentle discovery through movement.

**Purpose of Visit:** A tender, embodied experience designed especially for babies aged 0 to 24 months and their families. This performance celebrates life's cycles and the deep ties that bind us all.

**Must-see:** A delicate dance theatre piece that moves with babies' growth stages from grounding gravity to fragile bones and hopeful futures unfolding in soft, playful movement that speaks to even the tiniest audience members.

**Simon's Travel Tip:** Arrive prepared to slow down and enjoy a quiet, joyful space where you and your baby can explore, watch, and connect. This thoughtful 'baby theatre' is a uniquely gentle and immersive experience you won't find anywhere else.

### 我們需要一朵花

**藝術家:** 兩兩製造聚團

**行程適合對象:** 不論你是爸爸媽媽或是家裡有小寶寶的人, 都歡迎你帶上你的小夥伴一起踏上這趟溫柔的探索之旅。

**探索目的:** 這是一場特別為0到2歲嬰兒以及他們的家庭打造的溫柔體驗。這個表演作品讚頌生命的循環, 也加深我們之間緊密的連結。

**非看不可的理由:** 這場精湛的舞蹈劇場作品, 跟隨著寶寶的成長一起舞動 - 他們呱呱墜地, 日漸茁壯, 最後盛開綻放.....藉由溫柔又好玩的肢體動作, 對小小的觀眾娓娓道來。

**藝術總監的旅遊叮嚀:** 請準備好放慢腳步, 享受一個安靜愉悅的空間, 讓你和寶寶可以一起探索、觀察、互動。這個貼心的「嬰兒劇場」將給你前所未有的沉浸式體驗。

ArtPlay

### FREESTEPS – GRAND CANYON

**Artist:** HORSE

**Boarding Call For:** People who get excited by the unexpected, who love seeing art unfold (literally) in real time.

**Purpose of Visit:** A daring exploration of movement and imagination where a dancer and a giant sheet of paper collide, creating living sculpture and new stories without words or characters.

**Must-see:** A mesmerising duet between body and paper – folding, crumpling, and shifting – transforming public spaces into kinetic art that challenges what dance can be.

**Simon's Travel Tip:** Keep your eyes peeled. This spontaneous pop-up performance shows up when you least expect it, turning everyday spaces into moments of breathtaking beauty. Catch it at *Fringe Flavours Night Market*, *Power Move* at Fed Square, and *Nocturnal* at Melbourne Museum. Wherever it appears, you won't want to miss it.

Queen Victoria Market, Fed Square, Melbourne Museum

Now in its sixth year, Fringe Focus Taiwan shines a light on Taiwan's bold and innovative arts scene. These works aren't just international; they're imaginative, immersive, intimate and honest. They offer fresh ways of seeing the world through movement, connection and creativity.

Fringe Focus Taiwan邁入了第六年, 繼續將焦點放在臺灣大膽又充滿前瞻性的當代藝術。這些作品不僅跨海演出, 更提供觀眾對表演不同的想像, 與藝術親密接觸, 享有沉浸式體驗。這些表演藉由舞動、共鳴與創意, 讓觀眾以新鮮的視角審視世界。



CURATED PROGRAM

### FREESTEPS – SWINGING YEARS

**Artist:** HORSE

**Boarding Call For:** People who believe life only gets richer with time, who want to see movement tell stories that span decades, and who're curious about dance beyond the usual youthful spotlight.

**Purpose of Visit:** A deeply human, cross-generational exploration of ageing through movement, transforming personal memories and life experiences into shared stories on stage.

**Must-see:** A striking live performance featuring over 50 dancers over 60 moving in sync, their bodies telling real stories of ageing, resilience, and community. Raw, honest, and impossible to look away from.

**Simon's Travel Tip:** Come ready to witness something rare. This is a celebration of lived experience expressed through the language of the body. This is dance that honours every wrinkle, every rhythm earned with time and invites you to connect with stories you won't find anywhere else.

### 自由步 – 搖擺歲月

**藝術家:** 羸舞劇場

**行程適合對象:** 如果你深信生命會隨著歲月日漸深刻, 又或者你想探索舞蹈的美好與生命的韻味, 這個藉由肢體突破時間維度, 又展現樂齡的舞動, 將非常適合你。

**探索目的:** 這是一場充滿人情且橫跨世代的探索之旅, 透過舞動展現歷經風霜的身體, 將個人記憶與生命體驗化為故事在舞台上分享。

**非看不可的理由:** 這場震撼人心的現場演出, 集結50位年過花甲的舞者同台共舞。歲月在他們身上留下痕跡, 但他們卻以身體表達出堅忍不拔與合作無間。舞台上真摯的情感, 將讓你目不轉睛。

**藝術總監的旅遊叮嚀:** 請準備好踏入一場非比尋常的體驗。這個作品透過身體語言表達歲月的刻痕, 以舞動讚嘆每道皺紋, 以韻律代表時間的流動.....我們誠摯邀請你走進他們的故事。

Meat Market

### 自由步 – 造山運動

**藝術家:** 羸舞劇場

**行程適合對象:** 如果你對「不可知」躍躍欲試, 又或者想親眼看到舞者「展開」的樣貌, 這個作品將滿足你所有的期待。

**探索目的:** 這是一場大膽且顛覆想像的冒險 - 當一位舞者遇上一張大紙, 在沒有語言也沒有角色的情境下, 他們將共同打造出一個活生生的雕塑與意想不到的故事。

**非看不可的理由:** 這場人體與紙張的雙人舞隨著摺疊、揉捏與移動的節奏, 令人目眩神迷。他們的互動, 將公共空間轉化為動態藝術, 重新定義舞蹈的可能性。

**藝術總監的旅遊叮嚀:** 眼觀四面, 耳聽八方 - 這場即興快閃表演可能會在你最意想不到的時候出沒, 一個日常空間隨時都可能變成令人屏息的美麗瞬間。你可以在Fringe Flavours Night Market (維多利亞皇后夜市), Fed Square 的 Power Move 活動以及墨爾本博物館的 Nocturnal 夜間展演看到它的身影。無論它在哪裡驚喜現身, 我們都希望你不要錯過。

# A TASTE OF FRINGE AT THE QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

ULTIMATE MELBOURNE ICONS COLLIDE AS MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL AND QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET COME BACK TOGETHER FOR FRINGE FLAVOURS NIGHT MARKET.



FRINGE FLAVOURS NIGHT MARKET 2024. IMAGES BY TOM NOBLE CREATIVE

Fish and chips, pancakes and maple syrup, Melbourne Fringe and Queen Victoria Market — some combinations are just destined to be enjoyed together. For five Wednesday nights, you can pair delicious food and drinks from the Night Market's variety of vendors with entertainment from the Melbourne Fringe Festival program.

CURATED PROGRAM

### FRINGE FLAVOURS NIGHT MARKET

Where: QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

When: DROP-IN FROM 5PM EVERY WEDNESDAY 17 SEPT-15 OCT



Scan for more information

# A NIGHT AT FESTIVAL HUB

## CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

START HERE →

### 1 TAKE A PUNT

You're intrigued. Dracula flyer in hand, you rush to the box office and snap up a ticket, just in time to join the winding, wordless conga line of audience members through the halls of Trades Hall. You arrive in a small, red-lit room with a stage. After giving each audience member a jelly snake offering, Dracula embarks on a 40 minute experimental performance art piece about the ethics of artificial flavouring (and artificial intelligence). After a rapturous standing ovation, you head back to the corridor. To decompress...

#### DO YOU...

Wander the corridors and see what calls to you. **Go to 4**  
Head for a nibble, refreshment and a refuel before your next adventure. **Go to 2**

You step inside Trades Hall, walking through the towering pillars at its entrance. There's music floating down the stairs. A Fringe artist dressed like Dracula walks past eating from a bag of jelly snakes, with five people following them. Toward the end of the hallway, you hear a hustle bustle of music and lively conversation. You smell buttery pastry in that direction.

#### DO YOU...

Follow the Fringe Dracula's gaggle. **Go to 1**  
Follow your nose (and ears) down the hall, the scent and sound are too enticing. **Go to 2**  
Find the queue for the show you've already booked tickets for (you're a pre-planner in this scenario). You'll explore afterward. **Go to 3**

### 2 VIBES ON TAP

You walk into the Stomping Ground Loading Dock Bar, and it's buzzing. The air thrums with laughter, clinking glasses, and the echoing laughter from a nearby performance. You see vibrant posters covering the walls, sculptural oddities, neon lights. Artists and audiences alike are mid-monologue between sips of pale ale, and everyone's got that a sparkle in their eyes. You eat a flaky delicious pie from the Wonder Pies stall. You sip on a crisp refreshing beverage. You wander over to the What's On Screen; a backlit beauty, displayed neatly to showcase the artistic offerings of the night.

#### DO YOU...

Choose a show that's selling fast: it's in the grand ETU Ballroom and you recognise its name; that's been drumming up buzz like a hive of bees. **Go to 3**  
Pick a show in a tiny room you know nothing about. It has an intriguing name. You like your art surprising. It's Fringe after all. **Go to 1**  
Ponder what's happening at Club Fringe. Your bones are itching for a boogie and you know that the Club is where Festival folklore is forged. **Go to 5**

It's twilight at Trades Hall, and the lights of Festival Hub flicker to life. You're ready to Fringe.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it: Dive into the creative, curious and sometimes chaotic rabbit warren that is Festival Hub, and see where the night takes you.

### 3 ART. FULLY CHARGED.

You enter the luxurious ETU Ballroom; it's packed wall-to-wall with excited punters. A group of ridiculously talented cabaret performers take the audience on a wild genre-bending joyride – heartbreaking ballads, electrifying choreography, high-octane vocals and acrobatics to boot. The lights are crisp and the soundscape is perfect. It's a ten from you. The audience files out, bustling with praise and energy. It's time for your next adventure.

#### DO YOU...

Keep your spirits sky high by dancing straight to Club Fringe. **Go to 5**  
Wander the hallways of Trades Hall; surely something will jump out at you as you meander. **Go to 4**

### 5 CLUB FRINGE

You step into the frenetic fever dream that is Club Fringe: where artists, audiences and art-lovers come to gather. It's the meeting place, the watering hole, the city square of Fringe. It's the perfect nightcap. Tonight, you witness a ferociously competitive drag competition, hosted by two breakdancing drag kings who insist on scoring everything 69. It ends in a tiebreaker with every contestant vigorously wrestling in a giant jelly pit. The music is pumping, the shimmer of the disco ball bounces around the room and energy is electric. After a solid dance, you're sweaty but sated.

The sun threatens to rise on you, so with a full heart and brain, you call it a night. **Go to 6**

### 4 DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

You go for a little wander. You've heard of 'Fringe of the Hub': mini activations tucked away in the nooks and crannies of Trades Hall, and you're keen to find them. As you weave through the hallways of the Hub, you're struck by beautiful projection art of a living, breathing forest floor against a vast wall. You breathe in and out. Once you see one installation, you get the bug, so set off through the building on a journey of discovery. What other secrets will you stumble upon? The path eventually leads you....

#### WHERE?

To the thumping heart of the Hub: the Stomping Ground Loading Dock Bar. **Go to 2**  
The dancefloor is calling and you refuse to let it go to voicemail. It's time to hit Club Fringe. **Go to 5**  
You're saving up your energy for an even bigger and bolder night at Fringe tomorrow night. It's time to call it a night. **Go to 6**

### 6 CALL IT A NIGHT

You find yourself outside again, under the stars, Fringe flyers stuffed in your pockets and pie crumbs on your sleeve. All good adventures must come to an end – but with just another roll of the dice, you can embark on a wildly different Festival Hub adventure tomorrow night.

FESTIVAL HUB

Where:

FESTIVAL HUB: TRADES HALL, CNR LYGON & VICTORIA STS, CARLTON

When:

OPEN WED-SUN 1-19 OCT



Scan to see all Festival Hub events



CLUB FRINGE: KWEEN KONG, 2024, IMAGE BY NICKMICKPICS

A staple of the Fringe experience, Club Fringe is the place where Festival folklore is forged. Club Fringe is where you – artists, art nerds and audience alike – come to connect, charge up and be changed by art. We'd tell you exactly what outrageous hijinks are afoot but truth is, we can never know. And once a night is over, it is relegated to the ether of time and collective memory forever (and brilliant photography, of course).

Club Fringe is where the inconceivable is conceived on stage, and an unfathomable amount of dancing takes place. We can't stress this enough. A LOT of dancing. Come to Club Fringe and experience something that'll help you win every game of Two Truths and a Lie for time immemorial.

# THIS ONE TIME AT CLUB FRINGE ...

*... a night devolved into an hours-long dance marathon where we were taught tango, Russian folk and, of course, the Macarena while every single one of us wore paper bags on our head. (2014)*

*...despite the leather assless-chaps-wearing horse almost winning the beauty pageant, the deciding round of musical chairs had other plans. (2023)*

*...we started a cult and worshipped an unholy mega-recreation of 'Baywatch', 'The Shining', 'Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion', and included a striptease based on a scene from 'Bambi'. Yep, it's the scene you're thinking of. (2015)*

*...there was a full-on exorcism at the (fictional) Trades Hall High formal. We had to sing the school song to release the demon. (2024)*

*...an artist in a cardboard shrimp costume was lovingly dressed in aerosol-propelled lemon juice, while we were given free (and real) shrimp cocktail. (2017)*

*...who knows. (2025)*

*...a dance troupe of Martians in blonde wigs and leopard print boots birthed themselves out of an eleven foot inflatable vulva. (2018)*

*...performance artists dressed as sexy fruit salad asked a us to "juice the orange" among them. A kiddie pool was brought out and the orange... was juiced. (2019)*

Scan to see all Club Fringe events



MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL PROGRAM LAUNCH, 2018, IMAGE BY SARAH WALKER



# MEET US AT MEAT MARKET



## MEAT MARKET

**Where:** MEAT MARKET, NORTH MELBOURNE

**When:** TUES-SAT  
30 SEPT-19 OCT



Scan for more information

## THIS FESTIVAL, MEAT MARKET IS GETTING A FRINGE MAKEOVER FOR A THREE-WEEK FESTIVAL TAKEOVER.

Melbourne Fringe is taking over North Melbourne's Meat Market, opening the doors to a suite of ambitious new works that don't suit Fringe's typical fast-turnaround model.

The historic venue (literally an 1880s marketplace for, well, meat) is being transformed into a multi-space performance hub, complete with a leafy courtyard bar, grand performance hall, and black box theatre – and it's all just a short wander from Queen Victoria Market (where you can also catch *Fringe Flavours* on Wednesday Nights).

"We're looking at it as an opportunity to program a space a little differently to our usual offering at the Festival Hub at Trades Hall," says Melbourne Fringe Head of Programming and Deputy Creative Director Danny Delahunty. "The Festival Hub has its own very strong personality – it's fast, nimble, everything has to be 60 minutes or less with 15-minute changeovers. Rather than compromise that, we decided to create an alternative space that lets us make a different offering to audiences, and support work we've rarely been able to in the past," says Delahunty.

It's a shift that opens the door to bigger, bolder ideas – works whose creative vision challenges the usual parameters of the Festival Hub.

"We've got beautiful ensemble dance works with large installation set pieces, theatre shows that have more complicated installs, big circus events with aerial action... there's even a show that has a swimming pool onstage."

The programming also helps fill some major gaps in the current arts landscape. "We noted that there were very few spaces for indoor circus work this year," says Delahunty. "And La Mama is closed to public performances this year, which would often host seasons of theatre works that need a full set install. So, we wanted to make sure we were filling gaps in the kinds of spaces on offer to artists and audiences."

In short? Expect something you wouldn't normally see in a Fringe-run venue. At Meat Market, there's plenty of room for creatively ambitious and spectacular works that stretch the edges of what Fringe can be.

# ACROSS THE CITY, AROUND THE CLOCK

CELEBRATING MELBOURNE  
FRINGE'S INDEPENDENT VENUES

A record store in Collingwood pulses with poetry. A gallery in Footscray becomes a dance floor. A pop-up in St Kilda hosts a one-night-only cabaret.

During the Melbourne Fringe Festival, independent venues – from basement theatres to back-lane bookstores, suburban warehouses to seaside stages – draw audiences into the city's unexpected corners, reminding us that great stories often start on the margins.

"There are so many beautiful independent venues which are part of Melbourne Fringe," says Lauren Bok, Artist Services Coordinator. "And in October, they buzz with Festival activity."

Independent venues are where the majority of the Festival unfolds. Some host full programs with dozens of events; others stage a single, unforgettable show. But all of them – galleries, pubs, rehearsal rooms, living rooms – open their doors to new ideas and big risks. For artists, they're spaces to test work, grow audiences, and connect. For audiences, they're an invitation to get curious, stay up late, and see what's happening around the corner. And sometimes, you're invited somewhere completely unexpected. "This year, we have a dance show that takes place on the sand at Williamstown Beach," says Olly Lawrence, Senior Program Manager (Independent Arts). "That's so Fringe. It's such a Fringe experience."

The citywide sprawl is part of what makes Melbourne Fringe unique: it invites discovery. From a late-night gig in a back room to a performance in a beach cove, the Open Program is where boundaries stretch and surprises unfold.

And it doesn't stop at the city limits. Through the Crossroads program, Fringe extends into regional Victoria, including curated tours to Geelong Arts Centre and Burrinja Cultural Centre as part of Fringe Encore. Other pop-up events appear across the state, proving that powerful art can happen anywhere – all it needs is a willing space and an audience ready to follow.

Whether you're catching a site-specific performance in a car park, stumbling across an immersive show in an alleyway, or heading to your favourite Fringe haunt with friends, you're part of something bigger than any one venue. Because Melbourne Fringe isn't one stage – it's hundreds. Spread across the city and beyond, this is where the Festival comes alive.

OPEN  
PROGRAM

BLACK GIRL RISING, LINNEA TENGROTH, 2024,  
IMAGE BY DARREN GILL



RESONANCE, JAMES BATCHELOR AND COLLABORATORS, 2025, IMAGE BY MORGAN HICKINBOTHAM



## CAN'T DECIDE? WE'VE GOT YOU.

OPEN  
PROGRAM

**FRINGE GUARANTEE IS A COLLECTION OF INDEPENDENTLY PRODUCED EVENTS THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE FESTIVAL'S STAMP-OF-APPROVAL, TO HELP YOU TAKE BIGGER RISKS ON WORKS THAT ARE LITERALLY GUARANTEED TO DELIVER.**

Melbourne Fringe is big. With hundreds of shows across every genre you can imagine, the real question is: where do you even start?

"The open-access nature of Fringe means the program is huge. That's amazing, but it can also feel a bit overwhelming," says Danny Delahunty, Melbourne Fringe's Head of Programming and Deputy Creative Director.

That's where Fringe Guarantee comes in.

Fringe Guarantee is your confident starting point for the Festival. These are shows from the Open Program, meaning they're independently produced, but they've been handpicked because we're confident they'll deliver on what they promise. Whether it's weird, wild, musical, hilarious, or deeply moving, if a show doesn't live up to what was advertised, we'll give you a free ticket to another Fringe Guarantee show. No refunds. Just more Fringe. But, nothing is ever just free – you do need to fill in a simple form to let us know why it didn't meet expectations.

"These are events made by experienced artists with a strong track record of delivering quality work," explains Delahunty. "Some are challenging and provocative, others are just incredibly entertaining. But all of them represent the bold spirit of the Festival, and they're guaranteed to hit the mark."

One of those shows is *The Lucky Country*, a critically acclaimed original musical about what it means to be Australian. It's a wildly entertaining joyride that dives deep into questions of identity and belonging.

"There's so much for audiences to love and connect with," says co-creator Vidya Makan. "It's irreverent and playful, packed with absolute bangers, and it takes you somewhere deeply profound. A show like this has never existed before in the world of musical theatre." Her collaborator Sonya Soares agrees: "It was written for audiences who aren't afraid to break the norm, sit in uncomfortable truths, and ultimately have a great night out. To me, that's exactly what sums up Melbourne Fringe audiences."

Also on the Fringe Guarantee lineup is *Men on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, a chaotic new comedy by award-winning playwright Adam Fawcett. This "bromance wrapped in a revenge story shoved inside a road trip" is for anyone who's ever been dumped, disappointed, or dangerously close to a breakdown in a paddock.

"I think audiences will love watching two polar-opposite brothers meet for the first time as adults, trying to navigate the high-stakes world of dressage and their deteriorating sanity!" Fawcett says. "*Men on the Verge* celebrates our capacity for messiness and is a love letter to the irrational parts of ourselves."

Then there's *Resonance*, a powerful intergenerational dance work from choreographer James Batchelor. Featuring 20 dancers of different ages, the performance explores memory, movement, and how the body holds history over time.

"I think what is most exciting about *Resonance* is seeing dancers at all stages of life connect through their shared joy of movement," says Batchelor. "We witness bodies processing memory in an honest and vulnerable way, revealing long-lived relationships and shared histories."

Fresh off a national tour, *Resonance* lands in Melbourne under the Fringe Guarantee banner. "We're proud to show this work at Melbourne Fringe. It's going to be a really special season."

If you're not sure where to begin, these three shows and all the other amazing experiences in the Fringe Guarantee program are the perfect place to start your 2025 Fringe adventure. Where you go from there is entirely up to you.



Scan to see all  
2025 Fringe  
Guarantee events

# A CHAT WITH THE PARTICIPANT SERVICES TEAM

OPEN PROGRAM



Scan to see all 2025 Open Program events

**Hot tip - With more than 500 events in the Festival it can be hard to know where to start. Our 'Guides to Fringe' are a handy collection of... collections... of shows so you can browse by themes, content, format, and genre.**

**Lauren:** Should we introduce ourselves first?

**Olly:** Yeah, who are you?

**Lauren:** Good question. My name is Lauren Bok, and I am the Artist Services Coordinator at Melbourne Fringe. I've been performing and working across the arts for over a decade, and now I help other artists put on their Melbourne Fringe Festival shows. What about you?

**Olly:** I'm Olly Lawrence, the Senior Program Manager (Independent Arts) here at Melbourne Fringe. I've similarly been producing independent shows and touring them around the Fringe circuit, including at Melbourne Fringe Festival, for the last few years. I've worked at independent venues and done a lot of other arts work. Similarly, now I get to use those skills and experiences to support the wonderful Fringe community that I've been a part of.

**Lauren:** A question we get a lot: why do the Melbourne Fringe Festival? Why not just make your show happen some other time?

**Olly:** You *can* do a show anytime, but Fringe gives you access to so many opportunities. There's the Tour Ready program, 'Let's Talk' sessions, free workshops, panels and info sessions. You might win an award. But more than that, it's about being part of the Festival community.

**Lauren:** You do get swept up in it. I've been going to the Festival since I was 18. Some of my closest friends (and professional collaborators) came out of conversations after shows. It's an amazing springboard into the arts ecosystem.

**Olly:** It's a creative testing ground. Even established artists come back to Fringe with something new to try. The Festival supports risk-taking, whether it's a fresh idea or your very first show.

**Lauren:** My first solo show was at Melbourne Fringe Festival.

**Olly:** Wow, how long ago was that?

**Lauren:** How dare you!

**Olly:** I'm not calling you old, I promise.

**Lauren:** I am! No, it was in 2015. I debuted my solo show during the Festival to a room of 20 seats. And honestly, it was just the most wonderful, exciting, confidence-boosting time for me. As an artist doing a Festival show, you get that opportunity to be exposed to a larger audience. And Fringe audiences? They're very kind, excited, and up for pretty much anything.

**Olly:** Fringe-goers are the best. They have a real appetite for the unexpected. They're open to all the bold, unique experiences that make Fringe so diverse artistically.

**Lauren:** They're also willing to support someone new or up-and-coming. There's a real joy in being able to say, 'I saw them first!'

**Olly:** It's the ultimate bragging right as an audience member when you can say, 'I saw their first tiny show in a broom closet,' or 'I saw them before they were famous.'

**Lauren:** And artists are also audience members. I love cramming myself into shows, getting inspired, meeting new creatives. That artist pass? The best.

**Olly:** It's definitely a hot bed for inspiration.

**Lauren:** And connection. It's going to the Club Fringe nights, letting off steam, being able to enjoy all the different offerings and chatting with other artists.

**Olly:** There are so many people I've met at over a late-night beverage at Festival Hub that have now become my lifelong collaborators and friends. If you're looking for the people that you're going to be working with next, and sharing an arts community with, those social events like Club Fringe are a great place to be.

**Lauren:** 100%. So, what makes you want to go and see a Fringe show?

**Olly:** I love taking a chance on something small and unassuming. I think sometimes you can find those real hidden gems of a show that don't have a professional studio photography image. Maybe they've taken something on their film camera in their backyard. You sit there thinking, "What *is* this going to be?" And I love immersive or interactive stuff too. Participatory works where you're pulled in.

**Lauren:** That's the great thing about Fringe. It's an Open Access festival, so anyone can be part of it, but there are also strong community guidelines and support behind the scenes to keep things safe and respectful.

**Olly:** Exactly. Even if something's a bit out there thematically or physically, you know it's going to be a safe and considered experience.

**Lauren:** And that's where the comfort zone system comes in.

**Olly:** Yes! Can you explain that?

**Lauren:** It's a super handy tool we use across the website to help audiences choose what kind of experience they want. There are three categories: *Inside the Comfort Zone* means a more conventional show, *Pushing the Comfort Zone* means things might get a bit surprising or unusual, and *Outside the Comfort Zone* means strap in, it's going to be wild.

**Olly:** It's so helpful. You can filter by comfort level, or by themes and content notes, depending on the kind of night you want to have. And honestly, one of the best ways to find shows?

**Lauren:** Word of mouth.

**Olly:** Yes!

**Lauren:** Oh absolutely, finding out what other people are seeing and getting their recommendations is the best. But please if you do love something, *remember what it's called!* How many times have we heard, "I saw something really good last night..."

**Olly:** And then—

**Lauren:** "What was it called?" *blank stare*

"Who was it by?" *blank stare*

"It was just really good!"

**Olly:** So please, grab a flyer, take a photo, keep your ticket, post about it.

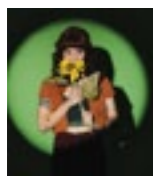
**Lauren:** Share it! Whether it's five stars, a social post, or a story, it makes a difference. It helps people find the show, and for the artists, how great is it for them to see people connecting with their work?

**Olly:** As a producer, I want every single audience member to post something. Even a quick Instagram story saying, "Saw this show, loved it!" boosts visibility and builds momentum. If you liked it, tell someone.

**Lauren:** Exactly. Every post counts. Fringe is all about community. Sharing, showing up, and celebrating each other.

FRINGE FLAVOURS NIGHT MARKET, 2024, IMAGE BY TOM NOBLE CREATIVE





### A Manic Pixie Dream Cabaret

This Dream Girl has a problem; her protagonist has failed to arrive. A semi-autobiographical parody turned satire turned personal revelation that asks: what's it gonna take to be your own dream girl?

Written and Performed by Sarah Frencham

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatre (C) | 29 Sept-5 Oct (8 sessions) | 5:45pm (Sat 4pm) | 55mins



### A Monty Python Cabaret Singalong Circus

Join the hilarious fun as 'Dr H' revives the great satirical songs from the Monty Python era. Participation is a must, with piano cabaret antics, interactive patter and lots of singalong.

Produced and Performed by Antony (Dr H) Hubmayer

Speakeasy Theatre - Apollo | 15 Oct (1 session) | 7:00pm | 60 mins

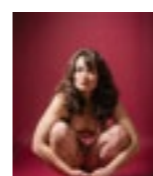


### A Perfectly Normal Show

Picture it: Melbourne Fringe 2025. A perfect evening in spring. The sun is shining. Fresh sheets hang on the line. Nonno is tending to the garden. Nonne comes out to finish another load of laundry. Sparks, Meatballs and Sweatbands fly.

Created and Performed by Rassputin and Lucy Furr

Speakeasy Theatre - Apollo | 6-12 Oct (7 sessions) | 5:30pm | 60 mins



### Cou Cou!

Chaos. Bedlam. Anarchy. Flowers. Broken Hearts. Love Songs. kapow. kaboom. oopsies. oh no. what happened? oops. What is going on? Who knows anymore? Spend 50 minutes of your long lush life & watch a giant singing flower breathe love back to life.

Performed by Sophie Bengough

The Motley Bauhaus - The Cellar | 13-19 Oct (7 sessions) | 9:45pm | 50 mins



### DECADENCE: 10 Years of YUMMY

The camp darlings of world-famous cabaret YUMMY are ready to celebrate 10 years of excellence with you! Join this beloved ensemble in a wild night out of transformative drag, circus, and burlesque in a life-affirming, sexy, and joyful celebration.

Presented by YUMMY Productions

Meat Market - Cobblestone Pavilion (C) | 30 Sept-18 Oct (15 sessions) | 7:00pm | 75mins



### Delightfool

Both the Clown and Jak Darling are DELIGHTFOOL! This campy comedy duo have come together in holy(ish) matrimony to showcase their silly, joyous, and unapologetically queer cabaret! Featuring: Stand-up, mime, theatre, clown, song, magic, and emus...?

Created and Performed by Booth the Clown and Jak Darling

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Archive Room (C) | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:15pm (Sun 6:15pm) | 60 mins



### ABBA - The Singalonga Cabaret

Celebrate the songs and stories of ABBA with award-winning international piano cabaret entertainer Antony (Dr H) Hubmayer. Featuring all ABBA's classic hits with plenty of singalongs, laughs, background stories and cabaret antics.

Produced and Performed by Antony (Dr H) Hubmayer

Speakeasy Theatre - Apollo | 18 Oct (1 session) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



### ACTRESS

LIGHTS, CAMERA, CIGARETTE, COCAINE TRAIL, SALIVA FROM A MAN WHO DOESN'T CARE IF I LIVE OR DIE, FANS, APPLAUSE, TEARS, BLOOD, BREATH, BURY THE BODY, LOOK LEFT, LOOK RIGHT, LOOK THE FUCK OUT, HERE I AM, I AM HERE, AND I AM AN ACTRESS

Performed by Murdoch Keane

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Meeting Room (C) | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:45pm (Sun 8:45pm) | 60 mins



### Adore Händel's Cautionary Tales

The incorrigible 18th century time-traveling songbird returns! Adore Händel shares cautionary tales of romantic disasters and lessons learned the hard way. A whimsical drag cabaret blending opera, pop classics, and original songs with narratives.

Created and Performed by Adore Händel

Speakeasy Theatre - Apollo | 6-12 Oct (7 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



### Florian Wild's Hoedown Showdown!

SADDLE UP COWBOYS!!! Florian Wild's Hoedown Showdown is bringing the very, very best of the Wild Wild West to the Motley Bauhaus. Three lineups. Three themes. Three nights only. Do your civic duty this Melbourne Fringe. Save a horse. Ride Florian.

Presented by Florian Wild

The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage | 2-4 Oct (3 sessions) | 9:40pm | 60 mins



### Geraldine Quinn - Bastard Joy

Veteran. Ginger. Legend. She's done 20 years of festivals... and she's finally medicated. This new hour from Geraldine Quinn (The Project, Spicks & Specks) is part concert, part revisionist history, part banging club night - all Bastard Joy.

Created and Performed by Geraldine Quinn

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Quilt Room (C) | 1-11 Oct (8 sessions) | 8:00pm | 60 mins



### Geraldine Quinn - The Passion of Saint Nicholas

Teenaged dreams, sibling rivalry and keeping the dream alive when one of you isn't. WINNER - 2024 Green Room Awards Outstanding Cabaret Artiste Outstanding Cabaret Production Outstanding Writing

Written and Performed by Geraldine Quinn

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Quilt Room (C) | 5-12 Oct (2 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



### Annus Horribilis

From the multi-award-winning director of Motorboat, Boklesque & Feminist Trash, comes a highly anticipated solo show. This is not a clown show. Stop laughing. It's not funny. Prague Fringe Award Winner. ★★★★★ The List

Created and Performed by Shamema Nougar

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7 | 30 Sept-5 Oct (6 sessions) | 8:30pm | 60mins



### Another Unwasted Evening - the Genius of Tom Lehrer

Enjoy musical satire at its finest as Dr H celebrates the mischievous wit of Tom Lehrer. You'll be singing along, laughing along and revelling in his greatest hits in this award winning must-see piano cabaret show.

Produced and Performed by Antony (Dr H) Hubmayer

Speakeasy Theatre - Apollo | 13 Oct (1 session) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



### Bent Burlesque: The Fuppets

Australia's longest-running queer cabaret returns with The Fuppets! From the twisted minds behind Bent Burlesque comes a riotous new spectacle of whimsical chaos, puppet carnage, and vaudeville misfits. A hot blend of felt, filth, and fabulousness!

Produced by Imogen Kelly

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Solidarity Hall (C) | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:00pm (Sun 8:00pm) | 60 mins



### Gogo Bumtime

What happens when drag gremlin Gogo Bumhole gets a TV pilot? You get GOGO BUMTIME! - and you're invited! From SEWER RAT GIRL creator, comes a chaotic cabaret disguised as a late night TV show, diving into queer shame, pubic hair, and mummy issues.

Created and Performed by Gogo Bumhole

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Quilt Room (C) | 8-19 Oct (11 sessions) | Various times | 55 mins

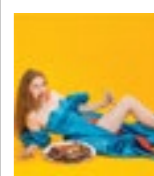


### HANS: Young Fun & 21

International cabaret sensation Hans is turning 21, and you're invited to the celebration of the decade! After decades of global fame, the Berlin-born star is finally revealing (almost) all in this highly anticipated coming-of-age cabaret show.

Presented by Entertainment Consulting & Watercooler Talent

Clocktower Centre (C) | 11 Oct (1 session) | 7:30pm | 2hrs



### Intolerant

Come and join the most inclusive eatery in town, Anaphylaxis Diner - we're allergic to everything but fun (trademark).

Written and Performed by Uma Dobia

Spielhaus (C) | 6-12 Oct (7 sessions) | 7:10pm | 60 mins



### BFFN: Best Friends For Now

Two strangers decide to become best friends, because what other choice do they have?

Written by Hannah Ruthven & Elia Crowley

The MC Showroom - The Clubroom | 1-4 Oct (4 sessions) | 8:00pm | 60 mins



### BOND GIRL

Ever wondered what it really takes to be a Bond Girl? Join Abbey Paige Williams for a night of heartfelt storytelling and iconic songs backed by her killer live band. A love letter to the women of 007, a top secret mission and a licence to thrill.

Presented by Abbey Paige Williams

The MC Showroom - The Showroom | 9-12 Oct (4 sessions) | 8:30pm (Sun 6:30pm) | 60 mins

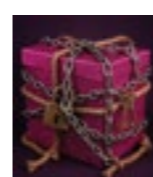


### Booterslot

Guitar-slinging cabaret rockstar Cousin Tara delivers an hour of effervescent comedy cabaret in her fourth solo show, promising big laughs, memorable original music and the curious pitter-patter of tiny peets.

Created and Performed by Cousin Tara

The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage | 29 Sept-5 Oct (7 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



### Isabella Box: Sealed to Prevent Tampering

A hyper-fem, one-woman, drag-queen adult clown comedy. Despite being literally locked in a box, Isabella's irrepressible spirit cannot be contained.

Written and Performed by Zo Star

Speakeasy Theatre - The Vault | 7-12 Oct (6 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



### Jimmy Finger: In Too Deep

One-woman, drag-king adult clown comedy by Zo Star as Jimmy Finger, Melbourne's favourite Rockabilly Boganite...with outstanding finger-juggling technique! A show about riding bikes and filling holes...and most importantly, learning to fill your own hole!

Written and Performed by Zo Star

Speakeasy Theatre - The Vault | 30 Sept-5 Oct (6 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60mins

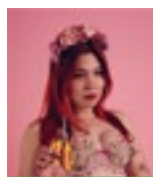


### Kit Kat Prov: The Improvised Cabaret

Willkommen to Kit Kat Prov—where the music plays and the stories are made up on the spot. A Fosse-esque night of improvised cabaret, bold characters, and sultry songs. Dark, dazzling, and deliciously funny. Leave your worries at the door.

Presented by Impro Melbourne

Impro Melbourne Theatre (C) | 17-18 Oct (2 sessions) | 10:30pm | 50 mins



### BOTTOM SURGERY

"So... can you have kids now?" Enter New Zealand comedienne Lily Catastrophe's glitter-soaked world of boys' schools and girl failures in her hit one-woman cabaret evening, where she explains all the parts you didn't want to know about The Surgery.

Written and Performed by Lily Catastrophe

Club Voltaire | 8-11 Oct (4 sessions) | 10:30pm | 60 mins



### Bread The Musical

Baguette ready! Here's the musical you knead. Composers John Thorn and Ben Grant are on a roll and Bread The Musical is a starter on the rise. With a tiptop cast of musical comedy stars this will be the toast of the town so ciabatta get your tickets.

Written by John Thorn and Ben Grant

Bard's Apothecary | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:45pm | 60 mins



### Cabaret Time Machine

Step into the Time Machine and let history come alive YOUR way! Welcome to an evening where you control the clock! From Ancient Rome to the Roaring Twenties, from Marie Antoinette's court to a robotic future - you choose the era, we create the magic.

Created and Performed by Isabella Valette

Meat Market - Craft Room (C) | 7-18 Oct (10 sessions) | 7:30pm | 55 mins



### loud jazz will fix me

When things get to be too much for Dylan, jazz music cures their burnout like a band-aid on a broken bone. A cabaret filled with queer, disabled joy, this show is a balm for anyone who doesn't quite understand how everyone else gets through life.

Created and Performed by Dylan McBurney

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Music Room (C) | 3-5 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:00pm (Sun 6:00pm) | 60 mins



### Madame Martha's Parisian Cabaret

Join the spectacle of the vogue-posing, fosse-popping, live-singing Moulin Rouge cabaret experience. WINNER OF BEST CABARET at Melbourne Fringe 2024 Madame Martha's returns in an explosion of music, burlesque, dance and sensational drag.

Created and Performed by Meg Hickey, Iva Rosebud & Jens Radda

Meat Market - Blackwood Box (C) | 18 Oct (1 session) | 8:30pm | 60 mins

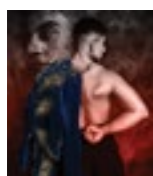


### Magical Mancini

The life of composer Henry Mancini is told through his music in this exquisite show by Cabaret artiste Ziegfeld Boy. Featuring such classic tunes as 'Moon River', 'It Had Better Be Tonight', 'The Pink Panther Theme' and 'The Days of Wine and Roses'.

Performed by Josh Sanders

Chapel Off Chapel - The Loft (C) | 10-12 Oct (3 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



### Caminaré - The Echo Of My Steps

World Salsa Champion Mario Acosta-Cevallos takes the stage in this moving one-man cabaret of Latin dance, music, and storytelling. Caminaré explores identity, cultural pride, self-doubt, and the power of walking your own path.

Created and Performed by Mario Acosta-Cevallos

Gasworks Arts Park - Gasworks Theatre (C) | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:00pm | 60 mins



### CareFactorNullius - the tROO STORY Cabaret

CareFactorNullius the tROO STORY Cabaret is set in the Bush Capital. It features 2 public servants, 2 roos, 2 possums and 2 instruments - all played by Katie. The story packs punches and is based on true events. Social satire at it's wildest!!!

Performed by Katie Cole

Speakeasy Theatre - The Vault | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:45pm | 55 mins



### Chambers of the Heart

The Festival Hub's Old Council Chambers bursts at the heart as young artists from Monash University's Theatre and Performance Studies come together with one of Australia's most acclaimed artists, Melbourne Fringe Living Legend Moira Finucane.

Directed by Moira Finucane

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Old Council Chambers (C) | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:15pm (Sun 5:15pm) | 60 mins



### Meat Loaf - Just The Best Pieces

This is Piano Cabaret That ROCKS! Dine on a hearty serving of Meat Loaf's greatest hits, trimmed to perfection, marinated in Steinman style, garnished by Dr H and consumed in a singalong feast.

Produced and Performed by Antony (Dr H) Hubmayer

Speakeasy Theatre - Apollo | 16 Oct (1 session) | 7:00pm | 60 mins

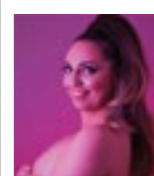


### Opening Night Gala

Bold ideas. High-voltage acts. Hosted by Fringe star Sammy J. A one-night-only premonition of the Festival to come. Get dressed up as your childhood hero and step onto the purple carpet. Our Opening Night Gala is where your Fringe begins.

Presented by Melbourne Fringe

The Capitol (C) | 30 Sept (1 session) | 7:30pm | 90 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - SPOTLIGHT



### Pursuing Pleasure

Opera singer turned cabaret cantatrice Piera Dennerstein shares the intimate truths of her body and mind in this award-winning solo show about the importance of doing what feels good. "A masterclass in storytelling" ★★★★★ - Perth Happenings

Written and Performed by Piera Dennerstein

Chapel Off Chapel - The Loft (C) | 10-12 Oct (3 sessions) | 8:00pm (Sun 3:00pm) | 60 mins

# CABARET

# CIRCUS

CIRCUS



**Queen - A Night at the Cabaret Opera**  
Rock on with the greatest Queen piano cabaret tribute singalong show ever! All the hits, fun stories and lots of laughs as you transform from an audience into the greatest Queen cabaret singers ever!

Produced and Performed by Antony (Dr H) Hubmayer


Speakeasy Theatre - Apollo | 17-19 Oct (2 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



**Queer Enough?**  
In this campy, high-energy romp, two friends buy a nightclub to reconnect with their queer roots in a whirlwind hour of drag, burlesque, sketch comedy and more, exploring what it means to be... Queer Enough?

Performed by Luke Martin and Paige E. Joustra

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatre | 13-19 Oct (7 sessions) | 7:10pm | 60 mins



**Sarahtonin**  
"This world is F\*@KED :). I need as much Sarahtonin as I can get." Help Sarah find the Sarahtonin.

Performed by Sarah Bowers

Spielhaus | 13-19 Oct (7 sessions) | 9:50pm | 60 mins



**Spice Up Your Night**  
This high-energy performance feels more like your favourite 90s party; bringing the Spice Girls unique style and energy to life with the girl group's greatest hits, alongside other 90s classic tunes! Audience participation encouraged.

Artists Sarah, Delaney, Rhianna, Rachel, Nicole, Liana

The MC Showroom - The Showroom | 9-11 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



**T4T: A Transgender Showcase**  
The groundbreaking cult sensation T4T returns to Melbourne Fringe! A variety showcase like no other, featuring the best performers around. Here's the twist - every single one is trans, and the audience is too.

Hosted by Anna Piper Scott

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - ETU Ballroom | 2-4 Oct (2 sessions) | 9:30pm | 60 mins



**Tash York's Chaos Cabaret**  
Welcome to Chaos Cabaret—the ultimate improvised variety game show! Drag, cabaret, circus, and burlesque collide. Hosted by Tash York, three artists battle it out - No rehearsals, completely unscripted, pure chaos!

★★★★★ The List UK  
★★★★★ GlamADL

Created by Tash York

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - ETU Ballroom | 3-5 Oct (2 sessions) | 9:30pm (Sun 8:30pm) | 60 mins



**The Billy and Elton Effect**  
Rock on with the greatest Billy and Elton piano cabaret tribute singalong show ever! All the hits, fun stories, and lots of laughs with internationally renowned Dr H leading the proceedings.

Produced and Performed by Antony (Dr H) Hubmayer

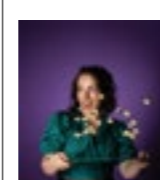
Speakeasy Theatre - Apollo | 19 Oct (1 session) | (Sun 5:30pm) | 60 mins



**The Frank Sinatra Effect**  
Singalong and laugh along as Dr H explores the Frank Sinatra effect and his musical legacy. Featuring just the best bits from his many classic hit songs with colourful background stories retold and sung, 'Our Way'.

Produced and Performed by Antony (Dr H) Hubmayer

Speakeasy Theatre - Apollo | 14 Oct (1 session) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



**The Last Word**  
A collection of original music and anecdotes capturing the heartfelt, comedic and infuriating ways relationships can start and end. Perfect for anyone who really, really, really, loves the last word. Green Room Nominee: Best Original Music 2025.

Created and Performed by Imogen Whittaker

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Music Room | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 5:45pm (Sun 4:45pm) | 60 mins



**The Moulin Beige**  
Straight from Paris to Northcote, this highly prestigious event brings together Melbourne's most alternative comedians, clowns, and cabaret icons, featuring the finest acts of the fest!

"Delightfully entertaining" - Australian Stage

Presented by We Did Good Pty Ltd

Wesley Anne | 5-19 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:00pm | 75 mins



**The Villains: How to Lose Friends & Influence Kingdoms**  
A cabaret comedy dive into the dark side—where villains steal hearts, crowns, and the spotlight. Being bad never sounded so good...

Presented by Broadway Obsessive Disorder

The MC Showroom - The Showroom | 16-18 Oct (3 sessions) | 8:30pm | 60 mins



**Til Death (or Court) Do Us Part**  
Say "I do" to the comedy event of the year! Where Disney meets MAFS, this outrageously camp, musical one-man show is a wild ride through queer love, digital dating, and chaotic commitment. Part cabaret, part stand-up, all unforgettable!

Created and Performed by Jai Cameron

Bluestone Church Arts Space | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:00pm (Sun 6:00pm) | 60 mins



**TOMAS CLIFFORD GOT STOOD UP**  
This award-winning musical-cabaret invites you to join Tomas as he dives into what went wrong leading up to that fateful night - from unrequited high school crushes, to obscene attempts at dating, and every delusion in-between...

★★★★★ - FringeFeed

Written and Performed by Tomas Clifford

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Solidarity Hall | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:30pm (Sun 6:30pm) | 60 mins




**Too Much**  
Too Much has got it all: cabaret, circus, comedy, magic, old-school videos, big heart, and even bigger costumes! It's loud, it's funny, it's messy, it's poignant, and somehow... it's exactly what you need.

Created and Performed by Lilikoi Kaos

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:30pm (Sun 6:30pm) | 60 mins

**FREE AT FRINGE**

SCAN FOR ALL 2025 FREE EVENTS




**LILY CATASTROPHE'S BOTTOM SURGERY**  
A (MOSTLY) ONE-WOMAN VARIETY SHOW

"ONE SERIOUSLY AMAZING WOMAN" - TREATREVIEW

WINNER BEST NEW COMEDIAN - WELLINGTON COMEDY AWARDS 2024

WINNER BEST CABARET - NELSON FRINGE AWARDS 2025


8-11 OCT, CLUB VOLTAIRE, NORTH MELBOURNE



**Banquet**  
Join a waiter, a duchess and a clown on a journey from riches to ruin as the world falls apart but they grow closer.

Created and Performed by Viva Circus


Studio Nexus | 10-19 Oct (6 sessions) | Various times | 55 mins



**Bubble Show For Adults Only**  
Artistic, Mind Bending and filled with stunning hi-level bubble skills. 9 vignettes capture hilarious to hedonistic tales, themed with different styles of bubbles. Bubble cubes, carousels, smoke filled, giant tubes and screens that shimmer like art

Presented by Bubble Laboratory

Meat Market - Cobblestone Pavilion | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:30pm | 60 mins



**CAKE - Late Bite**  
Serving world-class circus, burlesque, and outrageous queer chaos, CAKE is set to be the messiest party since the Revolution and you're invited. Expect morally questionable clowns, circus royalty & certified idiots. RSVP to your frosted fever dream!

Produced by Memphis Mae & Leopold Pentland

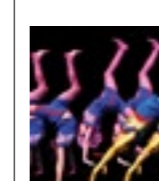
Meat Market - Cobblestone Pavilion | 1-4 Oct (4 sessions) | 9:30pm | 60 mins



**Carnival of Karactors**  
A sexy night of circus, spice and all things nice in their filthy, flirty circus-cabaret 'Carnival of Karactors'. For a night filled to the brim with highly skilled acrobatics, aerials, dangerous games, and mystique.

Presented by Darling and Daring


Theatre Works | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



**Chuckle Troupers**  
Prepare to be amazed and amused as the talented young performers of the Circus Nexus Performance Troupe bring you an unforgettable evening of circus artistry and laughter! A family-friendly cabaret celebrating the joy, skill, and wonder of circus.

Performed by Circus Nexus Performance Troupe

Studio Nexus | 10-12 Oct (3 sessions) | 6:00pm (Sun 4:30pm) | 50 mins



**Circus De Licious**  
The award winning company returns with a whole new line up of amazing circus acts to tickle your fancy, with dazzling acrobatics, side splitting comedy, and breath taking aerials. This is an unforgettable experience not to be missed.

Presented by Express Move ME

Studio Nexus | 10-19 Oct (6 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



**Elixir Revived**  
Elixir by Head First Acrobats is Cirque du Soleil meets Magic Mike—Four scientists test the elixir of life, unleashing chaos, comedy, and jaw-dropping acrobatics in this award-winning, high-energy circus show. Expect thrills, laughs, and a lot of abs

Performed by Head First Acrobats

Meat Market - Cobblestone Pavilion | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:30pm | 60 mins



**GO / NO GO**  
GO/NO GO fuses circus and theatre in the true story of the First Lady Astronaut Trainees. A high-flying tribute to forgotten heroines, zero gravity, and raw ambition, for lovers of space, science, and anyone who's ever dreamed of going to the Moon.

Directed by Felicia Lannan & Tess Walsh


Theatre Works | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:00pm | 60 mins



**La Folie After Dark**  
La Folie presents After Dark. This adults-only aerial circus cabaret will leave you in awe of the sultry beauty and sheer strength these performers are capable of.

Directed by Casey Lorae

Gasworks Arts Park - Gasworks Theatre | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:00pm | 60 mins



**Now You See Me**  
NICA's final-year students invite you on a whiplash ride through twenty unpredictable circus acts after the objects of their affection sends them on a tailspin. Strap in to fly at high speeds through the entire spectrum of human emotion.

Curated by Linda Sastradipradja

Gasworks Art Park - Gasworks Theatre | 30 Sept-4 Oct (6 sessions) | 6:00pm (Sat 3:00pm) | 60 mins



**Strange Chaos**  
A punk clown sits in the headlights of an old ute. Tonight he will make the biggest decision of his life. An unmissable site-specific Fringe experience from Oozing Future (Apocrypha) that's filled with fierce poetry, emotion and humour.

Created by Oozing Future

Haus of Ooze | 9-19 Oct (9 sessions) | 7:30pm | 75 mins



**Teasing Myths**  
Take a dip into greek mythology with the cast of Teasing Myths. A peek into the tantalising and terrifying myths you adore... Is Medusa the monster or is she a protector? Either way we suggest not looking into her eyes directly!

Presented by Angel of the Forest Productions

The 86 Cabaret Bar | 8-19 Oct (8 sessions) | 7:30pm | 60 mins



**TOMAS CLIFFORD GOT STOOD UP ON TOUR!**  
an original musical cabaret

WORLD TOP PRIZE WINNER THE MARTIN SIMS AWARD 2025

1-5 OCT 7:30PM SUNDAY SHOW 6:30PM

SOLIDARITY HALL @ FESTIVAL HUB

TICKETS AT: MELBOURNEFRINGE.COM.AU



# COMEDY



### 100% Scottish Comedy

After selling out at Fringe World Perth and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival David Callan, Gill Cordiner and Iain Pringle are back! "Hilarious... unapologetically Scottish and irresistibly funny" ★★★★★½ Fringe World

Produced by Iain Pringle

Elephant and Wheelbarrow 🇨🇦 | 29 Sept-19 Oct (21 sessions) | 8:30pm | 60mins



### 5 Headliners for \$25

Five top-level comedians perform their very best material, one after the other. No picking on the audience, no MC in between asking you where you're from—just non-stop laughs from headline-level professionals who know exactly how to bring the funny!

Presented by RGB MONSTER

Elephant and Wheelbarrow 🇨🇦 | 2-18 Oct (9 sessions) | 8:00pm | 60 mins



### 84BY Crash Lands on Earth

An alien crash lands on Earth... can YOU teach it to be human?

Created by Lukas Meintjes

Nominee - Spirit of the Festival - MICF Dumpster Awards 2025  
2 x Comedy Judges' Picks - Melb Fringe 2024  
★★★★★ - Lukas' Uber rating (m'd'd up)

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Old Council Chambers 🇨🇦 | 8-19 Oct (11 sessions) | 10:00pm (Sun 9:00pm) | 60 mins

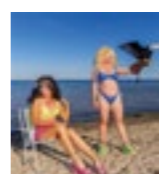


### Big Pants

Ever worn one outfit for so long that it begins to form layers of sweat, counting the days like rings on a tree? That's what happened to fat, queer, anxiety riddled, musical loving comedian Chelsea Heaney when she lost her luggage on Contiki.

Written and Performed by Chelsea Heaney

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Old Council Chambers 🇨🇦 | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:15pm (Sun 5:15pm) | 50 mins

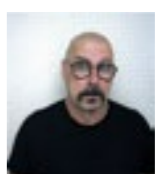


### Birds

SLIP SLOP SLAP. It's the end of the world bitch. Itty bitty bikinis, big hair & tropicana punch on ice. What apocalypse? This is paradise. A camp comedy from multi-award winning Sons Of Stratford. "unable to look away" ★★★★★½ - The Age

Created and Performed by Sarah Stafford & Alex Hines

Meat Market - The Stables 1 🇨🇦 | 30 Sept-18 Oct (15 sessions) | 8:30pm | 60 mins



### Born Annoying

Born Annoying is a one person sketch show by Todd Pierce (CHURN). One by one, an array of annoying characters fall from grace and stumble into their personal destinies. Annoyingly funny and sometimes poignant, with occasional hats.

Written and Performed by Todd Pierce

Theory Bar 🇨🇦 | 1-9 Oct (7 sessions) | 7:00pm (Sun 6:00pm) | 60 mins



### A Beginner's Guide to Gay Cruising

Funny, thought-provoking, and heartfelt comedy. With sold-out seasons at the Sydney and Brisbane Comedy Festivals, join the award-winning AJ Lamarque as he shares his stories, insights, and analyses from aboard the world's largest gay cruise.

Created and Performed by AJ Lamarque

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7 | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:15pm | 60 mins



### A Dose Of Comedy

Straight from the studio, right to the stage! Join radio hosts, Stef & Mick, as they bring their usual wacky antics to Melbourne Fringe! And they're bringing a few of their comedian friends with them!

Presented by Stef & Mick

Bard's Apothecary | 10-18 Oct (4 sessions) | 10:30pm | 60 mins



### A Modern Professional's Guide to Side-Saddle Jousting

A comedy special from one of Melbourne's most unemployed comedians. Watch for FREE online (wow).

FREE  
Performed by Joe Eidelson

Digital Fringe | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 40mins

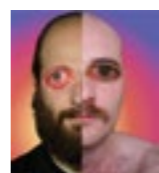


### Boy

The new live show from rising comedy star Fergus Neal dives headfirst into the chaotic, hilarious, and often awkward journey of growing up as a boy. A heartfelt, high-energy hour about finding your way as a man—whatever that means.

Performed by Fergus Neal

Bard's Apothecary | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 5:30pm | 60 mins



### Brainrot Doomscroll

Ben & Conk have collectively spent over 15,000 hours watching Instagram reels (involuntarily), and have dredged up the worst nonsense they've come across for your viewing displeasure. We can't stop watching them. Please help us. Live!

Created and Performed by Ben Volchok & Conk

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Evatt Room 🇨🇦 | 11-18 Oct (2 sessions) | 11:00pm | 60 mins



### Broken Man

Join Randy Adeva on this comedic journey into the world of the Broken Man, as he plays within satires of horror tropes we all know and love, while maybe accidentally sharing parts, broken or not, of himself along the way.

Written and Performed by Randy Adeva

The Motley Bauhaus - The Cellar | 6-12 Oct (7 sessions) | 9:45pm | 50 mins



### Abracadickhead

"A fast-paced, wonderfully absurd, and oddly moving experience." -The Theatre. Remember that budding magician you bullied in high school? ... He turned professional. It's time to embrace your inner Abracadickhead at this must-see Melbourne Fringe show!

Created and Performed by Liam "LJ" Jumpertz

Speakeasy Theatre - Apollo | 30 Sept-12 Oct (9 sessions) | Various times | 55mins



### Adam McKenzie THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ERADICATION OF SILLINESS AND JOY

THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ERADICATION OF SILLINESS AND JOY is a hilarious dystopian sketch comedy excursion through the slightly fractured comic mind of Adam McKenzie. "DARKLY FUNNY!" The Age

Performed by Adam McKenzie

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Evatt Room 🇨🇦 | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:15pm (Sun 6:15pm) | 55 mins



### Adam Snakes: No Experience Necessary

Adam Snakes runs a café inside a servo. A beautiful dream job where the coffee is strong, the sandwiches are predictable, and they sell books. Life is beautiful. He'd also like to have a crack at a festival show; after all, how hard can it be?

Performed by Timothy Knight

The Motley Bauhaus - The Cellar | 29 Sept-5 Oct (7 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60mins

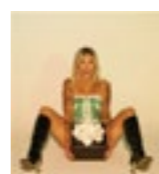


### Burton Brothers and Friends

The Burton Brothers host a variety night featuring the best of Melbourne's alternative comedy scene. The Brothers have wrangled the best sketch, character comedians, clowns and more for a variety night of nights!

Performed by Tom & Josh Burton

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Archive Room 🇨🇦 | 1-12 Oct (10 sessions) | 6:00pm (Sun 5:00pm) | 60 mins



### Carly Electric: In My Box

High-end escort Carly unpacks her inbox! With wild, cautionary tales of taboo requests, eye-opening experiences and hilariously uncomfortable stories of the sex industry, Carly will have you laughing, cringing & mildly turned on all at the same time.

Starring Carly Electric

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Music Room 🇨🇦 | 1-12 Oct (10 sessions) | 9:30pm (Sun 8:30pm) | 60 mins

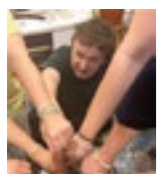


### Caution, Under Concussion!

Humorous, profound, and deeply moving - Experience Santoso's journey towards acceptance after an accident changed her life drastically and left her with a gift of invisible disability. No one believed it, including herself. But life must go on!

Created and Performed by Silvi Santoso

Speakeasy Theatre - The Vault, Digital Fringe | 3-11 Oct (4 sessions) | 8:45pm | 60 mins



### ALAKAZAM

What even is magic? A bunny out of a hat? A sunset? Cutting a good looking lady in two? Let's find out together in the most magical place on earth, Trades Hall.

Created and Performed by Ben McCarthy

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Evatt Room 🇨🇦 | 8-19 Oct (10 sessions) | 8:30pm (Sun 7:30pm) | 55 mins

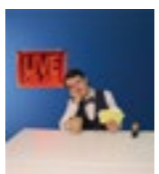


### Alanah Parkin's Garage Sale

Join Greg, Denise and a smorgasbord of increasingly unlikely characters at the greatest Garage Sale the south-eastern suburbs has ever seen! You'll definitely find a bargain... and you MIGHT even uncover Greg's deepest, darkest secret.

Written and Performed by Alanah Parkin

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette 🇨🇦 | 13-19 Oct (7 sessions) | 5:45pm | 60 mins



### Alexander Dymalovski - DymalIVESki

Ever wanted to see a live talk show? Meet Alex, often referred to as Australia's Next Rove (by his mother). See this young man interview fringe's brightest artists and answer the question on everyone's mind... Is he even old enough to be here?

Written and Performed by Alexander Dymalovski

Wheat, Wine & Whisky | 14-19 Oct (6 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



### Chimp

Chimp is a primate living in a human world. He wants the human experience, and he's going to use the audience to get it. Can he realise the life of his dreams, or will he be a chimp forever?

Created and Performed by Conor Lynch

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Old Council Chambers 🇨🇦 | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:45pm (Sun 7:45pm) | 55 mins



### Cobra Kai: The Way Of The Comic

Cobra Kai, love the series, live the life... Some people look for guidance in religion or philosophy. Dan Willis chose a comedy-drama series based upon a 1984 feel-good movie. "60 minutes of side-splitting laughter" ★★★★★ (Plains Producer).

Presented by Best Of British Productions

Elephant and Wheelbarrow 🇨🇦 | 11-19 Oct (4 sessions) | 3:30pm | 60 mins

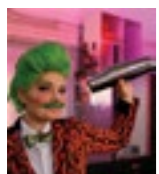


### Comedy Gin Tasting

UK comedian Mark Butler takes you on a joke-filled journey through the joys of gin. Learn about gin's glorious history from bathtub to bar, and sample 5 premium gins from the local area. Boozy, laugh-out-loud funny, and surprisingly educational.

Created and Performed by Mark Butler

Elephant and Wheelbarrow 🇨🇦 | 2-18 Oct (9 sessions) | 7:15pm | 60 mins



### Alf Alpha's Cocktail Hour

Equal parts humour and mixology, this show blends boozy brilliance with masculine drag excellence to serve up an unforgettable night of entertainment.

Created and Performed by Alf Alpha

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7 | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



### All Around The World. International Comedy Showcase

Ever wondered how laughter transcends borders? Join us at Melbourne's favourite British Pub for a night that promises to take you on a comedic journey around the world. Featuring international artists from around the globe.

Presented by Terry North

Elephant and Wheelbarrow 🇨🇦 | 3-19 Oct (12 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



### Americunt

A comedy show where an American answers the question, "Is Australia better than America?"

Written and Directed by Greg Fideleer

Transcendence - Transcendental Lounge 🇨🇦 | 9-12 Oct (4 sessions) | 6:30pm | 35 mins



### Comedy Roulette: Spin That Wheel!

Standup comedy with a TWIST - You spin the wheel, comedians crack the jokes! Each night features a rotating lineup of quick-witted comedians—from TV and radio favourites to rising stars—turning every show into a hilarious game of chance!

Performed by Comedy Roulette

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Evatt Room 🇨🇦 | 10 & 17 Oct (2 sessions) | 11:00pm | 60 mins



### Completely Improvised Shakespeare

Soothplayers create a brand-new, one-hour play in Shakespearean style on the damned spot. All they need from you is a suggestion of a title that could have been written by Shakespeare (but was not).

Performed by Soothplayers

Impro Melbourne Theatre 🇨🇦 | 14-19 Oct (6 sessions) | 9:00pm | 60 mins



### Cookies & Cream

Welcome to Cookies and Cream Comedy, the sweetest show in town! A comedy show that blends cultural diversity, personal quirks, and perspectives from life's spectrum into a delightful showcase as delightful as cookies and cream.

Created and Performed by Liam Daley

Club Voltaire | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:30pm | 60 mins



### An Evening with Elder Turner

Adam Turner was a Mormon missionary. He has rebuilt his life and is now catching up with his past.

Performed by Adam Turner

Transcendence - Love Train 🇨🇦, Transcendence - The Limo-Scene 🇨🇦 | 30 Sept-19 Oct (8 sessions) | Various times | 60mins



### Bella Noonan: You Should See The Other Guy

Stand up comic Bella Noonan laughs in the face of adversity and invites you to join her, as she examines the humour in the hands the universe has dealt her and explores love, hurt, hardship and identity.

Created and Performed by Bella Noonan

Spiegelhaus 🇨🇦 | 29 Sept-5 Oct (7 sessions) | 9:50pm | 50mins



### Best Worst Dates

Best Worst Dates is a one-of-a-kind comedy event that brings together the spontaneity of improvisation with people's worst dating stories. Watch as Melbourne's best improvisers bring dating stories to life in ways which you'd never imagine.

Performed by The Improv Pit Ensemble

Transcendence - The Limo-Scene 🇨🇦 | 30 Sept-9 Oct (9 sessions) | 7:30pm | 60mins



### Crazy Bird Lady

LET'S GET QUACKING! Juliet Sironi is flying onto the stage with stories about birds, times she has soared, and times she's been freefalling. Part stand up comedy, part heartfelt story-telling, and free rubber ducks! (Plus stories about ravens!)

Created and Performed by Juliet Sironi

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Evatt Room 🇨🇦 | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm (Sun 5:00pm) | 55 mins



### curlycourtney@bigpond.com

A man accused me of being a little Aussie battler at a party and it didn't feel like a joke. This show is about battles I've won and lost. This is my debut show! I was told I should mention that I'm a lesbian so that lesbians buy tickets.

Created and Performed by Courtney Smith

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7 | 30 Sept-5 Oct (6 sessions) | 9:45pm | 55 mins



### CVNT

Winner: Best Comedy, Melbourne Fringe '24 and Weekly Best Comedy Adelaide Fringe '25. No more good girl. An 'unhinged and off-the-rails' (Liithia.net) highly interactive bouffon show performed by a giant, cvnti, cvnt. Is the worst word really CVNT?

Created and Performed by Sophie Power

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Archive Room 🇨🇦 | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:45pm (Sun 8:45pm) | 60 mins



### Dad Genes

A debut hour of stand-up about losing a father whilst kinda (sort of) becoming a man. Wasn't starting testosterone enough? Did we really need to throw in an official membership to the Dead Dads Club?  
"Truly special" ★★★★★ 1/2 - Artshub

Written and Performed by Eddie Pattison

The Motley Bauhaus - The Cellar | 13-19 Oct (7 sessions) | 8:30pm | 60 mins



### Danielle Walker: Tinkering

Danielle Walker shares new stories in this new hour, blending gentle chaos with her trademark offbeat charm. This is a rare chance to see one of Australia's most original comedy voices in the raw, testing new stuff.

Performed by Danielle Walker

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Old Council Chambers | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:45pm (Sun 7:45pm) | 50 mins



### DEAD MUM

A darkly funny, gut-punch cabaret about grief, survival, and the chaos of losing everything at 19. Raw, musical, and painfully honest: it's part eulogy, part stand-up, part emotional exorcism.

Written and Performed by Jack Francis West

Theatre Works - Explosives Factory | 30 Sep-4 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:45pm | 60mins



### Gold Star Bisexual

Singapore's favourite bisexual comedian tells a story of coming out, coming clean & coming around the world. With Powerpoint.

Performed by Stephanie Dogfoot

The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage | 13-18 Oct (6 sessions) | 5:45pm | 60 mins



### Grindset

Calling all Simps, Cucks, Soyboys, and Gooners!  
If your Mother didn't hug you enough, if you've only ever embraced your Father through limp handshakes, if making eye contact with a 10 makes you feel like a 0...  
It's time to Rise and Grind!

Written and Performed by Rory Harman

Club Voltaire | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60 mins



### HAG

See what happens when a silly goose finally addresses her deep buried rage and explodes with gleeful, haggish, unpleasantness. Spoiler alert: it's a stand up comedy show.

Created and Performed by Maggie Baker

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7 | 14-19 Oct (6 sessions) | 8:30pm | 60 mins



### Dear Future Memoir

A witty and chaotic retelling of a night that is either going to end up in a memoir one day... or making some therapist very rich.

Created and Performed by Thalia Joan

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7 | 12-19 Oct (5 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



### Dishonour on Your Cow

Humorous & dark, deeply emotional yet profoundly true, this show chronicles a SA survivor's personal journey toward self-acceptance, recovery, and the realization that most fulfilling life is lived on her own merit.  
★★★★½ Atlanta Fringe Audio

Created and Performed by Silvi Santoso

Digital Fringe | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 50 mins



### ETHEL CHOP AND TINA DEL TWIST: TOGETHER AT LAST!

Ethel and Tina are so delighted to entertain you for a solid hour.  
Ethel has to feed the cat by 5pm.  
Tina wakes up at 2pm.  
Thankfully they have found a window to be able to share the stage for the first time.

Performed by Ethel Chop & Tina Del Twist

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7 | 4-18 Oct (3 sessions) | 3:00pm | 60 mins



### Henry Yan - Nerdy Asian Love Story (WIP)

Nerdy Asian Love Story is a hilarious deep dive into one man's romantic misadventures, cultural chaos, and awkward encounters in the world of modern dating. Join Henry Yan 2023 Raw Comedy Winner as he recalls this story!

Written and Directed by Henry Yan

Theory Bar | 1-10 Oct (8 sessions) | 8:15pm | 60 mins



### Holographic Charizard

A comical music show about the greatest Fringe performer is about Charizard, interspersed with stories that take you on a journey of love, betrayal, hardship and humour. A weird and chaotic show that mixes comedy, acoustic guitar, and Pokemon!

Presented by Thomas Begg

Transcendence - Transcendental Lounge | 7-18 Oct (10 sessions) | 9:30pm | 60 mins



### Horse Play: An Earnest One Man Show Based on The Saddle Club

'Horse Play: An Earnest One-Man Show Based on The Saddle Club' is a very serious theatrical experience; written, directed, and performed by thesbian/comedian Jett Bond. HorsePlay reimagines and recontextualizes the age-old story of 'The Saddle Club'.

Created and Performed by Jett Bond

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Evatt Room | 1-5 Oct (6 sessions) | 9:45pm (8:45pm Sun) | 60mins



### Fiasco: A Burke & Wills Musical

Little known fact: Before Burke & Wills perished in the outback in 1861, they put on a concert with a five piece band. And you're invited.  
"This country's finest and most astute satirist."  
★★★★★ - The Age

Created by Sammy J

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - ETU Ballroom | 8-19 Oct (10 sessions) | 6:30pm (Sun 5:30pm) | 60 mins

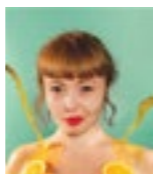


### Fool's Paradise

A wet & wild alt-comedy lineup set at the last hurrah of a D-grade tropical paradise.

Presented by Max Paton

The Improv Conspiracy | 2-16 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:00pm | 55 mins



### Fruition

A comedy show entirely made out of fruit. Fruition is a silly, sexy and thirst-quenching hour of character & clown that will leave you sticky. Enter a fructose-fuelled-fever-dream.  
"Fringe in its purest, juiciest form."  
★★★★★ - Indaily SA

Performed by Chereese Sonkila

Spielhaus | 6-12 Oct (7 sessions) | 8:30pm | 55 mins



### HRT Girl Summer

Marnie Mills is born and there's no going back! A chance photo opportunity transitions into an eye opening journey of gender rediscovery - and after a lifetime of living deep inside her egg shell, she's out and ready to party!

Starring Marnie Mills

Wheat, Wine & Whisky | 7-12 Oct (6 sessions) | 8:30pm | 60 mins



### Hypnotised Headliners

Watch, safely from your seat, as a small group of Fringe performers is hypnotised live on stage. Every show is unscripted, unpredictable, and completely unique - a bold, immersive experience where the chaos unfolds on stage, not in the crowd.

Performed by Reg Blackwood

Bard's Apothecary | 30 Sept-4 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:45pm | 60 mins



### I Survived a Car Crash

For those who have ever felt out of place in the world; enjoy a fresh take in the intersections of being queer, disabled and culturally different.

Performed by RJ Daligoon

Transcendence - Transcendental Lounge | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:30pm | 60 mins



### Fun Scrubs

Fun Scrubs is Christopher James' brutally funny solo show about trading boardrooms for bedpans. A sharp, heartfelt look at nursing, career chaos, and the weird, wonderful world of healthcare—with plenty of laughs (and a few code browns).

Performed by Christopher James

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Old Council Chambers | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:15pm (Sun 5:15pm) | 60 mins



### GAG

Have you ever fallen down the stairs and called it a reset? Welcome to GAG, a hilarious yet poignant exploration of life and near-death. It's confession, comedy and catharsis all in one intimate hour. Come for the chaos, stay for the chokehold.

Written and Performed by Chelsea Kate Evans

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7 | 7-12 Oct (6 sessions) | 7:15pm | 50 mins



### Gayme Show

Gayme Show is a one-night-only unhinged game show hosted by two gay comedians testing absurd games, awkward guests, and questionable prizes. Expect chaos, sharp banter, and unpredictable fun — all wrapped up in a messy, hilarious night!

Performed by Carmelo Costa and Chris Demos

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7 | 18 Oct (1 session) | 9:45pm | 90 mins



### I'm Autistic plus also I had Cancer

Sean Bedlam was on a big sad break from stand-up. He learned he was Autistic and returned to comedy. Then he learned he had cancer.  
This show's not about being a hero who overcomes obstacles but it is definitely written and performed by one.

Created and Performed by Sean Bedlam

Bar Open | 1-10 Oct (6 sessions) | 7:00pm | 50 mins



### I'm Funny I Swear

Chelsea doesn't care what you think of her. But she will also dedicate the next 60 minutes proving to you she is funny. That doesn't mean she cares though!

Written and Performed by Chelsea Heaney

The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage | 6-12 Oct (7 sessions) | 5:45pm | 60 mins

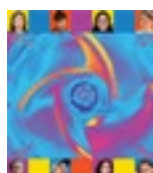


### I'm Gay But I Know Jesus

I'm gay, Christian, and somehow still on speaking terms with Jesus. Part stand-up, part confession, part chaotic prayer. This is my messy, funny story of making peace between who I am and what I believe. (Hint: God's pretty chill)

Presented by Melody Rachel

Theory Bar | 17-19 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:00pm (Sun 6:00pm) | 45 mins



### Gender Blender

Improv comedy from Melbourne's finest trans and gender diverse improvisers, with special guests. Mix up your night with a serving of long-form improv comedy, accentuated by Gender Blender's unique perspectives and a healthy cynicism of the cis-tem.

Produced by Bren Carruthers

Club Voltaire | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:00pm | 60 mins



### Gender Drugs & Rock 'N' Roll

After a lifetime of drug use (caffeine, adrenaline, and estrogen) and Rock 'n' Roll antics, Courtney Maldo has realised one thing: Being trans is pretty Rock 'n' Roll, because the best way to stick it to the man is to become a woman.

Performed by Courtney Maldo

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Music Room | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:30pm (Sun 8:30pm) | 55 mins



### Genre Killer

A musical murder mystery about two distinctly different detectives fighting to solve a murder in their own unique style. Cynical Noir Detective or Police Procedural Rookie. Who will crack this case wide open and will they live to tell the tale?

Written and Performed by Tayla Harry and Harry Gabriel

Theory Bar | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:00pm (Sun 6:00pm) | 55 mins

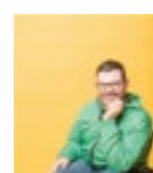


### Impromptunes - Kiss & Make Up

Love is unpredictable, and "Kiss & Make Up" takes that to another level! Based on a true love story from the audience, the incredible cast of Impromptunes improvised a brand new rom-com musical that you'll love at first sight.

Presented by Impromptunes

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Music Room | 1-12 Oct (8 sessions) | 7pm (Sun 6pm) | 60 mins



### It's All Good

It's All Good, takes audiences on a brutally honest, darkly funny, and sharply observed journey through the everyday chaos of life with a disability.  
"Charming, witty, and offering a perspective that doesn't get much airtime." - scenestr

Performed by Oliver Hunter

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Old Council Chambers | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:30pm (Sun 6:30pm) | 60 mins



### Janty Blair - Six Deadly Decades with Aunty Janty

A proud Butchulla, Mununjali & Woppaburra woman, Janty is beyond iconic. Full of charm and wit, she has seen it all and done a lot of it. 2022 National Deadly Funny Winner 2024 Moosehead Award recipient (Melbourne International Comedy Festival).

Created and Performed by Janty Blair

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7 | 8-10 Oct (3 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60 mins



### George Glass' Scientology the Musical

Take a deep dive into the worlds most interesting legally-a-religion religion. Featuring a live funk-rock soundtrack. Tom Cruise will not be attending.  
"Jaw dropping and completely unbelievable hour of musical comedy" ★★★★★ -Broad-

Presented by George Glass

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Music Room | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:15pm (Sun 7:15pm) | 55 mins



### Georgia is Talking

Georgia is talking, and you should be scared. Just kidding, it will be a really great time. Join local essayist Georgia Way for an hour of intimate, comedic memoir story-telling.

Created and Performed by Georgia Way

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7 | 12 Oct (1 session) | (Sun 4:45pm) | 60 mins



### Giuseppe's Game Time Wonder Show

Ciao! I am Giuseppe. I present a very silly game show with lots of games. It is fun, yes! It is exciting! Indeed! It is also a little bit ooh la la! Of course! With lots of funny people from the festival. Wow. How good is that! Lets do laughing!

Created by Jeromaia Detto

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Quilt Room | 10-18 Oct (4 sessions) | 11:00pm | 60 mins

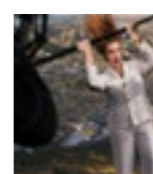


### Jason Bateman is my soul mate

A show about a girl who watched 2010 Romantic Comedy 'The Switch' starring Jason Bateman and Jennifer Aniston, and finds that the men in St Kilda are nothing like Jason!!!

Created by Elise Pascoe

The Motley Bauhaus - The Cellar | 6-12 Oct (7 sessions) | 8:30pm | 60 mins



### Jason Statham, I Love You 2

Everyone loves a sequel: the stakes are higher, the stunts are bolder, and the men? Balder. From award-winning comedian Clare Rankine: Jason Statham, I Love You 2.

Created and Performed by Clare Rankine

Transcendence - Transcendental Lounge | 13-17 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:30pm | 60 mins



### Jeremy Moses is HARD TO WORK WITH

A One Man Show about teamwork, tension, and the silent treatment. Join visually impaired comedian Jeremy Moses as he peeks behind the creative curtain - no mean feat given his condition.

Written and Performed by Jeremy Moses

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Evatt Room | 8-12 Oct (6 sessions) | 6:00pm (Sun 5:00pm) | 55 mins

# COMEDY

COMEDY



### Jimmy Rice presents sunny Jim in the unloved carnage of my past relationships

Jimmy Rice presents Sunnyjim, a stand up comedy show of one liners and comedy songs focused on the UN love carnage of his past relationships

Performed by Jimmy Rice

Elephant and Wheelbarrow | 4-5 Oct (2 sessions) | 3:30pm | 60 mins



### Jon Walpole: A Thousand Faces

Jon Walpole has often been described as "the man of a thousand faces". In his new hour of comedy, he will aim to use all 1,000. In order. And you will love them. All of them. Even the weird and unsettling ones.

Created by Jon Walpole

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Evatt Room | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:45pm (Sun 8:45pm) | 55 mins



### Joshua Ladgrove is your guest host on tonight's Christmas Eve edition of The Denis Walter Show

It's Christmas Eve when beloved baritone Denis Walter OAM mysteriously suffers a terrible mishap at Carols by Candlelight. Can Joshua save Christmas in this unhinged variety hour? 'Astonishing.' ★★★★★ ArtShub

Created by Jason Marion & Joshua Ladgrove

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Meeting Room | 1-12 Oct (10 sessions) | 9:45pm (Sun 8:45pm) | 55 mins



### My Refugee Disorder

A dark and honest comedy about surviving war, navigating the refugee life, and adjusting to the insufferable "safety" that follows. Bahaa shares stories of trauma, visas, culture shock, and an emotionally unavailable refugee cat named Sasha.

Created by Bahaa Dabbagh

75 Reid St | 9-13 Oct (4 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



### Naughty Auty Queers - LIVE!

The hilarious, cheeky, neurospicy, queer-as-fruck podcast goes live on stage. Outrageous stories, fierce truths, zero masking. All the glorious chaos of queer life on the margins — live, unfiltered, and unforgettable.

Produced by BUFF Events

Wheat, Wine & Whisky | 7-12 Oct (8 sessions) | 7:00pm (2:30pm Sat & Sun) | 60 mins

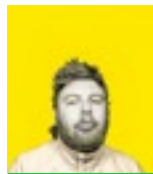


### Nothing To See Here, Just A Totally Normal Comedy Show, Wouldn't Worry About It.

See above.

Created by Jett Bond and Thom Heim

Theory Bar | 11-19 Oct (7 sessions) | 9:30pm | 60 mins



### King of the Pigs

Imagine that there is a kingdom that's just pigs, but like in a metaphorical sense. They are people but they are pigs - not in a discriminatory way - they totally admit to being pigs, they like being pigs. I am also a pig. The King of Pigs.

Created and Performed by Barney Pollock

The Improv Conspiracy | 2-10 Oct (6 sessions) | 8:15pm (Sun 7:15pm) | 60 mins



### Les Improvisé with Friends!

Les Improvisé is back, and this time... they've brought their friends! Like a cross between 'Thank God You're Here' and 'Les Misérables', every night a different special guest comedian will be thrown into a completely made up musical!

Produced by Steph Crothers

The Improv Conspiracy | 11-19 Oct (6 sessions) | 8:15pm (Sun 7:15pm) | 60 mins



### Lisztomania

'Lisztomania' is a classical music comedy show all about composer Franz Liszt, presented by RAW comedy semi-finalist (2023) and classical pianist (recovering), Louis Nicoll.

Performed by Louis Nicoll

Clocktower Centre - Lounge Bar | 4-19 Oct (6 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



### Nun Slut

An absurd journey through religion, the body and Barnaby Joyce, don't miss this award-winning hour of critically acclaimed chaos!

Created and Performed by Claire Robin

"Wildly comic... a must-see" ★★★★★ - The List  
Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Old Council Chambers | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 10:00pm (Sun 9:00pm) | 55 mins

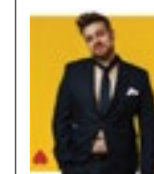


### Oliver Coleman - Something From Nothing

Okay so as of the date of writing (21st May 2025) this is the idea: I'm going to do a completely improvised comedy show. Every show will be different. Every show will be new. Every show will be wild and beautiful and sexy. Here I go!

Created and Performed by Oliver Coleman

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Evatt Room | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:30pm (Sun 7:30pm) | 60 mins



### Ollie Horn (UK): Bet I can make you laugh

"Wow, just wow!" ★★★★★ - The Mumble  
One of the UK's rising stars, as seen on ITV, and listed as one of the best reviewed shows of Edinburgh Fringe 2024, makes a bet with his audience: \$30 cash if he can't make you laugh.

Performed by Ollie Horn

Club Voltaire | 9 Oct (1 session) | 9:00pm | 60 mins



### Little Video Shop Of Horrors

A filmed alternative comedy live show that lampoons and celebrates classic Australian television. Featuring outlandish characters and a deep dive into one's relationship with media. Rent it now, the choice is Ezy!

Created and Performed by Liam Sparrow-Gange

Digital Fringe | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 60 mins



### Looking for a Lover

Dating-app dissatisfaction. Thirst-trap-frenzies. Heartbreak around every corner. Who would be bold enough to look for love now? Spinning, swirling, sauntering: Ogórkí Kiszona is here to show you that love is not dead yet!

Created by Mateusz Dawidowski

The Motley Bauhaus - The Cellar | 29 Sept-5 Oct (7 sessions) | 8:30pm | 50 mins



### Loserland

Drag meets disaster in this comedy about losers, love fails, and one barista's fight to get ahead. Winner - Sold Out Award - Rogue Festival (USA) Loser - everything else in my f\*kn life

Created and Performed by Michele Owen

The Motley Bauhaus - The Cellar | 6-12 Oct (7 sessions) | 8:00pm | 55 mins



### Only God can Judge Me

Rapid-fire multimedia comedy. Smart jokes, dumb jokes, big ideas, petty quibbles, horror, satire and two really awful puns. Discover Colonel Saunders' terrible secret. Euthanise a font. Leave wondering what just happened.

Performed by Doug Bayne

Theory Bar | 1-10 Oct (8 sessions) | 9:30pm (Sun 8:30pm) | 50 mins



### Otto

Small, puck-like and inconsequential. Otto is a loner. Maligned by the outside world he turns inwards, towards his family. A darkly comedic retelling of 'Oedipus', 'Otto' explores gender, sexuality and the pitfalls of the nuclear family.

Written by Hannah Hartnett

The Motley Bauhaus - The Cellar | 13-19 Oct (7 sessions) | 7:15pm | 60 mins



### Peaceful Co-Existence

Tim Cummins (Raw Comedy VIC finalist 2024, 2025) represents the West: once stable but now in decline. Jay Choe (Raw Comedy VIC finalist 2025) is the East: young, dynamic and keen to assert himself. Can these two stand-up powers peacefully co-exist?

Performed by Tim Cummins and Jay Choe

Transcendence - Love Train | 8-11 Oct (4 sessions) | 9:00pm | 60 mins



### Lowest Prices Are Just The Beginning...

A year on from its cult debut, the red polos are back and the rituals perfected. Dive into the deranged world of DIY worship in this absurd improvised comedy TimeOut Melbourne called "clever, hilarious and downright absurd".

Performed by Lowest Prices

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Music Room | 8-19 Oct (10 sessions) | 5:45pm (Sun 4:45pm) | 55 mins



### MAFIA The Game: The Show

After an almost sold out 2024 season, the Fringe cult hit 'MAFIA The Game: The Show' returns to Melbourne Fringe for two nights only. "One of the most enjoyable things about Fringe" - The Age

Presented by Nick Robertson

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Solidarity Hall | 10-17 Oct (2 sessions) | 10:30pm | 60 mins



### Masterpiece

SORRY WE'RE LATE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! In a race against time, two award-winning clowns must hang a single artwork. There are no words, but there is a live grumpy violinist. Will chaos reign? ★★★★★ GlamAdelaide ★★★★★ 1/2 The Clothesline

Presented by raeandwill

Meat Market - The Stables 1 | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:15pm | 60 mins



### Pinky von Sox and the Novel Stand-Up Experience by David P. Tieck Jr. A Novel. The Show.

Pinky von Sox, the hapless lead character of the brilliantly-brilliant popular novelist David P Tieck Jr has been thrown into the deepest of dusty holes yet: A live comedy show at a prestigious arts festival.

Created and Performed by David Tieck

Transcendence - The Limo-Scene | 14-19 Oct (6 sessions) | 8:45pm | 60 mins



### PUSS PUSS

Meow meow meow meow meow mrrrow mew weom MROWW miau mrrrow purr purr Hiss hiss meow Join PUSS PUSS in her unhinged quest to "not be a pussy" and finally become the WAP she was born to be in this weird and wonderful clown cabaret-esque comedy show.

Created and Performed by Natalia Sledz

The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage | 29 Sept-5 Oct (7 sessions) | 8:30pm | 50 mins

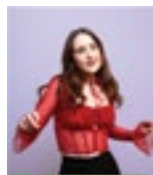


### RAD CACTUS

The mental health system is under review! This radical line-up of comedians with lived experience unpack the system and every other corner of life. Some of it's rad, and some of it's cactus!

Presented by Schizy Inc

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Quilt Room | 11 Oct (1 session) | 4:00pm | 60 mins



### Meg Jäger WIP

Ever wanted to see an hour stand up show while it's in utero? Yet to grow eyes or fingernails? Here's your chance! I am writing a new show, it will be new and it WILL be funny. Mark my words with a pink highlighter.

Performed by Meg Jäger

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7 | 7-9 Oct (3 sessions) | 9:45pm | 60 mins



### Mel Bourne: 2 in 1

Half character comedy. Half sketch show. Full Android. Join us for a tour of Muse Synthetics and Robotics, for a demonstration of our all new, human-like cyborg, Mel Bourne

Performed by Lukas O

Club Voltaire | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:00pm | 60 mins



### Mel McGlensey is NORMAL

Mel has decided to let her audience choose what happens in order to achieve the most normal hour of comedy ever. Come along for a one-of-a-kind collaborative clown experience plumbing the depths of normaldom. Let's have a normal one, folks!

Performed by Mel McGlensey

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Archive Room | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:30pm (Sun 7:30pm) | 55 mins



### Radio Wet- The Antidote

You're sick. Radio Wet has the cure. The antidote lives inside you — and Radio Wet will rip it out. Comedy, pulse, and everything visceral. Bodily fluids will not be sold.

Performed by Radio Wet

Spielhaus | 6-12 Oct (7 sessions) | 9:50pm | 60 mins



### Rama Nicholas in Friends with Monty

Award-winning Rama Nicholas is back with a hilarious multi-character gender bending feminist show! Be spellbound by a night of character comedy mayhem unlike any other. ★★★★★ Beat Magazine ★★★★★ The Music

Performed by Rama Nicholas

Impro Melbourne Theatre | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:00pm | 60 mins



### Rice, Spice, and Nothing Nice: An Asian Comedy Showcase

Melbourne-based comedians Ryotaro Amano, Jay Choe, Tim Leu and Scott Zheng have put aside their squabble on who makes the best rice, to perform for you a hilarious 4-act stand-up comedy showcase.

Featuring Ryotaro A, Jay-C, Tim L, and Scott Z

Bard's Apothecary | 30 Sept-11 Oct (10 sessions) | 8:00pm | 60 mins



### Mental

A lineup of local & international acts bringing you their most unhinged material. This is a celebration of insanity. A smorgasbord of neurospicy. Expect stand-up, sketch & maybe even stripping. Brought to you by the most 'MENTAL' people in comedy.

Hosted by Freddie Arthur

Theory Bar | 16-19 Oct (4 sessions) | 8:15pm (Sun 7:15pm) | 55 mins



### Murder in the Graveyard: A Murder Village Improvised Whodunnit

Melbourne's award-winning improvised whodunnit returns for Halloween. After 200 shows, Murder Village's most beloved graveyard residents return for a ghostly and hilarious Halloween whodunnit spun from your suggestions.

Presented by Murder Village

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Solidarity Hall | 8-19 Oct (11 sessions) | 7:30pm (Sun 6:30pm) | 60 mins

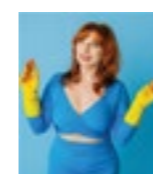


### Murder on the Fully Charged Express

Join Fully Charged as they follow Mr Moustache, our clean-shaven, questionably competent detective, as he attempts to solve a murder no one really wants solved, on a train where the tracks of logic are long gone.

Created and Performed by Fully Charged

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Archive Room | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:45pm (Sun 8:45pm) | 60 mins

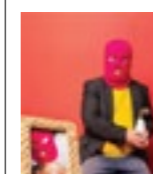


### Robyn Reynolds: What Doesn't Kill You

Don't miss this award-winning comedy! Artfully weaving between generational trauma and chronic illness, the audience is ROARING with laughter before they can register the subject matter. "Superstar in the making" - Theatre Matters

Created and Performed by Robyn Reynolds

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Archive Room | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:45pm (Sun 8:45pm) | 60 mins



### Ross Purdy Performs at The Black Lodge (One Night Only) (For 25 Years)

On January 16th, 2025 visionary filmmaker David Lynch passes away. On January 17th, 2025 award nominated alternative comedian Ross Purdy accepts an offer to do a gig at the Black Lodge. A love letter to the works of David Lynch.

Performed by Ross Purdy

Transcendence - The Limo-Scene | 7-12 Oct (6 sessions) | 9:00pm | 60 mins



### Rowan Thambar - sorry for the late reply

While throwing a Vortex with his wife in a park, comedian Rowan Thambar witnesses a moderate crime.

Written and Performed by Rowan Thambar

The Motley Bauhaus - The Cellar | 6-12 Oct (7 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



# DANCE & PHYSICAL THEATRE



### Ballad of Bouncing Back

A relentless, playful and quietly defiant ode to the human spirit. Whether we're bouncing back from heartbreak, hardship, or just a rough day, this work reminds us: persistence is power, optimism is resistance, and it's never too late to bounce back.

Choreographed by Alec Katsourakis

Dancehouse - Upstairs Studio | 15-18 Oct (4 sessions) | 7:00pm | 50 mins



### Bare

Where the truth is naked (but the dancers are not). A soulful, chaotic, collaboratively-made dance work by artists you don't often see on centre stage. If you've ever felt misplaced or magnificent, this is for you.

Created by Dancekin

Meat Market - Blackwood Box | 30 Sept-3 Oct (4 sessions) | 6:00pm | 40 mins



### Camopansies

Soil, phthalates, hormones and trinkets collide in a diaphanous, splintering crash. A trans choreographic fantasy for a ghillie suit, rubbish and series of holes. In an ecological crisis, can we find pleasure alongside our unruly toxic progeny?

Created by Charlie Lee

Dancehouse - Upstairs Studio | 8-11 Oct (4 sessions) | 6:30pm | 50 mins



### Resonance

Resonance by James Batchelor and Collaborators is a powerful new dance work in dialogue with the legacy of Tanja Liedtke, uniting generations of dancers in a moving celebration of memory, connection, and reinvention.

Created and Performed by James Batchelor and Collaborators

The Substation | 1-4 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:30pm (Sat 3:00pm) | 60 mins

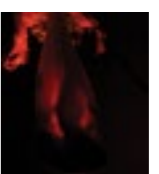


### Rey Camoy

Enter the world of Rey Camoy, Japanese painter of the human soul. Discover the artist in his studio, surrounded by characters from his creations. It's a gut-wrenching love-song to beauty - the kind worth living and dying for. [www.tarinainanika.com](http://www.tarinainanika.com)

tarinainanika (Japan) C ARTS

Digital Fringe | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 75 mins



### Réquiem

I twist my umbilical cord. It hums. My birth, my father's death, his birth, my death take place in the same 'thin place.' Grief has left me thin skinned, translucent and through the prism of my body I show you the other side.

Created and Directed by Lucy Eidelson

Meat Market - Blackwood Box | 14-17 Oct (4 sessions) | 8:30pm | 50 mins

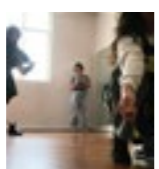


### Creature

Human-plastic hybrids roam a post-brink earth in this surreal solo movement work. Bizarrely meditative and quietly strange, 'Creature' conjures an alien dreamscape where time distorts and bodies morph in a world both ancient and yet to come.

Created and Performed by Katrina Rank

Dancehouse - Sylvia Staehli Theatre | 1-4 Oct (4 sessions) | 6:00pm | 50 mins



### Down the Hallway, to Your Left

So we wake. Choices begin. When to rise. Where to go. Now you're here - this moment, this text. One more choice awaits: step in, or step out? Move through layers of dance, sound, and words. Let the characters lead. Let their stories unfold.

Created by Hayley Roe

Dancehouse - Sylvia Staehli Theatre | 15-18 Oct (4 sessions) | 6:00pm | 50 mins

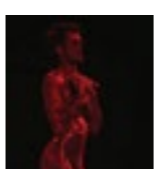


### 두들머리 Dumulmeori (where two rivers meet)

An electrifying evening of contemporary dance from Australia and Korea that bridges cultures through the collision of compelling choreographic perspectives. Created and performed by Alisdair MacIndoe, Chosul Kim, Haneul Jung, and Michelle Heaven.

Curated by Brendan O'Connell

Dancehouse - Sylvia Staehli Theatre | 7-11 Oct (5 Sessions) | 8:00pm | 70 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - PASSPORT



### Sissy

Sissies are hard to love. Grappling with themes of transformation and queer subjectivity, 'Sissy' traces the path of a protagonist hell-bent on acceptance; the work asks how we might befriend our flaws, or even become them.

Performed by Max Burgess

Dancehouse - Sylvia Staehli Theatre | 1-4 Oct (4 sessions) | 8:00pm | 50 mins

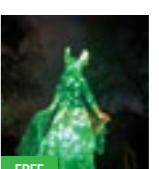


### Social Beast

Humans are herd animals. But do we remember how to meet IRL? To move in a pack? Late capitalism looms large and an ensemble of performers dance like their lives depend on it. Each night they improvise a new show. Here anything is possible.

Directed by Lily Fish

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - The Square | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:00pm (Sun 8:00pm) | 60 mins



### Swerve Drivers

An immersive dance and roaming projection performance that explores new ways of existing. Instinctively through the body, we explore tactics and rituals to process climate grief and invigorate imagination, connection, empowerment and innovation.

FREE

Created and Performed by Caroline Packham Collaborators

Prahran Square | 9-11 Oct (9 sessions) | 8:00pm, 9:00pm & 9:30pm | 30 mins



### Echoes of Descent

Echoes of Descent explores falling through myth, science, and emotion. Drawing on ideas from Icarus and Einstein, this reframes descent as liberation. The choreography guides a journey through fear, surrender, and the unifying pull of gravity.

FREE

Created and Performed by India Stewart-Williams

Coates Community Arts | 9-11 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



### F5

F5 explores chaos, disconnection, and fractured identity through an embodied dance experience. At the Queen Victoria Women's Centre, audiences move with performers in a site-responsive journey weaving personal stories with shared connection. ★★★★★

Directed by Jennifer Fleenor-O'Brien

Queen Victoria Women's Centre - Birmeil | 9-10 Oct (2 sessions) | 6:00pm | 30 mins

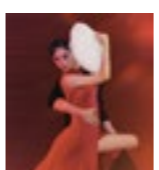


### Flamencodanza

An inspired, powerful and elegant piece of contemporary Flamenco dance and guitar. 'Flamencodanza is hot... you won't see anything else like it' - Stage Raw 'Amazing to watch' - The TVolution Multi-award-winning show.

Flamencodanza Aylin Bayaz (Spain) | C ARTS

Digital Fringe | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 20 mins



### Tango in Silk

An original ballroom duet inspired by the golden age of 1930s Shanghai, blending the elegance of Chinese Cheongsam culture with the passion and drama of Argentine tango, to a fusion soundtrack of traditional instruments and tango rhythms.

Presented by Xi Liu (China/UK) | C ARTS

Digital Fringe | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 5 mins

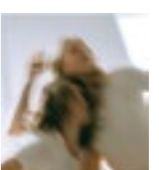


### The Ache

A reflection on desire as transformation - where longing meets becoming. This intimate work explores connection, the ache before change, and the bold act of imagining more. Desire is not just yearning, but a pathway to possibility.

Presented by M.Collective

Meat Market - Blackwood Box | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm | 45 mins

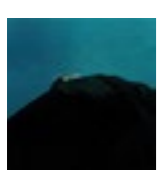


### The Land Of Her // Bruce

'The Land of Her // Bruce' is a bold double bill diving into the rituals, tenderness, and tensions of human connection. Two duets - one fierce and female, one raw and male - explore relationships in all their complexities.

Choreographed by Natasha Sturgis

The Space Dance and Arts Centre - The Skydeck | 2-4 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:30pm (Sat 4:30pm) | 60 mins



### FreeSteps - Grand Canyon

Part dance, part kinetic installation, this site-responsive work is a duet between a human body and a giant sheet of paper. (Literally). Shifting, folding and crumpling, flesh and paper press against each other until something new emerges.

Created by HORSE

Queen Victoria Market | Fed Square - Power Move | Melbourne Museum | Various dates and times | 10 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - PASSPORT

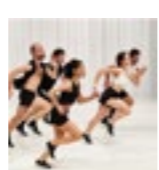


### FreeSteps - Swinging Years

A captivating work created by dancers aged 60 and over, guided by acclaimed Taiwanese choreographer Wei-Chia Su. Witness the extraordinary power of lived experience conveyed through the unique personal histories etched in each dancer's movements.

Created by HORSE

Meat Market - Blackwood Box | 15-18 Oct (4 Sessions) | 5:45pm | 70 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - PASSPORT

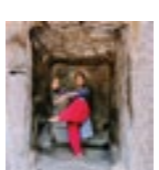


### Mass Effect

With high intensity, constant movement and complex running formations, the performers push their physical limits, deal with exhaustion and motivation. Pumping the theatre full of energy, pulse, vitality and joy.

Presented by Himherandit Productions

Meat Market - Blackwood Box | 30 Sept-11 Oct (10 sessions) | 8:30pm | 45 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - PASSPORT



### TirukkOtumpi: The sacred Bee

Immerse yourself in an exquisite theatrical representation of a timeless hymn from the Thiruvagam. The narrative unfolds around a sacred bee, the messenger, who is urged to seek spiritual fulfilment over fleeting earthly pleasures.

Created and Performed by Christina Prakanthan

Digital Fringe | 10-15 Oct (6 sessions) | 7:00pm | 20 mins

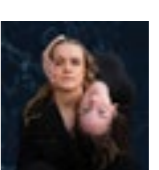


### to disappoint a god.

If there was someone or something in the skies, watching us - would they be proud of us?

Created and Performed by Carmen Yih

Dancehouse - Sylvia Staehli Theatre | 15-18 Oct (4 sessions) | 8:00pm | 50 mins

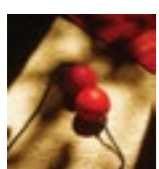


### Wavefront Warefare

Explore the nervous system's impact on well-being. Through dance, sound, and breath, Lily & Hunter create an immersive journey confronting discomfort to facilitate emotional release and transformation. An active exploration of body, mind & healing.

Created and Performed by Lily & Hunter

Dancehouse - Upstairs Studio | 1-4 Oct (4 sessions) | 7:00pm | 40 mins

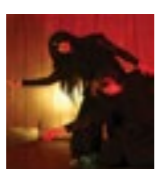


### Maz

It's a fine line between pleasure and pain management. What to do when your whole body hurts? Make it. Feel. Good. Step inside, get comfortable, relax. You have been invited to watch.

Created and Performed by Shelley O'Meara

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - The Temple | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:15pm (Sun 7:15pm) | 50 mins



### Ngambaa

'Ngambaa' (Mother in Gamilaraay) is a duo dance work told through the story of the dhinawan (emu) baawaas (sisters). After the baawaas go through the fire they return as spirits who time travel to two generations of yinarrs to protect and guide them.

Choreographed by Amelia Jean O'Leary

Abbotsford Convent - Oratory | 1-4 Oct (4 Sessions) | 7:00pm | 50 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - DEADLY FRINGE



### Odd to be beings

From an unspeakable dream, I smuggled into being, to meet the I I buried—and the echo still whispering.

Choreographed by =W=

JMC Dance Lab | 17-18 Oct (2 sessions) | 7:00pm | 45 mins



### Xe [zi:]

What if language is not enough to describe one's identity? This interactive dance film asks : what impact does language have on gender differentiation? And what cultural, political and ethical influence do words have on us and our bodies?

SoBo Productions (Germany/Ukraine) | C ARTS

Digital Fringe | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 105 mins

## INSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE

You know what you like, and there's no shame in sticking to it! You're all about those tried-and-true experiences that you can count on to deliver the goods. Whether it's a classic show or a familiar favourite, you're here for a good time — with just the right amount of excitement.

SCAN FOR ALL 2025 EVENTS INSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE

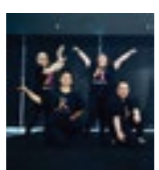


### Paradigm

A multidisciplinary performance blending commercial-contemporary movement, music, and experimental design. Repetition and bursts of energy immerse the audience into the experience through sensations of nostalgia and exhaustion.

Choreographed by Indi McQueen

The Space Dance and Arts Centre - The Skydeck | 3-4 Oct (2 sessions) | Various times | 30 mins

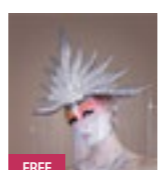


### Planet 21

Welcome, intrepid traveller, to 'Planet 21', Emotion21's new out-of-this-world dance production!

Presented by Emotion21

St Martins - Irene Mitchell Studio | 16-18 Oct (4 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60 mins



### Power Move: Mulan's Tea Party

Dance, drag & pop music meet ancient legend in this joyful outdoor celebration of queer Asian identity. 'Mulan's Tea Party' reimagines tradition through choreography, music & personal storytelling. Family-friendly, fabulous, and deeply moving.

FREE

Created and Performed by Charlie Wan & Dyan Tai

Fed Square - Power Move | 12 Oct (3 Sessions) | Various times | 20 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - CIVIC

## UPSIDE DOWN FANTASYLAND

BY TROY ROGERS

POWERFUL, INSPIRING & MASTERFUL  
"GRIPPED FROM THE FIRST WORD"  
"RAW, PAINFUL & HOPEFUL"

SPEAKEASY THEATRE  
13-19 OCTOBER 7PM

# EXPERIMENTAL



**A kingdom of mushrooms, five senses, infinite wonder and you**  
If Heston Blumenthal reimagined mushrooms through immersive art - this is it. A five-sense experience featuring gourmet tastings, sound experiments interactive design and one humble ingredient: the mighty mushroom.

Created by Off The Spectrum

Artitude Studio | 9-12 Oct (6 sessions) | Various times | 90 mins



**A Real Tour of Melbourne**  
Explore the city through a series of unexpected stories and lively guest hosts. A playful, theatrical journey that challenges what you think you know about Melbourne.

FREE

Created by A.R.Tours

Architectural Fragment - Petrus Spronk | 29 Sept-19 Oct (21 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60 mins



**afterglow.exe**  
boot up. log in. are you sure you want to install this program on your computer?  
a coming-of-age fever dream running on the internet's source code, exploring the intersection of human desire and digital voyeurism.

Created and Performed by Ebony Rattle

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 1-8 Oct (3 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



**Love Machine**  
'Love Machine' is an intimate, human-to-computer interaction installation. Participants enter one at a time and sit with Love Machine; an old-school, chunky, screechy, clicky clacky and endearing computer that is interested in human love.

FREE

Created by Tom Richards

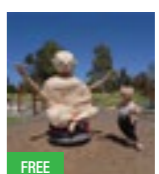
Festival Hub: Trades Hall - The Temple | 8-12 Oct | 5:30pm - 11:30pm



**morning.**  
An experimental, theatrical detour through the quiet chaos of public transport. Transforms the daily commute into a collection of fleeting images and missed connections. What do you notice when you're standing still, but everything else moves.

Devised by Dog Rose Theatre Co.

St Martins - Irene Mitchell Studio | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:30pm | 60 mins

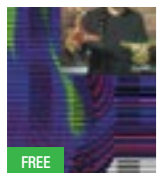


**Mother and Baby**  
'Mother and Baby' examines the transformative relationship between a mother and her large, amphibious baby. Sweet and familiar, yet not what they seem, the pair discombobulate against an iconic Melbourne location in a gender razing puppet experience.

FREE

Created and Directed by sausage woman

Lawn 10 - Carlton Gardens | 4-18 Oct (3 sessions) | 6:15pm | 45 mins



**Artists, Machines and the Space Between**  
A day of artist-led discussions, performances & workshops that interrogate AI in creative practice.

FREE

Presented by Science Gallery Melbourne

Science Gallery Melbourne - Theatre | 3 Oct (1 session) | 9:00am - 5:00pm



**Becoming Wetland**  
'Becoming Wetland' takes audiences on an artist-led intervention of the natural environment of Cheetham Wetlands, in Melbourne's West.

Presented by Jacqui Gordon and Lhotse Collins

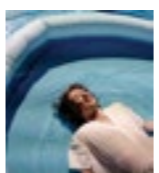
Werribee Train Station | 18 Oct (1 session) | 10:00am - 3:00pm



**BLISS**  
'BLISS' is a 60-minute, one-woman hallucination reimagining the Adam and Eve Bible story. Lilith, a cancelled popstar in exile, glitches through a pixelated paradise in a surreal blend of myth, meltdown, and music video.

Created and Performed by Luella Fitz

The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage | 9-12 Oct (4 sessions) | 9:40pm | 60 mins



**No Seasons**  
A new experimental work by Oliver Ayres ('I'm Ready To Talk Now') exploring gender, IVF, disability, and parenthood.

Created by Oliver Ayres

Meat Market - The Stables 2 | 7-18 Oct (10 sessions) | 7:30pm | 60 mins



**Oliver Twist Live**  
Controlless. Effortless. Coldless. New Osmosis. New Muses. New Genesis.

Performed by OLIVER TWIST

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 15 Oct (1 session) | 9:00pm | 60 mins



**REQUIEM FOR A CUDDLE**  
Plunge into the centre of a menacing and moving sonic cuddle.

Created by Harrison Ritchie-Jones

See website for venue details | 11 Oct | Various times | 20 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - PULSE



**bodies no bodies**  
Performance meets installation in this glittering gender and genre-bending show by five trans and gender diverse artists. Caught between the gallery and the stage, blurring the line between body and work, bring your own body to be part of the show.

Curated by Sydney Sydney

Abbotsford Convent - Oratory | 7-11 Oct | Various times



**Cult Piece**  
'Cult Piece' is a wordless multi-media telling of what it's like to live in a cult. The audio/video piece is based on a structure that one minute of video equals one year of my life. I believe you, and I hope you'll come.

Created and Performed by T Brown

Spielhaus | 30 Sept-5 Oct (6 sessions) | 5:45pm | 60 mins



**Die! Die! Die! Old People Die!**  
A bold, darkly comic puppet fever dream on grief, death & the absurdity of aging. Raw, cinematic, unflinching—puppets reveal life's messy, unavoidable truths. Puppetry direction by Jacob Williams & Sarah Kriegler (Lemony S), dramaturgy by David Woods

Performed by Puppet Rats

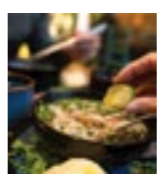
Our Lady Help of Christians Hall | 3-17 Oct (3 sessions) | 8:00pm | 45 mins



**RPG-IRL**  
Tomorrow is here. Climate Crisis - Resource Wars - Financial Collapse. What can you do about it? Join our interactive live role play game and find out. Work together in teams and negotiate and manipulate your way to success.

Devised by Planet Arts Theatre Ensemble (PATE)

Queen Victoria Women's Centre - Wayi Djerring | 5-19 Oct (6 sessions) | 2 hrs 30 mins



**Sky Could Be Blue**  
Black Hole Theatre presents an immersive piece that's more than a performance; it's a sensory journey where dining meets storytelling. As performers blend into the restaurant, theatre and reality merge, creating an unforgettable, interactive night.

Written by Bao Ngouansavanh

Coconut Palms Restaurant | 14-15 Oct (4 sessions) | 5:30pm & 7:30pm | 60 mins



**Speed Dating with Cacti by Mammalian Diving Reflex**  
Smearing your brain across the quantum field via a mind-bending walk through the Royal Botanic Gardens, where you will be invited to touch the void. Another masterpiece by Mammalian Diving Reflex, Canada's biggest cultural export since maple syrup.

Commissioned by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne | 18-26 Oct (8 sessions) | 11:00am & 4:00pm | 90 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - PASSPORT



**Down the Back of the Couch**  
Skitch rips suburbia open with comedy, chaos & poetry - performance art with heart. Shared truths meet surreal delights: whisky, politics, life, death, stray cats and drunken sailors. Let's take a look down the back of the couch... Shall we?

Created and Performed by Liz Skitch

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Meeting Room | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm (Sun 5:00pm) | 50 mins



**'Estranged From The Form'**  
'Estranged From The Form' captures feelings of emptiness and grief that come with dissociation of identity. The band and dancer interweave a variety of sonic textures and physical gestures as guided improvisation drives the performance.

Created and Performed by Nick Gregory

Trainscendence - Love Train | 10-12 Oct (3 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



**First Trimester**  
'First Trimester' explores human connection and parenthood, challenging expectations and redefining what it means to create a family as a transgender person. Embark on a journey with Krishna Isha as they search for the 'perfect' sperm donor.

Created by Krishna Isha

Arts House | 16-18 Oct (7 Sessions) | Various times | Various durations | CURATED PROGRAM - PASSPORT



**Taiwan Folk**  
A sensational night of drag, culture, and creativity as JC the GUY takes you on a journey to his homeland—Taiwan. This bold and heartfelt show fuses traditional Taiwanese heritage with the vibrant pulse of Western pop and the art of drag king.

Created and Performed by JC the GUY

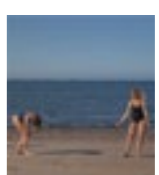
The MC Showroom - The Showroom | 8-12 Oct (2 sessions) | 7:30pm (Sun 4:00pm) | 60 mins



**Tattoo Show**  
Tattoo Show is a live art, truth and dare show hosted by the Rawcus Ensemble and a professional tattoo artist. Each night we ask for a volunteer from the audience to be interviewed then inked on stage.

Created by Rawcus

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Solidarity Hall | 15-19 Oct (5 Sessions) | 6:00pm (Sun 5:00pm) | 60 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - PULSE



**The Break**  
A site-specific dance for Williamstown Beach. Choreography meets coastline in this rhythmic new work about release, rupture and return.

Presented by Zoë Bastin Dance

Williamstown Beach Foreshore | 8-11 Oct (4 sessions) | 6:30pm | 60 mins



**Flesh Mirror**  
Blurring speculative fiction with personal narratives, Flesh Mirror unfolds in a vivid, unstable present where memory bends and parallel realities emerge.

Artist Rebecca Jensen, Weave Movement Theatre and collaborators

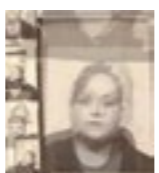
Arts House | 8-12 Oct (5 Sessions) | 7:00pm (Sun 3:30pm) | 60 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - PULSE



**HELLO**  
Experience Fitzroy entirely differently. Come on an adventure that's part guided tour, part audio theatre. HELLO is a psycho-geographic history of Melbourne's oldest suburb, told by an insider.

Presented by Callow et Cie

Lamp Post Outside the Fitz | 30 Sept-19 Oct (16 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



**irregular.**  
The hormones are in control of everything! Including this show. An experimental look at how hormones affect how we make art.

Created and Performed by Amanda Santuccioni

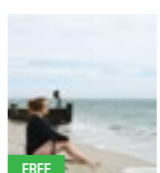
Trainscendence - Love Train | 30 Sept-19 Oct (7 sessions) | Various times | 55 mins



**The Quieter You Become**  
Developed in consultation with musicians experiencing symptoms of hearing conditions, this electro-acoustic sound work shifts audiences through first, second, and third person encounters with listening amidst a forest of speakers.

Created and Performed by Tilman Robinson

The Substation | 15-18 Oct (4 Sessions) | 7:30pm | 65 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - PULSE



**The Shore Remembers**  
A binaural listening experience that captures the rhythms of the shoreline and the traces of human impact. Sit atop a recreated sand dune, put on a headset, and listen deeply — to a landscape in flux, in crisis, and in conversation.

Artist Olivia Fisher

Abbotsford Convent - Oratory | 7-11 Oct (50 Sessions) | 12:00pm - 6:30pm | 30 mins



**The Square**  
Welcome to 'The Square' — a fun, live, participation event hosted by young people. Part performance, part social survey, 'The Square' invites you to physically respond to ongoing statements by stepping into the zones marked "Yes", "No", "Maybe".

Hosted by the young people of House of Muchness

Fed Square - Power Move | 3-4 Oct (2 sessions) | 1:30pm | 4 hrs | CURATED PROGRAM - XS



**Kosmos**  
A lone astronaut lost in the depths of space. A prophetic AI stolen from the Gods. A defiant mission to enlighten humanity that risks eternal punishment. Poetry, movement, and music meld in an experimental work about power and the pursuit of knowledge.

Created by Eidann Glover & Oliver Coven

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatre | 6-12 Oct (7 sessions) | 8:30pm | 50 mins



**Kummargii Yulendj Barring Gadhaba // Projections of a Current Future**  
An evocative public art journey led by Boon Wurrung Elders and emerging artists, reawakening Melbourne's buried waterways and ancestral knowledge.

FREE

By N'arwee't Carolyn Briggs & The Alliance for Praxis Research

Melb Uni (Parkville) - Concrete Lawn | 4-11 Oct (2 sessions) | Various times | 2 hrs 30 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - DEADLY FRINGE



**Last Stop on the Thought Train**  
Leap the turnstile of Mind and board a real rooftop train as poet/musician Tom Di Bella takes you on a thoughtful journey of loops, keytar, guitar, soulful vocals & spoken word. A rhythmic ritual & surreal meditation on the mess & magic of the Self.

Created and Performed by Tom Di Bella

Trainscendence - Love Train | 17-19 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:30pm | 55 mins

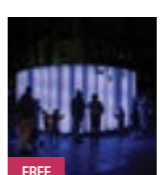


**UNWOMAN (the protest)**  
A durational artwork by THE RABBLE celebrating the multitude of experiences around birth, fertility and pregnancy. It is a primal scream, a moment of reflection and a call to arms. Stay for as long or as little as you want.

FREE

Devised by THE RABBLE

Fed Square - The Edge | Digital Fringe | 5 Oct | from 2:00 PM | 4 hrs | CURATED PROGRAM - PULSE



**VOICES**  
Let the choir sing! VOICES celebrates connection through music and play. Spin a tube to bring this light and sound sculpture to life.

By Pulsing Heart

Arts Centre Melbourne - Forecourt | Williamstown - Commonwealth Reserve | Footscray - Byron St Plaza | 30 Sept-19 Oct | Various times | CURATED PROGRAM - CIVIC



**Wasteworlds: Kids workshops**  
Join us at Wasteworlds — a giant textile sculpture ready to be explored! In these playful workshops, kids and their grown-ups transform trash into treasure, create wild costumes, and then strut on the catwalk. Materials provided, no sewing required.

Created by Fast Fashion in Collaboration with Snuff Puppets

Abbotsford Convent - Magdalen Laundry | 1-3 Oct (6 session) | 10:00am & 12:30pm | 90 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - RADICAL ACCESS

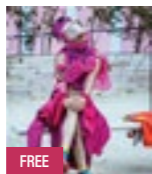


### Wasteworlds: Non-stop Runway Show

The year is 2125. Clothing waste has consumed the Earth. Your mission: dig through the debris, make a fit, and hit the runway. This all-ages, all-abilities, fashion extravaganza has only one rule—someone must always be serving a look.

Created by Fast Fashion in Collaboration with Snuff Puppets

Abbotsford Convent - Magdalen Laundry | 4 Oct (3 sessions) | Various times | CURATED PROGRAM - RADICAL ACCESS



### Wasteworlds: Recovery Day

A quiet, sensory-friendly exhibition for rest, reflection, and gentle play. Drop in anytime to explore the remains of Wasteworlds. Touch, lie down, or simply exist—no pressure.

FREE  
Created by Fast Fashion in Collaboration with Snuff Puppets

Abbotsford Convent - Magdalen Laundry | 5 Oct (1 session) | 11:00am - 3:00pm | CURATED PROGRAM - RADICAL ACCESS



### work.txt

An award winning international theatre work... performed entirely by the audience. You will be your own boss. You will be free. ★★★★★ The Scotsman ★★★★★ The Guardian

Created by SUBJECT OBJECT

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 1-12 Oct (10 sessions) | 7:30pm (Sun 6:30pm) | 60 mins



### 'Common Ground, Extraordinary People' creative workshops

'Common Ground, Extraordinary People' brings the Laverton community together through place-based public art and a series of fun, multimedia workshops.

FREE  
In Association With Little Picture Windows

Woods Street Arts Space | 4-11 Oct (3 sessions) | Various times | 2 hrs

## PUSHING THE COMFORT ZONE

You're not afraid to dip a toe outside your usual vibe. You're willing to take a chance on something new and exciting, but you like to keep one foot firmly planted in the familiar. You're the perfect mix of adventurous and discerning, always ready for a fresh experience without going too wild.



SCAN FOR ALL 2025 EVENTS PUSHING THE COMFORT ZONE

MELBOURNE **FRINGE** FESTIVAL

## FREESTEPS - SWINGING YEARS

15-18 OCT | MEAT MARKET

OVER 50 BODIES OVER 50, MOVING IN SYNC

BOOK YOUR TICKETS

# JOIN THE HUB CLUB

## THE OFFICIAL MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL MEMBERSHIP

SCAN TO JOIN

25% OFF FULL PRICE TICKETS\* | BAR DISCOUNTS AT FESTIVAL HUB & MEAT MARKET  
FREE ENTRY TO CLUB FRINGE | SPECIAL OFFERS & GIVEAWAYS | + MORE!

\*TO PARTICIPATING FESTIVAL EVENTS, INCLUDING ALL EVENTS AT FESTIVAL HUB: TRADES HALL & MEAT MARKET



### A Paper Trail

Travelling through Worlds Unseen with creatures Unknown. Join this group of acrobats on an enchanting circus adventure, where thrilling acrobatics and intricate origami tell a story of friendship and courage.

Produced by Darling and Daring Productions

Theatre Works | 29 Sept-3 Oct (5 sessions) | 1:00pm | 60 mins



### Big Unicorn Dance Party

This festival style dance party is a sparkly unicorn extravaganza. With an eco-glitter bar, photo booth and your favourite disco songs and games led by entertainer Hana Fiesta, it's perfect for unicorn fans aged 2-7 and their fun-loving grown-ups!

Created by Hana Fiesta

Studio Nexus | 2-19 Oct (6 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



### Journal of the Forest

Come follow our traveller for a Mythical Adventure! This circus cabaret show will be a fun outing for the whole family to enjoy. Juggling genies and fae aerialists will amaze you as The Traveller brings you into their world with a laugh.

Produced by Angel of the Forest Productions

Studio Nexus | 29 Sept-4 Oct (6 sessions) | 1:00pm | 60 mins

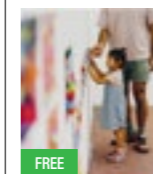


### Neat & Tidy

Neat & Tidy is a puppet-based theatre show filled with magic, animals, farts and wonder! Learn about responsibility, problem-solving, and Australia's native wildlife.

Created by Susannah Thomas

Bluestone Church Arts Space | 4-12 Oct (8 sessions) | 10:30am & 2:30pm | 45 mins



### OFF-GRID

Off-Grid is a free interactive exhibition experienced in darkness and created by children, for children, Saturdays (10am-12pm) also include workshops for children aged 12 and under to make and take home your works for dark places.

FREE  
Curated and Produced by Abbotsford Convent

Abbotsford Convent - The Store | 30 Sept-11 Oct | 10:00am - 2:00pm



### Outback Jams!

A guitar playing koala and ballet dancing emu embark on a musical journey across Australia! Along the way they meet quirky friends, face challenges, and discover the power of believing in themselves.

Written and Directed by Tess Branchflower

The MC Showroom - The Showroom | 30 Sept-5 Oct (6 sessions) | 11:00am | 55 mins



### Peter Combe in Wash Your Kids in Orange Juice!

Peter Combe is Australia's best known children's singer/songwriter and the original King of the Kids, famous for his songs Wash Your Face in Orange Juice, Newspaper Mama, Spaghetti Bolognaise, Juicy Juicy Green Grass, Toffee Apple and Chopsticks.

Written and Performed by Peter Combe

Clocktower Centre | 19 Oct (2 sessions) | Sun 11am & 1pm | 50 mins



### Rice & Peas Dancehall Party

Calling all next gen Dancehall Massive! Join us in the Jungle for "Rice & Peas" a Dancehall party interactive dance workshop for kids aged 5-7, and 8-12, hosted by our youth mentee crew Culture Queenz.

Presented by Jungle City

Jungle City Creative Space | 10 Oct (2 sessions) | 4:30pm & 5:30pm | 60 mins

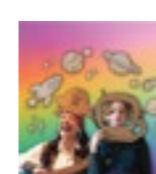


### Sonic Labyrinth

Sonic Labyrinth invites you into an immersive discovery of sound.

FREE  
Artist Aviva Edean with Justin Marshall and children at ArtPlay

ArtPlay | 9-12 Oct | 10:00am - 4:00pm | CURATED PROGRAM - XS



### Space Pirates

This is not a drill! The fate of the universe is in the hands of an astronaut on a cosmic clean up mission, a rhythmically gifted robotic parrot, and a power chord fuelled Pirate Crew who are wildly lost in space (and loving every light-year of it!)

Written and Directed by Kat Glass

Gasworks Arts Park - Gasworks Theatre | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 1:00pm | 60 mins



### SwashBuckling Circus

Aimed at 6-12 yr olds, but great for all. Nominated for Best Kids in Melbourne Fringe 2024. Prepare to set sail on a laugh-filled voyage of acrobatic amazement and rib-ticking fun. This isn't your ordinary circus, it's a pirate extravaganza!

Produced by Express Move Me

Studio Nexus | 11-19 Oct (4 sessions) | 3:00pm | 60 mins

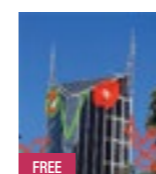


### The Comedy Games with Coach Mon

OH NO! The athletes have disappeared for this spectacular sports extravaganza! Move, groove and dream at this ★★★★★ Olympic-inspired comedy show, featuring eyebrow push-ups, slow-motion races & a dash of craft. Get ready for some serious silliness!

Created and Performed by Monique Warren

Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub - Yarra-me Djila Theatre | 30 Sept-5 Oct (6 sessions) | 11:00am & 2:00pm | 55mins



### The MNY

They are hiding all around us - on the sides of skyscrapers and in small scratches on benches. And once you open your eyes to them, you will see their faces everywhere! The MNY is a participative-AR game designed for children's eyes, ideas and ways.

FREE  
Created by Jessica Wilson, Tom Holloway and Troy Innocent.

The Meeting Place for The MNY | 4-5 Oct (5 Sessions) | Various times | 50 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - XS



### The Scientwits

What's better than one mad scientist? Two Scientwits! It's everything you never learnt in school, and more! Join the Scientwits as they ignite themselves and curiosity in this unique, interactive and hilarious show.

Written by Sammy Harrison and John Burgos

Gasworks Art Park - Studio Theatre | 30 Sept-4 Oct (7 sessions) | 2:00pm (Fri & Sat 11:00am) | 60 mins



### The Vegetable Plot

Returning to Melbourne for the first time in 5 years, beloved Aussie kids band The Vegetable Plot invite you to a delicious feast of music and comedy in their award-winning live show packed full of veggie bangers, tasty earworms and rotten puns.

Written by Luke Escombe

Theatre Works | 3-5 Oct (3 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



### Tiny Doctors: Happy Labs

A musical, interactive theatre lab where your Tiny Doctor mixes potions and learns the magic of emotions!

Written by Sarah Bowers & Hamish Pickering

Gasworks Arts Park - Studio Theatre | 9-11 Oct (3 sessions) | 11:00am | 60 mins



### We Need a Flower

A joyful, movement-based performance created especially for babies and the people who love and care for them. Inspired by an Italian nursery rhyme, this delicate, wordless work explores the cycle of life and the connection between all things.

Created and Performed by Double and Cross Theater Group

ArtPlay | 17-18 Oct (4 Sessions) | 10:30am & 2:30pm | 35 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - PASSPORT



### Whirlwind

A theatrical play space where the ridiculous is welcomed and creativity can float and fly. Recycled paper, detritus reimagined, animated by many fans and many hands. Join Polyglot performers in hilarious and moving creative play, powered by you!

FREE  
Created and Performed by Polyglot Theatre

Immigration Museum - The Long Room | 18-19 Oct (7 Sessions) | Various times | 60 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - XS

# MUSIC



## AI Mozart: ChatGPT Composed This Concert

A ground-breaking live concert of original piano pieces composed by artificial intelligences in an eclectic variety of styles from Beethoven and Brahms to boogie woogie, Latin salsa and Viking death polka! "Enlightening" ★★★★★ - EdinburghGuide.com

Presented by Moonlight

Brunswick Uniting Church 🗺️ | 1-3 Oct (2 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins

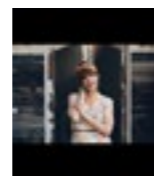


## All Points North

North takes the stage to deliver heartfelt songs, sharing the captivating stories that accompany each tune, and which ignited his passion for music. Join him for an experience that connects the heart and soul to the music that shape our lives.

Written by Terry North

Elephant and Wheelbarrow 🗺️ | 4-19 Oct (6 sessions) | 2:15pm | 60 mins



## Amalfi Roast.

A one-woman original music comedy show. Monumental misadventures all set to song. Juicy scenes from a life well squeezed: shambolic confessions and hyperbolic honesty. Fast paced, clever and musically memorable.

Performed by Melia Naughton

Trainscendence - Love Train 🗺️ | 14-16 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:30pm | 45 mins



## MacroVerse

MacroVerse is a live sonic and visual interpretation of the evolution of the universe, from energy stasis field to heat-death dissipation, performed by electronic music artist Reductionist and video artist Aday.

Performed by Reductionist and Aday

Abbotsford Convent - Oratory 🗺️ | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



## MZA: The Birth and Death of Stars

Embark on a theatrical journey with captivating world music ensemble MZA. This extraordinary production blends enchanting melodies, exotic instruments, and mesmerising visuals to create an experience that's as beautiful to watch as it is to hear.

Performed by MZA

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - ETU Ballroom 🗺️ | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:30pm (Sun 5:30pm) | 60 mins



## Nusa di bawah angin: Sahul Sakti + Jawa Pitu Band + Sanggar Lestari

Improvisation ensemble Sahul Sakti, Indonesian dangdut/funk/gamelan fusion group the Jawa Pitu Band, and Indonesian dance group Sanggar Lestari take you on a journey that explores new frontiers in Australian-Indonesian music, dance, and culture.

By Sahul Sakti, the Jawa Pitu Band, Sanggar Lestari

303 | 18 Oct | 7:30pm - 10:00pm



## Angel Strings at the Planetarium

Angel Strings merge the divine majesty of the outer universe with sublime string quartet repertoire. For lovers of classical and non-classical music.

"It was really good except it made Mum cry" "Truly immersive and cathartic"

Presented by Angel Strings

Scienceworks Planetarium 🗺️ | 19 Oct (2 sessions) | 6:00pm & 7:30pm | 60mins



## Art of the Song: Tom Waits Re-Visioned

The songs and poetry of Tom Waits have been re-visioned by major artists including Bruce Springsteen, The Eagles, Norah Jones, Crystal Gayle, Rod Stewart and others. Here they are re-discovered and re-envisioned by Pete Walsh and his ensemble.

Written and Directed by Pete Walsh and the Beat Bros.

Wheat, Wine & Whisky | 30 Sept-5 Oct (6 sessions) | 5:30pm | 60 mins



## Birds of Paradise - a story of songs for the spaces between

From best music winner 2023 comes a new collection of tales, dark, dreamy and downright delightful. Birds of Paradise is a unique collection of stories for the discomfort of growth, the spaces between and filling the gaps with joy and music.

Created and Performed by Milly Moon

Bard's Apothecary | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:00pm | 60 mins



## Obdurate: Never Becoming Philosophically Exhausted

In a city where apathy is cool and failure is art, Obdurate twitches with vision. Metal, nostalgia, maths and monastic sincerity collide in a live performance too raw, too precise, too sincere to belong. Obdurate is the attempt not to vanish.

Performed by William Troiani

Club Voltaire | 2-5 Oct (4 sessions) | 9:00pm | 60 mins

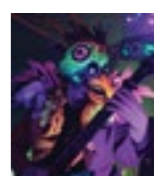


## One-Man Show-Off

After nine-times-seven years exploring and creating music, Michael Mildren is ready to show off his skills on a dozen of his favourite instruments, combining original and ancient folk songs, acoustic solos and a live-looped soundscape.

Music by Michael Mildren

The Brunswick Green - Front Room | 12-19 Oct (2 sessions) | 3:00pm - 6:00pm



## PHANTOM PANDA POWER WIZARD MASTER SMASHER

Intergalactic madness meets musical genius! Aliens, cartoons, lasers, brutal riffs, psychedelic jazz, and a robotic spider drummer collide in this hilarious, visually astonishing, absurdly chaotic sci-fi rock extravaganza. Don't miss it!

Created by Phantom Panda Power Wizard Master Smasher

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - ETU Ballroom 🗺️ | 17-18 Oct (2 sessions) | 9:30pm | 50 mins



## Burns Night Hootenanny - Tam O'Shanter's Big Scottish Sing-Along

Following an Edinburgh Fringe sold-out show, acclaimed Scottish novelist Alastair Sim and award-winning pianist Matthew Shiel celebrate Scotland with Scots folk music and Auld Lang Syne. "Ripping good yarn" ★★★★★ BingeFringe

Presented by Moonlight

Brunswick Uniting Church 🗺️ | 30 Sept-2 Oct (2 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



## Debussy's Romantic Piano by Candlelight - 'Clair de Lune'

Following last year's sold-out Edinburgh Fringe show, romantic piano pieces meet candlelit masked balls as award-winning British pianist Matthew Shiel exposes the scandalous love affairs of the great composers. Enchanting ★★★★★ (EdinburghGuide.com)

Performed by Matthew Shiel

Brunswick Uniting Church 🗺️ | 1-3 Oct (2 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



## Eat your H-ART Out

FEAST your ears on our operatic degustation served by some of Melbourne's emerging artists.

Produced by Mei Wah Chan

Artemisia Gallery & Event Space | 2-5 Oct (4 sessions) | 7:00pm (Sun 5:00pm) | 60 mins



## PROJECTILE DYSFUNCTION: Crew of the Rusty Starfish

Part punk rock gig, part theatre. After playing at multiple sold out venues across Naarm, this hot, queer band of pirates bring an original ensemble performance - the crew on the run from both high-risk situations & the sexual tension between them.

Created by Danger Rodriguez

Mamma Chen's 🗺️ | 16-18 Oct (4 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins

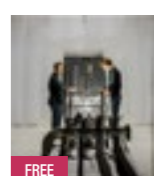


## Rhapsody in Blue - Jazz Piano by Candlelight

Award-winning British pianist-conductor Matthew Shiel leads us on a musical odyssey through blues, cabaret and jazz improv with poignant storytelling. Includes The Entertainer, Take 5 and Rhapsody in Blue. "Enchanting" ★★★★★ (EdinburghGuide.com)

Presented by Moonlight

Brunswick Uniting Church 🗺️ | 30 Sept-4 Oct (3 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



## Silent Hand Catches Silver Bell - Exhibition Tours

Join us in a 20 minute free behind-the-scenes exhibition tour celebrating Speak Percussion's 25th anniversary. Explore the sounds, images and ideas that have shaped the ensemble's evolution into one of the world's most innovative musical forces.

FREE Presented by The Grainger Museum and Speak Percussion

Grainger Museum 🗺️ | 4-18 Oct (6 sessions) | 12:00pm & 12:30pm | 20 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - DESIGN FRINGE



## Einaudi's Piano by Candlelight - 'Spirited Away'

Following last year's sold-out show, acclaimed British pianist Matthew Shiel leads you towards musical enlightenment. Japanese anime 'Spirited Away' and Einaudi's contemplative piano pieces meet Japanese Zen. "Meditative" ★★★★★ Edinburgh Guide

Presented by Moonlight

Brunswick Uniting Church 🗺️ | 1-4 Oct (3 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins

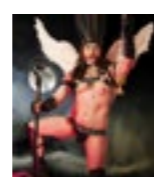


## Elysian Blues II

Guzheng, jazz piano, and percussion collide in a bold, playful, and energetic fusion. Expect rhythm, fun and music that grooves, surprises, and stirs the soul. Back by popular demand—Elysian Blues II is intimate, unexpected, and unmissable.

Created and Performed by QiQi in collaboration with Darby Lee

Chinese Museum: Level 1 🗺️ | 12 Oct (2 sessions) | 2:30pm & 6:30pm | 75mins

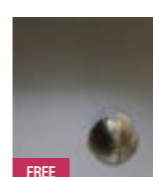


## Father Daddy

Blending jazz, pop and rock, this Vatican City Eurovision candidate is Disney on aml! meets Tim Minchin in fishnets. His Eminence serves new music soaked in sweat, glitter, sin, and dripping with Catholic guilt. Come curious, leave converted.

Performed by His Eminence, Father Daddy

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Solidarity Hall 🗺️ | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:00pm (Sun 8:00pm) | 60 mins

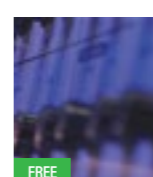


## Silent Hand Catches Silver Bell - Speak Percussion 25th Anniversary Exhibition

Explore the sounds, images and ideas that have shaped Speak Percussion's evolution into one of the world's most innovative musical forces in this behind-the-scenes exhibition celebrating the ensemble's 25th anniversary.

FREE Presented by The Grainger Museum and Speak Percussion

Grainger Museum 🗺️ | 1-5 Oct | Mon-Wed 1:00pm - 4:00pm | CURATED PROGRAM - DESIGN FRINGE

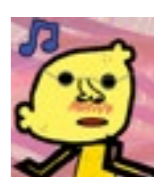


## Sonic Surroundings

Ditch your headphones and immerse yourself in a multi-channel spatial music experience in the unique space of Paddy's Gallery, Trades Hall. New work by students from the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance, Monash University.

FREE By The Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music & Performance

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Paddy's Gallery 🗺️ | 10-18 Oct (7 sessions) | 5:30pm - 9:30pm (Sun 4:30pm - 8:30pm)



## Sons of Citrus

Listen to music, drink grog and have a good time. You are welcome to "boo" if entertainment does not suffice. Be warned we will "boo" back! [Insert laughing crying emoji]

Performed by Luke Roberts 'Dwalz'

Nevermind Bar | 10-12 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



## Footscray Folk Festival

Western Suburb folks rejoice! Wild At Heart presents the inaugural Footscray Folk Festival as part of Melbourne Fringe 2025. Join us at the Bluestone Church Arts Space for a magical afternoon of folk music from the best in the west!

Presented by Wild At Heart

Bluestone Church Arts Space 🗺️ Digital Fringe | 18 Oct | 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM



## Hans Zimmer's Hollywood 1925-2025 - A Centenary Celebration of Film Music

Inspired by Oscar-winning film 'Interstellar,' time-warp cinema history, interspersing modern film music, retro film and live music by Zimmer, Williams and more. "Enchanting" ★★★★★ (EdinburghGuide.com)

Presented by Moonlight

Brunswick Uniting Church 🗺️ | 30 Sept-4 Oct (3 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



## Her Story - of the Blues

Music of the trailblazing women who pioneered the blues, rock & pop - and were then promptly forgotten! One-woman-warrior Mari-Trees embarks on sonic mission to sing the unsung & restore recognition. Mississippi - Harlem - Your Local Petrol Shop.

Created and Performed by Marie-Thérèse

Trainscendence - The Limo-Scene 🗺️ | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:15pm | 55 mins



## The Big Sing Your Heart Out

Together we belt out songs from across generations, laugh and sing with our hearts on our sleeves. Every voice is welcome. Lyrics on a big screen, Suzanne Andrews on piano and the SYHO Crew in the room, singing big and bringing good vibes.

Hosted by Luke Hockley

Stewart Street 🗺️ | 11 Oct (1 session) | 7:00pm | 90 mins

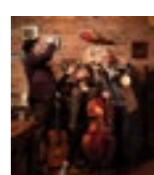


## The Flute Revamped

"The flute as you don't usually hear it!" Join flautist Melanie Walters for this concert of vibrant music inspired by television, pop music, children's books and other popular culture. ★★★★★ - The Advertiser

Performed by Melanie Walters

Gasworks Arts Park - Studio Theatre 🗺️ | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



## The Village Square

The Village Square is a show that combines live music performance and storytelling. Set in an imagined town some years ago, The Village Square presents stories of love and loss, misfortune and mirth, the graceful and grotesque.

Created by Robbie Melville

Meat Market - Craft Room 🗺️ | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm | 55 mins

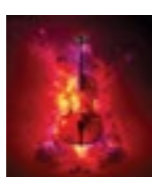


## Jugalbandi

Experience rich & soulful contemporary Indian & South Asian music live! Ex-Indian Idol participants performing a curated list of the finest compositions from the subcontinent in an immersive space. Don't miss this unique Fringe show!

Performed by Jugalbandi

Wheat, Wine & Whisky | 2-5 Oct (4 sessions) | 7:00pm | 50 mins

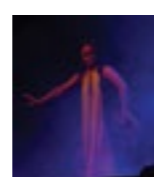


## K Mak at the Planetarium

Stirring, electrifying soundscapes usher you through the cosmos as K Mak fuses live cello, violin, synths, beats and vocals with glorious tailored visuals. "I had an outer body experience at K Mak" "I'd go again in a heartbeat"

Performed by K Mak

Scienceworks Planetarium 🗺️ | 18 Oct (2 sessions) | 6:30pm, 8:00pm | 60mins



## Lung Swara

A visceral new collaboration between experimental musicians from Java and Melbourne.

Artists Aviva Endean, Matthias Schack-Arnott & Cahwati Sugianto

Studio 24 🗺️ | 16-18 Oct (3 sessions) | 8:30pm | 50 mins



## There's a song in that

Ever said, "There's a song in that"? The Tuck Shop Ladies take it literally—turning your quirky life suggestions into ridiculous but harmonious songs, live on stage. Stories, chaos, digressions—and one fresh banger. No two shows are the same!

Performed by Tuck Shop Ladies

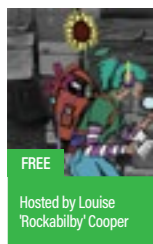
Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Quilt Room 🗺️ | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:30pm (Sun 5:30pm) | 55 mins

## OUTSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE

You're all about pushing boundaries and diving headfirst into the unknown. The wilder, the better! You seek out bold, unconventional experiences that challenge the norm and leave you with unforgettable stories. For you, Fringe is all about exploring the farthest edges of creativity.

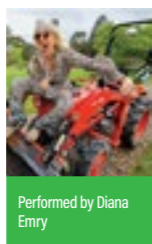
SCAN FOR ALL 2025 EVENTS  
OUTSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE

# PARTIES & SOCIAL EVENTS



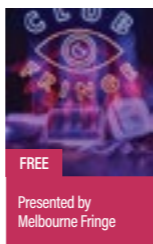
**Another DAMN Artists Market**  
What does an artist keep in their suitcase? What will you find beyond the zips and buckles? Discover new creative works, meet the artists behind them in an inclusive and relaxed environment, learn about their processes and take some treasures home!

Hosted by Louise 'Rockabilly' Cooper  
Transcendence - Transcendental Lounge | 11 Oct | 2:00pm - 5:00pm



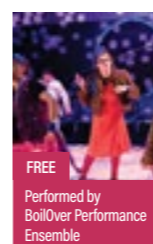
**Carmengetta is CARMENATCHA! ... .. A Disco BBQ**  
A riotous journey with X trophy wife turned aspiring Masterchef, 'Carmengetta'. Witness her hilarious attempt to reinvent herself, with a BBQ cooking show filmed by Melbourne's Yarra River. Inspired by George Michael's iconic song 'Outside'.

Performed by Diana Emry  
Digital Fringe | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 60 mins



**CLUB FRINGE: 3 Minutes to Save the World**  
The end is nigh. Take shelter with us under the neon glow of Club Fringe. Wear something end-of-the-world worthy. Bring your loudest cheer. This is our yearly dancefloor ritual, the variety night for the end of the world.

Presented by Melbourne Fringe  
Festival Hub: Trades Hall - ETU Ballroom | 17 Oct | 10:00pm 'til late | CURATED PROGRAM - SPOTLIGHT



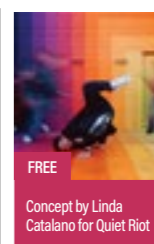
**Power Move: Meet Me at the Disco**  
The dance floor will come alive with a very special appearance by one of Victoria's most exciting inclusive physical theatre companies BoilOver Performance Ensemble in this celebration of 1970s and 1980s music and disco moves.

FREE  
Performed by BoilOver Performance Ensemble  
Fed Square - Power Move | 2 Oct (2 Sessions) | 1:00pm & 3:00pm | 40 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - CIVIC



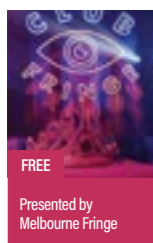
**Power Move: Non Stop Go-Go**  
Inspired by the vintage glamour and bold spirit of 1960s go-go dancing, unleash your inner go-go star in this all day high-energy dance takeover led by the one-woman powerhouse of sequins, sass and soul, Anna Go-Go. It's go-go time!

FREE  
Hosted by Anna's Go-Go Academy  
Fed Square - Power Move | 30 Sept | 11:00am - 5:30pm | CURATED PROGRAM - CIVIC



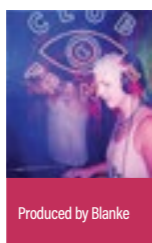
**Power Move: Power Up - Daily DJ**  
Our daily DJ session designed to get you moving, grooving, and generating good vibes (and actual electricity!)

FREE  
Concept by Linda Catalano for Quiet Riot  
Fed Square - Power Move | 1-19 Oct (11 Sessions) | 12:00pm - 1:30pm | CURATED PROGRAM - CIVIC



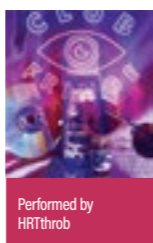
**CLUB FRINGE: Awards Ceremony and Closing Night Party**  
We're closing the curtain on Melbourne Fringe Festival 2025, and you're invited to our grand finale. We'll raise a glass to the exceptional talent of our artists, and then we'll raise the roof with one last shimmy before the lights go up.

FREE  
Presented by Melbourne Fringe  
Festival Hub: Trades Hall - ETU Ballroom | 19 October | 9:00pm 'til late | CURATED PROGRAM - SPOTLIGHT



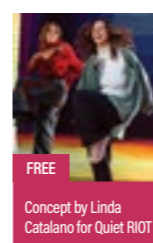
**CLUB FRINGE: Creatures of the Night**  
Unleash your inner creature at this wild, immersive club night of dance, fantasy, roving performers and playful transformation. Make ears and tails, meet magical beings, and party deep into the forest. A strange and sparkly night awaits!

Produced by Blanke  
Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 10 Oct | 10:00pm 'til late | CURATED PROGRAM - SPOTLIGHT



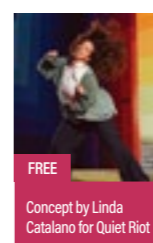
**CLUB FRINGE: HRTThrob I Want it That Way**  
You've been to our protests, now come to the PARTY! HRTThrob is the trans boy band of your DREAMS. A T-boy spectacular filled with boy band bangers and girl group boogies to scream along to at the top of your lungs, all in a key we can finally hit.

Presented by HRTThrob  
Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 11 Oct | 10:00pm 'til late | CURATED PROGRAM - SPOTLIGHT



**Power Move: Prance Battles**  
This is a dance-off like no other: think glitter, attitude, and full-throttle choreography set to iconic pop bangers.

FREE  
Concept by Linda Catalano for Quiet RIOT  
Fed Square - Power Move | 1-19 Oct (9 Sessions) | 2:00pm | 60 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - CIVIC



**Power Move: Request Fest**  
Request Fest hands the aux cord to you (yes, you), giving the people of Melbourne full control of the soundtrack to the city's most sustainable party. No silent discos here, just a party powered by movement and musical democracy.

FREE  
Concept by Linda Catalano for Quiet Riot  
Fed Square - Swanston St Forecourt | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 12:00pm - 7:00pm | CURATED PROGRAM - CIVIC



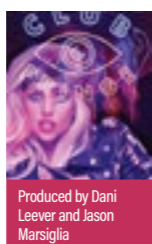
**Queensberry Cup**  
Not just a billycart race, Queensberry Cup is a street festival with something for everyone. A dog show, music from across the globe, fun activities for kids, bike 'n' blend smoothies, tasty food and pop-up performances.

FREE  
Produced by North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre  
Queensberry Cup | 18 Oct (1 session) | 1:00pm - 10:00pm



**CLUB FRINGE: Hygge**  
/'h(j)u:ga, 'huga/ a quality of cosiness and comfortable conviviality that engenders a feeling of contentment or well-being. Featuring Brendan Maclean, Joel Bray, Stone Motherless Cold, Edd Fisher, Juniper Wild and more!

Curated and Produced by Alex Morris  
Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 12 Oct | 9:00pm 'til late | CURATED PROGRAM - SPOTLIGHT



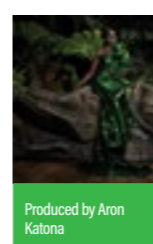
**CLUB FRINGE: Mother Monster**  
No sleep. Bus, club, 'nother club, plane. Whether you're a paws-permanently-up Little Monster or willing and ready to be converted to the church of Gaga, come and celebrate the icon and mother of our campest, queerest dreams.

Produced by Dani Leever and Jason Marsiglia  
Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 3 Oct | 10:00pm 'til late | CURATED PROGRAM - SPOTLIGHT



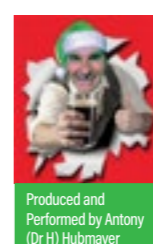
**CLUB FRINGE: OPEN HOUSE**  
Enter the world of House Dance collective Raise The Roof. Lose yourself in the music and find yourself on the dance floor immersed in the sweaty embrace of community for a night dedicated to House.

Presented by Raise The Roof  
Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 4 Oct | 10:00pm 'til late | CURATED PROGRAM - SPOTLIGHT



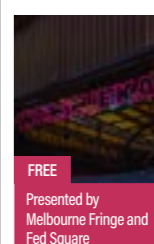
**Runway in the Rainforest**  
On this unforgettable night acclaimed designer Aron Katona and a carefully curated lineup of designers will unveil their latest collection set against the mesmerising backdrop of the Aquarium's lush tropical Rainforest.

Produced by Aron Katona  
Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium | 3 Oct (2 sessions) | 7:30pm & 8:30pm | 60mins



**Singalonga Pub Quiz**  
It's award-winning piano cabaret that's a Singalong, and a Pub Quiz. Test your knowledge while belting-out the songs you know and love. It's interactive, it's electric! Teams are welcome with new songs, games and questions every night.

Produced and Performed by Antony (Dr H) Hubmayer  
Speakeasy Theatre - Apollo | 17-18 Oct (2 sessions) | 5:30pm | 60 mins



**Welcome to Country and 2025 Festival Opening**  
Join us for a Welcome to Country as we honour the unceded lands on which we gather and open the Festival in respect and celebration.

FREE  
Presented by Melbourne Fringe and Fed Square  
Fed Square - Power Move | 30 Sept | 10:30am | 30 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - CIVIC



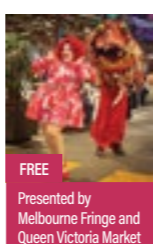
**CLUB FRINGE: PCI DIVAS**  
It's 1998 and VH1 assembled 5 of the most legendary women in music to perform one unforgettable concert. Popchops are celebrating the DIVAS of today that they have inspired with some of Melbourne's best drag artists. Let's go girls!

Produced by Popchops  
Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 18 Oct | 10:00pm 'til late | CURATED PROGRAM - SPOTLIGHT



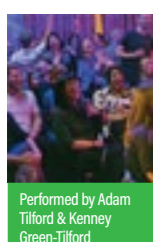
**CLUB FRINGE: Smack Down**  
Are you ready to rumble? Fringe artists prepare to throw down in this night of category combat. They'll go head-to-head performing in genres wildly outside their comfort zones. Choose your fighter. Cheer your champion. Step into the ring.

FREE  
Produced by Melbourne Fringe  
Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 5 Oct | 9:00pm 'til late | CURATED PROGRAM - SPOTLIGHT



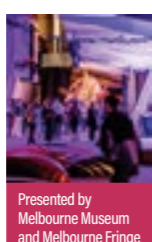
**Fringe Flavours Night Market**  
Catch a vibrant showcase of tantalising Fringe performances at Queen Victoria Market's Night Market, featuring a pop-up stage showcasing artists from every creative corner, and enchanting roving performances that promise to surprise at every turn.

FREE  
Presented by Melbourne Fringe and Queen Victoria Market  
Queen Victoria Market | 17 Sept to 15 Oct | 5 sessions | 5:00pm - 10:00pm | CURATED PROGRAM - SPOTLIGHT



**Marie's Crisis**  
Nestled in the heart of New York's enchanting West Village is a basement piano bar so iconic, celebrities queue to get in. And for six nights only, Marie's Crisis and its top pianists are coming to Melbourne to play especially for you.

Performed by Adam Tilford & Kenney Green-Tilford  
Festival Hub: Trades Hall - ETU Ballroom | 9-16 Oct (6 sessions) | 9:30pm | 2 hrs



**Nocturnal: Action-Reaction**  
Explore Melbourne Museum after dark and investigate the mechanics of change and the forces that shape us with a full program of expert-led talks and tours paired with performances, activities and music curated by Melbourne Fringe

Presented by Melbourne Museum and Melbourne Fringe  
Melbourne Museum | 9 Oct (1 session) | 6:00pm - 9:00pm | CURATED PROGRAM - SPOTLIGHT



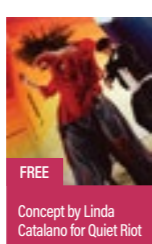
**Power Move**  
Move your body, power the party. This interactive kinetic dancefloor is an open invite and a challenge to the people of Melbourne. Can we dance hard enough to power the whole thing off-grid?

FREE  
Concept: Linda Catalano, Artwork: Drez  
Fed Square - Swanston St Forecourt | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 12:00pm - 7:00pm | CURATED PROGRAM - CIVIC



**Power Move: Cypher Quest - Interactive Dance Battle**  
Witness an epic 2vs2 freestyle video game inspired dance battle, where the power to crown the champions lies in the hands of the spectators! It's time to level up your dance battle experience!

FREE  
Presented by ACML, Fed Square and Big Games Night Out  
Fed Square - Power Move | 9 Oct | 5:00pm | 3 hrs | CURATED PROGRAM - CIVIC



**Power Move: Groove is in the Heart**  
Come for one song or stay all afternoon — the only rule is: dance like everybody is watching, and nobody cares.

Concept by Linda Catalano for Quiet Riot  
Fed Square - Power Move | 1-18 Oct (6 sessions) | 3:00pm | 2 hrs 30 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - CIVIC



**Power Move: Killer or Filler - Home DJ Takeover**  
Not a pro? Not a problem. Killer or Filler hands the decks to the people — everyday legends, bedroom beatmakers, playlist obsessives, and aux cord warriors ready to test their taste on the dancefloor.

FREE  
Concept by Linda Catalano for Quiet Riot  
Fed Square - Power Move | 30 Sept-19 Oct (12 Sessions) | 5:30pm - 7:00pm | CURATED PROGRAM - CIVIC

## KICK ONS AT CLUB FRINGE

FESTIVAL HUB: TRADES HALL FRI-SUN

MOTHER MONSTER • OPEN HOUSE • SMACK DOWN  
CREATURES OF THE NIGHT • HRTTHROB I WANT IT THAT WAY  
HYGGE • 3 MINUTES TO SAVE THE WORLD • PCI DIVAS  
AWARDS CEREMONY AND CLOSING NIGHT PARTY

# THEATRE



## A Big Massive Star!

Joan is your average 15th-century tween; dodging plagues, spinning wool, trying to keep all her dad's sheep alive. Then she hears the voice of God and it gets weird. Help Joan find her Arc, bitch. It's giving "Gimme More" (Bardcore Medieval Version).

Performed by Bronte Locke and Malaynee Hayden

The Improv Conspiracy | 2-10 Oct (6 sessions) | 9:30pm (Sun 8:30pm) | 55 mins



## A Guide to Being Immortal

As one friend plans their funeral, the other turns to Chinese myths, rituals, and superstition to stop it. An intimate exploration on how we respond to grief, mortality, and the quiet ache of holding on.

Written by Shane Woon

Spielhaus | 30 Sept-5 Oct (6 sessions) | 7:10pm | 60mins



## A Night to Remember

The Christmas story, Broadway-style. Roman soldiers, Wise Men in lavish costumes, yodelling shepherds, and the hilarious Herod the Great - all in 60 minutes! 'I was completely blown away' (Audience review)

Presented by Heart and Soul Producers (USA) | C ARTS

Digital Fringe | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 80 mins



## Chinese Restaurant

A queer tragicomedy set in a unionised warehouse at the height of COVID-19 pandemic where a right-wing girlboss and her butch communist ex fall back into each other, fists first. Desire, ideology and lobster brains.

Written by Aubrey Wang

Chinese Museum - Level 1 | 3-5 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:00pm | 90 mins



## Chip On Her Shoulder

Confession booth - meets stand-up - meets theatre. Single, Snacking, and Struggling: A play about Chips, Comfort, and Coping.

Performed by Vanessa Buckley

Theatre Works - Explosives Factory | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm | 55 mins



## Complete Chaos

A solo variety show: cabaret, physical comedy, boylesque, a dash of circus, a pinch of existential crisis - A celebration of the neurospicy brain! Existential crisis: Check. Adulthood ADHD diagnosis: Pending.

Created by Thomas Pidd

The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage | 13-19 Oct (7 sessions) | 9:40pm | 50 mins



## A Succulent Chinese Musical!?

Jack Karlson was a notorious career crim, but for all his wild stunts, he is best remembered for his verbose and theatrical 1991 arrest. This very serious theatre show tells Jack's story. The musical numbers are 100% historically accurate.

Presented by At Your Service Theatre Co.

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Quilt Room | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:30pm (Sun 5:30pm) | 60 mins



## A Treeful of Tragical Tales

Bedtime stories for grown-ups by candlelight. Join an alluring storyteller for an intimate, immersive and (gently) participatory storytelling experience. The stories weave together to make one big whole. You'll leave feeling a lot more whole too.

Performed by Maroussia Vladi

The Treehouse | 2-19 Oct (12 sessions) | 8:00pm | 60 mins



## ARRGONAUTS

Join Jason and his crew in this swashbuckling musical quest for the Golden Fleece. Featuring a dynamic ensemble and vocally driven score, ARRGONAUTS asks what price must be paid in the pursuit of masculine glory?

Written by Julian Smith-Gard

The MC Showroom - The Showroom | 15-18 Oct (4 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



## Confessions of a Boba Liberalist

Do we create our own identities or are they projected onto us? Join Nita as she shares her snacks and her experiences as a bid to prove she is in fact NOT a Boba Liberal. Bubble tea, K-pop, how to say "pho" - Nita has some things to confess.

Written and Performed by Juanita Navas-Nguyen

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Evatt Room | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm (Sun 5:00pm) | 60 mins



## Conversations with a Fried Egg

Blending clowning, physical theatre, and philosophical nonsense, Big Dog Theatre's, 'Conversations with a Fried Egg' sits somewhere between Beckett and Bolack Horseman. Come for the eggs. Stay for the existential crisis.

Devised by Ivy Crago

Meat Market - Craft Room | 7-18 Oct (12 sessions) | 8:45pm | 60 mins



## Debbi Debauchery

One night, while she was left unattended, 9-year-old Debbi put her finger in her grandfather's electric fly zapper... things have never been the same. A one-woman tragicomedy. 60 minutes of tip-toeing the line. What are your naughty little secrets?

Written and Performed by Estelita Nagas

Wheat, Wine & Whisky | 7-19 Oct (8 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



## ASCENSION

In a bar late at night, Dionysus celebrates his last day as a mortal, on his way to becoming a god. But his revelry is interrupted when he meets Apollo, on his last day as a god, on his way to becoming a mortal.

Written by Harrison Stone

The Improv Conspiracy | 11-19 Oct (6 sessions) | 9:30pm (Sun 8:30pm) | 55 mins



## AUTO-TUNE

Mistakes, superpowers, teen drinking, Silverchair.

Presented by re:group performance collective

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - ETU Ballroom | 15-18 Oct (4 sessions) | 8:00pm | 60 mins



## Beast Feast

This fairytale gone feral invites you into the bowels of the forest for a feast. Our sprite-like hosts, Ingrid and Alf, devour lyrical prose and revolting rhyme to deliver a fatal biting crunch. It's gooey, gory and more than a little bit gross.

Written and Directed by Nina Mountford

Spielhaus | 13-19 Oct (7 sessions) | 5:45pm | 50 mins



## Democracy Repair Services

A play against hopelessness: democracy in action & how young people fight when the world is on fire. In the middle of a scorching summer election campaign, four teenagers get together to rewrite democracy. It's also about the endangered Bogong Moth.

Written by Noemie Hutter-Koros

Meat Market - The Stables 1 | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm | 80 mins



## Disorderly Women

This uproarious and poignant musical, stuffed with memorable songs, tells the story of the first female convict ship that sailed to Botany Bay. We meet the rumbunctious women onboard, and learn of their heartache, fear, humour, and warm camaraderie.

Written and Directed by Gillian Sealby

Curate Space | 9-12 Oct (6 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



## Dracula

A new adaptation by Nick Caddaye (The Terminativity), starring the award-winning Rama Nicholas (Friends with Monty) as Dracula. "Rama Nicholas is brilliant, pure bottled brilliance" - Herald Sun "Nicholas oozes star qualities." - Chortle (UK)

Written and Directed by Nick Caddaye

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - The Square | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:15pm (Sun 6:15pm) | 90 mins



## Beauty and the Beast

How about we all start discussing the brutal gay origins of this tale?

Written by Jake Stewart

Theatre Works | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:00pm | 60 mins



## BENEATH

BENEATH is a street-driven, innovative, visually striking, multidisciplinary romp performed along a mystery route across Healesville. Local young people speak uncommon diverse stories of the Yarra Valley responding to Wurundjeri ground.

Performed by Young People of the Yarra Ranges

Coronation Park | 8-11 Oct (4 sessions) | 6:00pm | 80 mins



## Blacksheep

Dr. Jae West presents her heartfelt, provocative, & sassy true story that will take you on an adventure of belonging, rebellion, & discovery. Expect glitter, dancing to the Spice Girls, & an empowering social experiment that went globally viral!

Presented by Dr. Jae West

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - The Square | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm (Sun 5:00pm) | 60 mins



## Elephant Rope

Elephants are one of the strongest creatures on Earth, but even they won't fight the rope that binds them. This new horror comedy play explores uncomfortable truths, the trappings of depression, and the brutal reality of trying to get better.

Starring Richard Mealey and Sass Pinci

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatre | 30 Sept-5 Oct (6 sessions) | 9:50pm | 50 mins



## Ethnically Ambiguous

Join three "ethnically ambiguous" thespians as they fight an uphill battle in an industry that is determined to pigeon-hole them. We all know that making it as an actor is hard. Making it as a culturally or linguistically diverse actor... Well...

Created and Performed by Max Nunes-Cesar, Jo Malta and Zac Rose

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Archive Room, Digital Fringe | 15-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 6pm (Sun 5pm) | 60 mins



## F@ckboi George's Guide to Feminism

F@ckboi George, a drag king who was literally born yesterday, is here to teach YOU about Feminism! The only problem is that he's not entirely sure what a woman is... but once he figures it out, he's going to be the best ally ever!

Created and Performed by Ellen Graham

The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage | 13-19 Oct (7 sessions) | 8:20pm | 50 mins



## Bonne Nuit, Lilian

In a future of AI and holograms, Lilian wakes after 5 years with a hidden wish.

'Bonne Nuit, Lilian' blends dark humour and tenderness in a sci-fi lullaby about empathy, family scars, and the quiet, complicated art of saying goodbye.

Produced by Element Theatre Company

Guild Theatre | 11-19 Oct (6 sessions) | Various times | 95 mins



## Bremen!

The Moral in the Oral: Talking animals, twisted fables and cabaret flair collide in this bold reimaging of classic fairy tales. Set in a smoky jazz club, expect poetry, pathos and playful subversion as beloved beasts take back their stories.

Written and Directed by Emma Sproule

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatre | 7-12 Oct (6 sessions) | 5:45pm | 60 mins



## Brothers Bare

A dissection of fairytales, their haunting origins and the unrealistic expectations they induce in adulthood—seemingly innocuous tales will be daringly twisted, as we descend down the rabbit hole.

Written by Jessica Fallico and Iley Jones

Theatre Works - Explosives Factory | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:15pm | 60 mins



## Fires on the Plain

Experience Japanese war literature: Ōoka Shōhei's classic novel re-imagined for the stage. Explores themes of survival, faith, dignity and humanity through the loneliness, hunger and moral dilemma of the Philippine front during World War II.

Presented by Setagaya-Silk (Japan) | C ARTS

Digital Fringe | 30 Sept-9 Oct | 75 mins



## Greeking Out

"Greeking Out" is a new one-woman comedy show in a masterclass format. In 60 minutes, Professor Ari will test the audience's knowledge on Greek gods, myths, and trifle (yes, the dessert!) It's just a class, right? What could go wrong?

Created and Performed by Rebecca Perich

Spielhaus | 6-12 Oct (7 sessions) | 5:45pm | 60 mins



## GUS THE FROG SPITS BARS (one man's response to existential dread)

An innovative blend of original hip hop and character-based storytelling. An all-new debut one-frog show.

Created and Performed by Angus Leighton

The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage | 6-11 Oct (6 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



## Caught In Between

Centering around an Asian-Australian experience, Caught In Between is an award-winning multi-disciplinary theatre work that explores the possibility of existing within two worlds at once, and the complexities of being a migrant.

Created and Performed by Danielle Lim

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Quilt Room | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:30pm (Sun 5:30pm) | 60 mins

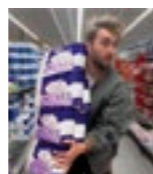


## Changeling

A raw, provocative reflection on identity and belonging, Changeling explores the damage of 'othering', the dangers of collective paranoia, and the cost of being authentic to who you are in a community steeped in intolerance.

Written by Charlie Simmons

The MC Showroom - The Showroom | 30 Sept-5 Oct (6 sessions) | 6:30pm (Sun 4:30pm) | 90 mins



## Checked Out: The Musical

Check in, deal with angry customers. Check out, repeat again tomorrow. GRAA-nominated writers Connell and Lee bring you a new musical comedy about a group of employees that are stuck working minimum wage jobs at big supermarket chain, Woles.

Written by Josh Connell and Steph Lee

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Solidarity Hall | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:00pm (Sun 8:00pm) | 60 mins



## Handle With Care by Ontroerend Goed

Theatre stripped down to its essence. No actors, no technicians. Just a box. And you. Internationally renowned Flemish interactive company Ontroerend Goed puts you in control.

Presented by Melbourne Fringe

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Archive Room | 15-19 Oct (5 Sessions) | 8:30pm (Sun 7:30pm) | 60 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - PASSPORT



## Have a Goodnight Walter

Dean's OCD has unbreakable rules. For a while, Mary has soothed it, but now a breach shakes their sense of security. The rituals return, locks are checked, the door-cam blinks on, and Mary's old scars resurface. Dean sees invaders everywhere.

Directed by Gabrielle Ward

Spielhaus | 29 Sept-5 Oct (7 sessions) | 8:30pm | 60 mins



## He Māori?

Does he really count? An autobiographical musical comedy from a weird White Māori, exploring the absurdity of being both the colonised and the coloniser.

Created and Performed by Ihaka Martyn

Transcendence - Love Train | 8-10 Oct (3 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60 mins

# THEATRE



## Hemlines

Dive into the delightful and daring world of Hemlines! Packed with clever humour, inventive movement, and bold storytelling, this show will take you on a wild ride through themes of sisterhood, resilience, and empowerment.

Presented by Moon Bureau

Theatre Works - Explosives Factory | 30 Sept-4 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60 mins



## Honey, I'm home!

An acknowledgement. A love letter. An apology. To Our Mothers.

Created and Performed by Altered Visions! Theatre Collective

The MC Showroom - The Showroom | 8-11 Oct (4 sessions) | 6:00pm | 30 mins



## Horse Girls

Don't let the hearts in their notebooks fool you. Loyalties will be tested, ponytails will be measured as high-pitched chaos ensues. It's The Saddle Club meets Heathers in this camp, bubble gum pink descent into horror.

Presented by Burned Dinner Theatre

Theatre Works | 30 Sept-4 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60mins



## Leave the Light On

The only thing harder than leaving home is coming back. Watch a completely improvised full-length play about a family member's return after a long time gone.

Devised by Domeka Parker

Impro Melbourne Theatre | 30 Sept-5 Oct (6 sessions) | 9:00pm | 60 mins



## Madman William

A Dane, a Swain, and a Thane enter a bar. Tired of their existences, Hamlet, Lear and Macbeth seek to escape their storylines. Their plotting is interrupted by the author himself. It may end in murder, but whose...?

Presented by The Music Firm (UK/USA) | C ARTS

Digital Fringe | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 55 mins



## Magic Noir

Experience dark glamour, seductive sleight-of-hand, and hypnotic bubble artistry at Magic Noir, a wickedly stylish night of mystery and mischief.

Created by Sebastian Rideaux and Rebecca Hinton

Gasworks Art Park - Gasworks Theatre | 30 Sept-4 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:00pm | 60 mins



## HORSEPLAY

A new one-person, one-horse show about redundancy and car accidents. "Melbourne, 1907. Horseless carriage around the corner. Modern man don't like this automobile, it's a sin. Pray for your family's health, and pray to God to KILL ALL MOTOR-CARS."

Written and Performed by Jono Lawrence

Bluestone Church Arts Space | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



## How to Art

Two bananas wake up duct-taped to the wall of a prestigious art gallery and meet their maker. Three artists, two auctions, one audience. Will anyone get paid? An award-winning clown-fruit-mash-up about making art, surviving, and chasing mass a-peel.

Created and Performed by Katie Burson and Georgie Llewellyn

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Meeting Room | 8-19 Oct (10 sessions) | 6:00pm (Sun 5:00pm) | 60 mins

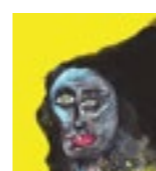


## I Promise This Isn't About You (Even If It Feels Like It Is)

Set entirely in a share-house toilet, five young people in Melbourne's southeast are thrown together for a night of bacchanalia and melancholy amidst an end-of-lease house party.

Written by Sarah Matthews

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - The Carpark | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:00pm (Sun 7:00pm) | 60 mins

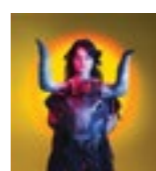


## Medea

This MEDEA is not bound by a single language, culture or body. She is everywhere and nowhere. She is myth and migrant, mother and monster, protest and poem. An electrifying fusion of spoken word, dance, live music and visual art.

Directed by Roxana Paun Trifan

Theatre Works - Explosives Factory | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:30pm | 60 mins

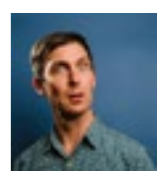


## Medusa

Exploring the impact of sexual assault, Medusa tests not just the perpetrator and victim, but those around them who must navigate the situation when the truth is far from clear. Monster. Martyr. Mortal. How will you remember her?

Written by Bronte Lemaire

Theatre Works - Explosives Factory | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:30pm | 2 hrs



## Melancholipedia

A wannabe-thought-leader tries to explain everything about human nature and the internet. What could go wrong? If the presenter doesn't know anything, and the powerpoint refuses to behave then maybe it's not a TED talk but a one man train wreck?

Created and Performed by Robbie O'Brien

Transcendence - Transcendental Lounge | 30 Sept-5 Oct (6 sessions) | 8:00pm | 60 mins



## Immediate Crisis: A life...

Every book I read changes my life, this is my chance to change yours. Part 2 of the performances that turn my life into an art object, every encounter is on the table, and the more they go near the limit of their limits the greater use they are.

Created and Performed by Alexander Powers

Miscellania | 14-16 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



## Imp! (One Man, Many Parts)

Jacques journeys through the seven ages of life in this bold solo show blending Shakespeare and Commedia dell'Arte. Humorous and poignant, it explores love, identity, and the absurdity of life through seven iconic Commedia characters.

Created and Performed by Scott Middleton

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette | 6-12 Oct (6 sessions) | 9:50pm | (60 mins)



## In The Dark

A shadowy regime enforces a daily blackout, lifting it for one hour to air a radio circus of propaganda and threats. Performed live with immersive sound, this darkly funny audio drama delves into the strange power of entertainment in troubled times.

Written and Directed by Dylan Murphy & Tom Henry Jones

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Old Council Chambers | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:45pm (Sun 7:45pm) | 60 mins



## MEMBER

Told through storytelling and live musical underscoring, this powerful show unearths Sydney's hidden gay-hate crime epidemic from the 1970s-90s, confronting a brutal history of 80 murders, including 30 cases that remain unsolved today.

Presented by Fairly Lucid Productions

Meat Market - Craft Room | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60 mins

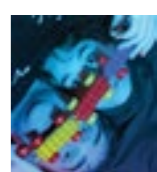


## Men on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown

Manes, meltdowns and masculinity collide in this unhinged equestrian brom-com road trip! Expect pony drama, brotherly chaos and a dressage freestyle you won't forget... "Brave, fast, and doesn't let you off the hook." ★★★★★ - Theatre People

Starring Emily Taheny, Lyall Brooks & River Stevens

fortyfivedownstairs | 2-12 Oct (10 sessions) | 7:30pm (Sun 5:00pm) | 60 mins



## Metro

Set on a Melbourne train carriage, Metro is a surreal, postmodern exploration of grief. Through four interwoven stories and immersive design, the play challenges the idea that grief is linear, revealing a haunting yet hopeful journey.

Written and Directed by Todd Kingston

Gasworks Arts Park - Studio Theatre | 7-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:00pm | 60 mins



## instructions

Every day a different unrehearsed performer takes to the stage, ready to receive instructions. Line-by-line a story unfolds, and a life unspools. They are about to give the performance of a lifetime as reality and fiction blur. ★★★★★ The Scotsman

Presented by Melbourne Fringe

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 1-12 Oct (10 Sessions) | 6:00pm (Sun 5:00pm) | 60 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - PASSPORT

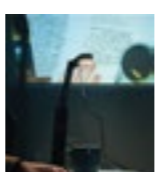


## Is Anyone Even Watching?

A glitter and girl-pop fuelled exploration of identity, exclusion and being unapologetically you. "Is Anyone Even Watching?" is a joyous work of experimental theatre that challenges beauty standards, ableist stereotypes, and societal expectations.

Written and Performed by Olivia Muscat

Arts House | 8-12 Oct (6 Sessions) | Various times | 60 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - RADICAL ACCESS



## Ivy and Sylvia

Ivy and Sylvia is an imagined conversation between two real-life nurses with remarkably different approaches to their shared goals: providing healthcare during an economic recession, and prioritising women when others refused.

Written by Mia Boonen

Louis Joel Arts & Community | 1-12 Oct (8 sessions) | 7:00pm (Sun 5:00pm) | 60 mins

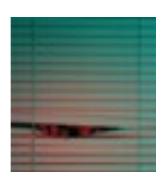


## Motion Sickness

The Winners of Best Theatre Melbourne Fringe 2024 return with pulsing, live dance music and a searing new text; Are you mad at the global race to destruction? Do you find comfort in the end of the universe? An out-of-body crisis at the rave.

Presented by a2 Company

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Meeting Room | 8-19 Oct (10 sessions) | 8:30pm (Sun 7:30pm) | 60 mins



## Mr. Inkleigh

Welcome to an absurdly familiar apartment complex, where bird rosters, dangled washing and missing ferns collide. Five neighbours overshare, obsess, and unravel behind drawn blinds in a comedy about the chaos of suburban living.

Devised by Ben Jamieson

Meat Market - The Stables | 30 Sept-4 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:15pm | 55 mins

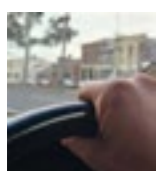


## Myths: An Improvised Musical of Gods and Heroes

An improvised folk musical inspired by acclaimed musical 'Hedestown' and the rich world of heroic myth. Each night, a new story of gods, mortals, love and fate is forged live through song, storytelling, and audience input. No script. Just legend.

Performed by Melbourne Unscripted

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Meeting Room | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:15pm (Sun 6:15pm) | 55 mins



## I'm not Mad, I'm just Disappointed

"Get in the car, you're late." Do you remember being 13? Life being ruled by your parents. Trying to figure out who you are and who they are. But this isn't a coming-of-age story.

Presented by Carrion Theatre Company

Festival Hub: Trades Hall | 13-19 Oct (19 sessions) | Various times | 45 mins



## Jane Austen Improvised

Join us for a night of wit, romance, and improvised theatre inspired by Jane Austen. With spirited heroines, dashing suitors, and endless surprises, no two shows are the same. A charming, clever delight for Austen fans and newcomers alike.

Presented by Impro Melbourne

Impro Melbourne Theatre | 30 Sept-19 Oct (18 sessions) | 7:00pm | 90 mins

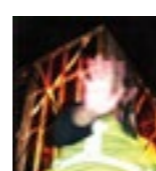


## Jester's Privilege

A Jester is only as funny as their last joke.

Created by Handful Of Bugs

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Old Council Chambers | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:30pm (Sun 6:30pm) | 60 mins



## New Home

In this new play, the TV crew from the premier architectural programme "New Home" invite Pete and Christina to build their new house for their show. As the house is built, the facade of the happy home is demolished, revealing unsteady foundations.

Presented by Five Bells Collective

Meat Market - Craft Room | 30 Sept-4 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60 mins



## Nightwalks with Teenagers by Mammalian Diving Reflex

Nightwalks with Teenagers is focused on the power of walking together, bringing together teens and adults to have a unique social experience in a shared place and time. Concept by internationally renowned company Mammalian Diving Reflex.

Presented by Melbourne Fringe & Wyndham City Council

Wyndham Cultural Centre | 9-11 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:30pm | 3 hrs | CURATED PROGRAM - PASSPORT

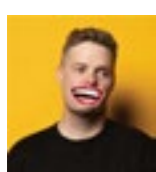


## No Regrets, But Molly's Not For Me

A one-woman show of 33 stories - funny, awkward & honest - about growing up and still growing. From love confessions in a Red M&M costume to come-downs, daddy issues and healing, it's part stand-up, part storytelling, all truth.

Created and Performed by Madeleine Chaplain

The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage | 6-12 Oct (7 sessions) | 8:20pm | 60 mins

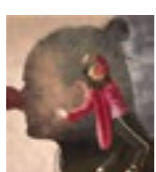


## JKS: A COMEDY?

A stand-up gig. Backstage. Comedians are hanging out, talking shit. News breaks: a comedy legend has died. Some say he was the GOAT. Others say he was the worst. They go to war on The Big Question: what is comedy even for?

Written by Tom Ballard

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - ETU Ballroom | 1-12 Oct (10 sessions) | 8pm (Sun 7pm) | 70 mins

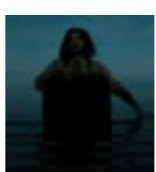


## Knows, No's, Nose

A witty and absurd comedy, filled with existential joy as two clowns live in a share-house searching for meaning and laughter. Do they have what it takes to be a clown? Who Nose...

Written and Performed by Alice Ridgway

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette | 29 Sept-5 Oct (7 sessions) | 8:30pm | 60 mins

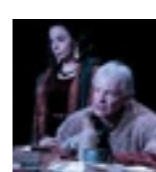


## Last Year's Eve

Hugo was 8 when he came here as a refugee. Fifteen years later, he's leaving forever. On his last night, memories of war, exile, and belonging collide in this haunting solo work.

Written and Performed by Zachary Kazepis

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Meeting Room | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:30pm (Sun 7:30pm) | 55 mins



## Not Without Right: Shakespeare's Secrets

Will and his Muse become entwined in a passionate argument over the creation of his work, and why, if he does not tell the truth about his life, the world will say he did not write, and has no right, to the plays.

Written by Colin Cox

Bard's Apothecary, Digital Fringe | 30 Sept-18 Oct (15 sessions) | 9:15pm | 60mins



## ODIE

A one-man, high-language-low-brow, darkly comic epic poem for the discerning modern hooligan.

Created and Performed by Emrys Quin

Wheat, Wine & Whisky | 14-19 Oct (6 sessions) | 5:30pm | 60 mins



## Orgy at the End of the World

When Trisha organises an orgy during the apocalypse, catastrophic weather conditions prevent most of the guests from turning up. She finds herself stuck with a group of awkward and lonely companions in the countdown to the end of the world.

Directed by Becki Bouchier

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Quilt Room | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:30pm (Sun 8:30pm) | 60 mins

# THEATRE



## Other Gods

In this fantasy romance, a small town priest is torn between his devotion to the Ten Gods and his desire to be with the free-spirited force of nature he's falling for. And then there are the rumours of magic in town. Witchcraft, hope & betrayal await

Written by Simon Farley

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatre 6 Digital Fringe | 6-12 Oct (7 sessions) | 7:10pm | 60mins



## Playing Haus

A drag black comedy following four rapsalions Teddy and Lorelai Cuck, Mishka the maid and Ace Plumbing as they unravel the dark, dirty secrets decorating Cuck Manor, and revel in lies, betrayal and affairs surrounding a mysterious murder...

Presented by VILE Production Company

Theatre Works 6 | 30 Sept-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:30pm | 60 mins



## Poems of a Transsexual Nature

His name is Apollo because he is as hot as the sun. Lost in reckless hypersexual escapades and blending into big city life, what happens when this young brotherboy goes to country for the first time and confronts what really matters?

Written and Performed by Cynda Beare

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Music Room 6 | 15-19 Oct (6 sessions) | 8:15pm (Sun 7:15pm) | 60 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - DEADLY FRINGE

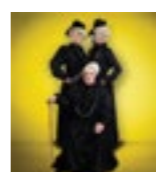


## The Demi God of Preston Wallies

Suburban stoner Seb's in his mid-thirties, lost and wayward in life. Hungover and unsure if it's Tuesday or Wednesday, he encounters Sheryl, an ex-party animal in her late fifties.

Presented by Darren Thao

The MC Showroom - The Showroom | 15-18 Oct (4 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60 mins

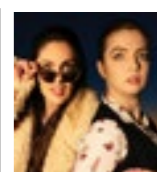


## The Importance of Being Earnest as Performed by Three F\*cking Queens and a Duck

The three-time Edinburgh Fringe season sell-out finally returns to Melbourne in all its disrespectful glory. An outrageous tour-de-farce as three talent-deprived thespians stage Mr Wilde's classic in a frantic

Performed by Out Cast Theatre

Theatre Works 6 | 30 Sept-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 9:00pm | 60 mins



## The Last Song

It's the End of the World as we know it! On the night a comet is set to destroy the Earth, two estranged childhood friends honour an old pact and meet together at their hangout to share a drink and ring in the end.

Presented by Scary Goats Theatre

Spielhaus 6 | 13-18 Oct (6 sessions) | 8:30pm | 60 mins



## QUEEN MACHINE

In the aftermath of a devastating injury Anna reimagines her augmented body as modified, upgraded & part machine. In this robo-burlesque spectacle she navigates an increasingly chaotic climate towards a post-human, fembot future. ★★★★★½ The Age

Written and Performed by Anna Lumb

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Quilt Room 6 | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:00pm (Sun 7:00pm) | 50 mins



## Quelched!

Phil Todd, a 23-year-old unemployed, recently single and duolingo-streakless man, skyrockets to fame after a private nude sent on the dating app Quelch is shared online, revealing to the world that his penis looks exactly like Christian Bale.

Produced by UMMTA

Chapel Off Chapel - The Loft 6 | 2-4 Oct (4 sessions) | 7:00pm (Sat 1:00pm & 7:00pm) | 90 mins



## Rat

Stay back after class for an uplifting satire about the way we train our rats. Sorry... kids. Notorious people-pleaser Carly Milroy examines rewards and punishments in schools, in this character comedy that will save education and fix everything.

Created and Performed by Carly Milroy

Theory Bar 6 | 1-10 Oct (8 sessions) | 5:45pm (Sun 4:45pm) | 50 mins

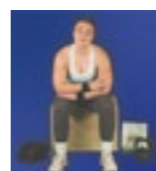


## The Lucky Country

The Lucky Country is a smash hit original musical about what it means to be Australian.

Written by Vidya Makan in collaboration with Sonya Soares

Southbank Theatre, The Lawler 6 | 13-18 Oct (8 sessions) | Various times | 65 mins

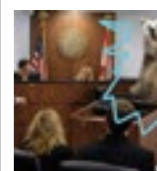


## THE MACHINE

Gym. Protein. Gains. Emotions? Never heard of them! Maddy is your friendly neighbourhood gym bro. Her best friend Pip wears her heart on her sleeve. Together, can Maddy learn to embrace her vulnerability, and can Pip find her own strength?

Performed by Jaz Hosken and Chloe McShane

Meat Market - Craft Room 6 | 30 Sept-4 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:45pm | 55 mins

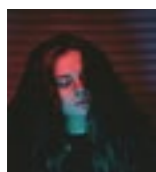


## The People (Bears) v Goldilocks

Three shows during the Fringe... Once with improv actor as judge. Once according to Australian legal system. Once according to law of the bears. Who will come out on top in this battle royale?

Presented by Constantly Rumbling

Transcendence - Transcendental Lounge 6 | 5-19 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:30pm | 60 mins



## REFINED by Katy Warner

Five young people. One disillusioned teacher. A day that changes everything and nothing. The acclaimed team behind international festival smash hit A PRUDENT MAN is back with the premiere of this provocative and politically charged new dark comedy.

Presented by Lab Kelpie

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - The Square 6 | 1-12 Oct (10 sessions) | 9:15pm (Sun 8:15pm) | 75 mins



## Samson

Jump onboard Samson's silly, spooky odyssey as he sets sail to collect spices and escape his family. Wooden spoon in hand, he meets the characters of Malay-Indonesian folklore. From a multiple Melbourne Fringe Award winning team.

Created and Performed by Shannan Tamby Lim

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatre 6 | 13-19 Oct (7 sessions) | 8:30pm | 60 mins



## Sh!t Theatre: Or What's Left Of Us

Multi award-winning UK "Fringe icons" (Time Out) Sh!t Theatre make their Melbourne debut with a true crime show about folk music & grief. "An extraordinary piece of theatre" ★★★★★ The Sunday Times ★★★★★ The Telegraph ★★★★★ Time Out ★★★★★ The List

Written and Performed by Sh!t Theatre

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Solidarity Hall 6 | 1-4 Oct (4 Sessions) | 8:00pm | 60 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - PASSPORT



## The Ship

What if chess was your only lifeline? A mysterious cruise, a fractured mind, and a battle between memory and madness. Multilingual, physical, and theatrical mind game — The Ship is like nothing else at this year's Fringe.

Presented by Do Theatre

Meat Market - The Stables 2 6 | 30 Sept-4 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:30pm | 60 mins

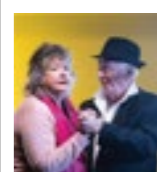


## The Understudy

She knows all the lines. She's memorised every cue. Now she waits for a call to tell her Amy has gastro. A fast-paced, often silly (and sometimes spooky) one-woman show about the ones just metres from the spotlight, ready to give it their all.

Written by Eva Seymour

Transcendence - Transcendental Lounge 6 | 14-17 Oct (4 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60 mins



## The Vessel

The Vessel is a poetic, sensory journey through memory, care, and connection. As Mary navigates the edges of time, we're reminded how the most fragile moments often hold the most beauty. A powerful story that lingers long after the lights go down.

Written by Dawn Bamforth

Theatre Works 6 | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60 mins



## Silently Screaming

Does the past ever really end? Or is it something we must always carry? Silently Screaming is a powerful one-woman show about Sam at various stages of her life: 7, 13, 19, and 24. Amidst painful circumstances, she must find her voice.

Written and Performed by Amy Penning

Club Voltaire | 16-19 Oct (4 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60 mins



## Sincere Apologies

A participatory performance built from all the apologies that the world keeps offering — the famous, the ridiculous, the deeply personal and those that begin every second email in our inboxes.

Created by Dan Koop, Jamie Lewis & David Williams

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - The Square 6 | 8-19 Oct (20 sessions) | 6:00pm & 7:30pm (Sun 5:00pm & 6:30pm) | 55 mins



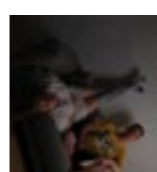
## Spruik!

SPRUIK! is a queer romantic comedy set and staged on Lygon St, the heart of Melbourne's hospitality industry. It is a free performance in the Piazza Italia, celebrating the street, the community, and the wonder and horror of queer love.

FREE

Presented by Dead End Theatre Collective

Piazza Italia 6 | 6-11 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:30 PM | 2 hrs 30 mins



## The Way We Get By

A month. A week. A day. An hour and a half with two people navigating an uncomfortably real love. Labute writes a look into human connection in its most vulnerable moments. Played out in real time, Beth and Doug will leave nothing unsaid.

Performed by Rosemary Ochtman

The MC Showroom - The Showroom | 30 Sept-4 Oct (5 sessions) | 8:30pm | 90 mins

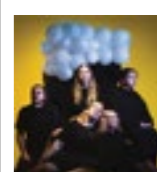


## The weather app, on my phone, at a party

Tackling the quintessential feelings of isolation and loneliness that comes with transiting in adulthood with a slightly absurdist and quirky charm, asking the question "does it get any better?"

Created by EMBOLDEN ENSEMBLE

St Martins - Irene Mitchell Studio 6 | 30 Sept-5 Oct (7 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins

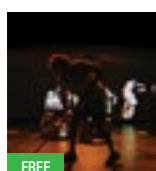


## The Weathering

A haunting landscape of a crumbling world. A raw, experimental surge of live performance. Blending physical theatre, original sound and projection, "The Weathering" challenges the climate crisis from the voices of those excluded from the conversation

Created and Performed by Fusion Theatre

Theatre Works 6 | 16-18 Oct (3 sessions) | 7:30pm | 60 mins



## Starlight to Daylight

A durational performance piece devised by 2nd year VCA Theatre students with lead artist Joe Paradise Lui.

FREE

Devised by VCA Theatre Company 2026

Martyn Myer Arena 6 | 9-10 Oct (2 sessions) | 6:00pm | 60 mins

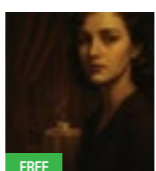


## Synthetesthesia

In the 1970s, an experimental drug was created that invoked synesthesia in those that took it. Years later a lost series of paintings were found, telling the story of the first person to take the drug and the life she endured. This is that story...

Created and Performed by Oliver Bailey

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Archive Room 6 | 1-5 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:15pm (Sun 6:15pm) | 60 mins



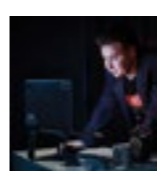
## Table for one. Play for none.

A vanished playwright. A 1950s play that never opened. Voices emerge in this immersive digital drama as a forgotten script whispers back to life. By multi award-winning writer Lita Doolan ★★★★★ Whatsonstage (Mary Blandy's Gallows Tree)

FREE

Written by Lita Doolan

Digital Fringe | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 35 mins



## TruScum

Meet Greg - a controversial livestreamer, political commentator and trans man. After tanking a debate with a TERF, he's come up with the perfect solution - a drunk livestream where he unloads on all his critics. What could go wrong?

Performed by Frankie Thorne

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatre 6 | 13-19 Oct (7 sessions) | 9:50pm | 60 mins

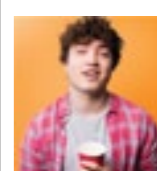


## Tyler's Inferno

A hero's journey through a hellish house party.

Written and Directed by Dena Tissera and Dorian/Sophia Zikic

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Solidarity Hall 6 | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm (Sun 5:00pm) | 50 mins

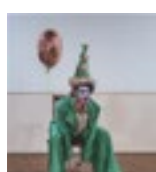


## Unbearable Hotness

The Australian premiere of Gabriel Davis' one act, "Unbearable Hotness." A fast-paced night at a university party with constant twists and turns exploring the secrets, identities and obsessions of the attendees.

Written by Gabriel Davis

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatre 6 | 29 Sept-5 Oct (7 sessions) | 7:10pm | 60 mins



## The Balloon Dog Bites

The Balloon Dog Bites is a one-man comedy unfit for the whole family. It's Tsiolkas' Slap meets Children of the Corn. It's the Wicker Man as directed by John Waters. And it's an angry gay clown in a life-or-death battle with an innocent child.

Written and Performed by Michael Louis Kennedy

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Old Council Chambers 6 | 8-12 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:30pm (Sun 6:30pm) | 55 mins



## THE BLOK!

An artist drowning in spiralling ego (Carly Sheppard) hits rock bottom, where they come face to face with a divine Blak Creator (Alexis West). THE BLOK! is an almighty wrestle for creative control by visionary theatre renegades A Daylight Connection.

Created by A Daylight Connection and Alexis West

Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre - Main Hall 6 | 8-18 Oct (10 Sessions) | 7:30pm (Sat 2:00pm & 7:30pm) | 75 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - DEADLY FRINGE

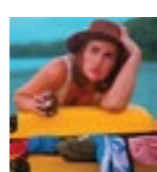


## THE CENSOR

Psst! Ever been told you can't read this book or watch that movie? Did adults say it was too scary? Or not appropriate? But you still want to? Welcome to THE CENSOR - a show for kids, for you and your adults - where you get to decide what to do.

Devised by Cassandra Fumi and Vidya Rajan with 10-16 year olds

ArtPlay 6 | 2-5 Oct (7 Sessions) | Various times | 60 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - XS



## UNSETTLED: The search between Wandering and Belonging

One woman. One suitcase. Too many existential crises. A raw, funny, and heartfelt journey through the chaos of life abroad. Started over? This one hits home. For anyone who's ever felt a little lost (or found) far from home.

Written and Performed by Agustina Dieguez Buccella

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7, Digital Fringe | 1-5 Oct (3 sessions) | 6:00pm (Sun 6:10pm) | 60 mins



## Upside Down Fantasyland

Raw and poetic. Troy vulnerably takes the stage to share his experiences of growing up in out-of-home care. His childhood shaped by the trauma of drug-related struggles and a life with his grandmother due to his parents' substance abuse.

Produced and Performed by Troy Rogers

Speakeasy Theatre - The Vault | 13-19 Oct (7 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



## We Make Friends with Karl Marx

An absurdist dark comedy looking at the arcane nature of capitalism and girlhood.

Written by Henry Kelly

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Meeting Room 6 | 8-19 Oct (11 sessions) | 7:15pm (Sun 6:15pm) | 55 mins



### What Lies Beneath

An ancient myth unearthed — where grief dances, the body remembers, and the wisdom of women rises.

Directed by Krystalla Pearce

Theatre Works - Explosives Factory | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:30pm | 75 mins



### When There Was Forever

A single voice, one guitar and all of eternity at stake. Pulling from legends and characters across myths and stories, 'When There Was Forever' is a folk fairy tale meets live music set that asks: why might we abandon Forever?

Performed by Jackson Peele

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Music Room | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:00pm (Sun 6:00pm) | 55 mins



### Women in Red

Mo Lai's 'Women in Red' is a vibrant solo journey through real women's stories - layered, heartfelt, and distilled with time - inviting audiences to listen deeply and celebrate the spirit and complexity of womanhood across generations.

Created and Performed by Mo, Yan Chi Lai

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 15-19 Oct (5 sessions) | 6:00pm (Sun 5:00pm) | 60 mins

**DEBBY Debauchery**  
a 60 minute tragicomedy by Estella Nagas

WHEAT WINE AND WHISKY  
284 SMITH STREET, COLLINGWOOD  
7-12 OCT  
18-19 OCT  
@estellanagas

The Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance presents

**Sonic Surroundings**  
Friday 10 October 2025, 6.00pm  
Paddy's Gallery (Festival Hub)

**THE CABINET OF DR CALIGARI... RESCORED!**  
Sunday 5 October 2025, 4.30pm  
Solidarity Hall (Festival Hub)

Immersive, multi-channel, spatial sonic art, from the next generation of creative voices.

A gothic masterpiece with a new score performed by a live laptop orchestra.

MONASH University

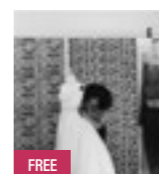


### Alpaca Poco Digital Art Exhibition, Live Drawing and Q&A

What is digital art? And how can I do it? Enjoy a free, relaxing Sunday afternoon in Fitzroy with live drawing and Q&A sessions by the talented Jethro Pitcher of Alpaca Poco Art. Jet's stunning Japanese inspired art will also be exhibited.

FREE  
Created by Jethro Pitcher of Alpaca Poco Art

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7 | 30 Sept-19 Oct (5 sessions) | Various times | 90 mins



### Blak Sovereignty

A First Nations couture installation at the convergence of traditional practice and contemporary technique.

FREE  
Fashion x Art Installation by Off the Plantation

Festival Hub - Trades Hall | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 5:30pm - 11:30pm (Sun 4:30pm - 10:30pm) | CURATED PROGRAM - DEADLY FRINGE

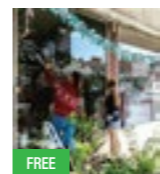


### Club Rewind

Join Melbourne's newest club for the celluloid obsessed: Club Rewind. Each week, Club Rewind screens underseen films with special guest artists, followed by chats, wine & Letterbox swaps. No trailers, no rules — just unreserved enjoyment.

Presented by Club Rewind

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 2-16 Oct (3 sessions) | 9:00pm | 2 hrs

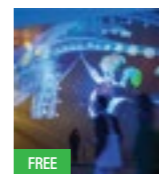


### Common Ground, Extraordinary People

Join us in celebrating their contribution to the precinct through playful window art, public installations, and hands-on creativity. Together, we'll boost a sense of connection and pride in the local Laverton community.

FREE  
In Association With Little Picture Windows

Wood Street Arts Space | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 10:00am - 2:00pm

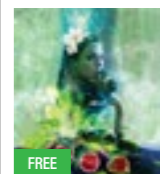


### Entangled Worlds

Entangled Worlds transforms Collingwood Yards into a living network of projections and performances, inviting audiences to explore multispecies entanglement across four nights of large-scale installations and immersive activations.

FREE  
Presented by Centre for Projection Art

Collingwood Yards | 2-5 Oct (4 sessions) | 6:30pm - 10:30pm

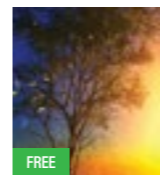


### Evergreen Empress

Evergreen Empress is an art exhibition exploring female empowerment through the divine feminine — the lover, intuitive, creator and alchemist. Contemporary archetypal stories, envision a world where all women are free to thrive and flourish.

FREE  
Artist Linda Dy Ho

Sol Gallery | 7-19 Oct | 11:00am - 6:00pm

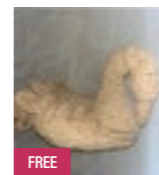


### Forests of Ash

Every tree is beautiful. Every tree is kin. Become a part of the forest here. A display of Game Making tools to approach the complexity of Australian Ecology.

FREE  
Created by Gabriel Bethune

Festival Hub: Trades Hall | 1-12 Oct | 5:30pm - 10:30pm (Sun 4:30pm - 9:30pm)



### How I See You

'How I See You' is a woven expression of unconditional love, and a dedication to family. Through this exhibition, Madeleine Mercer invites you to see through their unique lens via their woven representations of loved ones.

FREE  
Created by Madeleine Mercer

Koorie Heritage Trust - Level 2 Listening Lounge | 30 Sept-23 Nov | 10:00am - 5:00pm | CURATED PROGRAM - DEADLY FRINGE

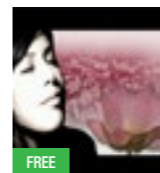


### i do a horse a day

Since May 23rd 2021, Oliver Cowen has created a horse every day

FREE  
Created by Oliver Cowen

Festival Hub: Trades Hall | 1-19 Oct | 5:30pm - 11:30pm (Sun 4:30pm - 10:30pm)



### Inner Journey

Come on an inner journey towards peace with these inspirational videos from Prem Rawat's Peace Education Program. These are videos to simply experience and enjoy. Each session runs different videos, so come to as many as you like.

FREE  
Presented by Colin Mitchell

Digital Fringe | 1-15 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins



### Narcissist: The Self Portraits

'Narcissist: The Self Portraits' by Veteran Artist Thom Crowhurst follows the journey of re-emerging creativity in the aftermath of heartbreak. Works depict the blind, uncertain stumble through the process of healing and rebuilding one's self worth.

FREE  
Artist Thom Crowhurst

ANVAM (Australian National Veterans Arts Museum) | 30 Sept-16 Oct (6 sessions) | 12:00pm - 4:00pm

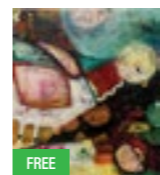


### Queer Ecologies

An exhibition celebrating the many connections between queer identities and the natural world. See painting, textile and media works by queer artists and environmentalists that reveal diversity in nature and queer environmental advocacy.

FREE  
Curated by Tor Evans and Lesley Le Luo

Montsalvat | 1-19 Oct | 10:00am - 4:00pm



### Reclaiming the Wild

Experience art as a path to the deepest self. Inspired by Clarissa Pinkola Estés, this exhibition reveals a journey of letting go, trusting the process, following instinct, and reconnecting to the wild within, exploring what truly brings you alive.

FREE  
Artist Janet Rodger

Sol Gallery | 7-19 Oct | 11:00am - 6:00pm

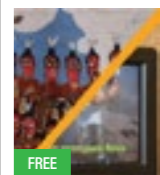


### Space Place Memories - River in Time

The magic of water - its presence and lack. A collaborative visual discourse across hemispheres that serves as a metaphor for memory of place, significance of site - through its aesthetic, indicating the poetics linked with the presence of water.

FREE  
Curated and Produced by Dr. Colleen Morris

303 | 3-18 Oct | Open 24 hrs



### Te Koha / moa fleiva

A bold dual exhibition where lively PNG nostalgia meets rich Māori stories, sparking humour, memory, and heart through powerful explorations of intertwined yet distinct Indigenous and Pacific worlds.

FREE  
Artists noa hāmāna and Jasmin Seale

Blak Dot Gallery | 4-19 Oct | 12:00pm - 4:00pm

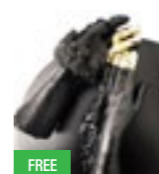


### The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari... Rescored!

The Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance presents: The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari... Rescored! See this 1920 gothic cinematic masterpiece with a newly-composed experimental score, performed live by a 20-piece laptop orchestra.

By The Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music & Performance

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Solidarity Hall | 5 Oct (1 session) | 4:30pm | 80 mins



### THE JOURNEY WE TAKE TOGETHER

THE JOURNEY WE TAKE TOGETHER featuring large installations, raises breast cancer awareness and provides a space for patients, families to share messages. Together, we walk through darkness toward light, united in love, strength, and hope.

FREE  
Artists Annette Chang and Pimpisa Tinpalit

Sol Gallery | 7-19 Oct (13 sessions) | 11:00am - 6:00pm



### The Winner Takes It All: Exhibition

A photographic showcase of a grand slam queer takeover of the sporting world. The Winner Takes It All is a photographic series featuring community participants alongside art stars The Huxleys, allowing anyone to be the sporting star of their dreams.

FREE  
Created by The Huxleys

City of Stonnington, Prahran (Various locations) | 30 Sept-19 Oct | CURATED PROGRAM - CIVIC

# VISUAL ARTS & FILM

# WORDS & IDEAS

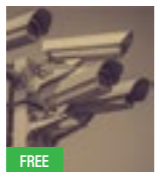


**The Women Inside: Four Frames of Womanhood**  
Four women. Four homes. Four lives in motion. An intimate video and photo installation by four female artists of colour, exploring identity, family, and womanhood through the subtle pulses of daily life and the power of self-representation.

FREE

Presented by Art Echo Foundation

Festival Hub: Trades Hall | 1-19 Oct | 5:30pm - 10:30pm (Sun 4:30pm - 9:30pm)

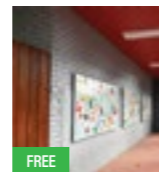


**Trades Hall Art Prize**  
Create Against the Machine - From the Saboteurs jamming up machinery with wooden clogs and Luddites opposing mechanisation of skilled work, to mouse jiggers today, we invite artists to explore themes of worker surveillance, control, automation.

FREE

Presented by Victorian Trades Hall Council

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Paddy's Gallery | 30 Sep-18 Oct | Various Times



**Transcriptions Billboards**  
Transcriptions Billboards is a group exhibition exploring how memory, migration, and identity are shaped by inherited and untold stories.

FREE

Curated by Annette Wagner from Wunder Gym


Altona Civic Centre - Laneway Gallery | 30 Sept-19 Oct | Open 24 hrs



**Hiding Behind the Mask: Jesters, Jokers & Clowns**  
The mask has preoccupied theatrical traditions since ancient times. From commedia dell'arte to slapstick and vaudeville, Professor George probes hidden identities in human behaviour through the lens of the theatrical mask.

Presented by Rosemary George (New York, USA) | C.A.R.T.S.


Digital Fringe | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 80 mins



**JFK: The Greatest Murder Mystery in American History**  
An American storyteller takes the stage to unpack the swirling storm of conspiracy that still surrounds John F. Kennedy's assassination. This historical comedy will make you rethink everything you thought you knew - & if you knew anything at all!

Presented by Juliette Haresign

Transcendence - Love Train | Bar Open | 11-17 Oct (3 sessions) | Various times | 60 mins



**Lindsey Green's Escalator Podcast Reunion**  
In a world where everyone has a podcast, Lindsey Green wondered, would anyone listen to a podcast about escalators? In Lindsey Green's Escalator Podcast Reunion, Lindsey shares the story behind her cult-hit podcast People Movers for the first time.

Performed by Lindsey Green

Bluestone Church Arts Space | 14-18 Oct (5 sessions) | 7:00pm | 60 mins

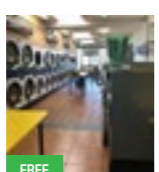


**Transcriptions Exhibition**  
Transcriptions is a group exhibition exploring how memory, migration, and identity are shaped by inherited and untold stories. Join us for the opening and meet the artists on Saturday 27 September from 11:30am-2pm.

FREE

Curated by Annette Wagner from Wunder Gym

Louis Joel Arts & Community | 30 Sept-4 Oct | 9:30am - 4:30pm (Sat 11:00am - 2:00pm)

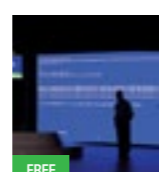


**Transcriptions Laundromat**  
Transcriptions Laundromat is an extension of a group exhibition exploring how memory, migration, and identity are shaped by inherited and untold stories.

FREE

Curated by Annette Wagner from Wunder Gym

Blue Hippo Laundry - Point Cook (SOHO Village) | 4 Oct (1 session) | 2:30pm - 5:00pm




**We Have Been Called Many Things**  
An interactive exhibition & free workshops celebrating the evolving identities of Chinese-speaking Australians through playing games, VR cooking, handcrafted installations, and video storytelling. Everyone welcome!

FREE

Presented by Footscray Community Arts

Footscray Community Arts - Roslyn Smorgon Gallery | 30 Sept-18 Oct | 10:00am - 4:00pm




**Messy and Meaningful: Shaping an Inclusive Future of Design**  
Join design sector leaders for a lively, reflective, and forward-looking conversation that explores the evolving identity of Design Fringe. Together, we'll unpack the legacy of this iconic program, and imagine what it could become.

FREE

Presented by Melbourne Fringe and RMIT University

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - Common Rooms | 17 Oct (1 session) | 2 hrs | CURATED PROGRAM - DESIGN FRINGE



**Ocean Forum**  
What does the ocean mean to our communities? A public conversation on coastal connection, shared memory and the power of local knowledge - held by the sea at Williamstown Life Saving Club.

FREE

Hosted by Zoë Bastin

Williamstown Swimming & Life Saving Club | 11 Oct (1 session) | 4:00pm - 5:30pm



**Queer Joy: Stories of Delight, Defiance and Triumph**  
Do you feel like a feel-good night of unbridled joy celebrating the lives of LGBTQIA+ Victorians? Of course you do! QUEER JOY is story-telling night hosted by beloved comedian Nelly Thomas & featuring stellar LGBTQIA+ comedians, creatives and babes.

Presented by Dear Nelly Podcast

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7 | 4-18 Oct (3 sessions) | 5:00pm | 2 hrs



**Whatever Knitting Takes Me**  
Whatever Knitting Takes Me is a performative artwork exploring connection through knitting. The work is made from walking around Melbourne/Narrm and finding random spots to knit while engaging in conversations with strangers.

FREE

Created by Peter Spring

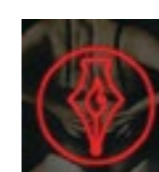
Woods Street Arts Space | 30 Sept-19 Oct | 9:00am - 5:00pm

**Venue hire for gigs, rehearsals, parties & performances.**

Welcoming independent artists, all year round.




FRINGE COMMON ROOMS ENQUIRE NOW



**The Reverse Confessional**  
Enter pure, leave corrupted. Declare to our anonymous in-booth poet that you are frightfully pure and receive an intimate one-on-one erotic poetry performance that will leave more than your toes tingling.

Produced by Fleassy Malay

Festival Hub: Trades Hall - The Temple | 1-5 Oct (57 sessions) | Various times | 10 mins



**TMI - A Night Of Oversharing**  
TMI is a one-night-only spoken word event by Fat Fruit Projects. A raw, funny, and heartfelt night of confessions, music, and too much information - from artists, queers, rebels, and first-timers. Auslan interpreted, accessible, unforgettable.

Curated by Sarah Ward and Bec Matthews

Meat Market - Blackwood Box | 4 Oct (1 session) | 5:45pm | 70 mins



**Why are we so shit at access in Australia and what are we going to do about it?**  
An informative and feisty discussion with creative sector leaders. Join them as they share their local, national, and international experiences of innovative and exceptional access.

FREE

Hosted by Caroline Bowditch


Arts Centre Melbourne | 6 Oct (1 Session) | 6:00pm | 90 mins | CURATED PROGRAM - RADICAL ACCESS



**Women of Fire**  
An evening of powerful and honest Spoken Word by a diverse selection of feminist writers and performers, featuring Sarah Temporal, Katie Lohner and more inspiring artists. Join us for this exciting collaboration.

Presented by QVWC & Mother Tongue Poetry

Queen Victoria Women's Centre - Wayi Djerring | Digital Fringe | 17 Oct | 8pm | 70mins




**Yalinguth Live Music Tour**  
Immerse yourself in Aboriginal Fitzroy through song, storytelling and soundscapes, on this time travelling musical tour along Gertrude Street.

Directed by Jason Tamiru

The Fig Tree | 11 Oct (1 session) | 2:00pm | 2 hrs

SCAN FOR ALL 2025 LINE-UPS & VARIETY NIGHTS



**ONE NIGHT ONLY**

30 SEPT 2025 | THE CAPITOL

**OPENING NIGHT GALA**

TICKETS ARE LIMITED. BOOK YOURS NOW.

MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL

"THIS COUNTRY'S FINEST AND MOST ASTUTE SATIRIST" ★★★★★ THE AGE

Created by SAMMY J featuring 5 piece Band

**FIASCO**

A BURKE & WILLS MUSICAL

ETU BALLROOM AT FESTIVAL HUB: TRADES HALL

8TH-19TH OCTOBER 6:30PM (SUN 5:30PM)



# FRINGE VENUES

303  
75 REID ST  
ABBOTSFORD CONVENT  
ALTONA CIVIC CENTRE  
ANVAM (AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL VETERANS ARTS MUSEUM)  
ARTEMISIA GALLERY & EVENT SPACE  
ARTITUDE STUDIO  
ARTPLAY  
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE  
ARTS HOUSE  
BAR OPEN  
BARD'S APOTHECARY  
BLAK DOT GALLERY  
BLUE HIPPO LAUNDRY  
BLUESTONE CHURCH ARTS SPACE  
BRUNSWICK UNITING CHURCH  
BYRON PLAZA  
CARLTON GARDENS  
CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL  
CHINESE MUSEUM  
CLOCKTOWER CENTRE  
CLUB VOLTAIRE  
COATES COMMUNITY ARTS  
COCONUT PALMS RESTAURANT  
COLLINGWOOD YARDS  
COMMONWEALTH RESERVE  
CORONATION PARK  
CURATE SPACE  
DANCEHOUSE  
ELEPHANT AND WHEELBARROW  
ELLORA  
FED SQUARE

FESTIVAL HUB: TRADES HALL  
FOOTSCRAY COMMUNITY ARTS  
FORTYFIVEDOWNSTAIRS  
FRINGE COMMON ROOMS  
GASWORKS ARTS PARK  
GRAINGER MUSEUM  
GROUSE MELBOURNE  
GUILD THEATRE  
HAUS OF OOZE  
IMMIGRATION MUSEUM  
IMPRO MELBOURNE THEATRE  
IVANHOE LIBRARY & CULTURAL HUB  
JMC DANCE LAB  
JUNGLE CITY CREATIVE SPACE  
KOORIE HERITAGE TRUST  
LOUIS JOEL ARTS & COMMUNITY  
MAMMA CHEN'S  
MARTYN MYER ARENA  
MEAT MARKET  
MELBOURNE MUSEUM  
MISCELLANIA  
MONTSLAVAT  
NEVERMIND BAR  
NORTHCOTE TOWN HALL ARTS CENTRE  
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS HALL  
PIAZZA ITALIA  
PRAHRAN SQUARE  
PRIDE OF OUR FOOTSCRAY COMMUNITY BAR  
QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET  
QUEEN VICTORIA WOMEN'S CENTRE  
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS MELBOURNE  
SCIENCE GALLERY MELBOURNE  
SCIENCEWORKS PLANETARIUM

SEA LIFE MELBOURNE AQUARIUM  
SOL GALLERY  
SOUTHBANK THEATRE  
SPEAKEASY THEATRE  
SPIELHAUS  
ST MARTINS  
STATE LIBRARY VICTORIA FORCOURT  
STREETS OF PRAHRAN  
STUDIO 24  
STUDIO NEXUS  
THE 86 CABARET BAR  
THE BRUNSWICK GREEN  
THE CAPITOL  
THE FIG TREE  
THE IMPROV CONSPIRACY  
THE MC SHOWROOM  
THE MOTLEY BAUHAUS  
THE SPACE DANCE AND ARTS CENTRE  
THE STONE HOTEL  
THE SUBSTATION  
THE TREEHOUSE  
THEATRE WORKS  
THEORY BAR  
TRANSCENDENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE (PARKVILLE)  
WERRIBEE TRAIN STATION  
WESLEY ANNE  
WHEAT, WINE & WHISKY  
WILLIAMSTOWN BEACH FORESHORE  
WILLIAMSTOWN SWIMMING & LIFE SAVING CLUB  
WOODS STREET ARTS SPACE  
WYNDHAM CULTURAL CENTRE

## WHERE MIRROR BALL MEETS MISSION

### INSIDE FRINGE COMMON ROOMS

"The vision for Fringe Common Rooms has always been that it helps fund the creative work of independent artists," says the venue's Operations Manager Abbie Potter, when we chat in a quiet moment between events. Tucked inside Carlton's historic Trades Hall, the beautiful ballroom – with its polished floorboards, soaring vaulted ceiling and full stage setup – is being prepped for a private function. "Basically, on the weekends we host private events and parties, and instead of the profits lining some hospitality group's pockets, we use it to fund art during the week."

Opening its doors in late 2019, the space had a rocky pandemic-interrupted start but is now fully kicking into gear with a private function model that hosts birthdays, weddings, anything, that in turn subsidises the space for artists to use. "We want Common Rooms to be firmly known as a space for rehearsals and developments during the week."

The venue is made up of two rooms: the grand Ballroom, with old-world vintage charm upgraded with a full stage and serious tech cred, and the more intimate Lounge, a perfect little retro-themed space perfect for smaller gigs, private salons or a fancy pants soiree. And yes, there's a giant mirror ball. "One of our donors gifted that to us – it's a place that's really been built by our community," says Abbie.

That sense of community permeates the space. "We're one of the few festivals that has a year-round bricks-and-mortar building, and that means that artists can use it not just at Festival time but all year round, at low or no cost." It's this ongoing presence, Abbie says, that makes the space a vital part of the independent arts ecosystem. "We don't just disappear for nine months and pop back up in October. We're here between festivals too, offering artists space to develop new work, whether or not it ever lands on a Fringe stage."

Unlike many commercial venues for hire, Fringe Common Rooms is fully private – so no sharing with the general public – and kitted out for absolutely anything. "We hosted one birthday party that included ceilidh dancers, a full samba band with four carnival dancers, and then a big band jazz group – all in the same space, on the same night," Abbie laughs. "It just somehow all fits."

Thanks to Melbourne Fringe's deep connections to the industry, there's also help on hand if you're after a DJ, a drag queen, an MC – or something more unexpected. "And then there's the values alignment as well", Abbie says. "Fringe Common Rooms embodies the Festival's values of cultural democracy and accessibility and being a safe space for everybody that wants to participate. We're proud to offer something that aligns with those values, not just in festival season, but year-round."

It's that rare combo of vibe, values and versatility that sets Fringe Common Rooms apart. Whether you're planning a birthday, a launch, or a late-night knees-up, it's the kind of space where anything's possible, with the kind of team who'll help make it happen.

As Abbie puts it: "If you're going to throw a party anyway, why not have it somewhere that gives back to the arts?"

#### GOT AN EVENT COMING UP?

Your milestone deserves more than a generic function room. Scan the QR code to enquire about hiring Fringe Common Rooms.



## FRINGE COMMON ROOMS

# FRINGE FORWARD

# SECTOR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

## **Fringe Forward: more than a festival**

Every October, Melbourne Fringe transforms the city into a playground for independent art. But behind the three-week explosion of shows, there's a quieter, year-round force shaping the future of the arts in Victoria.

It's called Fringe Forward.

"Fringe Forward is how we describe Melbourne Fringe's year-round sector leadership work," says Simon Abrahams, CEO and Creative Director of Melbourne Fringe. "It's all the ways we support the artists in the Festival, and how we're building a stronger, more sustainable independent arts sector more broadly."

## **Artist development: how we help artists thrive.**

The work begins well before the spotlight turns on.

"A three-week festival doesn't appear out of nowhere," says Simon. "We build a festival out of a broader arts landscape. We see part of our job is to nurture that landscape – support it, advocate for it, and help artists thrive within it." That starts with artist development.

Melbourne Fringe supports artists at every stage of their practice. "We help artists find a venue, we run drop-in sessions, workshops and panel talks. We cover budgeting, marketing, mental health, access – we look at the whole ecosystem of what it means to make and present work as an independent artist."

This tailored approach is crucial in a festival where the majority of work is self-produced. "The skills it takes to produce a show are totally different from the skills it takes to create one," Simon explains. "So a huge part of what we do is upskilling artists on the producing side, so they're set up to succeed."

That includes one-on-one support and practical resources. The Fringe Resource Hub, available online year-round, is packed with tools: budget templates, grant-writing guides, marketing advice, access planning, sustainability how-tos. No paywall, no log-ins, no fluff, just genuinely useful materials, curated for the realities of independent practice.

But just as important is the social side.

"Being an independent artist can be incredibly isolating," Simon says. "We focus a lot on building community, creating space for artists to connect, support each other and learn from each other. Whether that's through working bees, parties, panels or simply having someone to talk to, we're here."

## **Tour Ready and Fringe Marketplace: taking work on the road.**

While the Festival is often a starting point for a new work, Fringe Forward is designed to help artists go further.

"Our Tour Ready program connects artists with presenters and festival directors from across Australia and beyond," says Simon. "We help them learn how to pitch their work, navigate touring pathways, and meet the people who can help take their work further through touring."

Fringe staff act as informal matchmakers, building tailored schedules for programmers and connecting them directly with artists whose work aligns with their program. "We do a lot of behind-the-scenes matchmaking," Simon says. "We know who's coming to the Festival and what they're looking for, and we help make those connections happen."

The goal is simple: to extend the life of a show, and help artists generate income from their work. Some shows tour across Victoria. Others hit national and international circuits. But the approach is always artist-first.

In 2025, Melbourne Fringe is expanding this work through Fringe Marketplace, a new program designed to build artists' capacity and industry knowledge. Presented in collaboration with Arts Centre Melbourne, Marketplace features free, high-impact sessions covering everything from pitching to presenters, to building a sustainable touring model, to navigating life beyond the fringe circuit.

"Marketplace is about giving artists practical, inside knowledge from the people who've done it before," Simon says. "It's not just about inspiration, it's about equipping people with the tools to take their work further."

## **Fringe Awards program: celebrating risk, talent and ambition**

Melbourne Fringe's awards program is one of the most comprehensive of any open-access festival in Australia.

"I'm really proud of our awards program," says Simon. "It's got real integrity. Every eligible show is seen by two industry judges and assessed and discussed against clear criteria. That means the process is fair, transparent, and often surprising."

The program recognises excellence across a range of categories, but also focuses heavily on career development. In addition to Best In Category awards, there are Artist Development Awards, which pair artists with mentorships, cash support, and future opportunities through partnerships with leading arts organisations. There are also Touring Awards, which offer direct presentation opportunities at partner festivals and venues across the country and the world.

And then there are the Judges' Picks, in-Festival accolades that highlight standout work mid-season and help generate buzz while shows are still running. "They're a great way for audiences to know what's catching the attention of the industry," Simon says. Each year also sees the presentation of the Living Legend Award, honouring a Fringe alum whose work has made a lasting impact on the independent arts.

## **Advocacy: the work you don't always see**

Beyond the programs and parties, Fringe Forward is also about advocacy, speaking up for the value of independent art – and the artists who make it.

"We believe in the power of independent artists," Simon says. "We believe art matters. And we talk to anyone who'll listen – government, philanthropists, media, presenters, audiences – about why this work matters, and what needs to change."

This includes advocating for better working conditions, more sustainable funding models, and systemic reforms to how artists are resourced and recognised. Programs like Access Fringe and Deadly Fringe are central to this work. "They embed access, equity and cultural leadership into the heart of how we operate, not just what we produce."

"Artists are doing extraordinary things, often under impossible conditions," Simon says. "They need more than applause. They need systems that back them."

Through Fringe Forward, Melbourne Fringe is working to build and strengthen those systems – and make sure the future of independent art is braver, fairer, and full of possibility.

# FRINGE FORWARD

# ACCESS: BUILT-IN, NOT BOLT-ON

**ACCESS FRINGE IS A BOLD, YEAR-ROUND COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, CARE AND LEADERSHIP BY D/DEAF, DISABLED AND NEURODIVERGENT CREATIVES – DRIVING CHANGE ACROSS MELBOURNE FRINGE AND THE ENTIRE CULTURAL SECTOR.**

Accessibility might bring to mind inclusive spaces and access services, but it's a lot more than that. At Melbourne Fringe, it's a philosophy – and a creative superpower.

"Access is the juiciest creative opportunity that we have available to us," says Caroline Bowditch, Melbourne Fringe's Cultural Equity Consultant and part of this year's expanded Access Fringe team. For her, access isn't a limitation, but an inherently innovative provocation that expands the possibilities of creation. "Like when you see beautiful captions or hear really poetic audio descriptions," she says. "It's a chance to explore and express artistic ideas in new and original ways."

Access Fringe affirms Melbourne Fringe's commitment to making the Festival more inclusive for artists, audiences and volunteers, while establishing the organisation as a national leader in accessible arts practice – reshaping how we think about who gets to participate in the arts, and how.

Alongside Bowditch, this year's Access Fringe team includes Milly Cooper (Program Manager), Carly Findlay OAM (Access & Disability Lead), Madeleine Ruskin (Marketing Coordinator), and Hana Kanzaki (Volunteer Coordinator). The team works collaboratively across departments to embed accessibility throughout the organisation, and support artists with tailored resources, advice, and initiatives, including a newly developed guide to and bespoke training for presenting sensory-friendly performances.

Volunteers also play a key role. A dedicated Access Champion cohort ensures the wider team can confidently support audiences with access requirements, particularly at the Festival Hub, where a new sensory room provides a calm and welcoming retreat for Neurodivergent visitors. "Providing access training to volunteers empowers them to support audience members with lived experience," Cooper says. "It gives them the confidence to both approach, and be approached by people who may require assistance."

For artists, the Access Fund continues to remove financial barriers, supporting ambitious ideas of creatively integrated access alongside more traditional access services such as Auslan interpretation.

The work of the Access Fringe team is bolstered by Radical Access, a development initiative for d/Deaf, Disabled and Neurodivergent artists creating ambitious, genre-defying new work. With artist fees, access budgets, and creative support, the program ensures access is not just how work is presented – it's how it's made.

The impact is already visible. More Fringe artists are engaging with access from the outset of their creative process. More audiences are attending events with confidence. And more festivals are looking to Melbourne Fringe as a model for embedding access across every level, as core to a festival's identity.

"There's this idea that accessibility is too hard," says Bowditch. "But not when you plan for it, budget for it, and treat it as part of your moral code. It's not about ticking a box. It's about removing a sense of segregation – which in turn grows your audience."

The Access Fringe team emphasises that accessibility is not one-size-fits-all. It requires dialogue, experimentation, and care. "One person may find something fully accessible, and another person might find it makes them feel more disabled," Findlay notes. That's why Fringe approaches access as an evolving practice – one that invites feedback, learning and adaptive thinking.

For artists and organisations across the country, the message is clear: accessibility isn't about perfection. It's about progress. "Every one of us is learning about how to make access better, more interesting, more creative," Bowditch says. "That's the process."

### Looking for accessible events?

Fringe makes it easy to discover shows that meet your access needs. Visit the **What's On Page** on our website and filter shows by access provisions, whether you're looking for Auslan-interpreted performances, wheelchair accessible venues, audio described shows, Relaxed Performances and more. Accessibility is front and centre, so you can choose with confidence.



OPENING NIGHT GALA, SAMMY J, 2023, IMAGE BY NICKMICKPICS

"Fringe is the place I return to when I want to feel scared as an artist again," says comedian, composer and Fringe Funded-artist Sammy J, who is deep in the development of his new work for this year's Festival. It's a show that's pushing him out of his comfort zone – "I am trying many things for the first time. Playing with a band, writing songs for other people. It's terrifying, but I believe in it."

Sammy's *Fiasco: A Burke & Wills Musical* is being supported by the Fringe Fund, a vital initiative that provides direct financial support to independent artists. In an industry where creative ambition often exceeds available resources, the Fringe Fund exists to help big ideas reach their audience. It helps artists find the money they need to bring bold ideas to life, offering a mix of big and small cash commissioning opportunities, and microgrants to cover participation costs for artists who face barriers to accessing the Festival. It backs ideas that could only happen at Fringe, making space for experimentation, play, and risk-taking within the festival. For many artists, it's the difference between an idea staying on the page or making it to the stage.

"This upcoming show would not exist without the Fringe Fund," says Sammy, "because it's not a show I would have had the confidence to stage without the funding. I'm trying to pay five cast members for rehearsal and performance, which is an expensive gambit." Sammy's shows are known for drawing strong crowds, but even solid ticket sales can't make the numbers stack up on their own, meaning the Fringe Fund's role is an essential one. And the funding hasn't just made the show viable, it's created the space for deeper, more ambitious creative development. "It means I can go deeper with the work. The dream of any artist is to have space and time to create, and that's what this has given me."

Melbourne Fringe has been a creative touchstone for Sammy throughout his career. "It's where I started, as a fledgling comedian using music and video elements and trying to work out who I was and who my audience was. In other festivals that sort of experimentation eventually gives way to a more commercial imperative, to sell tickets and put on increasingly mainstream shows – but Fringe for me is the place where I can shed those expectations and truly have a crack at creating something pure."

The Fringe Fund means that this spirit of creative freedom isn't just an ideal but is structurally supported. With initiatives such as Ralph Mclean Microgrants reducing financial barriers and investing directly in artists' visions, the Fringe Fund empowers artists and makes a game-changing contribution to our independent landscape.

"Melbourne Fringe gives you the complete freedom to try, and aspire, and to fail if you need – and the audience will be there for the journey."

**"This upcoming show would not exist without the Fringe Fund..."**

# FRINGE FUND



Scan to see all 2025 Fringe Funded events

**Want to help make great art happen? Find out how you can contribute to the Fringe Fund on page 72.**

CONDUIT BODIES, MELINDA SMITH, 2024, IMAGE BY SARAH WALKER



 **20 days** of boundary-pushing creativity

 **500+ events** across every corner of the city – and a few stops around Victoria

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## It all adds up to the 2025 Melbourne Fringe Festival.

Creative Victoria is proud to support Melbourne Fringe – it's just one of the ways the Victorian Government is backing artists and creative opportunities across the state. Find out more at [creative.vic.gov.au](https://creative.vic.gov.au)



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## Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT)

KHT serves to nurture, honour and celebrate the continuing cultures and songlines of the First Peoples of South-Eastern Australia.

Pictured: Brian Firebrace (Yorta Yorta), Dingo (detail), c. 2006, clay, paint, Koorie Heritage Trust Collection.



## The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia

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- Hugh & Alice, The Happy Couple



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"A JOYOUS DISCO RIOT"

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**YUMMY**

Matto Lucas Photography



OPENING NIGHT GALA, ELLE DIABLO AND THEMME FATALE, 2023, IMAGE BY NICKMICKPICS

## DONATE TO MELBOURNE FRINGE

Your mission, should you choose to accept it: help independent artists take their extraordinary visions to new heights.

*"Melbourne Fringe is the foundation of our arts ecosystem, a champion of equal access and equal right to expression. When some extra cash landed in my pay packet, I took stock of what good I wanted to do in the world – and Fringe was right up there with my top passions! I'm a real believer in supporting organisations that help make the world a better place. And I was compelled to support Fringe because of its philosophy of equal opportunity and support for artists."* – Melissa McShane, Melbourne Fringe donor and bequester.

Melbourne Fringe artists electrify our cultural landscape. Their work captures imaginations, sparks conversations, and changes the way we see and understand our rapidly shifting world.

But the truth is, independent artists don't have safety nets – they rely on organisations like Melbourne Fringe to back them, champion them, and create real pathways for their work to take flight.

So that's exactly what we do.

Melbourne Fringe is a talent incubator, a risk-taker, and a fierce supporter of independent artists. Our impact stretches far beyond the Festival – here's how we back artists and transform the arts ecology 365 days a year:

- **We nurture artists' growth and resilience** – our year-round programs help them develop skills, take bold creative leaps, and make brilliant, surprising, life-changing work.
- **We commission new work** – and we take on the heavy lifting, writing the grants, asking the donors, doing the admin, and softening the risk, so artists can focus on creating daring, hilarious, provocative art.
- **We plug the gaps in the sector** – funding ambitious works and removing barriers for artists facing financial hardship and structural disadvantage.
- **We provide practical support** – like microgrants, subsidised fees, and accessible services.
- **We centre underrepresented voices** – ensuring that First Nations artists, d/Deaf and Disabled artists, artists of colour, and culturally and linguistically diverse artists are front and centre – making our stages, and our audiences, more representative, more inclusive, and more exciting than ever.

Together, we're shaping the future. But we can't do it without a team of champions standing by our side.

This is where you come in, Angels.

Donate today to support our year-round work helping artists unleash ambitious, risky ideas – the kind that shape Melbourne's cultural future.

### Where will your money go?

We're glad you asked! Here's how your dollars have serious impact:

- **We support over 3,000 independent artists year-round** with workshops, forums, info packs, touring advice and one-on-one assistance.
- **We run artist development programs** like Deadly Fringe for First Nations artists, and offer tailored support that helps independent artists create and present bold new work.
- **We deliver Access Fringe**, supporting d/Deaf and Disabled artists and audiences, significantly increasing the diversity of every aspect of our organisation.
- **We offer financial support to artists**, including commissions, grants, and registration and venue subsidies for artists facing financial hardship. In 2023 we paid \$2.6 million to artists through commissions, fees and ticket sales.

### How to get your wings (by donating to Melbourne Fringe)

- Scan the QR code or head to [melbournefringe.com.au/donate](https://melbournefringe.com.au/donate) to pay online, or via EFT.
- Add a donation to your ticket purchase online or in person at our Festival Box Office.
- Give us a buzz on **03 9660 9600** and we can process your donation live on air.

Basically, we're happy to take your money however you want to give it. Plus, Melbourne Fringe is a not-for-profit organisation, so all donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible.

Donate today to become one of Fringe's Angels, the elite taskforce helping Melbourne's independent artists thrive.

We're counting on you, Angels.

Over and out



Scan to donate to Melbourne Fringe now.

# FRINGE'S ANGELS

Melbourne Fringe is a not-for-profit organisation with a support team we love as much as our mums. We couldn't make the Festival happen without our amazing donors, so thanks. You're the best, chuck out the rest.

## CHAMPION \$20,000+

The Sue Beeton Fund, a sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation  
Daniel Besen AM  
The King and McMillan Foundation  
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Monica Lim and Konfir Kabo  
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## CHEERLEADER \$10,000+

John and Lorraine Bates  
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Angela Wheelton OAM DSJ and Paul Wheelton AM KSJ  
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## COMPANION \$5,000+

Monica and Sam Abrahams  
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David and Merryn Hanrahan  
Phlyssa Koshland  
Rupert Myer AO and Annabel Myer  
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## CONSPIRATOR \$2,500+

Sally Browne of the Sally Browne Fund, a sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation  
Susanne Dahn, a giving fund in the APS Foundation  
Jennifer Darbyshire and David Walker  
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## CONFIDANTE \$500+

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## 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.

## DEAD FRINGERS' SOCIETY

Thank you to Mark and Tamara Boldiston, and Melissa McShane for their generous bequests to Melbourne Fringe.

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IMAGE BY TOM NOBLE CREATIVE

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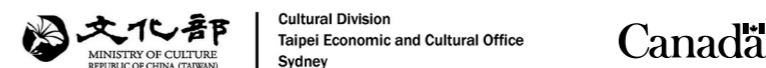
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30 SEP — 19 OCT 2025

IMAGE BY GIULIA GHANNINI MCGAURAN

