Sydney Festival 2022 WELCOME

Sydney, you did it!

Your efforts to keep our city safe will pay off this summer – and what a summer of art we've got planned. With over 130 free and ticketed events, we're animating right across Sydney with world class offerings indoor, outdoor and online.

Speakers Corner, a throwback to Sydney's freewheeling days, will be our dedicated outdoor concert venue presenting 22 jam-packed nights of music, comedy and cabaret. At the newly opened Theatre Royal Sydney we bring you Conor McPherson's Broadway hit, *Girl From The North Country*, set to the iconic music of Bob Dylan. While over at the Hordern Pavilion you can see *Qween Lear*, a hedonistic exploration of Sydney's queer party era set in Ancient Sydney... before the Olympics.

This year's Blak Out program features *Future Dreaming* at Barangaroo Headland by Sydney Festival's

Creative Artist in Residence Jacob Nash and the world

premiere of *Wudjang:* Not the Past by Bangarra Dance

Theatre and Sydney Theatre Company. In Parramatta, *Sydney Symphony Under the Stars* will return to delight

audiences with a free concert at The Crescent,

Parramatta Park.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our Principal Government Partners, Create NSW and City of Sydney, and our Principal Philanthropic Partner, Peter Freedman.

COVID has devastated our live performance industry. Sydney Festival's 2022 program will play a crucial role, helping to unite Australia's community of artists, arts workers and audiences while restoring culture safely to our city.

Sydneysiders are resilient and fun loving. Not even a lockdown or a lockout law can take away the soul of a Sydneysider. So dust yourself off, get dressed and get out there to find your Sydney side.

Olivia Ansell

Festival Director

QWEEN LEAR

Sydney Festival World premiere

RULED BY DRAG QWEENS, FUELLED BY LOVE

Witness the fall of a qweendom. In a hedonistic world of love, fetish and all-original house music, an ageing drag matriarch is abdicating their throne. Part rave, part theatrical extravaganza, *Qween Lear* propels you through the raucous history of Sydney's queer

nightlife. Immerse yourself in the excess and ecstasy of an era gone, but not forgotten.

Hordern Pavilion

7–16 January

GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY

Music and Lyrics by Bob Dylan
Written and directed by Conor McPherson
GWB Entertainment & Damien Hewitt
by arrangement with Tristan Baker & Charlie Parsons
for Runaway Entertainment
(Australia/UK)

Australian premiere

THE MAGIC OF THEATRE MEETS THE MUSIC OF BOB DYLAN

Fresh from the West End and Broadway, critically acclaimed *Girl From The North Country* has taken the theatrical world by storm. Featuring the songs of Bob Dylan like you've never heard them before, this feelgood tale of American life in 1934 Minnesota stars Lisa McCune, Zahra Newman, Terrence Crawford and Peter Carroll.

Theatre Royal Sydney

From 5 January

SPEAKERS CORNER

A SUMMER OF MUSIC AND WORDS

Speakers Corner is a place to tell it like it is through live performance and have a cracking good time about it. With 22 nights of live music, DJs, a dash of comedy and cabaret – this is what Sydney sounds like. All its guts, glory and glitter packed into one corner in the heart of the CBD. With a bar, of course.

Cnr College St & William St, Sydney CBD

5-30 January

BARKAA

The Emma Pask Big Band

Amyl and the Sniffers

Cash Savage and the Last Drinks

King Stingray

Kelly Lee Owens (UK)

BLAK OUT

THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF FIRST AUSTRALIANS

In 2017 Wesley Enoch curated the first Blak Out Program for Sydney Festival. As Wesley said back then "Blak Out is a term used to describe a gathering of First Nations Australians" and during his tenure as Festival Director he did just that, bringing Australia's finest First Nations artists together in Sydney to share their perspectives on the world. In 2022 Olivia and I are excited to build on this legacy and take Blak Out into the future by sharing the most urgent, important and celebratory works by First Nations artists. Right now, so many of these artists are standing up and demanding their stories be heard... The future is Blak.

Jacob Nash

Creative Artist in Residence

WUDJANG: NOT THE PAST

Bangarra Dance Theatre and Sydney Theatre Company

World premiere

ALIVE IN THE PRESENT, OUR STORY IS NOT PAST

Stories from the past make their mark on the present in an epic-scale contemporary corroboree by Bangarra Dance Theatre. 17 dancers, four musicians and five actors fill the stage with dance, poetry and song, as *Wudjang: Not the Past* reveals the power of messages that speak to us through the generations.

Roslyn Packer Theatre

From 14 January

FUTURE DREAMING

Jacob Nash

A large-scale artwork transforms Stargazer Lawn into a gathering place to look to the past and demand the future. From this time of uncertainty, an urgency has grown to make the change we know must happen – this is the moment to seize.

Barangaroo Reserve

6-30 January

JURRUNGU NGAN-GA [STRAIGHT TALK]

Marrugeku

World premiere

Dance as resistance. Challenging yet joyful, *Jurrungu Ngan-ga* – meaning 'straight talk' – is a provocative new dance work linking Australia's shameful fixation with Indigenous incarceration with our indefinite detainment of asylum seekers.

Carriageworks

26-29 January

VIGIL: SONGS FOR TOMORROW

Sydney Festival

A night of ceremony, song and fire to reflect on the continued conversation around January 26. Led by the new generation of First Nations artists they'll sing to the future, while acknowledging the past.

Barangaroo Reserve

25 January

-BARRA

Yuwaalaraay Artists & Ensemble Offspring

World premiere

Let the river sing and the red dirt rumble, in this sonic and visual journey through Yuwaalaraay country in NSW, a collaboration between Yuwaalaraay musician and storyteller Nardi Simpson and Ensemble Offspring.

City Recital Hall

16 January

DANCE

Decadance

By Ohad Naharin

Sydney Dance Company

(Israel/Australia)

A remix of signature works from visionary Ohad Naharin

Bursting with joy,-vitality and explosive impact, Decadance is contemporary dance that speaks to everyone. Performed by our own incomparable Sydney Dance Company, Decadance features excerpts from Gaga movement originator Ohad Naharin's works, crafted over more than a decade with Tel Aviv's Batsheva Dance Company and remoulded into a coherent whole.

Sydney Opera House

6-9 January

THE PULSE

Gravity & Other Myths

THE HEART-STARTER WE ALL NEED

The world-renowned company which brought *Backbone* to the festival in 2018 returns with a work of mighty ambition. A euphoric symphony of strength, sinew and song, it sends humans into the air and hearts into mouths. Experience 30 bodies and 30 Sydney Philharmonia Choir voices in an intricate epic folding and unfolding before you.

Rosyln Packer Theatre

6-9 January

GREY RHINO

By Charmene Yap & Cass Mortimer Eipper Performing Lines

World premiere

This audacious new dance epic by award-winning choreographers Charmene Yap and Cass Mortimer Eipper warns us to heed the dangers hidden in plain sight, via a frenetic yet intricate dance vocabulary.

Carriageworks

Check website for date

MIRAGE

Campbelltown Arts Centre

World premiere

Inspired by the enigmatic optical phenomenon, Martin del Amo's *Mirage* fuses two dancers with a striking visual design and musical score by Morton Feldman performed live, conjuring a shimmering, multidimensional reality.

Campbelltown Arts Centre

7–15 January

YUNG LUNG

Chunky Move

World premiere

Dance to the infinite. Dance to forget. Get ready for an onslaught as you stand amidst this apocalyptic performance on Mount Olympus called *Yung Lung* – Antony Hamilton's contemporary dance/rave for the end of days.

Carriageworks

20–23 January

DEMO

Branch Nebula

Throw champion skaters, dancers, freerunners, BMXers and a blast of colour on a half pipe together. Now dial up the beats. Introducing *DEMO*, an exhilarating street style session of choregraphed mayhem.

Centenary Square, Parramatta

13-16 January

THEATRE

宿 (STAY)

Kurinji & SAtheCollective Co-presented by OzAsia Festival

(Australia/Singapore)

World premiere

BOUND BY BURIED SECRETS

When two skeletons emerge from the dried-up creek bed of a remote Queensland farm, the fates of three women thousands of kilometers apart become deeply intertwined. Part concert, part story, part ceremony, fate (stay) is an evocative new collaboration between the writer of award-winning Counting and Cracking, S. Shakthidharan, and Singapore musical ensemble, SAtheCollective.

Carriageworks

9–16 January

GREEN PARK

Griffin Theatre Company

A leafy park near Darlinghurst's fabled Wall echoes with the ghosts of its past as two men tackle an unpredictable Grindr date. Eavesdrop on an intense private encounter in a very public place in this sitespecific slice of park noir by Elias Jamieson Brown.

Green Park

19–30 January

LOST IN SHANGHAI

Contemporary Asian Australian Performance

World premiere

On a hazy day in 1930s Shanghai, a little girl boards a ship bound for Hong Kong... Journalist Jane Hutcheon traces the story of her mother's turbulent childhood in pre-Communist China.

Seymour Centre

12–16 January

EDWARD ALBEE'S WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

State Theatre Company South Australia

FEAR AND LOATHING IN A NEW LIGHT

Edward Albee's booze-fuelled cage fight between some of the most complex anti-heroes in the theatrical canon is the stuff of theatre legend. This new production, viewed through a dynamic, race-conscious Australian lens, pulls the rug out from under a whole new generation.

Sydney Opera House

13-23 January

BLACK BRASS

Performing Lines WA & Belvoir

Written and performed by Mararo Wangai, joined onstage by musician Mahamudo Selimane, *Black Brass* is a rich and playful theatrical feast. This soulful and songful tale of resilience is a deliberation on how our choices shape our lives.

Belvoir St Theatre

6-23 January

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN LOVE

Seymour Centre

World premiere

Adapted for the stage from the Stella Prize-winning novel by Heather Rose, this work follows a New York film composer struggling with an incredible loss – who finds inspiration through MoMA and Marina Abramović.

Seymour Centre

21–30 January

SET PIECE

Anna Breckon & Nat Randall Co-presented by Performance Space

World premiere

QUEER LOVE IN FOCUS

The Second Woman creators Nat Randall and Anna Breckon explore queer relationships and explode the conventions of the couple drama in a live performance that's part film, part theatre and fully absorbing. A synesthetic and surprisingly intimate experience awaits.

Carriageworks

6-9 January

PERAHU-PERAHU

Contemporary Asian Australian Performance

Hundreds of intricate cut-outs trip the light fantastic in an enchanting work of shadow theatre and music, inspired by the vessels that have sailed the open sea between the Indonesian archipelago and Australia.

Carriageworks

Check website for date

SMALL METAL OBJECTS

Back to Back Theatre

There's a deal going down – and it's not going to plan. Unfolding amid the flurry of suits and seagulls across Customs House Square, this intimate drama focuses on the stories that pass us by.

Customs House Square

20–23 January

SEVEN METHODS OF KILLING KYLIE JENNER

Darlinghurst Theatre Company, Green Door Theatre Company & Riverside Theatres

Forbes Magazine claims Kylie Jenner's a "self-made billionaire" and Cleo isn't having a bar of it. She's got a lot to say and on the internet, actions don't always speak louder than words...

Eternity Playhouse, Riverside Theatres

From 6 January

44 SEX ACTS IN ONE WEEK

Club House Productions

Girl meets boy. Girl hates boy. Girl f*cks boy 44 ways while the world collapses. Five gifted comic actors get busy on microphones and fruit in this slippery take on a radio play.

Seymour Centre

12–16 January

THE WEST BALL 3

Jamaica Moana & Father Xander Silky

Merging Western Sydney culture with NYC's underground ballroom subculture created by black and brown trans women, The West Ball 3 is a pioneering

event celebrating love, inclusion and self-expression out west.

Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre & The Bearded Tit
29 January

A CHORUS LINE

Darlinghurst Theatre Company
In association with Riverside Theatres

Dive hat first into a world of sweat, sacrifice and sensational choreography. Based on interviews with real dancers, this legendary dance musical shows us what it means to put everything on the line.

Riverside Theatres

6–16 January

RICH KIDS: A HISTORY OF SHOPPING MALLS IN TEHRAN

Javaad Alipoor Company (UK)
Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta

As the world decays, the spawn of the powerful dance like everyone is watching. Javaad Alipoor's darkly comedic *Rich Kids* explores entitlement, consumption

and tech, combining digital theatre with a live Instagram feed.

Riverside Theatres

22 January

THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

Javaad Alipoor Company (UK)
Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta

World premiere

In 1992, Iranian popstar and refugee Fereydoun Farrokhzad was found brutally murdered. The case was never solved. This preview of Javaad Alipoor's new work explores violence, digital culture and the post-colonial world.

Riverside Theatres

14-23 January

ONLINE AT HOME

ENJOY THE SHOW WHEREVER YOU ARE

Catch live music and performance from the comfort of your own postcode. This year we're beaming sights and sounds from inside, outside, curbside and harbourside locations across Sydney so you can watch and listen wherever you are. Catch live gigs from Speakers Corner, watch *The Reckoning* talks at Sydney Town Hall, *The Construct*'s acrobatic excellence from Darling Harbour, skate/parkour/dance fusion *DEMO* at Parramatta and the startling ode to climate change, *THAW*, from the forecourt of Sydney Opera House. Also online is an exclusive Cinematic Opera by Operasmith's Matthew Barclay, that re-contextualises Francis Poulenc's monodrama in one act, *Human Voices*, in a Sydney setting.

THAW

Legs On The Wall & Sydney Opera House (Australia/Alaska)

World premiere

HANGING IN THE BALANCE

Suspended 20 metres above Sydney Harbour, a colossal iceberg melts away before your eyes. On it, a

woman alone. Set to an original score by Alaska's Matthew Burtner, this latest outdoor epic by globally renowned physical theatre company Legs On The Wall is a statement on climate change and the urgency for action.

Sydney Opera House Forecourt

14-16 January

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

AIRSHIP ORCHESTRA

ENESS

A CHORUS OF MYSTICAL BEINGS

Meet a luminous, otherworldly chorus of 16 inflatable sculptures rising up to six metres high, pulsating with supernatural song and glowing light. A mesmeric adventure for all ages, this interactive public installation sparks joy in a mystical realm. Wander, and be soothed. These charismatic astral creatures will stand guard over the summer night.

Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour

6-30 January

THE NIGHTLINE

Roslyn Oades, Bob Scott & collaborators

VOICES IN THE DARK

You are welcomed into a venue full of intimate, low-lit tables for one. On each is an old telephone and switchboard. This is your direct and unique connection to *The Nightline*, a collection of over 600 soul-baring, skin-tingling local voice messages left between midnight and 6am. No actors, no scripts; the voices in the dark are real.

National Art School

12-23 January

FLOORS OF HEAVEN: SUBMERSIVE STUDY

Leon Vynehall (UK)

A FLOATING MEDITATION FROM A MASTER OF ELECTRONICA

Explore your consciousness while suspended in one of Sydney's most stunning outdoor pools. Leon Vynehall's ambient study is a reaction to space, and the highly

sensory experience of immersing yourself in sound whilst floating in water.

Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool

6–9 January

ACOUSTIC LIFE OF BOATSHEDS

Sydney Festival, Big hART, Australian National Maritime Museum & Noakes Group

SOUNDING AN UNSUNG HARBOUR

Now here's a Sydney Harbour you won't find on a postcard. Join musicians, sound artists and shipwrights on a ferry voyage sounding out the unsung places of the working harbour west of the Bridge. Experience site-specific soundscapes and performances in boatsheds shaped by time, tide and trade.

Australian National Maritime Museum

20-23 January

MUSIC

ITALIAN BAROQUE WITH CIRCA

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra & Circa Contemporary Circus

World Premiere

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT; PRIDE AND PASSION

Settle in for an absorbing Baroque experience propelled by the vivacious Brandenburg string orchestra, as two of Australia's finest creative companies meld music and acrobatics into an exploration of four proud and ancient cities of Italy.

City Recital Hall

19-27 January

SINGULAR VOICES: MARTHA MARLOW

CRH Presents

Drenched in orchestral pop, Marlow's dazzlingly accomplished debut album *Medicine Man* is an evocative, heart-on-sleeve ode to folk and feeling. Lose yourself as her silvery tones explore introspection, longing and hope.

City Recital Hall

14 January

FAT FREDDY'S DROP (UK)

supported by WILSN

As one of the world's finest live draws, Fat Freddy's soulful blend of sunshine reggae and psychedelic funk leaves a twenty-year trail of faithful fans in its wake. Pop your toast and get ready for the ultimate live jam.

Hordern Pavilion

18 January

THE TESKEY BROTHERS WITH ORCHESTRA VICTORIA

supported by Emma Donovan & The Putbacks

A SPECTACULAR UNION

Featuring gritty guitar and a rasping lead vocal that'll break your heart and heal it again in one bar, this nonnsense rock'n'soul quartet from Warrandyte is an Australian treasure. Don't miss the *Live at Hamer Hall* tour, a union of musical minds that adds the richness of an orchestra to soul-baring blues.

Aware Super Theatre

15 January

SYDNEY SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS

Sydney Symphony Orchestra & Parramatta Park Trust

THE JOY OF MUSIC, TOGETHER

This summer, music sounds better shared. Join the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and conductor Benjamin Northey for an unforgettable evening of companionship and orchestral classics under the starlit canopy of a summer's night. Bring your favourite people – and we'll bring your favourite music from the ages.

The Crescent, Parramatta Park

Check website for date

TALK SERIES

THE RECKONING: 2022

UNSW Centre For Ideas

WHAT JUST HAPPENED? WE SHOULD PROBABLY UNPACK THAT, AUSTRALIA.

We've weathered fire, flood, scandal, political failures and a pandemic in a few short and shocking years. We should probably unpack that.

A gutsy four-part talk series curated by the UNSW Centre for Ideas combines big conversations with a splash of comic relief to tackle the issues shaping our future. Julia Banks, Virginia Gay, Stan Grant, Richard Holden, Mark Humphries, Dan Ilic, Emma Johnston, Benjamin Law, George Megalogenis, Louise Milligan, Laura Tingle and more are on the roll call to discuss pandemic politics, climate (in)action, Indigenous recognition, our changing national identity and a firm farewell to misogyny.

Presented by UNSW Sydney, education partner of Sydney Festival

Sydney Town Hall

21-22 January

VISUAL ARTS

Iridescent

Gerwyn Davies & Sydney Living Museums

In 12 large-scale works, queer photographic artist and costume maker Gerwyn Davies reimagines Sydney's museums, archives, historic houses and gardens.

Museum of Sydney

From 4 December

KHALED SABSABI: A HOPE

Campbelltown Arts Centre

Spanning more than two decades, *A Hope* is an invitation to explore Khaled Sabsabi's multidisciplinary contemporary art practice and his unique perspective on the world

Campbelltown Arts Centre

From 4 January

MATISSE: LIFE & SPIRIT

Masterpieces from the Centre Pompidou, Paris Art Gallery of New South Wales

The joy of Matisse through 100 works spanning six decades. This Sydney exclusive offers a colourful glimpse into one of the world's most beloved artists.

Art Gallery of NSW

From 20 November

KARLA DICKENS: RETURN TO SENDER

Carriageworks

In a show of pride and defiance, this installation reworks old postcards depicting racist imagery with contemporary representations of First Australians.

Carriageworks

6-30 January

DESTINATION SYDNEY

Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Mosman Art Gallery, S.H. Ervin Gallery

Destination Sydney: The natural world is a Sydney inspired multi-gallery collaboration featuring 9 gifted female artists.

Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Mosman Art Gallery, S. H. Ervin Gallery

From 3 January

MAGICAL PUTT PUTT

Studio A

Angels, alters and putt putt. A gallery transforms into a multi artform funfair, fuelled by the connective forces of reverence, ritual and play.

Cement Fondu

From 15 January

FAMILY

ERTH'S PREHISTORIC PICNIC

Erth, The Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust

World Premiere

There's nothing like a good bit of lawn for a dinosaur to stretch its legs and do all the things a dinosaur's gotta do. Watch it all as a family, from the safety of your picnic rug.

Parramatta Park & Royal Botanic Garden Sydney

8-30 January

FLUFFY

Artbomb

World premiere

Crunch, roll, rip and fluff in this fluttering wonderland of shredded paper. *Fluffy* is an interactive show and free-play environment where mess is beautiful and imagination runs amok.

Carriageworks

18–23 January

ZOOOM

Riverside Theatres & Patch Theatre

The dark is a magical place. Using original music, lasers and projections, your imagination will build this dreamlike story of a child alone in her bedroom with a lost star.

Riverside Theatres

20–22 January

THE CONSTRUCT

Axis by Circus Monoxide
In association with Quiet Riot

Let's hear it for hope and humanity in this playful mix-up of circus and dance. Tumbling and contorting across a cube of welded steel, an ensemble explores who we are in the new normal.

Eat Street Parramatta, Darling Harbour & Cronulla

19–23 January

FIND YOUR SIDE

There are so many different sides to our wonderful city, just as there are to you, you culture-loving dodecahedron, you. Take our online quiz to find your playful side, your dramatic side, your loud and sweaty gig side – and we'll find you the shows to match it.

Head to sydneyfestival.org.au/findyourside

PLAN YOUR FESTIVAL

Our program is extensive, and the circumstances extraordinary. Why not get some guidance to ensure you don't miss a beat?

Head to **sydneyfestival.org.au/plan-your-festival** for everything you need to know and do to get the absolute best from your fest.

TICKETS

For all pricing details, info and to book please visit **sydneyfestival.org.au**

Tickets available from **9AM Wednesday 17 November AEDT**

GETTING THERE

Public Transport

We encourage you to use public transport when getting to and from Sydney Festival events. For transport information visit **transportnsw.info** or call 131 500.

Wilson Parking

Receive 10% off Wilson Parking when you prebook your parking online using the promo code SYDFEST22. Only available at selected car parks in the Sydney CBD. Visit **bookabay.com.au**

ACCESS & INCLUSION

We welcome all visitors to Sydney Festival events, and make every effort to ensure the program is accessible to our whole audience. For up-to-date details on the Festival's access program, precincts, venues and built environments, and for information on shows including duration time, visit sydneyfestival.org/access

Contact us

For disability access information and assistance, email access@sydneyfestival.org.au, or call us on 02 8248 6500. Sydney festival is happy to receive calls via the National Relay Service. We would like to thank the members of Sydney Festival Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel for their expert advice and advocacy:

Coral Arnold, Morwenna Collett, Julie Jones, Greg Killeen, Vanessa Lucas, Naomi Malone, Liz Martin, Paul Nunnari

FESTIVAL FEASTS

Culture truly sustains us – but so do noodles. We've partnered with some of Sydney's best restaurants to get you great food and exclusive menus near our venues. Below is just a taste of our program...

CHEFS GALLERY TOWN HALL

Shop 12, Regent Place Shopping Centre

501 George St, Sydney

02 89705450

CHI BY LOTUS

Shop 2, 100 Barangaroo Ave

Barangaroo

02 7227 6290

LOTUS THE GALERIES

Level 1, The Galeries

500 George St, Sydney

02 9247 6868

THE DINING ROOM, PARK HYATT SYDNEY

7 Hickson Rd

The Rocks

02 9256 1661

MISFITS AT THE REDFERN

106 George St

Redfern

02 9318 1497

WATSON'S EQ

The Entertainment Quarter

1 Bent St, Moore Park

1300 440 263

Head to **sydneyfestival.org.au/ff** to find out more.