

Sydney Festival 2024

Preview Guide

Sydney Festival acknowledges the 29 clans of the Eora Nation, the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Festival takes place.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

Welcome to Sydney Festival's exhilarating summer of art.

From saltwater and freshwater stories to tales of Sydney Harbour and the weaving of 1,000 local and international artists' voices. We invite you to discover our city.

Stretching across the best harbourside location in the world, Walsh Bay and its many theatres and unique spaces will play host to a full-swing Festival takeover. The Thirsty Mile is a cheeky throwback to Sydney's working wharf history and your new spot this summer.

Our 2024 highlights include *Il Tabarro* — Puccini's brooding one-act opera performed aboard Sydney's Carpentaria lightship, *White Gold* by Cambodia's Phare Circus and *SummerGround* — a brand new three-day music festival presenting the best soul, funk, roots, R&B and indie rock from across the globe. In Parramatta, Sydney Symphony Under the Stars will perform *Pictures in the Sky*, featuring the masterful talents of William Barton, Aunty Delmae Barton, Iva Davies AM and legendary sitar player Anoushka Shankar, while at Riverside Theatres we're proud to present *BANANALAND*, a brand new musical comedy by Kate Miller-Heidke and Keir Nuttall (*Muriel's Wedding The Musical*).

Exquisite dance, spellbinding theatre and free events for the whole family presented right across Greater Sydney will once again move, delight and entertain audiences this January.

I would like to acknowledge Jacob Nash, Sydney Festival's Creative Artist in Residence, for curating this year's Blak Out program, which has three world premieres including rock'n'roll musical *Big Name, No Blankets* by ILBIJERRI Theatre Company, *GURR ERA OP* by Torres Strait Islander storyteller Ghenoa Gela and *Vigil: The Future*, a thought-provoking song cycle about tomorrow's Australia, performed by First Nations youth.

My sincere thanks to Sydney Festival's principal philanthropic supporter Peter Freedman AM and our principal government partners the State Government through Create NSW and Destination NSW, and the City of Sydney. I would also like to thank our community of artists, audiences, staff and supporters who make the Festival possible.

We look forward to welcoming you in January on what always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

Olivia Ansell
Festival Director

SummerGround

Loud, live and full of vibe. Kick off the year with a three-day groundswell of big sound, right in the heart of the city. Loud, live and full of vibe. Kick off the year with a three-day groundswell of big sound, right in the heart of the city.

In alphabetical order:

BECKAH AMANI, CIMAFUNK, DANTÉ KNOWS, DEM MOB,
DOJO CUTS, ELECTRIC FIELDS, FANTASTIC NEGRITO,
FULL FLOWER MOON BAND, JUDITH HILL, KING
STINGRAY, THE TESKEY BROTHERS, TIANA KHASI,
WORLDS COLLIDE FEAT. STIFF GINS

+ MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

MUSIC

Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour
5-7 January

Il Tabarro

VICTORIAN OPERA
AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

A nautical noir opera under the stars, staged aboard the historic lightship the *Carpentaria* in 1930s Sydney. Puccini's one-act masterpiece (the first opera in Puccini's *Il Trittico*) is a darkly romantic tale of passion, desperation and heartbreak. Featuring exceptional Australian talent and a live orchestra, this is a free event — but bookings are essential.

OPERA

Australian National Maritime Museum
9–13 January
Free and ticketed

THE THIRSTY MILE

Stretching across one of the most knockout harbourside locations in the world with theatres, bars, an exhibition space and a thumping club, The Thirsty Mile is a cheeky throwback to Sydney's working wharf history and your new spot this summer. If you're thirsty for change, thirsty for culture, or simply thirsty for a big night — come early, stay late. And drink it all in.

VARIOUS

Walsh Bay Arts Precinct

5–28 January

IMMERSIVE

Night Songs at Coney Island

SYDNEY PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS

WORLD PREMIERE

Ceremony of Innocence

A deeply moving work in an iconic Sydney location. This immersive choral music experience takes over Coney Island, featuring artists from the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, soloists Peter Coleman-Wright AO and Cheryl Barker AO, a children's ensemble, and chamber orchestra performing music by Poulenc, Stravinsky and Mahler — capturing the darkness and light.

MUSIC

Luna Park

22-25 January

A'amar

BUKJEH | WORLD PREMIERE

Join Melbourne-based Palestinian artist, activist and theatre-maker Aseel Tayah for a sensory evening of food, poetry, song and storytelling from her family's homeland. Immerse yourself in a four-course Arabic meal, as Tayah and fellow musicians take you on a journey that celebrates cuisine to honour friendship, love and new beginnings.

THEATRE & FOOD

Riverside Theatres

25-28 January

SPIN

ANNA SEYMOUR | UK

An interactive guided dance event with three Deaf hosts and a DJ, *SPIN* celebrates connection, escapism and hedonism while shaking up assumptions about who belongs in the rave realm. Experience the joys of moving together — everyone is welcome!

DANCE & PARTY

Moonshine Bar

17–21 January

Hi-Vis

MICHAEL SHAW | UK

AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Michael Shaw's sinuous sculpture is taking over a Walsh Bay wharf — literally. The British sculptor uses the building like a mould to form and inform the geometry of his vibrant 46-metre-

long installation. *Hi-Vis* subverts the use of public space and encourages you to see things a little differently.

ART INSTALLATION

Moonshine Bar

22–25 January

FREE

Sculptured Riddims

AZZAM MOHAMED | WORLD PREMIERE

Dance takes shape in a transformed space

Art meets music and dance in *Sculptured Riddims*. Dance artists share their creative responses to Michael Shaw's *Hi-Vis* installation, taking shape over three nights in the Moonshine Bar. Each event showcases different communities, cultures, music genres and dance styles — from street to club to Afro dance styles — offering a totally immersive and inclusive experience.

DANCE

Moonshine Bar

11–25 January

Te Wheke—a-Muturangi: The Adversary

LISA REIHANA | NEW ZEALAND

Rising to the surface

The giant female octopus Te Wheke-a-Muturangi takes up residence in Sydney Harbour, telling another side to the story of the Polynesian navigator Kupe who, it is said, discovered Aotearoa New Zealand. Scan the QR code on-site to hear Te Wheke's remarkable story, or hit the harbour for a kayak tour. You can't miss her.

ART INSTALLATION

Waterman's Cove, Barangaroo

5-28 January

FREE

Arka Kinari

FILASTINE & NOVA | INDONESIA

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Subversive, immersive and partially submerged

A globally touring music production moved by the wind, powered by the sun, and shared freely on public waterfronts, *Arka Kinari* is dropping anchor. Message meets method on this floating stage promoting sustainability, shared knowledge and hope for our future.

MUSIC

Sydney Harbour

17-19 January

FREE

House of Fast Fashun

FAST FASHUN ART COLLECTIVE

Join a truly interactive performance in which you're the fashion designer, maker and runway model. There's a tonne of discarded fashion and fabric to work with. Scissors, safety pins and sound advice are on hand. And there are only 59 minutes until your catwalk show!

FASHION & ART

Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour

20-21 January

FREE

Sunrise Yoga

Sun salutations, Sydney. Bask in the early-morning rays, soak in the ambient tunes and stretch out those nine-to-five aches and pains with an energising yoga session by the water. There's no better way to start your Festival day.

YOGA & MUSIC

Wharf 4/5

12-27 January

BLACK OUT

Olivia and I are proud to reveal the Blak Out program, bringing together some of Australia's most talented First Nations artists to share their incredible stories. These artists will challenge, inspire and truth-tell, setting the Blak agenda.

The program features stories of rock'n'roll legends from the desert, of climate change in the Torres Strait, friendship and sisterhood in the big smoke, and truths past and present. Straight from Yellamundie Festival we present a play reading of one of the newest, deadliest Blak works in the country, whilst *Vigil* looks to the future through the eyes of those who will inherit it, as we listen to the next generation through song and ceremony.

We look forward to seeing you in January.

Jacob Nash

Creative Artist in Residence

Vigil: The Future

Listen to the next generation

This year's *Vigil* is about hope, empowering young voices and giving them a platform to share their messages to the people of

Australia. A large-scale installation at Barangaroo Headland will come to life with a choir of First Nations young people, as they sing of their dreams, realities and hopes for the future.

MUSIC & CEREMONY

Barangaroo Reserve

25 January

FREE

Big Name, No Blankets

ILBIJERRI THEATRE COMPANY

WORLD PREMIERE

From the desert to big cities, a rock music legacy

A theatrical tribute to music icons the Warumpi Band, who made history as the first rock'n'roll group to sing in Aboriginal languages. From the NT desert to global stages, they sent Aboriginal culture worldwide in the 80s and 90s. Co-created with founding member Sammy Butcher, and family members of the band.

MUSIC & THEATRE

Roslyn Packer Theatre

10-14 January

Tiddas

LA BOITE THEATRE & BELVOIR

Women, sisterhood and solidarity

Five women, best friends for decades, meet once a month to talk about books, lovers and the jagged bits of life in between. But each woman carries a complex secret and one weekend, without warning, everything comes unstuck. Anita Heiss' own adaptation of her much-loved novel heads to Sydney.

THEATRE

Belvoir St Theatre

13 Jan–4 Feb

Camp Culture

DALE WOODBRIDGE BROWN & CLUSTER ART

No gammin summer camp — this is an interactive circus show full of culture and campfires, tricks and flips. Circus star and completely unqualified camp leader Dale Woodbridge Brown can't use a compass, but proves everyone can earn their badge for being their most authentic self

CIRCUS & FAMILY

Seymour Centre

12–14 January LA BOITE THEATRE & BELVOIR

GURR ERA OP

FORCE MAJEURE & ILBIJERRI THEATRE COMPANY

WORLD PREMIERE

Join four mainland-born Torres Strait Islander women as they battle the rising tide threatening their home, culture and identity. *GURR ERA OP* (“the face of the sea” in Meriam Mir) is a celebratory sharing of culture and a call to action in the face of climate devastation, interweaving contemporary storytelling, movement and spoken word.

DANCE & THEATRE

Bangarra Dance Theatre, Studio 1

13–19 January

Mutiara

MARRUGEKU
WORLD PREMIERE SEASON

Revealing Broome's hidden history

Intercultural dance theatre company Marrugeku bring to life the buried, haunting story of Broome's pearling industry, and the bond between seafaring Malay peoples and First Peoples of the Kimberley. Reflecting on early colonial times of racism, slavery, and stolen children, *Mutiara* honours a deep connection that often led to love and lifelong companionship.

DANCE & THEATRE
Seymour Centre
19-21 January

Living Sculptures: How the Birds got their Colours

ARC CIRCUS CO.

Imagination takes flight

Created by Queensland's Arc Circus Co. in collaboration with Luther Cora and the Yugambah Dancers, this visually stunning, Indigenous-led circus performance is inspired by a famous Dreamtime story. Fusing First Nations dance and storytelling with incredible acrobatics and a mesmerising score, it will delight the whole family.

CIRCUS & DANCE
Various Outdoor
10-14 January
FREE

DANCE

Encantado

LIA RODRIGUES COMPANHIA DE DANÇAS BRAZIL |
AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

The enchanted and disenchanting in a jubilant dance

The celebrated Brazilian choreographer Lia Rodrigues summons healing spirits in a joyous dance work designed to re-enchant the world. With eleven incredible dancers and 140 brightly coloured blankets, *Encantado* builds from stillness to a shape-shifting crescendo of freedom.

DANCE

Sydney Opera House

5–10 January

GöteborgsOperans Danskompani

SWEDEN | AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

A double bill of *Skid* by Damien Jalet & *SAABA* by Sharon Eyal

A Swedish double-bill of cutting-edge contemporary dance. In Damien Jalet's *Skid*, 17 dancers battle gravity on a vertiginous, 34 degree slope — sliding, swaying, struggling back to the top. In Sharon Eyal's *SAABA*, an intoxicating dancefloor with thumping beats sees dancers pushing traditional movements to the robotic extreme.

DANCE DOUBLE BILL

Roslyn Packer Theatre

23-28 January

Hope Hunt and the Ascension into Lazarus

OONA DOHERTY | UK

Masculinity, social class, football allegiance — the id of the Northern Irish chav is broken down and raised again in Oona Doherty's dexterous choreography. It's a swaggering, loving tribute to a group rarely afforded space in contemporary dance.

Wolverine

DANCE MAKERS COLLECTIVE
WORLD PREMIERE

A solo work by Emma Harrison that turns the need to carry your keys in your fist at night, like Wolverine, into a cycle of transformation — subverting and appropriating feminine archetypes, mythology, wolves, pop culture and self-defence.

DANCE DOUBLE BILL
Sydney Dance Company, Studio 5
10-13 January

Wayfinder

DANCENORTH AUSTRALIA

Exhilarating dance with score by Hiatus Kaiyote

In a kaleidoscopic fusion of dance, music and art, Dancenorth Australia joins forces with three-time Grammy nominated Australian band Hiatus Kaiyote, sound artist Byron J. Scullin and Japanese-Australian visual artist Hiromi Tango for a sublime new performance.

DANCE
The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre, Sutherland
19-20 January

THEATRE

Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World

THE JAVAAD ALIPOOR COMPANY & NATIONAL THEATRE
OF PARRAMATTA | UK

Multimedia murder mystery

An investigation into the nature of investigations, with the unsolved murder of Iranian pop icon Fereydoun Farrokhzad at its centre. Take a dive down the rabbit hole of Wikipedia and murder mystery podcasts in this thrilling multimedia theatre experience about a case you've never heard of.

THEATRE

Sydney Opera House

19-21 January

Are we not drawn onward to new erA

ONTROEREND GOED | BELGIUM
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

A palindromic call to action

From the makers of the powerful World Without Us (Sydney Festival 2018), this unique work captures a crucial moment in history: the world on the brink, humanity poised at the crossroads of salvation and downfall. An award-winning, palindromic call to action that will devastate and amaze.

THEATRE

Roslyn Packer Theatre

16-20 January

Masterclass

BROKENTALKERS & ADRIENNE TRUSCOTT | IRELAND

Say goodbye to your reverence for the old masters. Ireland's Brokentalkers and New York's Adrienne Truscott unpack the cult of male genius in *Masterclass*, a slapstick comedy that stings. It's fun. It's familiar. There are wigs.

THEATRE

Sydney Opera House

12–16 January

Overflow

DARLINGHURST THEATRE COMPANY

Keeping her head above water

“Club toilets have taught me more about sisterhood than any book.” From one of the UK's most prominent trans voices, Travis Alabanza (Burgerz), this future classic returns after a rave-reviewed 2022 season at Darlinghurst Theatre Company.

THEATRE

Eternity Playhouse

17–27 January

Ode to Joy (How Gordon got to go to the nasty pig party)

STORIES UNTOLD PRODUCTIONS &
JAMES LEY | UK | AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

A hilarious celebration of hedonism

Scottish public servant Gordon is coming to terms with the idea he might be deadly dull. That is until he meets Marcus and Tom — AKA Cumpig and Manpussy — at a chemsex orgy in Berlin. Invited to the biggest gay party at Berghain, Gordon attempts to

unleash his inner sex pig in this riotous rite-of-passage story set to a pumping techno soundscape.

THEATRE

Bell Shakespeare, The Neilson Nutshell

16–21 January

Saplings

AUSTRALIAN THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE & YOUTH ACTION

Stories from the law and justice system

Would you risk breaking bail for a packet of Mi Goreng? Yuwaalaraay playwright Hannah Belanszky and Kalkadoon director Abbie-lee Lewis present a collection of hilarious and heartbreaking stories born from workshops with young people in conflict with the law and justice system, performed by four talented young actors.

THEATRE

ATYP, The Rebel Theatre

24 Jan-4 Feb

MUSIC THEATRE

BANANALAND

BRISBANE FESTIVAL & QUEENSLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Worst rock band, best kids' band

Australia's least-loved punk rock protest band Kitty Litter has hit a wall. After four years they've accumulated one fan. But that's about to change when one of their avant-garde anthems becomes an accidental hit on the kids' music charts. Kate

Miller-Heidke, Keir Nuttall and Simon Phillips (*Muriel's Wedding The Musical*) bring their romping musical comedy with a knockout score to Sydney.

MUSIC THEATRE

Riverside Theatres

3-14 January

Orpheus & Eurydice

OPERA AUSTRALIA, OPERA QUEENSLAND & CIRCA

Circus meets opera in this genre-busting production

Journey to the underworld and back. Gluck's heartbreaking opera follows the grieving Orpheus into the jaws of Hades to rescue his beloved Eurydice. Awe-inspiring acrobatics meets exquisite music in this contemporary reimagining. Projections seamlessly integrate surtitles into the action on stage, as brilliant singers come together with the trailblazing circus artists of Circa.

OPERA & CIRCUS

Sydney Opera House

12-31 January

MUSIC

Soliloquy

GENEVIEVE LACEY & GIDEON OBARZANEK

A radical reinvention of the solo recital

Devised by musician Genevieve Lacey and featuring a rare performance from contemporary dancer Stephanie Lake, *Soliloquy* invites 30 untrained participants on stage to create a

living music-dance ritual, as a recorder virtuoso brilliantly executes Telemann's Twelve Fantasias for Solo Flute amidst it all. A truly unique Festival experience.

MUSIC & DANCE

City Recital Hall

17-18 January

Sydney Symphony Under the Stars: Pictures in the Sky

SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & GREATER SYDNEY
PARKLANDS

A soaring new program for a Festival favourite

The starlit summer concert you love is back with a soaring new program to lift this park picnic into the stratosphere. Enjoy original works featuring the didgeridoo magic of William Barton, joined by Aunty Delmae Barton, Véronique Serret and Iva Davies AM, and the transportive sitar playing of Anoushka Shankar. All supported by Sydney Symphony Orchestra and conductor Benjamin Northey, who will bring it home with traditional classics and a big sparkly bang.

MUSIC

The Crescent, Parramatta Park

20 January

FREE

Temperament

Bach and beyond

JS Bach is a true avant-gardist. *Temperament* — a week-long celebration and deconstruction of Bach — pays homage to the revolutionary advances his music enabled and its influence on modern composers. Featuring an exceptional program of local

and international artists and ensembles including Bach Akademie Australia, Korkmaz Can Sağlam, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Andrew Bukenya: Bach in Colour, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Benjamin Skepper and Ensemble Apex.

MUSIC

ACO, The Nielson

23-28 January

Anoushka Shankar

UK | AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

The world's finest sitar player returns

The singular queen of sitar Anoushka Shankar returns with her unique Indian classical and contemporary music. Back in Sydney after her 2018 standout shows, this time she brings a dynamic five-piece of London instrumentalists to perform her hypnotic and achingly beautiful neoclassical approach.

MUSIC

Sydney Opera House

12 January

Amaro Freitas

BRAZIL | AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Fusing jazz with the Afro-Brazilian music of his homeland, the multi-talented pianist and composer Amaro Freitas has helped redefine Brazilian jazz. His percussively unique sound draws equally upon maracatu, frevo and baião, and John Coltrane, Charlie Parker and Thelonius Monk.

MUSIC

ACO, The Neilson

12-14 January

Conic Rose

GERMANY

Led by trumpeter Konstantin Döben, Conic Rose's mesmerising compositions are linked to the band's hometown of Berlin. Their debut album, *Heller Tag*, begins from jazz foundations, then weaves in indie-pop, electronica soul and ambient. Don't miss this spellbinding live show.

MUSIC

ACO, The Neilson

12-14 January

Harold López-Nussa

GRÉGOIRE MARET

CUBA | AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Born and raised in Havana, Cuba, Harold López-Nussa has become one of the most accomplished pianists and composers in the world of Latin jazz. Performing with his acclaimed quartet, he'll share songs from *Timba a la Americana*, his first album on the legendary Blue Note Records.

MUSIC

ACO, The Neilson

10-13 January

LILJA

NORWAY | AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Sydney's hot summer nights get a dose of cool Norwegian jazz. Guitarist and composer LILJA brings her band and multifaceted musical vision — spanning jazz, folk and an array of rich global influences — to Australia for the first time.

MUSIC

ACO, The Neilson

11-13 January

Peter Cat Recording Co.

INDIA

Formed in India's cacophonous capital of New Delhi, Peter Cat Recording Co. defies easy categorisation. Led by the bewitching baritone of founder and frontman Suryakant Sawhney, the five-piece earned rave reviews and won over new fans with their 2019 album *Bismillah*.

MUSIC

ACO, The Neilson

17-18 January

Brett Whiteley Studio Sessions

BRETT WHITELEY FOUNDATION & ART GALLERY OF NSW

The studio sessions are back and a whole lot bigger. Musicians Anoushka Shankar, Harold López-Nussa, Tim Freedman, Jo Davie, Judith Hill and Rizo are raring to share their response to the work of one of Sydney's most iconic visual artists at the Brett Whiteley Studio.

MUSIC

Brett Whiteley Studio

6-27 January

Courtney Barnett

Ordinary moments made wondrous

One of Australia's most beloved and acclaimed singer-songwriters gives a special two-part performance. First, the arrival of a gorgeous new chapter from Barnett with the release of her instrumental album, *End of the Day* (music from the film *Anonymous Club*), performed and improvised with collaborator Stella Mozgawa. Then, Barnett sings from her incomparable back catalogue.

MUSIC

City Recital Hall

20 January

Late Nights at the Thirsty Mile

Dance after dark amidst wild art installations at our supercharged club nights. Serving up a vast range of electronic genres from across the world, with parties hosted by Astral People, Wavyland and Finely Tuned, plus a huge closing night with South African DJ Mo Laudi.

MUSIC

Moonshine Bar

12-28 January

Lisa O'Neill

IRELAND

Ireland's Lisa O'Neill is one of the most striking folk singers performing today. Her voice is raw, evocative and laden with emotion. Renowned for her transporting live shows, don't miss O'Neill as she lets her wild loveliness rip.

MUSIC

City Recital Hall

19 January

New Beginnings Festival

SETTLEMENT SERVICES INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIAN
NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

From First Nations to newcomers and everyone in between, New Beginnings Festival is where you belong. Back after a fantastic 2023, immerse yourself in fresh sounds and tastes, and conversations on inclusivity and equity in the art.

MUSIC

Australian National Maritime Museum

27 January

FREE

Edge of Reality: Elvis Presley Songbook

RAZ MUSIC

Created by Paul Grabowsky AO and starring Australian performers Joe Camilleri and Deborah Conway, *Edge of Reality* is a unique tribute to Elvis Presley with heartfelt, re-imagined renditions of the King's greatest hits.

MUSIC

The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre, Sutherland

27 January

CABARET

Rizo: Prizmatism

USA

A glamour-puss chanteuse and a powerhouse vocalist, GRAMMY® Award-winning cabaret superstar Rizo brings a dose of love, glitter and radical optimism. Enter her prism of lust, heartbreak and life's beauty via vintage pop, rock'n'roll and ridiculous high jinks.

CABARET

Sydney Theatre Company

24-27 January

Send for Nellie

WORLD PREMIERE

Sydney, 1931. Singer Nellie Small puts on a top hat and tails at a little Oxford Street venue and a cabaret legend is born. Send for Nellie recreates in story, song and Nellie's own words the tale of the most impressive career in Australian entertainment you've probably never heard of.

CABARET

Sydney Theatre Company

10-14 January

Prinnie Stevens: Lady Sings the Blues Volume II

WORLD PREMIERE

R&B soul songstress Prinnie Stevens (*The Bodyguard*) returns with more heart-wrenching ballads and soul-stirring pop stories of the greats, with a setlist spanning Mahalia Jackson, Nina Simone, Aretha Franklin and Tina Turner.

CABARET

Sydney Theatre Company

16-17 January

Alma Zygier

WORLD PREMIERE

A bewitching jazz and blues performer, Alma Zygier's voice is a compelling mix of raw emotion, velvety nuance and grit. Hear her spin on classics from Ella Fitzgerald, Bessie Smith, Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday.

CABARET

Sydney Theatre Company

12-20 January

Smashed: The Nightcap

HEY DOWLING | WORLD PREMIERE

A lively lock-in of delicious cabaret

Your favourite brunch crew is cruising back to the Wharf. With your host, cabaret queen Victoria Falconer, this world-class femme-fronted ensemble is serving tasty cabaret, exquisite drag, jaw-dropping circus and a live-n-kickin' dive band so hot they'll blow your wig off, plus a smuggled-in selection of Festival headliners. Get ready to kick on.

CABARET

Sydney Theatre Company

6-27 January

It's a Sin: Songs of Love and Shame

MICHAEL GRIFFITHS

Helpmann Award-winner Michael Griffiths takes us on a very personal, funny and sometimes melancholy deep dive into the

songs of pop superstars the Pet Shop Boys, musical beacons for gay men growing up and coming out.

CABARET

Sydney Theatre Company

12 January

Michelle Brasier: Average Bear

CENTURY ARTISTS

Comedy star Michelle Brasier's all-singing, all-joking, all-heartbreaking show has been a rocket to acclaim. After scoring multiple awards at Sydney and Melbourne comedy festivals, and sold out runs in London and Edinburgh, the phenomenally successful cabaret returns to Sydney.

CABARET

Sydney Theatre Company

25-26 January

An Evening Without Kate Bush

HEY DOWLING & SARAH-LOUISE YOUNG | U

Celebrating an incandescent genius

An award-winning cult cabaret paying glorious tribute to the music, fans and mythology of Kate Bush, one of the most influential voices in pop culture. UK performer Sarah-Louise Young helps you release your inner Bush and celebrate at this joyful and unique show. Come howl with the Hounds of Love.

CABARET

Sydney Theatre Company

1-21 January

The Chosen Haram

TURTLE KEY ARTS | UK
AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Circus, desire and forbidden love

“Haram” is anything forbidden by Islam. But what if it applies to the essence of who you are? Performed on Chinese poles, this emotionally candid take on contemporary circus by Sadiq Ali charts the relationship of two gay men, stacked with physical humour, pain, joy and a thumping soundtrack.

PHYSICAL THEATRE

Seymour Centre
16–21 January

White Gold

PHARE CIRCUS | CAMBODIA
AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Unmissable Cambodian circus

Feed your soul and savour Cambodia’s heritage with a spectacular circus celebrating healing, joy... and rice. Be astonished by hypnotic dance, mesmerising music, live painting and circus arts (juggling, tumbling and teeterboard) dating back 1,200 years.

CIRCUS

Seymour Centre
9-21 January

FAMILY

The King of Taking

THOM MONCKTON
NEW ZEALAND

Royally funny physical theatre

Roll out the red carpet! Seriously — the petulant king is allergic to normal flooring. Thom Monckton, the comic genius behind *The Artist* (Sydney Festival 2023) delivers a cackle-inducing physical comedy that shows what happens when the joint is run by clowns. This is your chance to curry favour with the entitled imbecile in power.

PHYSICAL THEATRE
Bell Shakespeare, The Neilson Nutshell
12-14 January

Sugung-ga: The Other Side of the World

MOKSUNG THEATRE COMPANY
SOUTH KOREA | AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIV

A charming turtle and hare fable

Korean pansori and Czech puppetry combine in the charming story of Sugung-ga, where a turtle must persuade a hare to give up his liver to an underwater dragon king. Live cello music, playful puppetry and witty storytelling colour this all-ages gem from South Korea's Moksung Theatre Company.

PUPPETRY & THEATRE
ATYP, The Rebel Theatre
10-14 January

A Bucket of Beetles

PAPERMOON PUPPET THEATRE INDONESIA |
AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE PAPERMOON PUPPET THEATRE

INDONESIA | AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Friendship, adventure and magical bugs

Yogyakarta's world-renowned Papermoon Puppet Theatre spins an all-ages tale of a friendship between a little boy named Wehea and the creatures he loves. Featuring exquisite puppetry, this is a show about the small things in life that help us understand the bigger things.

PUPPETRY & THEATRE

Seymour Centre

9-13 January

Seagulls

SNUFF PUPPETS

Snuff Puppets' giant *Seagulls* descend in a noisy quarrelsome pack. These unruly scavengers devour everything in their path. You might lose your hat as they fight each other for the finest spoils. Grab a hold of your children before they do!

PUPPETRY

Various Outdoors

12-14 January

Hive Festival

ART GALLERY OF NSW & BLACKTOWN ARTS

Explore a world of art, music, performance and play at this fun-filled festival for children and families across two weekends in January. Created with Claudia Chidiac, there's hands-on artmaking, immersive cardboard sculptures and an audio train journey in between.

IMMERSIVE ART

Art Gallery of NSW & The Leo Kelly Blacktown Arts Centre
13-20 January

The Listies: Make Some Noise

THE LISTIES

A comedy concert for humans aged four to 400. Join the maestros of mirth, Rich and Matt, as they belt out a bunch of songs with the LOLs turned up to 11. Will they be in tune? Almost. In time? Not quite. Can Rich dance? Let's find out!

THEATRE

Bondi Pavillion
3-13 January

Dinosaur World Live

NICOLL ENTERTAINMENT & SK ENTERTAINMENT | UK

Grab your compass and join our intrepid explorer across uncharted territories to discover a pre-historic world of astonishing (and life-like) dinosaurs. Meet a host of impressive creatures, including every child's favourite giant, the Tyrannosaurus Rex.

THEATRE

Riverside Theatres
18-20 January

THE ART OF SUMMER

This year, our branding draws straight from the 2024 program itself. Does the artwork above look familiar? It's a playful riff off the Michael Shaw art installation, Hi-Vis. Flip to the front cover

to see vibrant pieces of Lia Rodrigues' dance work Encantado in a bold new incarnation.

VISUAL ARTS

Tacita Dean

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART AUSTRALIA

Marvel at the largest-ever presentation of acclaimed artist Tacita Dean's work in the Southern Hemisphere. Part of the Sydney International Art Series 2023/24, the exhibition showcases her multi-disciplinary practice in a remarkable sensory experience.

VISUAL ART

Museum of Contemporary Art Australia

From 8 December

Earth, Sea and Sky: Australian Contemporary Photography

A fascinating collection of leading Australian artists and photographers pushing the boundaries of photography in form and matter as they meditate on our relationship with the environment.

VISUAL ART

Bondi Pavilion Gallery

From 9 December

FREE

Brett Whiteley: Chapters 1959–69

An exhibition of works made by renowned Australian artist Brett Whiteley during an intensive decade of travel and artistic

experimentation, including works that have not been on public display since the 1970s.

VISUAL ART

Brett Whiteley Studio

From 24 August

FREE

Louise Bourgeois: Has the Day Invaded the Night or Has the Night Invaded the Day?

ART GALLERY OF NSW

Experience the strange beauty and emotional power of Louise Bourgeois' art from her inventive seven-decade career, in the largest exhibition of her work ever seen in Australia.

VISUAL ART

Art Gallery of NSW

From 25 November

In Our Time: Four decades of art from China and beyond, the Geoff Raby Collection

NATIONAL ART SCHOOL

An exhibition from 75+ artists working in China and Australia as members of the Chinese diaspora. Imbued with humour, fantasy and sarcasm, the works explore urban life, Chinese philosophy, nationhood and more.

VISUAL ART

National Art School Galleries

From 19 January

FREE

Artspace: The Reopening

Join us at the newly reopened Artspace for a lecture by the multidisciplinary artist and composer DJ Mo Laudi (Ntshepe Tsekere Bopape). Additionally, enjoy a conversation with Bundjalung and Kullilli journalist and author Daniel Browning

TALKS

Artspace

27 January

Kandinsky

ART GALLERY OF NSW

Drawing on the rich holdings of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, this comprehensive exhibition showcases the life and work of one of the most distinguished European modernists, Vasily Kandinsky.

VISUAL ART

Art Gallery of NSW

From 4 November

Talking Posters: Garage Graphix 1981–1998

BLACKTOWN ARTS

Dive into the history of political poster art with this selection of screen-printed artworks, textiles and calendars alongside materials from the renowned 'Garage' in Mt Druitt in Western Sydney.

VISUAL ART

Wharf 4/5

8-28 January

FREE

Sydney Festival AT HOME

FREE

Prepare the snackery, Sydney Festival AT HOME brings the Festival right through your door. Enjoy livestreams of the floating opera *Il Tabarro*, this year's *Vigil: The Future*, and catch acrobatic and dance performance *Living Sculptures: How the Birds got their Colours* on world-famous Bondi Beach. On demand, watch the Australian premiere of *Cirque du Cambodia* (a documentary that follows two young Cambodians on their quest to join the big tops of Cirque du Soleil), and uncover the story behind the ground-breaking Warumpi Band, in the *Big Name No Blanket* 2013 documentary. Tune in to concerts from Tim Freedman, Lisa Moore and Hamed Sadeghi and discover the inspiration behind the incredible new live performance works, *GURR ERA OP* and *Big Name, No Blankets*.

This and plenty more on our website. No fees or sign-up pages — just press play.

Living Sculptures: How the Birds got their Colours

ARC CIRCUS CO.

Performed by a dance and circus troupe and recorded live at Bondi Beach, watch a moving sculpture of bodies unfold, twist and tumble before your eyes, as a famous Dreamtime story is told in a mesmerising new way.

LIVE RECORDING

From 16 January

Big Name No Blanket

NIGHT SKY FILMS

From island home to packed stadiums, this is the story behind George Rrurrambu and the Warumpi Band, whose extraordinary contribution to contemporary Indigenous music and reconciliation is still felt today.

DOCUMENTARY

5 January-31 March

Vigil: The Future

Tune in on 25 January to be part of *Vigil: The Future*, a night for young voices to share their messages to the people of Australia through art, installation and a powerful First Nations youth choir.

LIVESTREAM

25 January and on demand

Il Tabarro

VICTORIAN OPERA

Get a front row seat to Puccini's one-act opera on the water without leaving the house. Via livestream experience this dark tale of passion, desperation and heartbreak, performed aboard the historic Carpentaria

LIVESTREAM

12 January and on demand

Cirque du Cambodia

JOEL GERSHON

It's every child's fantasy: to run away and join the circus. Two kids from a Cambodian village did it — and then dreamt bigger,

setting their sights on the world-famous Cirque du Soleil. Watch their quest for the global stage.

DOCUMENTARY

5 January-31 March

Hamed Sadeghi in Empty Voices

Sink into a spell-binding ensemble performance from 2023 led by tar (Iranian lute) virtuoso Hamed Sadeghi, known for his fusions of Middle Eastern and Western music. Also catch 2023 performances from Lisa Moore and Tim Freedman.

LIVE RECORDING (2023)

From 5 January

Plan Your Festival

It's a big program and you've got big plans for it. We salute you, art lover, and we're here to help.

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, visit sydneyfestival.org.au

Tickets available from midday 26 October.

Multipacks

Book two or more events to save up to 20%.

Remember — multipacks are here for a good time not a long time. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Some exclusions apply, visit sydneyfestival.org.au/multipacks

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 pre-book your parking online using the promo code SYDFEST24. Only available at selected car parks in the Sydney CBD. Visit wilsonparking.com.au/book-online

Access & Inclusion

We welcome all visitors to Sydney Festival events, and make every effort to ensure the program is accessible to our whole audience. All our events are held at wheelchair accessible venues.

For further details on the Festival's access program, precincts, venues and built environments, and for up-to-date information on shows including duration time, visit sydneyfestival.org.au/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.

FESTIVAL FEASTS

We've partnered with some of Sydney's best restaurants to bring you exclusive \$30, \$55 and a la carte (ALC) menus near our venues, because a great art experience deserves a great meal for the debrief.

Ask for Festival Feasts and head to sydneyfestival.org.au/ff to see what's on offer.