SYDNEY FESTIVAL
ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCE GUIDE
5–28 JANUARY

Welcome

We welcome all visitors to Sydney Festival events and make every effort to ensure the program is accessible to our whole audience. For all the details on the Festival’s access program, precincts, venues, built environments and for information on shows visit sydneyfestival.org.au

* The 2024 Sydney Festival brochure is available in the following alternative formats:
* MP3 files via the website
* PDF document via the website
* Large print Word doc via the website
* Interactive brochure via the website

Bookings are essential for all accessible services.

Mobility

Sydney Festival ensures that its venues, precincts and built environments are as physically accessible as possible.

Wheelchair Access

All venues and locations are wheelchair accessible or have been made accessible for the 2024 Festival. Look out for the wheelchair symbol in our brochure and on our website. For access information on specific venues visit sydneyfestival.org.au/venues

Vision

Audio Description and Tactile Tours

Audio description is a service provided for patrons who are blind or have low vision. Trained audio describers provide live verbal descriptions of actions, costumes, scenery and other visual elements of the performance between gaps in the dialogue on stage via a discreet headset, provided pre-show. The audio description begins 10 minutes prior to the performance. Patrons must pick up a headset on arrival and book the service in advance.

Tactile tours allow patrons who are blind or have low vision and their companions to explore the set, props and costumes prior to the performance. Tactile tours take place prior to the performance and during the Audio Described Walking Tours. These must be booked in advance.

THEATRE

Are we not drawn onward to new erA
Acclaimed Belgian theatre innovators Ontroerend Goed return to Sydney Festival with a captivating call to action that stands at the point where visual art, theatre, poetry and political protest meet.

Australian Premiere
Roslyn Packer Theatre
19 January 7pm (Audio description during show, tactile tour commences prior to show at 6pm)
Duration: 75 minutes (no interval)
From $79 + booking fee

MUSIC THEATRE

BANANALAND
From Kate Miller-Heidke and Keir Nuttall (Muriel’s Wedding The Musical) comes a romping musical comedy that will rock your socks off.

Riverside Theatres
7 January 1pm (Audio description during show, tactile tour commences at 12pm)
Duration: 150 minutes (with interval)
From $69 + booking fee

THEATRE

Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World
An investigation into the nature of investigations, with the unsolved murder of Iranian pop icon Fereydoun Farrokhzad at its centre.

Sydney Opera House
21 January 1pm (Audio description during show, tactile tour commences prior to show at 12pm)
Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes (no interval)
From $59 + booking fee

VISUAL ARTS & INSTALLATION

Hi-Vis
Michael Shaw’s sinuous sculpture is taking over a Walsh Bay wharf, using the building like a mould to form and inform the geometry of his vibrant 46-metre-long installation.

Australian Exclusive
Moonshine Bar, Pier 2/3 Walsh Bay Precinct
13 January 1.30pm (Tactile tours also available)
FREE

THEATRE

Masterclass
Ireland’s Brokentalkers and New York’s Adrienne Truscott unpack the cult of male genius in Masterclass, a slapstick comedy that stings.

Sydney Opera House
14 January, 1pm (Audio description during show, tactile tour commences prior to show at 12pm)
Duration: 60 minutes (no interval)
From $49 + booking fee

THEATRE

Tiddas
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.

Belvoir St Theatre
25 January 7.30pm
Duration: 90 minutes (no interval)
From $55 + booking fee

ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

Assistance animals are welcome at all Festival events and venues; bookings are essential. If you are blind or have low vision and want to attend an event at Sydney Festival, Guide Dogs NSW/ACT can provide you with free training on how to travel safely from any location to your event at the Festival. Call 1800 484 333 to discuss your travel needs.

Auditory Content

* A guide for people who are blind or have low vision.
* ACO, The Neilson Music Events (Excluding Australian Brandenburg Orchestra
* Bach & the Artists and Eliza Hull, which include dance performances)
* Anoushka Shankar at the Sydney Opera House
* Brett Whiteley Studio Sessions: Anoushka Shankar
* Brett Whiteley Studio Sessions: Harold López-Nussa
* Brett Whiteley Studio Sessions: Jo Davie
* Brett Whiteley Studio Sessions: Judith Hill
* Brett Whiteley Studio Sessions: Rizo
* Brett Whiteley Studio Sessions: Tim Freedman
* Singular Voices: Lisa O’Neill
* Switched On: Courtney Barnett’s End of Day

Auditory Content

* Daniel Browning in Conversation with Larissa Behrendt
* Sydney Symphony Under the Stars: Pictures in the Sky
* Multicultural Comedy Gala
* ICONIC: Lost in Palm Springs Panel Discussion
* Lecture by Mo Laudi
* Hive Festival: Trains by The Kids

Hearing

Assistive Listening

Many venues have an induction hearing loop system or FM radio system available. Visit sydneyfestival.org.au/venues for information on all our venues.

Auslan Interpreted Events

Auslan interpreted events and performances are for patrons who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing and use Australian Sign Language (Auslan). Experienced Auslan theatre interpreters stand at the side of the stage and translate the dialogue into Auslan live. Audiences requiring this service are seated in the section closest to the interpreter to ensure good sightlines.

The following events are

Auslan-interpreted:

MUSIC THEATRE

Big Name, No Blankets
This brand-new Australian rock’n’roll theatre show celebrates the journey and impact of Aboriginal music icons the Warumpi Band.

World Premiere
Roslyn Packer Theatre
14 January 11.30am
Duration: 105 minutes (no interval)
From $79 + booking fee

THEATRE

Ode to Joy (How Gordon got to go to the nasty pig party)
Scottish civil servant Gordon abandons his homonormative behaviour for a sex party in Berlin, where he attempts to unleash his inner sex pig in this riotous rite-of-passage story set to a pumping techno soundscape.

Australian Exclusive
Bell Shakespeare, The Neilson Nutshell
21 January 6pm
Duration: 60 minutes (no interval)
$69 + booking fee

THEATRE

Masterclass

Ireland’s Brokentalkers and New York’s Adrienne Truscott unpack the cult of male genius in Masterclass, a slapstick comedy that stings.

Sydney Opera House
15 January, 6:30pm
Duration: 60 minutes (no interval)
From $49 + booking fee

CABARET & CIRCUS

Smashed: The Nightcap
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.

World Premiere
Sydney Theatre Company, Wharf 1 Theatre
27 January 7pm
Duration: 70 minutes (no interval)
From $49 + booking fee

DANCE & IMMERSIVE

SPIN

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 invited!

Moonshine Bar, Pier 2/3 Walsh Bay Precinct
17 January 8pm, 18 January 1pm,
19 Jan 8pm, 20 Jan 1pm & 8pm & 22 Jan 8pm
Duration: 45 minutes
$39 + booking fee

MUSIC & CEREMONY

Vigil: The Future

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.

World Premiere

Barangaroo Reserve
25 January 8.30pm
Duration: 45 minutes (no interval)
FREE

Captioning

Theatre captioning is an accurate live text display of a theatre performance in its entirety, including actors’ dialogue, ad libs, asides, song lyrics, musical descriptions and other sound effects, displayed on large screens at the side of the stage, and/or via the GoTheatrical! mobile app.

MUSIC THEATRE

BANANALAND

From Kate Miller-Heidke and Keir Nuttall (Muriel’s Wedding The Musical) comes a romping musical comedy that will rock your socks off.

Riverside Theatres
9 January 7.30pm
Duration: 150 minutes (with interval)
From $69 + booking fee

Surtitles

For non-English language and operatic performances. Surtitling is the translation of dialogue displayed on a screen above the stage.

OPERA

Il Tabarro

A nautical noir opera under the stars, staged abord the historic lightship The Carpentaria in 1930s Sydney. Puccini’s one-act masterpiece (the first opera in II Trittico) is a darkly romantic tale of passion, desperation and heartbreak.

Australian National Maritime Museum
9, 10, 12 & 13 January 8.30pm
Duration: 60 minutes (no interval)
Free and ticketed

OPERA & CIRCUS

Orpheus & Eurydice

Awe-inspiring acrobatics meets exquisite music in this contemporary reimagining of Gluck’s heartbreaking opera. Projections seamlessly integrate surtitles into the action on stage, as brilliant singers come together with the trailblazing circus artists of Circa.

Australian Exclusive
Sydney Opera House
12, 16, 18, 20, 23, 25 & 31 January 7.30pm, 27 January 12.30pm
Duration: 80 minutes (no interval)
From $49 + booking fee

Visual Content

A guide for people who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing

Contains no music or dialogue

* Brett Whiteley: Chapters 1959 – 69
* Casula Powerhouse Exhibitions:
* Katy B Plummer ‘Margaret and The Grey Mare’
* Leanne Tobin ‘Memories of Water (Badu)’
* Eddie Abd ‘The unbearable right to see and be seen’’
* Earth, Sea and Sky: Australian Contemporary Photography
* Talking Posters: Garage Graphix 1981–1998
* Hi-Vis
* In Our Time: Four decades of art from China and Beyond, the Geoff Raby Collection
* Kandinsky
* Lost in Palm Springs
* Fully surtitled or includes dialogue, background music and/or sounds
* A Bucket of Beetles
* Are we not drawn onward to new erA
* Encantado
* GöteborgsOperans Danskompani – Skid & SAABA
* Il Tabarro
* Living Sculptures: How the Birds got their Colours
* Orpheus & Eurydice
* Seagulls
* SPIN
* The Chosen Haram
* White Gold

Relaxed

Designed for patrons with disability and their families, or anyone who may benefit from a more relaxed environment. Relaxed performances usually have slight modifications to sound and lighting, downloadable pre-visit visual stories, support aids and an open-door policy with a dedicated quiet area.

PUPPETRY & THEATRE

A Bucket of Beetles

With exquisite puppetry from Indonesia’s Papermoon Puppet Theatre comes the big-hearted story of a boy and a beetle.
Australian Exclusive
Seymour Centre
11 January 2.30pm
Duration: 45 minutes (no interval)
From $29 + booking fee

MUSIC THEATRE

BANANALAND
From Kate Miller-Heidke and Keir Nuttall (Muriel’s Wedding The Musical) comes a romping musical comedy that will rock your socks off.

Riverside Theatres
13 January 2pm
Duration: 150 minutes (with interval)
From $69 + booking fee

CIRCUS & FAMILY

Camp Culture
Faboriginal circus star Dale Woodbridge-Brown serves up skill and sass in this join-in-the-fun family show full of culture, campfires, tricks and flips.

Seymour Centre
13 January 12.30pm
Duration: 50 minutes (no interval)
$35 + booking fee

VISUAL ARTS & INSTALLATION

Hi-Vis
Michael Shaw’s sinuous sculpture is taking over a Walsh Bay wharf, using the building like a mould to form and inform the geometry of his vibrant 46-metre-long installation.

Australian Exclusive
Moonshine Bar, Pier 2/3 Walsh Bay Precinct
5-28 January, Daily 3-4pm
FREE

DANCE & THEATRE

Gurr Era Op
A call to action against climate devastation, weaving hybrid Torres Strait Islander contemporary storytelling with movement, spoken word and cultural celebration.

World Premiere
The Studio Theatre at Bangarra
18 January 7pm
Duration: 60 minutes (no interval)
$65 + booking fee

DANCE & IMMERSIVE

SPIN
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!

Moonshine Bar, Pier 2/3 Walsh Bay Precinct
18 & 20 January, 1pm
Duration: 45 minutes
$39 + booking fee

PHYSICAL THEATRE

The King of Taking
Thom Monckton 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!

Bell Shakespeare, The Neilson Nutshell
14 January 12pm
Duration: 60 minutes (no interval)
$40 + booking fee

CIRCUS

White Gold
Feed your soul with a spectacular circus celebrating healing, joy and rice. Hypnotic dance, mesmerising music, live painting and circus arts dating back 1,200 years collide on stage in a performance that all ages will cheer on.

Australian Exclusive
Seymour Centre
19 January 6pm
Duration: 60 minutes (no interval)
From $39 + booking fee

Booking

Bookings are essential for all accessible services. Bookings for Auslan-interpreted and captioned performances need to be made directly via the Sydney Festival website. Bookings for tactile tours and headsets for audio described performances can be made via contacting our customer service team.

We encourage booking tickets prior to Friday 17 December. Seats cannot be guaranteed after this date although we will always do our best to accommodate your request.

To discuss your access requirements, make bookings or give us feedback call 02 8248 6500 or email access@sydneyfestival.org.au

Please note our customer service hours:

26 October – 31 December: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm (closed public holidays during this period)

4–28 January: Monday-Friday 9am-8pm, Saturday and Sunday 12pm-6pm

Sydney Festival is happy to receive phone calls via the National Relay Service.

* TTY users, phone 133 677, then ask for 02 8248 6500.
* Speak and Listen users, phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 02 8248 6500.
* Internet relay users, visit relayservice.gov.au, then ask for 02 8248 6500.

COMPANION CARD

For patrons who require the assistance of a companion or carer, a second ticket is issued at no cost to the Companion Card holder. Please contact Sydney Festival directly to assist with your booking.