

Sydney Festival 2025

Preview Guide

\$49 EARLY BIRD TICKETS FOR OUR 49TH BIRTHDAY

To celebrate 49 years of Sydney Festival, you can purchase \$49 Early Bird A Reserve and General Admission tickets*

Available for great seats across all events in the program* — but hurry, Early Bird tickets are available until 2 December unless sold out prior.

Look out for the yellow Early Bird sticker on [**sydneyfestival.org.au**](https://sydneyfestival.org.au)

*Some exclusions apply, see [**sydneyfestival.org.au/earlybird**](https://sydneyfestival.org.au/earlybird) for full terms and conditions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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.

There is no more spectacular way to spend a hot summer night than stepping into the magic of Sydney Festival. Whether it's an international star or a surprise show on your way to the bar, this year's Festival will create unmissable moments of colour, community and inspiration. Enjoy the Festival!

The Hon. John Graham
Minister for the Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy,
Jobs and Tourism

The City of Sydney is a proud partner of Sydney Festival. This bold cultural celebration enlivens and transforms Sydney with the highest quality art alongside big ideas. In 2025 we look forward to welcoming Sydneysiders and visitors to enjoy more than 130 shows in our beautiful city.

Clover Moore AO
Lord Mayor of Sydney

**Welcome to Sydney Festival's exhilarating
summer of art.**

Our 49th edition has more than 130 events, 22 world premieres, 24 Australian exclusives and over 50 free events.

The stage is set from 3 January for our official *Festival Welcome* at Walsh Bay and the opening of *Animal* by Cirque Alfonse at Riverside Theatres Parramatta. This year's program is bursting with exceptional local and international talent.

We dive into compelling narratives through commissions of *A Model Murder*, a true Sydney crime story and *KATMA*, an

electrifying street-dance creation directed by Sudanese dancer/choreographer Azzam Mohamed.

We're bringing a scintillating taste of Las Vegas with *Siegfried and Roy: The Unauthorised Opera*. The highlights continue with music luminaries Rufus Wainwright, PNG's George Telek reprising *Tabaran* with Not Drowning, Waving, and Queens-raised R&B star Yaya Bey.

The Thirsty Mile, our Festival takeover by Sydney Harbour, returns with free live music, a Tongpop-splashed summer bar, *Sunrise Yoga* and an immersive *Colour Maze* for the whole family.

With resonant themes of "birth, destiny and what we leave behind", led by our Visual Artist in Residence Telly Tuita, alongside the dystopian extremes of *Dark Noon* and *Multiple Bad Things*, Sydney Festival will provoke important conversations.

The Festival celebrates the rich diversity of our city and highlights our deep connections within the Pacific.

We are committed to amplifying First Nations voices, and this year's Blak Out program curated by Jacob Nash features *Vigil: Gunyah* — a month-long gathering space dedicated to conversations, performances, workshops and talks. Join us for an incredible lineup of Blak Out events, including *Jacky*, *Redfern Renaissance* and the world premiere of *Plant a Promise*.

Sincere thanks to our Principal Partners the NSW government through Create NSW and Destination NSW, and the City of Sydney. Deep gratitude to Peter Freedman AM, our Principal

Philanthropic Supporter, and all who support this much-loved Festival.

We invite you to experience the many unique stories of Sydney this summer, on what always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

Olivia Ansell
Festival Director

THE THIRSTY MILE

The Tā and Vā (Time and Space) of Tongpop

Meet Telly Tuita, Sydney Festival's Visual Artist in Residence at The Thirsty Mile. Immerse yourself in Tuita's vibrant "Tongpop" aesthetic splashed across this year's Festival hub. Tuita draws on the maritime history of his ancestors and will frame the water space with extravagant totems, dancing divas and a rebirth of the SS John Oxley. Born in Tonga and raised in Western Sydney, his work reflects his vibrant Pacific heritage and the bright lights of our city. Tuita promises to bring "healthy doses of kaleidoscopic chaos. So Sydney, right?".

VISUAL ART

Walsh Bay Arts Precinct

4—26 January

A full-swing Festival precinct by the water

Sydney Festival's summer centrepiece is back for 2025.

Nestled in the nooks and crannies of the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, you'll find seven theatres, exhibition spaces, a lively summer bar and knockout harbour views. At the Moonshine Bar, enjoy 12 nights of free live music and DJs. Come early, stay late — and drink it all in. Join us on the morning of 3 January for our *Festival Welcome* to kick off the 2025 season.

VARIOUS

Walsh Bay Arts Precinct

4—26 January

Siegfried & Roy: The Unauthorised Opera

WORLD PREMIERE

A tale of fame, fortune and danger

This brand-new Australian production, inspired by Las Vegas' most famous magic duo, will take you on a wild ride. Raised in war-torn Germany, the eccentric showmen went on to become the highest paid magic act Sin City had ever seen. With larger-than-life characters, spellbinding magic and powerhouse vocals, this modern opera has many tricks up its bedazzled sleeves.

OPERA

Sydney Theatre Company, Wharf 1 Theatre

8—25 January

AUDIO DESCRIPTION | TACTILE TOUR | AUSLAN
INTERPRETED

BLAKOUT

This year, Blak Out invites you to experience the world through

First Nations perspectives. We unite voices to celebrate identity, spark conversations and embrace challenging discussions rooted in our communities.

We honour Country, remember our ancestors, celebrate queer identities and reflect on our cultural responsibilities while looking to the future.

At the heart of Blak Out is a gathering space at Barangaroo Reserve, where conversations, workshops and performances will unfold throughout January. It's a place for truth, reflection and growth.

We look forward to seeing you here in January.

Jacob Nash
Creative Artist in Residence

Plant a Promise

HENRIETTA BAIRD | WORLD PREMIERE

Honouring Country through dance, installation and planting

Inspired by the devastating 2019–2020 fires and the changing climate, experience a brand-new work in four parts: a moving dance performance, a Baya (fire) installation, native planting and yarns, which weave together Indigenous knowledge and environmental science to share the importance of caring for Country.

DANCE, TALKS & INSTALLATION

Bangarra Dance Theatre, Studio 1

22—25 January

Vigil: Truths

Listening to First Nations voices

Three weeks of programming at Barangaroo Reserve culminate on 25 January in *Vigil: Truths*, an evening of listening, knowledge sharing and First Nations visions for the future. At its core is the act of listening — listening to the many voices that will resonate across the land and waters on this night.

ART, MUSIC & TALKS

Barangaroo Reserve

25 January

Vigil: Gunyah

A gathering space for talks, workshops and performances

Vigil: Gunyah is a gathering space led by and for First Nations peoples, communities and allies. Over three weeks of the Festival it will host conversations curated by radio broadcaster Rudi Bremer, workshops and performances, and a soundscape composed by Brendon Boney – encouraging passersby to listen and reflect on their contributions to a First Nations-led future.

ART, MUSIC & TALKS

Barangaroo Reserve

6—25 January

Jacky

BELVOIR

Sex, secrets and a city of lies

Jacky's a smart, enterprising young blackfella who has made a life for himself in Melbourne. But when his unemployable little brother rolls into town, Jacky's various lives in the white world threaten to come undone. A wink-of-the-eye, award-winning play of private life, work life and that thing called 'culture'.

THEATRE

Belvoir St Theatre

16 January —2 February

Redfern Renaissance

BELVOIR | WORLD PREMIERE

Dive into workshops, panel discussions and live performances honouring the history of Redfern's revolutionary National Black Theatre (1972—1976), with a focus on two trailblazing productions: *The Cake Man* by Robert Merritt and *Here Comes the N****r* by Gerry Bostock.

THEATRE & TALKS

Belvoir St Theatre

16—25 January

bagan bariwariganyan: echoes of country

BUNDANON

A body of works by renowned Gweagal/Wandiwandian storyteller and artist Aunty Julie Freeman, leading Walbunja/ Ngarigo artist Aunty Cheryl Davison and Wiradyuri/ Kamilaroi artist Jonathan Jones. The season upholds and maintains Aboriginal values and kinships by celebrating local stories and culture.

VISUAL ART

Bundanon Art Museum

2 November —9 February

Radical Son: Bilambiyal

Radical Son has one of the most mesmerising and commanding voices in Australian music today. The Kamilaroi and Tongan artist's new album, *Bilambiyal*, explores themes of cultural connection, heritage and belonging. Celebrate its release with Radical Son's 'stop-in-your-tracks' live performance.

MUSIC

ACO On The Pier

4 January

DOBBY: WARRANGU; River Story

WARRANGU; River Story is a call to action in the face of grave ecological impacts on the Murray-Darling Basin. Performed live in Sydney with an ensemble, the debut album from Murrawarri-Filipino rapper/drummer DOBBY weaves hip-hop and immersive storytelling to rally against the exploitation of crucial water supplies.

MUSIC

ACO On The Pier

25 January

AUSLAN INTERPRETED

THEATRE

Dark Noon

FIX+FOXY, GLYNIS HENDERSON PRODUCTIONS & THE PLEASANCE SOUTH AFRICA & DENMARK | AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

An untold story of the Wild (Wild) West

Dark Noon flips the script on the Wild West, envisioning US history as absurd, horrifying and deeply profound. A pioneer town springs up in real time as an extraordinary cast of South African actors reimagines the frontier through an outsider's lens. With slapstick humour, satire and breathtaking stagecraft, this breakout hit from Edinburgh Fringe Festival and New York's St. Ann's Warehouse transforms Sydney Town Hall.

"Extraordinary" THE GUARDIAN

"Truly staggering" BRITISH THEATRE GUIDE

THEATRE

Sydney Town Hall

9—23 January

As You Like It or The Land Acknowledgement

CROW'S THEATRE | CANADA | AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Theatre with a hard twist

The title of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* holds a double meaning that teasingly suggests a play to please all tastes. Is it possible? Canadian First Nations cultural provocateur Cliff

Cardinal aims to find out. *As You Like It or The Land Acknowledgement* offers the unvarnished truth of the reconciliation process between Indigenous communities and colonial settlers in Canada.

“Brutally funny and honest” THE GLOBE AND MAIL
THEATRE

Sydney Opera House

4—5 January

Antigone in the Amazon

MILO RAU & NTGENT | BELGIUM | BRAZIL

A political Greek tragedy for the 21st century

Can art help where politics fails? Award-winning Swiss director Milo Rau ends his trilogy of political works with a reimagining of Sophocles’ *Antigone*. Working together with Brazilian and European actors and musicians, they portray the environmental endgame being played out at the edge of the Amazon rainforest in Pará, Brazil.

“[Milo Rau] has perfected the art of bringing real events onstage.” THE NEW YORK TIMES

MUSIC

Roslyn Packer Theatre

4—8 January

SURTITLES

The Bridal Lament 哭嫁歌

RAINBOW CHAN 陳雋然

A sumptuous audio-visual experience and song cycle

Drawing on Rainbow Chan's Weitou ancestry (first settlers of Hong Kong), the work reimagines a Weitou ritual known as the bridal lament — a public performance of grief in which a bride wept and sang in front of family and friends. Featuring a suite of original songs, *The Bridal Lament* brings to life a world of projection, movement and colour.

PERFORMANCE & MUSIC

Riverside Theatres
23—26 January

MULTIPLE BAD THINGS

BACK TO BACK THEATRE

They're just saying what you've already been thinking

Struggling to work together, three employees grapple with thorny questions of inclusion and identity. Civility slips, bad behaviour escalates, reality distorts, and the witching hour is here. Who will be the scapegoat? A must-see from award-winning Back to Back Theatre (*small metal objects*, *GANESH VERSUS THE THIRD REICH*).

THEATRE

Sydney Opera House
8—12 January

AUDIO DESCRIPTION | TACTILE TOUR | RELAXED
PERFORMANCE

William Yang: Milestone

WORLD PREMIERE

Celebrating Sydney's great storyteller, with Elena Kats-Chernin

Accompanied by Sydney's finest musicians, including composer and pianist Elena Kats-Chernin, the legendary performance artist and photographer William Yang reflects on his own remarkable story. An intimate slideshow about family, identity, sexuality, culture and survival — with Yang's signature blend of warmth and disarming humour.

THEATRE & MUSIC
Roslyn Packer Theatre
10—11 January

The Tamilization of Ahilan Ratnamohan

UTP | BELGIUM | WORLD PREMIERE

Language, loss and reclamation

Western Sydney-raised Ahilan Ratnamohan takes on this deeply personal performance entirely in Tamil — a language he didn't learn as a child. His mother, sitting next to him on stage, becomes his teacher who encourages and prompts him. In this way, Ratnamohan traces the roots of language loss to its rediscovery.

THEATRE Bankstown Arts Centre
16—19 January

RELAXED PERFORMANCE | AUSLAN INTERPRETED

A Model Murder

WORLD PREMIERE

The true crime story of Shirley Beiger

Darlinghurst Courthouse welcomes you to a sensational 20th century murder trial. Young, blonde and doe-eyed, Shirley Beiger was a part-time page three girl enraged by her two-timing boyfriend. She shot him, point blank, outside Chequers Nightclub. Guilty or innocent? You be the judge. Playwright Melanie Tait (*A Broadcast Coup*, Sydney Festival 2022) and director Sheridan Harbridge take you back in time to 1954.

IMMERSIVE THEATRE

Darlinghurst Courthouse

4—19 January

AUDIO DESCRIPTION | TACTILE TOUR | AUSLAN
INTERPRETED

DANCE

The Chronicles

STEPHANIE LAKE COMPANY | WORLD PREMIERE
SEASON

Sublime, explosive dance from Stephanie Lake

First there was *Colossus*. Then came *Manifesto*. Now it's time for *The Chronicles*, a sublime new work about the cycle of life from Australia's boldest choreographer, Stephanie Lake. Featuring 12 astounding dancers and an electro-acoustic score, accompanied by the spine-tingling voices of a children's choir, this is a life-affirming journey of hope.

DANCE

Roslyn Packer Theatre

16—19 January

ANITO

JUSTIN TALPLACIDO SHOULDER | WORLD PREMIERE
SEASON

A queered Filipino ghost story

Honouring their roots in Sydney's underground queer and diasporic club scenes, Justin Talplacido Shoulder and the collective behind *ANITO* build on their shared histories of costume, puppetry, dance and experimental electronic music to reimagine myths and stories for the now

DANCE & PERFORMANCE

Carriageworks

15—18 January

AFTERWORLD

SUE HEALEY & LAURENCE PIKEWORLD PREMIERE

A requiem for Eurydice

The timeless Greek myth takes on new life through the visionary choreography of Sue Healey, the live percussion and electronic music of innovative composer Laurence Pike, and five incredible dancers set against the ethereal film presence of 109-year-old Eileen Kramer in the role of Eurydice.

DANCE & MUSIC

Bell Shakespeare, The Neilson Nutshell

7—11 January

All In

DANCE MAKERS COLLECTIVEWORLD PREMIERE

A boundary-breaking dance celebration

Dance exists on stages, at weddings, in clubs and at cultural gatherings. What is it about dance that is so universal? Can dance build bridges and ignite collective joy? Dance Makers Collective (*The Rivoli*, Sydney Festival 2020) tackles these questions with creatives from a cross-section of dance styles, celebrating dance as a unifying force.

DANCE

Parramatta Town Hall

22—25 January

A Taste of Spain

COMPAÑÍA PEPA MOLINA & WESTERN SYDNEY YOUTH ORCHESTRA | WORLD PREMIERE

A spectacular blend of music, dance and culinary delights, transporting you to the heart of Spain. Indulge in Spanish-inspired dishes and enjoy a captivating performance by the Pepa Molina Flamenco Dance Company and the Western Sydney Youth Orchestra, interpreting “Suite Española” by Isaac Albéniz.

DANCE, MUSIC & FOOD

Casula Powerhouse

18 January

Cowboy

MICHAEL SMITH, FORM DANCE PROJECTS & THE FARM

It's one thing to dress like a cowboy, but it takes a lot more to truly believe you are one. From Michael Smith comes a funny, moving solo dance work that pulls you into the Wild West. You're not just a spectator; you're brawling in the saloon, robbing a train and transforming the story as it unfolds.

DANCE

Riverside Theatres

8—11 January

IMMERSIVE

KATMA

AZZAM MOHAMED & PYT FAIRFIELDWORLD PREMIERE
SEASON

Street and club culture in full force

KATMA is a soulful, immersive journey through street and club dance forms. Inspired by Sudan, Australia and legendary parties like The Loft in New York, seven dancers bring you to the dancefloor, fusing Afro, breaking, house, hip-hop, locking and waacking into an unforgettable night. Be in it to feel it.

DANCE

Bell Shakespeare, The Neilson Nutshell

15—19 January

Stories From Here: an Audio Tour of Bankstown

OUTLOUD

Exploring the hidden worlds of young people

Experience Bankstown through the eyes of young people in this audio walking tour. Posters with QR codes will play stories written and recorded by locals about the places that matter to them. Grab your headphones and join a guided tour with an artist on foot, explore at your own pace, or take a virtual tour.

IMMERSIVE

Bankstown Arts Centre

18—19 January

Art Up Late

Your evening art and culture fix

Stay up late with some of Sydney's biggest cultural institutions. The Art Gallery of New South Wales is serving up two curated music programs inspired by the Cao Fei and Magritte exhibitions, plus Angelica Mesiti's *The Rites of When*. The Museum of Contemporary Art Australia is bringing live tunes with *Up Late: Julie Mehretu* and the Australian Museum's *Peruvian Nights* has South American rhythms and VR. Bankstown Arts Centre and Manly Art Gallery & Museum also have you covered with thought-provoking evening events.

VISUAL ART & MUSIC

Various

8—22 January

ENIGMA: immersive sound and video art

FORUMPROJECTS | WORLD PREMIERE

Experience some of Australia's leading sound and video artists and their latest works at forumprojects gallery. Catch Angelica Mesiti's *Prepared Piano for Movers (Hausmann)* on exhibition during the Festival.

SOUND & VIDEO ART

The Thirsty Mile

23 Oct—28 Jan

Sunrise Yoga

Rise and shine Sydney. Join Jazz Luna on the mat at sunrise for energising Vinyasa (flow) set to live ambient tunes. This year, Sunrise Yoga has a vibrant new home: the Colour Maze (page 40), which boasts knockout views of Sydney Harbour. Stretch it out and start your Festival day just right.

YOGA & MUSIC

The Thirsty Mile

8—25 January

Wendy Whiteley's Secret Garden

BRETT WHITELEY FOUNDATION & ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES | WORLD PREMIERE

An immersive aural experience through the seasons

Brett Whiteley's record collection was as eclectic as the many stories and memories planted in Wendy Whiteley's bohemian garden — a place for joy, grief, reflection and hope. Wander through this open-air music experience in front of the Whiteleys' Lavender Bay home, with performances by William Barton and Véronique Serret, NoSax NoClar, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs' VOX and Chamber Singers, and Joseph and James Tawadros.

MUSIC

Wendy Whiteley's Secret Garden

18—19 January

RELAXED PERFORMANCE

CABARET

Katie Noonan: Jeff Buckley's Grace

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of a masterpiece

Katie Noonan pays tribute to the angelic vocals and emotional depth of Jeff Buckley's 1994 masterpiece, *Grace*. The multi-award-winning Australian singer and her five-piece band will recreate "the single biggest influence on [her] musical journey". From "Mojo Pin" to "Last Goodbye" this seminal album was Buckley's only recorded LP.

MUSIC

Sydney Theatre Company, Wharf 1 Theatre

21—25 January

Rachael Beck: In Her Own Words

WORLD PREMIERE

Star of stage and screen Rachael Beck (*Beauty and the Beast*, *Les Misérables*) performs a collection of verbatim stories shared by extraordinary Australian women. Conceived with James Millar (*Matilda the Musical*) and with contributions from Australian icons and singer-songwriters, *In Her Own Words* is a celebration of inspiring female stories.

CABARET

Sydney Theatre Company, Wharf 1 Theatre

15—18 January

Christie Whelan Browne: Life in Plastic

In a deeply personal cabaret, musical powerhouse Christie Whelan Browne looks back from her childhood to today — from the blue light discos and crushing teen self-doubt to battles with endometriosis and her own self-worth — to tell a tale of hard-worn self-acceptance. A funny, affecting and remarkable ode to self-love.

CABARET

Sydney Theatre Company, Wharf 1 Theatre

14 January

MUSIC THEATRE

Converted!

AUSTRALIAN THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE | WORLD
PREMIERE

A brand-new comedy disco musical

Maya needs the 'Fix Yourself!' camp for low self-esteem teens so that she can be liked. Or so she thinks, until meeting Bone, a rebellious return camper who says, "why fit in when you can tear the mould apart?" *Converted!* is a wildly funny show which celebrates queer teenagers who learn to trust who they are while dancing to the irresistible call of the disco ball.

MUSIC THEATRE

ATYP, The Rebel Theatre

3—25 January

OPERA

Cinderella (Cendrillon)

OPERA AUSTRALIA

A royal treat for opera lovers and newcomers

After delighting crowds in New York and London, Cinderella makes a grand Australian debut. Performed in English, Massenet's classic opera is full of sumptuous music, a dash of humour, playful choreography and extravagant costumes. Dust off your glass slippers and step into a land of enchantment and nostalgia.

OPERA

Sydney Opera House

2 January —28 March

SURTITLES

MUSIC

Sydney Symphony Under the Stars

SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & GREATER SYDNEY
PARKLANDS

Your favourite starlit concert returns

Soak in a magical summer evening featuring some of our nation's most talented musicians. Be charmed by Egyptian-Australian oud virtuoso Joseph Tawadros performing a selection of his finest works. The Sydney Symphony Orchestra brings you the orchestral showstoppers, topped off with a rousing fireworks finale. Grab your nearest and dearest and take your park picnic to soaring new heights.

MUSIC

The Crescent, Parramatta Park

18 January

RESONANCE

Birth, destiny and what we leave behind

For our music series Resonance, we asked four of Australia's most celebrated classical ensembles and solo artists to respond to the theme "birth, destiny and what we leave behind"—inspired by the practice of Sydney Festival Visual Artist in Residence Telly Tuita. Their reflections embrace the last works of greats like Purcell and Haydn, navigate Bach's celestial themes and celebrate the legacy of female composers who for many centuries were forbidden from leaving published music behind. Mezzo-soprano Lotte Betts-Dean (pictured) will

blend electronic and acoustic, and opera very new and very old.

MUSIC

ACO On The Pier

9—23 January

ACO Up Close: Legacies

AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

What do we leave behind? Our creations, our influence. ACO Up Close returns with an all-new quartet of musicians, following the musical legacies of Bach and Haydn into our own century. Running through the program are stories of music left unfinished and challenges handed to future generations.

Dark with Excessive Bright

OMEGA ENSEMBLE

From beautiful simplicity to pandemonium beyond recognition, Omega Ensemble presents a program of contemporary masterworks, featuring Missy Mazzoli's Grammy-nominated double bass concerto *Dark with Excessive Bright* (with guest bassist Jaan Pallandi) and groundbreaking music from American composer Samuel Adams.

Bach: Birth and Destiny

BACH AKADEMIE AUSTRALIA

The music of Bach — perfect and universal — is the connecting thread in a compelling program that looks to the heavens for inspiration. Voices and instruments dance and resound in

music from the high Renaissance to our own time, from Europe to the Pacific — with the Morning Star as a guiding light.

LUMINARIES

Rufus Wainwright

The iconic singer plays hits from his technicolour songbook

Much-loved singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright brings a selection of his finest pop and folk compositions to the Sydney Opera House, performed solo on piano and guitar. With his soaring baritone, the extraordinary Juno Award-winning and three-time Grammy nominated showman takes you on a tour of his wide-ranging, technicolour songbook.

MUSIC

Sydney Opera House

8 January

Not Drowning, Waving & George Telek: Tabaran

The art-rock band and PNG musicians reunite

Art-rock legends Not Drowning, Waving, fronted by David Bridie, perform their 1990 album *Tabaran* live with acclaimed Papua New Guinean artist George Telek and other PNG artists from the original recording. *Tabaran* innovatively melded avantgarde pop-rock with the harmonies and melodies of PNG.

MUSIC

City Recital Hall

24 January

Perry Keyes: Black and White Town

WORLD PREMIERE

Meet the celebrated bard of Sydney's Inner South. Perry Keyes' six albums chronicle decades of living the grit and glory of public housing life in Redfern and Waterloo. Keyes writes with a poet's acuity, and the wit and empathy of someone who has lived — and still lives — alongside his subjects. He counts Tim Freedman and Peter Garrett as fans.

MUSIC

ACO On The Pier

5 January

Emma Pask Latin Jazz Orchestra: Cosita Divina

Emma Pask reprises her celebrated Latin jazz album *Cosita Divina* on its 10th anniversary. Pask and her vibrant 12-piece Latin jazz orchestra will take you on a journey through the lush sounds of Brazilian, Cuban and Spanish song, showcasing why she's a favourite of Latin star Ricky Martin and audiences worldwide.

MUSIC

City Recital Hall

22 January

Detroit's Music Institute: Chez Damier & Alton Miller

ELECTRONIC MUSIC LIFE | USA | AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

A club night celebrating the Detroit home of house

Opened in late 80s Detroit, the Music Institute became the Motor City's response to the legendary house and disco clubs

of its time. For the first time ever, co-founders Chez Damier and Alton Miller are touring together to share the story behind one of dance music's pivotal club nights. They'll dig deep into their encyclopaedic collections to recreate the iconic experience at City Recital Hall.

MUSIC

City Recital Hall

10 January

Starfish Club: Sydney Festival Edition

Sydney's best-kept music secret, the Starfish Club, is bringing its dynamic jazz groove to the Festival. Catch two shows with Jonathan Zwartz, Hamish Stuart and their incredible Starfish ensemble, with special guests including vocalist Dannielle De Andrea (aka Gaha) and rising star Ruby Jackson with Laneous and Barney McAll.

MUSIC

ACO On The Pier

11 & 25 January

The Cage Project

MUSICA VIVA AUSTRALIA

Created by Matthias Schack-Arnott and performed by pianist Cédric Tiberghien, this collaboration augments John Cage's magnum opus, Sonatas and Interludes, with a massive kinetic sound sculpture that floats above the piano and rings and chimes in synchronicity.

MUSIC

Carriageworks

24—25 January

FUTURE FREQUENCIES

Discover the freshest global sounds

Jalen Ngonda

USA | AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

The new star of soul's Australian debut

Drawing weighty comparisons to the likes of Marvin Gaye and David Ruffin, Daptone Records recruit Jalen Ngonda is bringing golden-era soul to a new generation. Fresh from the release of his 2023 debut album, *Come Around and Love Me*, Ngonda is ready to make City Recital Hall swoon.

MUSIC

City Recital Hall

16 & 17 January

Yaya Bey

USA | AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

The R&B sensation makes her Australian debut

New York-raised vocalist Yaya Bey is one of R&B's most original new stars, with a sound and swagger that's entirely her own, blending boundary-pushing neo-soul with funk. Onstage, Bey is a force of nature, with setlists speaking to self-love, loss and resilience, off the back of her critically lauded 2024 album *Ten Fold*.

MUSIC

City Recital Hall

4 January

Parvyn

A Punjabi-Australian star on the rise

ARIA-nominated, internationally acclaimed vocalist and dancer Parvyn, known as the lead of cult psychedelic band The Bombay Royale, lights up the Festival. With her hypnotic fusion of pop, electronica and traditional Indian sounds, her live shows brilliantly synthesise the eclectic strands of her career.

MUSIC

ACO On The Pier

17 January

Cash Savage and The Last Drinks

Taut, tumultuous rock from one of our country's best

Alternately tough and tender, Melbourne's Cash Savage and The Last Drinks have developed a reputation as one of the country's most ferocious live acts. Following the success of their brutally honest fifth studio album, *So This Is Love*, they're bringing their bruising post-punk rock to Sydney.

MUSIC

City Recital Hall

11 January

Chela

Fall hard for Australia's new synth-pop queen

Breaking out with earworm singles on tastemaking French label Kitsuné, Australia's own synth-pop queen Chela evolved again with 2023's electrifying queer anthems "Cool 2B Queer" and "Hard 4 You". Expect charisma to burn and some seriously enviable dance moves.

MUSIC

ACO On The Pier

4 January

Mary Ancheta Quartet

CANADA | AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

With its charismatic take on jazz, R&B and electro-funk, Vancouver's Mary Ancheta Quartet has brought a high voltage stage presence to Montreal Jazz Festival, Vancouver International Jazz Festival and other stages across Canada. Inspired by the likes of Squarepusher, The Meters and Prince, the quartet offers an irresistible invitation to groove.

JFDR

ICELAND | AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Jófríður Ákadóttir, aka JFDR, has evolved into one of Iceland's most prodigious artists. Björk has cited her as an inspiration. Don't miss this opportunity to experience gentle, sublime experimental electro-folk in an intimate concert.

MUSIC

ACO On The Pier

11 January

Ishmael Ensemble

UK | AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Led by producer and saxophonist Pete Cunningham, Bristol collective Ishmael Ensemble explores the sounds of spiritual jazz, psychedelic dub and experimental electronica to create a terrain entirely its own. Latest album, *Rituals*, is almost psychedelic in its blend of colours, textures and moods.

MUSIC

ACO On The Pier

24 January

Hak Baker

UK | AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Raised in East London's *Isle of Dogs*, Hak Baker cemented his iconoclastic status with 2023's *Worlds End FM*. Earning a cadre of fans including The Streets, Fontaines D.C. and Pete Doherty, Baker's street-level storytelling and genre-scuffing "G-folk" sound will collide with the Sydney Festival stage.

MUSIC

ACO On The Pier

24 January

GANNA with Tal Arditi

GERMANY | AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Ukrainian-born, Berlin-based singer and musician Ganna Gryniva — aka GANNA — brings her stunning fusion of modern jazz, electro beats and traditional Ukrainian folk to Sydney for the first time. She's joined by gifted guitarist Tal Ardit.

MUSIC

ACO On The Pier
10 & 12 January

Setwun & The Soulstronauts Play Roy Ayers

ASTRAL PEOPLE

The series *Ode to Inspiration* joins the dots between the trailblazers who opened doors and tomorrow's new radicals walking through them. Sydney's Setwun & The Soulstronauts pay homage to Roy Ayers, a prophet of funk, soul and jazz.

MUSIC

ACO On The Pier
23 January

Allysha Joy Plays Roberta Flack

ASTRAL PEOPLE

In her *Ode to Inspiration* show, Melbourne singer, songwriter and selector Allysha Joy celebrates the legacy of Roberta Flack. She'll also play fresh material from her new album, *The Making of Silk*.

MUSIC

ACO On The Pier
18 January

FAMILY

Colour Maze

AMIGO & AMIGO | WORLD PREMIERE

A wonderland of art and play for kids

Children can unleash their creativity in this interactive maze of kaleidoscopic colours and choose-your-own-adventure art — from building blocks to swings to knitted playgrounds. *Colour Maze* is designed by public art experts Amigo & Amigo in collaboration with Visual Artist in Residence Telly Tuita.

IMMERSIVE

The Thirsty Mile

4—25 January

RELAXED

Animal

CIRQUE ALFONSE | CANADA

Barnstorming circus for all ages

Québec's beloved Cirque Alfonse is back, this time with an all-ages farmyard hoedown where the chickens sprout teeth, the ducks give side-eye and the cows kick up more than just dirt! Featuring high-flying acrobatics, juggling (everything from eggs to giant cowbells) and rippin' live folk music.

CIRCUS

Riverside Theatres 3—12 January

The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre 16—19 January

RELAXED PERFORMANCE

BullyBully

MAAS THEATER EN DANS | NETHERLANDS | AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

A hilarious musical about childish grown-ups

BullyBully is a joyous musical for ages 3+ told in the style of *West Side Story*, with two performers, many songs, funny quarrels, some bickering and (eventually) a happy ending. In its Australian Premiere season, in association with Sydney Opera House, this award-winning show is sure to keep kids (and their grown-ups) on the edge of their seats.

THEATRE

Riverside Theatres 7—12 January

Sydney Opera House 6—12 July

Air Time

BRANCH NEBULA

A chaotic nexus of wheels, dance and parkour

Skate ramps tower over the audience, propelling BMXers, skaters, dancers and parkourists with extreme speed and height. The anarchic energy is exhilarating, with the danger of bodies on foot and bodies on wheels colliding. *Air Time* builds on Branch Nebula's street-style work established over a decade.

PHYSICAL THEATRE

Seymour Centre

7—11 January

RELAXED PERFORMANCE

What We Leave Behind

CAVE URBAN

Weaving together our hopes for the future

During the Festival you're invited to share messages of hope for our collective future. What is your wish for our lands and waterways? What can we do now for a sustainable tomorrow? Your written actions will be woven into this unique installation on Tallawoladah Lawn. From art and architecture collective Cave Urban along with Sydney Festival, this new work wonders: what do we want to leave behind?

INSTALLATION

Tallawoladah Lawn

4—25 January

The Whale

SPARE PARTS PUPPET THEATRE & BONDI PAVILION

This graceful giant of the ocean sails into Bondi for an interactive and immersive experience in the Pavilion Courtyard. Be transported on a sonic journey of migration and myth, with a large-scale moving whale figure suspended in space and surrounded by other fantastical sea creatures.

INTERACTIVE PLAY

Bondi Pavilion

4—12 January

Hive Festival

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES & BLACKTOWN ARTS

The fun-filled Hive Festival returns this summer for children and families. Explore a buzzing world of art and play. Come together for art-making, be immersed in the magic of storytelling and experience playful performances at the Art Gallery of New South Wales and The Leo Kelly Blacktown Arts Centre.

IMMERSIVE ART

The Leo Kelly Blacktown Arts Centre & Art Gallery of New South Wales

16—19 January

Swing! Circus at Darling Harbour

SYDNEY TRAPEZE SCHOOL

Trapeze talent sky high

The aerial experts at Sydney Trapeze School are showcasing their high-flying best at Darling Harbour for two free shows a day — bring the family to marvel at their acrobatic daredevilry. Take a leap of faith yourself with paid flying trapeze lessons or stay grounded with free drop-in circus skills workshops.

CIRCUS

Palm Grove, Darling Harbour

4—25 January

VISUAL ART

Re-Stor(y)ing Oceania

ARTSPACE | AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

A ground-breaking Pacific-led exhibition of new works from artists Latai Taumoepeau and Elisapeta Hinemoa Heta. Through story, song, performance, action and activism, connect with communities living on the islands and atolls of the Southern Hemisphere — and listen to their demands for greater climate justice.

VISUAL ART

Artspace

23 January—23 March

The Water Understands

MANLY ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

A contemporary art exhibition interrogating water as a life-giving element, featuring Miguel Angelo Libarnes, Leah Bullen, Michael Cook, Tamara Dean, Keg De Souza, Shaun Gladwell, Phillip George, Gregory Hodge, Anna Madeleine Raupach, Douglas Schofield and Angela Tiatia.

VISUAL ART

Manly Art Gallery & Museum

13 December —16 February

Julie Mehretu: A Transcore of the Radical Imaginatory

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART AUSTRALIA

New York-based artist Julie Mehretu is widely regarded as one of the most significant painters of her generation. Experience

her monumental new and recent works, which speak to revolution, migration, global capitalism and climate change.

VISUAL ART

Museum of Contemporary Art Australia

29 November—27 April

Magritte

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

René Magritte created some of the most iconic paintings of the 20th century's surrealist movement, his art revealing the mystery and poetry of seemingly ordinary objects and places. Featuring more than 100 works, this is the first retrospective ever dedicated to the Belgian artist in Australia.

VISUAL ART

Art Gallery of New South Wales

26 October—9 February

Cao Fei: My City is Yours

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Surreal humour and cyber futurism

Cao Fei has documented China's rapid urbanisation and digital revolutions for over two decades, interpreting the energy of the metropolis with mesmerising films, photography and installations. Enter a world of neon, street dance and pop music; a city familiar and warped, real and virtual.

VISUAL ART

Art Gallery of New South Wales

30 November—13 April

2024 Bankstown Biennale: Same Same/Different

BANKSTOWN BIENNALE

Bankstown Biennale returns for a third edition with a First Nations-led program. The exhibition title draws from a common phrase used at the Top End of Australia by Asian and First Nations people alike, describing similarities whilst acknowledging differences.

VISUAL ART

Bankstown Arts Centre

23 November—1 February

Machu Picchu and the Golden Empires of Peru

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

Using state-of-the-art projections, video and priceless artefacts, this immersive experience offers an unparalleled glimpse into the opulent history of the Andean people. For an add-on fee, experience a cutting-edge virtual reality visit to Machu Picchu.

EXHIBITION

Australian Museum

23 November—23 February

TALKS

In Conversation with Kate McClymont

The Sydney Morning Herald chief investigative reporter and 10-time Walkley winner Kate McClymont joins Sydney Festival Director Olivia Ansell in conversation. Dive into Sydney's most unusual crime stories, cases connected to the underworld and the many trials that took place in Darlinghurst Courthouse.

TALKS

State Library of New South Wales

12 January

CURRENTS: The Water Understands Panel Discussion

MANLY ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Three creatives discuss a project in which water was the central topic — whether visual, performative or musical. Hear from pianist/composer Sophie Hutchings, First Nations filmmaker/public artist Jacob Nash and multi-disciplinary artist Shaun Gladwell, in conversation with *ArtsHub* Visual Arts Editor Gina Fairley.

TALKS

Manly Art Gallery & Museum

16 January

Art and Architecture: First Nations Design in the Built Environment

Today, governments, developers, architects and artists are shaping Sydney's urban planning, architecture and public art. This conversation explores how First Nations people engage in these spaces — focusing on the collaboration with non-First Nations partners and the unique outcomes.

TALKS

Chau Chak Wing Museum

22 January

In Conversation with James Cameron

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

Join ocean explorer, filmmaker and technology innovator, James Cameron, veteran of eight pioneering deep-sea expeditions, in conversation about his dive to the deepest point on Earth in the *DEEPSEA CHALLENGER* submersible built in Sydney and now on display at the Australian National Maritime Museum.

TALKS

Australian National Maritime Museum

26 January

THE ART OF SUMMER

Each year, we reinvent our branding with bold and dynamic textures that draw from our program. The above design takes inspiration from Cave Urban's stunning installation *What We Leave Behind*. On the front cover, you'll find a vibrant design inspired by Sydney Festival's Visual Artist in Residence, Telly Tuita, whose style blends vibrant colours, cultural motifs and playful forms.

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 Festival.

Tickets

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

Tickets available from 9am 30 October.

Early Bird Tickets

\$49 Early Bird Tickets are available from 9am 30 October until 5pm 2 December 2024 AEST. Quantity is limited and may sell out prior to the offer end date. Valid to all shows and select performance times on A Reserve and General Admission Tickets. Only available on bookings made via Sydney Festival and a transaction fee applies.

Some exclusions apply, see **sydneyfestival.org.au/earlybird**

Getting there

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

We encourage you to use public transport when getting to and from Sydney Festival events. The Thirsty Mile is a short walk from the new metro station at Barangaroo. For transport information visit **transportnsw.info** or call 131 500.

WILSON PARKING

Receive 10% off night and weekend parking when you prepay online using the promo code SYDFEST25. Only available at

selected car parks in the Sydney CBD. Terms and conditions apply. Visit wilsonparking.com.au/prepay

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.

\$55

Beast&Co

Shop 15/425 Bourke Street

Surry Hills

02 8367 0985

ALC**Cafe Sydney**

5th Floor, Customs House

31 Alfred Street, Circular Quay

02 9251 868

\$55**Jounieh**

2/17 Hickson Road

Dawes Point

02 9247 6790

\$55**LILYMU**

3 Parramatta Square

153 Macquarie Street, Parramatta

02 7809 4952

\$30

The Living Room at Park Hyatt Sydney

7 Hickson Road, The Rocks

02 9256 1661

\$55

Long Chim Sydney

Corner of Pitt Street and Angel Place Sydney

02 9223 7999

\$55

Lotus the Galleries

The Galleries, Level 1/500 George Street Sydney

02 9247 6868

\$55

Pearl Dining

Entry on Young St, Quay Quarter Tower Level 1/50 Bridge Street, Sydney

02 7227 6293

\$30

PIER BAR

Pier One Sydney Harbour

11 Hickson Road, Walsh Bay

02 8298 9999

\$55

Planar Bar and Restaurant

Shop C08, Ground Floor, ICC Sydney

14 Darling Drive, Darling Harbour

02 9212 6789

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