Midsumma Festival 2027

Plain English program guide

17 January to 7 February 2027
Melbourne and regional Victoria

The festival at a glance

- 22 days of LGBTQIA+ arts, culture and community.
- More than 200 events across more than 150 venues.
- Events take place in Melbourne and regional Victoria.
- Around 40% of events are free.
- The program includes performance, music, visual arts, film, family activities, youth events, community events, talks, workshops, sport and parties.

Welcome to Midsumma

Welcome to Midsumma Festival 2027. The festival brings people together to celebrate LGBTQIA+ arts, culture and community. It features artists and events from Victoria, across Australia and overseas.

Midsumma is created by community, for community. Artists, event organisers, venues, volunteers, audiences, partners and community organisations all help make the festival happen. You are invited to explore the program, try something new and enjoy being part of the festival.

Acknowledgement of Country

Midsumma acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We recognise the stories, knowledge and creative practices of First Nations peoples. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

The 2027 theme: Shifting Sands

Shifting Sands is the creative theme for Midsumma Festival 2027. It explores the many cultures, identities, generations and experiences that shape queer life across Australia, Asia and the South Pacific.

The theme recognises First Nations knowledge, migration, culture and belonging. It brings together queer stories through theatre, visual art, dance, film and community events.

Major festival events

Midsumma Carnival

Venue: Alexandra Gardens, Melbourne

Date and time: Sunday 17 January 2027, 11am to 9pm

Cost: Free entry. All ages.

Midsumma Pride March

Venue: Fitzroy Street to Catani Gardens, St Kilda

Date and time: Sunday 31 January 2027. March starts at 10.30am. Celebrations at Catani Gardens run from 10am to 4pm.

Cost: Free.

Victoria's Pride Street Party

Venue: Smith Street and Gertrude Street precinct, Fitzroy and Collingwood

Date and time: Sunday 7 February 2027, 12pm to 9pm

Cost: Free entry.

How to use this guide

- Events are grouped by section, such as Performance, Music and Film.
- Each event listing shows the event name, venue, date and time, cost, and a short description.
- Search this document for an event name, venue or section.
- Event details can change. Check the event's booking page for the latest information.
- Some events are free. Other events need a ticket. Check the listing for cost details.

More information

Website: midsumma.org.au

Access information: midsumma.org.au/access

Festival updates: midsumma.org.au/subscribe

Social media: @midsummafestival

Festival events

Events are listed by section. Each event has the same layout to make information easier to find.

Performance

begin to be

Venue: The MC Showroom - The Showroom

Date and time: 19-24 Jan | Tue-Sun 7pm | World Premiere: Tue 19 Jan

Cost: $26 full | $24 conc

A beautiful contemporary high skilled circus show/ act with themes of friendship, light existentialism, finding purpose and personal growth.

Reflector: A Double Bill

Venue: Dancehouse - Sylvia Staehli Theatre

Date and time: 21-23 Jan | Thu-Sat 7pm

Cost: $45 full | $40 conc

Two works.

The Ex Files: A Comedy True Crime Tour

Venue: Melbourne Town Hall Corner

Date and time: 28-30 Jan | Thu-Sat 7:30pm

Cost: $25 full | $20 conc

Melbourne has a dark secret and only one gay man knows where the bodies are buried.

My Formative Queers

Venue: Howler

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 2pm

Cost: $30 full | $25 conc | $20 group (min 6) | $10 First Nations

MFQ's back!

Love Letter to the 90s

Venue: Bluestone Church Arts Space

Date and time: 27-30 Jan | Wed-Sat 7-8:30pm | Sat 2:30-4pm

Cost: Evening: $35 full | $28 conc
Matinee: $30 full | $25 conc

True stories of queer life in Australia meet the anthems that defined a generation.

Purple Plastic Maori

Venue: Wyndham Cultural Centre

Date and time: 5 February | Fri 7:30pm

Cost: $49 full | $39 conc | $39 First Nations

Shalom Kaa's queer Māori cabaret about identity, culture & belonging.

Deep-Heat Rivalry

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel - The Chapel

Date and time: 20-25 Jan, 27-31 Jan, 2-6 Feb | Mon-Sat 8pm | Sat 4:30pm | Sun 5pm

Cost: Mon-Thu $59 full | Fri-Sun $69 full

Loosely inspired by a certain hit TV series (and we mean very loosely), this filthy new parody written and directed by Oliver-nominated Trevor Ashley, crashes together locker-room drama, forbidden romance, parody songs, and absolutely no understanding of sport whatsoever.

Temple After Dark

Venue: Northcote Town Hall MAIN HALL

Date and time: 29-30 Jan | Fri, Sat 8pm

Cost: $70 full | $60 conc | $80 donor

Cross the threshold into an after-hours playground of sensual dance, gender-defiant burlesque, and euphoric performance from an all-queer and trans cast of artists of colour and their allies.

PO PO MO CO's Best Bits

Venue: Next Wave — Brunswick Mechanics Institute

Date and time: 4-6 Feb | Thu-Sat 7pm

Cost: $44 full | $37 conc | $30 group (min 4) | $24.99 youth (12-25) | $15 First Nations | $55 Patron to the Arse | $34 Merri-bek Locals

Intelligent, puerile and wet-your-pants funny.

All-Star Pride Drag Bingo

Venue: Pride of our Footscray Community Bar

Date and time: 22 January | Fri 7pm

Cost: $19 full | $14 conc

It's the West's famous Drag Bingo!

Anyone But Cis Dudes Comedy

Venue: Pride of our Footscray Community Bar

Date and time: 2 February | Tue 6:30pm

Cost: $27 full | $20 conc

An evening of comedy by literally Anyone But Cis Dudes!

Hot Men Doing Things

Venue: Pride of our Footscray Community Bar

Date and time: 5 February | Fri 6:30pm

Cost: $32 full | $25 conc

The west is about to get even wilder!

Queer Comedy Gala

Venue: Pride of our Footscray Community Bar

Date and time: 21 January | Thu 7pm

Cost: $29 full | $22 conc

Our annual Queer Comedy Gala is back, showcasing seven of our favourite LGBTQIA+ comedians!

First Nations Drag Showcase

Venue: Pride of our Footscray Community Bar

Date and time: 29 January | Fri 6:30pm

Cost: $25 full | $19 conc | $0 First Nations

An evening of performances and conversations by queer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, hosted by 2JOOCEE.

The House

Venue: Theory Bar

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 6pm

Cost: FREE

The final four contestants in new reality show ‘The House’ claim they’re best friends, family even.

Queer Joy

Venue: Conversation Quarter State Library Victoria

Date and time: 28 January | Thu 6:30pm | Auslan: Available on Request

Cost: $24 full | $21 conc | $10 First Nations

Join us at State Library Victoria for an unforgettable evening of Queer Joy.

Too Much

Venue: Circus Centre Melbourne

Date and time: 4-6 Feb | Thu-Sat 8pm

Cost: $35 full | $28 conc | $33 group (min 4) | $20 First Nations

After a Multi-Award winning season, TOO MUCH is the show to be seen.

Sun Cut: a lover’s dictionary

Venue: Dancehouse - Upstairs Studio

Date and time: 5-6 Feb | Fri 6:30pm | Sat 4pm | Relaxed: All

Cost: $29 full | $24 conc | $39 donor | $19 First Nations

Sun Cut: a lover's dictionary is a living lexicon drawing from 'Lesbian Peoples: Materials for a Dictionary' by Monique Wittig and Sandie Zeig.

WERK: SERVE with Aysha Buffet

Venue: ACCA - Australian Centre for Contemporary Art

Date and time: 29 January | Fri 6:30pm

Cost: FREE

The second instalment in ACCA's new series, WERK: SERVE is a one-night living exhibition curated by Trans Drag icon, Aysha Buffet.

Queer Playwriting Award Showcase

Venue: Gasworks - Main Theatre

Date and time: 18 January | Mon 7pm

Cost: $25 full | $22 conc

Each year Gasworks Creative Precinct partners with Midsumma for the Queer Playwriting Award, providing the opportunity for leading playwrights to present excerpts of works in progress.

ALTAR

Venue: Gasworks - Main Theatre

Date and time: 27-30 Jan 1hr | Wed, Fri, Sat 2pm, 7:30pm | Thu 7:30pm | Auslan: Sat 30 Jan 2pm

Cost: $40 full | $35 conc | $30 preview

Sutton always knew what she wanted for the happiest day of her life, but when ‘something old’ walks down the aisle, she’s forced to confront every choice she’s ever made.

FAGA: The Trump Cabaret!

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette

Date and time: 27-30 Jan | Wed-Sat 7:30pm

Cost: $34 full | $26 conc | $28 group (min 6) | $25 First Nations

Brought to you by internationally award-winning writer and producer, Nicholas R.T Reynolds, this camp tongue-in-cheek comedy follows a drag-esq Trump as he embarks on an autobiographical cabaret retrospective of his harrowing life and times!

Jacqui‘s Hilarious Healing Circle

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel - The Loft

Date and time: 29 January | Fri 7:30pm

Cost: $37 full | $32 conc

Tired of pretending to have it all figured out?

HOUSE OF DIESEL | THH - VOGUE NIGHT

Venue: RUBIX Warehouse

Date and time: 29 January | Fri 9pm-3am

Cost: $30 full | $15 conc

Back again to turn Midsumma OUT!

Cabaret le Queer: A Little Fosse

Venue: Clocktower Centre - Lounge Bar

Date and time: 4-5 Feb | Thu, Fri 8pm

Cost: $30 full | $20 conc

Join Lady Devine in this highly immersive vaudeville, drag, burlesque, cabaret show.

Jonny Woo SUBURBIA

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel - The Loft

Date and time: 5-6 Feb | Fri, Sat 7pm

Cost: $65 full | $55 conc

Following smash runs in the UK, ‘Suburbia’ is acclaimed UK performer Jonny Woo’s most personal show to date, a culmination of 20 years working in drag and cabaret.

Bev and Myrt and the Clash of Culture

Venue: The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette

Date and time: 27-31 Jan, 2-7 Feb | Tue-Sun 7:10pm

Cost: $32 full | $30 conc

Alien investigators Bev and Myrt return for a brand new sci-fi adventure.

Dean Arcuri and the search for Seamen

Venue: Grouse Melbourne - Room 7

Date and time: 4-6 Feb | Thu-Sat 6pm

Cost: $32 full | $28 conc

Dean is turning this year's Midsumma into his own personal fleet week.

Bangers, Beers and Bears goes Broadway

Venue: Mollie's Bar & Diner

Date and time: 23-24 Jan, 31 Jan | Sat, Sun 2:30pm

Cost: $25 full

Big Kev and Dean tear up the script & pour Broadway into a pint glass.

Magnifica Splendido

Venue: Bunjil Place

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 6pm

Cost: FREE

Inspired by Italy's iconic TV variety show Fantastico, Magnifica Splendido brings its resplendent, camp spirit to Midsumma.

Fekei

Venue: Next Wave — Brunswick Mechanics Institute

Date and time: 28-31 Jan | Thu-Sat 7pm | Sat 2pm | Sun 5pm | Relaxed: 30 Jan 2pm

Cost: $38 preview | $38 full | $33 conc | $28 First Nations

As her partner, Sam, plans a heartfelt proposal on the anniversary of Akanisi's Grandpa's passing - a sacred day marked by the Hertekof cultural event - Sam is unaware of a crucial secret: Akanisi has yet to come out to her conservative Grandma.

The Joocee Details

Venue: SPIEGEL HAUS MELBOURNE - Empire Theatre

Date and time: 22-23 Jan | Fri 8pm | Sat 6:30pm

Cost: full $28 | conc $25 | group (min 4) $25 | First Nations $10

Brimming with vivacious vocals and their comedy sequined wit, the multi-talented 2Joocee is here to entertain with an evening of pure guilty pleasures.

A Grouse Variety Show

Venue: Grouse Melbourne - Room 7

Date and time: 21-22 Jan, 28-29 Jan, 4-5 Feb | Thu, Fri 8:45pm

Cost: $32 full | $28 conc | $24 group (min 4)

A bursting hour of stunning entertainment featuring queer stars from the cabaret, burlesque and comedy scenes.

Lesbian Love Stories

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel - The Loft

Date and time: 2-3 Feb | Tue, Wed 7:30pm

Cost: $59 full

After SOLD-OUT seasons across the country, your favourite gals are u-hauling their way back!

Stroppy Queens

Venue: Gasworks - Studio Theatre

Date and time: 27-30 Jan, 1-4 Feb | Mon-Fri 6:30pm | Sat 1pm+6:30pm | Relaxed: 1 Feb 6:30pm | Captioned: 1-3 Feb 6:30pm

Cost: $36 full | $28 conc | $20 First Nations

Drama.

Crown Jewels

Venue: Northcote Town Hall MAIN HALL

Date and time: 22-24 Jan | Fri 4pm onwards | Sat & Sun 1:30pm onwards

Cost: Shows individually priced

A 3-day festival of theatre and comedy works made exclusively by Drag King & Drag Thing artists.

Welcome To Burlesque' LIVE CABARET SHOW

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel - The Loft

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 7:30pm

Cost: $65 full | $60 conc

Inspired by the 2010 film starring Cher and Christina Aguilera, Welcome To Burlesque – LIVE CABARET SHOW brings iconic soundtrack hits, modern music, live vocals, dance, burlesque and Vegas glamour to the stage with a fresh twist.

SERVICED

Venue: SPIEGEL HAUS MELBOURNE - Empire Theatre

Date and time: 5-6 Feb | Fri, Sat 9:30pm | lock out period applies, feel free to dress up in whatever masculinity means to you.

Cost: $30 full | $22 conc | $25 group (min 4) | $25 group (min 6) | $22 First Nations

Part sexy mechanic’s garage, part community service, SERVICED is an all-masc presenting cabaret where the boys are bringing the tools, the talent, and absolutely no shame.

Searching for Sappho

Venue: The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette

Date and time: 1-7 Feb | Mon-Sun 8:30pm | Relaxed: 3 Feb 8:30pm | Captioned: 3 Feb 8:30pm

Cost: $29 full | $19 conc | $22 group (min 4) | $10 First Nations

Ten years ago, Liv and Salome wrote a bestselling Sappho translation, but a last-minute change to the manuscript tore their friendship apart.

Hells Belles Presents: Hot As Hell

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - Rooftop

Date and time: 24 January | Sun 3-9pm

Cost: $39 full | $29 conc | $34 group (min 4) | $20 First Nations | $20 SW

Hells Belles take over the Victorian Pride Centre rooftop for a scorching night of queer rebellion.

The Threads Between Us

Venue: The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette

Date and time: 6 Feb | Sat 5:45pm | 1hr | see @joannaevenvenn on instagram for accessibility info.

Cost: $32 full | $27 conc | $25 First Nations | $25 group (min 4)

The Threads Between Us weaves poetry and original songs through synchronicity, roads not taken, chosen family and unexpected connections.

MoCo Variety Night

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette

Date and time: 5 February | Fri 7:30pm

Cost: $20 full | $10 conc | $0 First Nations

Local legends the Motherless Collective (MoCo) return with a deadly variety night, showcasing Naarm's hottest talent of First Nations drag artists and performers.

Darling Boy Art Exhibition and Film Screening

Venue: Hunt Club

Date and time: 7 February | Sun 6pm

Cost: FREE

A guided tour through Hunt Club Gallery, exploring key works by Nathan McGlynn and collaborators, live performances and the premiere screening of the film adaptation of "A Glimpse into the Darling Boy" — created by Nathan McGlynn, Charlee Brooks and Hugo Williams.

EUPHORIC: The Rooftop Experience

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - Rooftop

Date and time: 22 January | Fri 7:30pm

Cost: VIP $69 | A Reserve $44.5 full, $40 conc | B Reserve $34.5 full, $30 conc

Take your night to new heights as EUPHORIC takes over the rooftop for a dazzling Midsumma edition packed with drag, burlesque, cabaret, dance and comedy.

Bang!

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel - The Loft

Date and time: 27-28 Jan | Wed, Thu 7:30pm

Cost: $45 full | $40 conc

A brand-new collision of Stephen Sondheim songs, presented in association with Little Triangle.

The Night Flower

Venue: The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette

Date and time: 20-24 Jan | Wed-Sun 8:30pm | Captioned: all

Cost: $35 full | $32 conc | $25 group (min 6) | $15 First Nations

A music, poetry, clowning & performance art piece of theatre.

Fantasy Ball II: Strictly Business

Venue: Northcote Theatre

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 6pm

Cost: $55 full | $40 conc | $25 First Nations

The Kiki House of Furia is excited to announce the highly anticipated return for ‘The Fantasy Ball’ - and this time around they mean BUSINESS.

Alf Alpha’s Cocktail Hour

Venue: Northcote Town Hall STUDIO ONE

Date and time: 22 Jan, 24 Jan | Fri 5:30pm | Sun 2:45pm

Cost: $30 full | $25 conc | $35 a little extra | $15 First Nations

Alf Alpha’s Cocktail Hour is the ultimate comedy cocktail demonstration featuring the wit, charm and fruity personality of your generous drag king host, Alf Alpha.

Masking

Venue: Northcote Town Hall MAIN HALL

Date and time: 23-24 Jan | Sat, Sun 6:45pm

Cost: $30 full | $25 conc | $35 a little extra | $15 First Nations

Sex worker.

Cabin Pressure

Venue: Northcote Town Hall MAIN HALL

Date and time: 22-23 Jan | Fri 6:45pm | Sat 4pm

Cost: $30 full | $25 conc | $35 a little extra | $15 First Nations

Unorthodox Bijoux Airlines has drag, clown and sketch comedy, in this dysfunctional 55 minute social experiment we call economy.

Rodney Rattus' After Dark Cabaret

Venue: Northcote Town Hall STUDIO ONE

Date and time: 23-24 Jan | Sat, Sun 8pm

Cost: $30 full | $25 conc | $35 a little extra | $15 First Nations

Enter the unpredictable world of Rodney Rattus - a chaos Daemon who is the most charming Rat-Man in a suit you'll ever meet!

Big Mike

Venue: Northcote Town Hall STUDIO ONE

Date and time: 23-24 Jan | Sat, Sun 5:30pm

Cost: $30 full | $25 conc | $35 a little extra | $15 First Nations

Meet one Aussie bloke who can relate.

La Ronde

Venue: SPIEGEL HAUS MELBOURNE - Spiegeltent

Date and time: 17-31 Jan | Sun 6pm | Wed, Thu 7pm | Fri 6:30pm | Fri 8:30pm | Sat 5pm | Sat 7:30pm

Cost: tickets from $69

This award-winning production is a lavish cocktail of the highest quality circus, cabaret, and comedy from the internationally renowned creators of Blanc de Blanc and Late Night Vice. Glittering bodies spin overhead in the seductive, velvet-draped world of The Spiegeltent.

Tina's Lucky Dip

Venue: Grouse Melbourne - Room 7

Date and time: 20 Jan, 27 Jan, 3 Feb | Wed 7:30pm

Cost: $25 full | $20 conc | $18 group (min 4)

An entire show built from scratch in one hour!

Fruit Salooon - Queer As!

Venue: Footscray Drill Hall

Date and time: 4-6 Feb | Thu-Sat 7pm

Cost: $45 full | $25 conc

Come as you are- in rhinestones or tracksuits- an inclusive night of queer joy & chaos.

Gay Gay It’s Saturday! With Skank Sinatra & Poussay

Venue: Grouse Front Bar

Date and time: 23 January | Sat 4-7pm

Cost: FREE

Join Skank Sinatra and Poussay as they take over the Grouse Front Bar for a free, loose and lively Saturday afternoon of drinks, socialising and spontaneous entertainment.

The Last Song

Venue: Theatre Works

Date and time: 19-23 Jan | Tue-Sat 7:30pm | Opening night party and Q&A sessions with Matt Scholten and Ben Grant: Tue 19 Jan 7:30pm

Cost: $40 full | $30 conc

On a final morning in the home he shared with Hugh, Alex looks back on love, music, chosen family and survival.

Immeasurable Doubt

Venue: Theatre Works - Explosives Factory

Date and time: 26-30 Jan | Tue-Sat 6:30pm | Captioned: All

Cost: $40 full | $30 conc

Whispered love poems between pews, deep vulnerable conversations in bunk beds of church camp, a deep pit in your stomach that devours all the butterflies.

Dax Savage: The Last Man on Earth

Venue: National Theatre, Theatre Works - Explosives Factory

Date and time: 19-23 Jan | Tue-Sat 7:30pm

Cost: $40 full | $30 conc

Inspired by conversations with "that uncle that we all have" during the 2017 gay marriage plebiscite, Dax Savage realises that letting gays get married meant the end of our world.

Copla: A Spanish Cabaret

Venue: Theatre Works - Explosives Factory

Date and time: 26-30 Jan | Tue-Sat 8:30pm

Cost: $40 full | $30 conc

A queer migrant performer reclaims Spain's most dramatic musical tradition, copla, transforming it into a bilingual cabaret of resistance, identity and desire.

Ballet for Boys

Venue: Theatre Works

Date and time: 2-13 Feb | Tue-Sun 7:30pm | Wed 11am | Fri 2pm

Cost: $69 full | $39 conc | $25 First Nations

Step inside the Senior Boys' dressing room and dab your sweat alongside these four best friends, who are rehearsing Swan Lake under the stern eye of their mysterious new female teacher.

GRINDR The Opera: A Musical Parody

Venue: Fitzroy St Theatre (formerly Alex Theatre) St Kilda - Theatre

Date and time: 22-24 Jan, 27-31 Jan, 3-6 Feb | Wed-Fri 7:30pm | Sat 2pm+7:30pm | Sun 24 Jan 1pm+6pm | Sun 31 Jan 6pm

Cost: from $69 - $129

Direct from the UK, Grindr The Opera: A Musical Parody brings the world's most notorious gay hook-up app LIVE to the stage.

The Tree

Venue: The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage

Date and time: 18-24 Jan | Mon-Sun 7pm

Cost: $35 full | $32 conc

“The Tree” is a night of story telling, comedy, music and schizophrenia.

Pillow Talk

Venue: Gasworks - Main Theatre

Date and time: 20-23 Jan | Wed-Sat 7pm | Thu, Sat 2pm | Auslan: Fri 22 Jan 7pm | Captioned: All

Cost: $30 full | $25 conc | $20 group (min 4)

Created and performed by Jamila Main, Pillow Talk invites you under the covers to share in the candid, heady flares of queer, disabled love and pain.

THEY WILL BE KINGS

Venue: Fed Square - The Edge

Date and time: 5 February | Fri 8pm | Join the cast and director for a panel discussion following the show

Cost: FREE

A performance work about the politics of joy, power and gender.

Queerness In Colour: Spoken Word Event

Venue: Garfield Picture Theatre

Date and time: 6 February | Sat 2pm

Cost: $20 full | $15 conc | $0 First Nations

Queerness in Colour is a live spoken word event in Garfield (West Gippsland) featuring queer, First Nations, and culturally and racially marginalised artists sharing storytelling, performance, and reflection through an intersectional lens.

How to Keep Safe

Venue: Phee Broadway Theatre

Date and time: 6-7 Feb | Sat 7pm | Sun 2pm

Cost: $25 full | $15 conc

One Woman Show – The world's scary when you're 10 years old trying to avoid a communist invasion, eternity in Hell and the A bomb in 1950s America.

Mornington Peninsula QUEERMAS

Venue: The Pelly Bar

Date and time: 11 December | Fri 8pm

Cost: $35 full + booking fee

Celebrate queer joy, chosen-family, and camp festive chaos!

Window is my name

Venue: The Graveyard Bar

Date and time: 19-20 Jan, 23-24 Jan | Tue, Wed 7:30pm | Sat 2pm | Sun 6pm

Cost: $30 full | $20 conc

She's a hack of all trades and she's a Jack of all trade...

I AM. I CAN.

Venue: The MC Showroom - The Showroom

Date and time: 21-22 Jan | Thu, Fri 8:30pm | Captioned: All

Cost: $32 full | $25 conc

Official Launch | Midsumma 2027 Lived-experience spoken word + original music.

Kath Ebbs - In my Defence

Venue: Gasworks - Main Theatre

Date and time: 3 February | Wed 7:30pm

Cost: $35 full | $30 conc

Join Kath for a work in progress show as they explore their chaotic dating history by revisiting the scenes of the crime(s) – AKA every single breakup and the choices that came after.

PiaNu-Metal

Venue: Northcote Town Hall STUDIO ONE

Date and time: 22-23 Jan | Fri 8pm | Sat 2:45pm

Cost: $30 full | $25 conc | $35 a little extra | $15 First Nations

The unauthorised and completely biased history of Nu-Metal.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show Shadowcast with The Pelvic Thrusts

Venue: Wyndham Cultural Centre

Date and time: 6 February | Sat 7:30pm

Cost: $30 full | $25 conc

Join Melbourne's Most Notorious Shadow Cast, THE PELVIC THRUSTS, for a wild Rocky Horror Picture Show shadow cast screening!

Samuel Roberts - When You Win

Venue: Grouse Melbourne - Room 7

Date and time: 28-30 Jan | Thu-Sat 7:30pm

Cost: $35 full | $32 conc

After touring the country with his fabulous football show, F.A.A.G, a country coming out story, Samuel is back to tell you what comes after.

SO FRESH: THE HITS OF SUMMER 2001

Venue: Grouse Front Bar

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 4pm

Cost: $44 full | $38 conc

A queer party.

Cowboy C*untry with Kath Ebbs

Venue: Gasworks - Angel Stage

Date and time: 6 February | Sat 7:30pm

Cost: $40 full | $35 conc

Cowboy culture surprisingly (or not) has deep roots in LGBTQ+ culture and deserves to be celebrated.

Desolation

Venue: Melbourne Recital Centre - Peter and Ruth McMullin Beacon

Date and time: 29-30 Jan | Fri, Sat 8pm

Cost: $55 full | $50 conc

One of Australia’s finest cabaret artistes, Mama Alto, arrives at the Peter & Ruth McMullin Beacon for her two-hour special.

IQONS

Venue: Melbourne Recital Centre - Peter and Ruth McMullin Beacon

Date and time: 1-2 Feb | Mon, Tue 8:30pm

Cost: $55 full | $50 conc

A celebration of iconic queer songwriters, brought to life by Australia's favourite piano man with special guest Chelsea Dawson.

Mx Tape What Makes Them/They

Venue: Melbourne Recital Centre - Peter and Ruth McMullin Beacon

Date and time: 28 January | Thu 8:30pm

Cost: $45 full | $40 conc

They say life isn't a musical, but Cassie Ogle has always had a soundtrack.

Pursuing Pleasure

Venue: Melbourne Recital Centre - Peter and Ruth McMullin Beacon

Date and time: 5 February | Fri 8:30pm

Cost: $45 full | $40 conc

Opera singer turned curvaceous cabaret cantatrice Piera invites audiences the intimate truths of her body and mind in Pursuing Pleasure - a sexy, deeply human solo cabaret.

citris ribs

Venue: Melbourne Recital Centre - Peter and Ruth McMullin Beacon

Date and time: 4 February | Thu 8:30pm

Cost: $45 full | $40 conc

Travelling through songs that bring a certain bittersweetness, Tomas Parrish holds your hand as they ask how to squeeze all the juice from the life they're given.

Plunge - Crown Jewels Opening Night Gala

Venue: Northcote Town Hall MAIN HALL

Date and time: 22 January | Fri 9:15pm | Opening night: Don that stache, get weird with that gender - make sure to dress your draggy best.

Cost: $40 full | $35 conc | $45 a little extra | $15 First Nations

We have let the performers loose on their repertoire and told them to bring their silliest, most ridiculous acts so expect the unexpected.

Little Squirt

Venue: Melbourne Recital Centre - Peter and Ruth McMullin Beacon

Date and time: 23 January | Sat 8:30pm

Cost: $45 full | $40 conc

When Darby James clicks on a Facebook ad for sperm donation, he finds himself sailing across the tempestuous seas of queer existential mayhem, setting out to discover the absurdities of procreation.

Bare the Musical

Venue: St Martins - Irene Mitchell Studio

Date and time: 17 Jan, 19-23 Jan | Sat, Sun 2pm | Sat, Sun 7pm | Tue-Fri 8pm

Cost: $59 full | $55 conc

This Midsumma Festival, Melbourne audiences will experience Bare: A Pop Opera, an acclaimed contemporary rock musical set in a Catholic boarding school.

Step By Step - Dancealong

Venue: Brunswick Ballroom

Date and time: 4 February | Thu Doors 6.30pm for Dinner, & Show 8pm (1hr)

Cost: From $34.99

A fully immersive dance party charting the songs and moves that have shaped the last century of pop culture.

Trans Tapes: The Last Trans Actress (A Staged Reading)

Venue: Fringe Common Rooms

Date and time: 21-22 Jan | Thu, Fri 7pm

Cost: $20 full | $15 conc

Three trans actresses audition for an AI building the last trans role anyone will ever play.

How I met her, by Karyn Sassella

Venue: Artemisia Gallery & Event Space

Date and time: 20 January | Wed 6-9pm

Cost: $22.50 full | $17.20 conc | $15 First Nations

Event description not supplied.

Music

Radiant Music

Venue: The Motley Bauhaus - The Cellar

Date and time: 23 January | Sat 7:15pm

Cost: $30 full | $20 conc | $15 group (min 4) | $10 First Nations

Join flutist Melanie Walters for an eclectic performance of contemporary solo music by LGBTQIA+ composers.

Father Daddy

Venue: Wheat, Wine & Whisky

Date and time: 4 February | Thu 7pm

Cost: $20 full | $15 conc

Queer-coded not cutting it any more?

Homophonic!

Venue: Gasworks - Main Theatre

Date and time: 5-6 Feb | 2hrs | Relaxed matinee 1hr | Fri 7pm | Sat 11am | Sat 5pm

Cost: evening: $38 full | $30 conc | $30 group (min 4) | $60 art lover matinee: $25 full | $20 conc

Homophonic! invites you to experience the entrancing sound world of todays LGBTQIA+ composers.

Goddess Grooves - Finale

Venue: Brunswick Ballroom

Date and time: 21 January | Thu 6:30pm

Cost: $32 full

Five lesbian singer/songwriters on stage together in a scintillating round robin of song.

Electric Fields with the Australian Queer Orchestra

Venue: Arts Centre Melbourne - Ian Potter State Theatre

Date and time: 4-5 Feb | Thu, Fri 7pm

Cost: Tickets available from Arts Centre Melbourne

Fresh off releasing new material, Electric Fields return to Melbourne during Midsumma with two very special shows accompanied by the Australian Queer Orchestra at the newly renovated Ian Potter State Theatre at Arts Centre Melbourne.

Tribe by the Sea

Venue: South Beach Reserve

Date and time: 31 January | Sun 9am-8pm

Cost: $10 full

Tribe Soundsystem beach party starting with yoga and sound healing in the morning to celebrate the Autumn equinox and pride, with dancing into the sunset and the line-up to be announced.

Tribe Soundsystem

Venue: South Beach Reserve

Date and time: 30 January | Sat Midday

Cost: $60 full | $ 50 group (min 4)

Tribe Soundsystem and Wildlife join forces for a day of disco to house, featuring Zepherin Saint and Jnett, with more DJs to be announced.

Wasted Light

Venue: Melbourne Recital Centre - Primrose Potter Salon

Date and time: 28 January | Thu 7pm

Cost: $45 full | $40 conc

Ronan Apcar and Po Goh join forces in a two piano concert of contemporary music meditating on queer joy, love, and identity.

Visual arts

Feel Something

Venue: Eltham Library Community Gallery

Date and time: 22 Jan- 28 Feb | Mon-Thu 9am-9pm | Fri 9am-6pm
Sat, Sun 10am-5pm
Opening: 28 Jan 6:30-8:30pm Workshop: 6 Feb 1:30-3:30pm

Cost: FREE | Image: by Jess Kease

Jess Kease aka 23rd Key’s exhibition brings together stencils and new works.

In Full Colour

Venue: RED Gallery

Date and time: 13-24 Jan | Wed-Sun 10am-5pm | Opening: Fri 15 Jan 6-8pm

Cost: FREE

In Full Colour is Red Gallery's 2027 Midsumma program, presented as part of Midsumma Festival.

Group Show : SOULS

Venue: Sol Gallery

Date and time: 26-31 Jan, 2-7 Feb | Tue-Sat 11am-5pm | Sun 11am-4pm | Opening : Thu 28 Jan 6-8:30pm

Cost: FREE

SOULS is a vibrant visual art exhibition celebrating the creativity and diversity of LGBTIQA+ artists and communities.

Glenn Walls: Everything is going to be ok?

Venue: MPavilion

Date and time: 17 January | Sun 10am-4pm

Cost: FREE

Discover Melbourne's hidden queer histories through immersive sculptural installations that reveal stories of LGBTQI+ community, resilience, loss and remembrance embedded within the city's public spaces.

GAVIN BROWN AT LENNOX ST GALLERY

Venue: Lennox St. Gallery

Date and time: 19-23 Jan, 26-30 Jan | Tue-Fri 11am-6pm | Sat 11am-5pm | Opening: 16 Jan 2-4pm

Cost: FREE

My work is constantly evolving and I am forever refining it.

Tender Ground: Kim Leutwyler

Venue: Lennox St. Gallery

Date and time: 19-23 Jan, 26-30 Jan | Tue-Fri 11am-6pm | Sat 11am-5pm | Opening: 16 Jan 2-4 pm

Cost: FREE

Lennox St Gallery is proud to present Tender Ground, a solo exhibition by Sydney-based artist Kim Leutwyler that subverts the hyper-masculine iconography of the cowboy and the American desert through a queer lens.

An Incomplete Survey of Gay Photography

Venue: XYZ Photo Gallery

Date and time: 17 Jan, 21-24 Jan, 28-31 Jan, 4-7 Feb | Thu-Sun 1-6pm

Cost: FREE

A dive into the gallery's stockroom and collection.

A Little Peckish

Venue: Kremma Cafe

Date and time: 18-31 Jan | Mon-Sat 7am-2pm | Sun 7:30am-1pm

Cost: FREE

Satisfy your appetite for cute at this delightful exhibition.

Midsumma Art Award

Venue: Gasworks - James McCaughey Foyer

Date and time: 19 Jan-7 Feb | Mon-Fri 10am-4pm | Sat, Sun 10am-3pm | Auslan: Opening: 19 Jan 6pm

Cost: FREE | Image: by Suzanne Balding: 2026 Winner, J Davies with A Tender Revolt, 2024-2025

2027 will be the twelfth year of this prestigious art award, where a selection of queer artists from across the country

showcase their personal and political perspectives of the world.

Digital Narratives

Venue: Incinerator Gallery

Date and time: 30 Jan-28 Mar | Wed-Sat 11am-4pm
Auslan: Opening: Fri 29 Jan 6pm

Cost: FREE

The age of information is now, but is it inherently Indigenous?

Kent Monkman: Miss Chief's Picture Show

Venue: ACCA - Australian Centre for Contemporary Art

Date and time: 17 Jan, 19-24 Jan, 27-31 Jan, 2-7 Feb | Sat, Sun 11am-5pm | Tue-Fri 10am-5pm

Cost: FREE

Kent Monkman, a member of ocêkwi sîpiy (Fisher River Cree Nation) in Treaty 5 Territory, Canada, is an internationally acclaimed interdisciplinary artist whose work spans painting, film, video, performance, and installation.

KWEER - A history of LGBTIQA+ in Marvel and DC Comics

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - Pride Gallery

Date and time: 18-23 Jan, 25-30 Jan, 1-6 Feb | Mon-Fri 9am-5pm | Sat 10am-5pm

Cost: FREE

KWEER documents LGBTIQA+ representation in Marvel and DC Comics from the 1950s to today.

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: A Magical Queer Group Show

Venue: Artemisia Gallery & Event Space

Date and time: 20-24 Jan, 27-31 Jan | Wed-Fri 11am-5pm | Sat, Sun 10am-4pm | Opening: Fri 22 Jan 6-9pm

Cost: FREE

Step into a realm of enchantment as Artemisia Gallery proudly presents the third iteration of its annual Midsumma exhibition.

You belong to me

Venue: Art & Collectors

Date and time: 23 Jan, 25-30 Jan, 1-6 Feb | Mon-Sat 10am-4pm | Opening: Sat 23 Jan 2-4pm

Cost: FREE

Set on Gertrude St in the heart of Pride, You Belong to Me is an art exhibition that celebrates love in its many incarnations.

The Body Language Project

Venue: Big Eye Studios

Date and time: 27 Jan - 14 Feb | Mon-Sun 11am-6pm

Cost: FREE

Body Language is a collaborative photography project which brings attention to the expansive expression of gender identity.

Inkwashing our Community

Venue: Pride of our Footscray Community Bar

Date and time: 4 February | Thu 7-9pm

Cost: FREE

Sit for a live 5-to-10 minute ink and brush portrait by artist Jimmy Twin (he/him), while sharing what ‘Pride’ means to you in 2027.

Soft Static: Exhibition

Venue: The Blender Studios

Date and time: 20-24 Jan, 27-31 Jan | Wed-Sun 8am-5pm | Opening: Sat 23 Jan 4-9pm $17.20

Cost: FREE

A group exhibition bringing together 35+ artists across painting, drawing, installation, new media, textile and more.

Opening Night: Soft Static [Exhibition]

Venue: The Blender Studios

Date and time: 23 January | Sat 4pm

Cost: $17.20 full

Join us for the opening night of 'Soft Static', a queer group exhibition of 35+ artists across painting, drawing, installation, new media, photography and textile.

Soft Nights at NCM

Venue: National Communication Museum (NCM)

Date and time: 4 February | Thu 6-9pm | Auslan: Available on Request

Cost: $34.50 full | $29 conc

Slow down and explore NCM exhibitions after-hours, including Radical Computing, a love letter to the personal computer.

Summer Daze

Venue: Off the Kerb Gallery

Date and time: 17 Jan, 21-24 Jan, 28 Jan | Sat, Sun 12-5pm | Thu 12-6pm | Fri 12-8pm | Opening: Fri 22 Jan 6pm

Cost: FREE

Off the Kerb gallery is proud to kick off 2027 with our Midsumma Festival group show, ‘Summer Daze’.

Beneath the Surface

Venue: Airtime

Date and time: 17 Jan-7 Feb | Daily, 24 hrs

Cost: FREE

Beneath the Surface, by young local queer artist Ruby Ripps, depicts distorted and mutated fish people.

Outfit Out Loud

Venue: Louis Joel Arts & Community - Louis Joel Gallery

Date and time: 18-23 Jan, 25-30 Jan, 1-6 Feb | Mon-Fri 9:30am-4:30pm | Sat 11am-2pm

Cost: FREE

Outfit Out Loud is a vibrant exhibition of wearable artworks created through an upcycled fashion project celebrating LGBTQIA+ identity, creativity and self-expression.

Love is Stored

Venue: Laneway Gallery

Date and time: 17 Jan-7 Feb | Daily, 24 hrs

Cost: FREE

This Laneway Gallery exhibition centres around the connection between identity and belonging, exploring how the love given both to ourself and from others shape who we are.

Digital Fantasy

Venue: Bundoora Homestead Art Centre

Date and time: 20-23 Jan, 27-30 Jan, 3-6 Feb | Wed-Fri 11am-4pm | Sat 10am-5pm

Cost: FREE

Using oil painting, low-fi video, and hand-painted ceramics, Chira Grasby explores her associations with early 2000s internet culture.

Heartland

Venue: Gertrude Street and Smith Street

Date and time: 7 February | Sun Midday

Cost: FREE

Heartland is a collaborative photography series and exhibition documenting queer lives across regional Victoria.

Pali-Pali MiRi

Venue: Mallee Arts CoLab

Date and time: 20 January | Wed 3pm

Cost: FREE

Pali-Pali MiRi is a celebration of LGBTQIA+SB Mob across the Mallee region.

Film

MQFF x Midsumma

Venue: Federation Square

Date and time: 4 February | Thu 8pm

Cost: FREE

Join Melbourne Queer Film Festival for a special screening featuring the brightest and best Australian queer filmmakers from their 2026 Australian Shorts program.

Focus on Queer 中文 Cinema

Venue: ACMI Cinemas

Date and time: 22 Jan-9 Feb | various session times

Cost: $20 full | $16 conc | $14 ACMI member

Spanning 10 feature films across different periods, genres and filmmaking traditions, the program moves between cult classics, modern masterpieces and recent works, by filmmakers who have challenged conventions of gender, sexuality, identity and representation across China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and more.

Labyrinth

Venue: Bunjil Place

Date and time: 29 January | Fri 6pm

Cost: FREE

Fancy a little fantasy, a touch of glamour and a whole lot of Bowie-esque magic?

Priscilla Queen of the Desert – Film Screening plus shadow cast

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette

Date and time: 22-23 Jan | Fri, Sat 8pm

Cost: $34 full

See local drag legends Art Simone, Lazy Susan, Zelda Moon, and Pashion Couture bring every moment of this classic film to life right in front of you.

Queer Movie Club: Equal the Contest (ally friendly)

Venue: Newport Community Hub

Date and time: 27 January | Wed 6:30pm

Cost: FREE

Join us for a special Midsumma film screening - celebrating gender diversity and allyship.

Tea Time

Venue: Digital Event (Midsumma Festival)

Date and time: Available online from 7 Feb | On demand | Captioned: ALL

Cost: FREE

Shin and Aruni invite their moms over for tea and kueh.

Frocks, Flicks and Op-Shop Fabulousness

Venue: Williamstown Town Hall

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 5:30pm

Cost: $17.70 full | $12.20 conc

The program combines a participatory upcycled fashion workshop and runway led by award-winning collective Fast Fashun with a hosted screening of an Australian indie short and a cult classic queer film.

Days 日子

Venue: ACMI - Cinema 2

Date and time: 22 January | Fri 7:30pm | Captioned: Mandarin with English subtitles

Cost: $20 full | $16 conc | $14 acmi members

Event description not supplied.

Montreal, My Beautiful (Montréal, ma belle)

Venue: ACMI - Cinema 2

Date and time: 23 Jan, 31 Jan | Sat 4pm | Sun 1pm | Captioned: French and Chinese with English subtitles

Cost: $20 full | $16 conc | $14 acmi members

Event description not supplied.

Girlfriends 女孩不平凡

Venue: ACMI - Cinema 2

Date and time: 23 Jan, 29 Jan | Fri, Sat 6:30pm | Captioned: Mandarin and Cantonese with English subtitles

Cost: $20 full | $16 conc | $14 acmi members

Event description not supplied.

Lan Yu 蓝宇

Venue: ACMI - Cinema 2

Date and time: 24 Jan, 31 Jan | Sun 1pm | Sun 3:30pm | Captioned: Cantonese with English subtitles

Cost: $20 full | $16 conc | $14 acmi members

Event description not supplied.

Cyclone 超風

Venue: ACMI - Cinema 2

Date and time: 24 Jan, 1 Feb | Sun 3:30pm | Mon 6:30pm | Captioned: Cantonese and Mandarin with English subtitles

Cost: $20 full | $16 conc | $14 acmi members

Event description not supplied.

Bel Ami 漂亮朋友

Venue: ACMI - Cinema 1, ACMI - Cinema 2

Date and time: 26 Jan, 6 Feb | Tue 1pm | Sat 6:30pm | Captioned: Chinese and English with English subtitles

Cost: $20 full | $16 conc | $14 acmi members

Event description not supplied.

Small Talk 日常對話

Venue: ACMI - Cinema 2

Date and time: 26 Jan, 2 Feb | Tue 3:30pm | Tue 6:30pm | Captioned: Min Nan with English subtitles

Cost: $20 full | $16 conc | $14 acmi members

Event description not supplied.

Let's Love Hong Kong 好郁

Venue: ACMI - Cinema 2

Date and time: 27 Jan, 5 Feb | Wed, Fri 6:30pm | Captioned: Cantonese with English subtitles

Cost: $20 full | $16 conc | $14 acmi members

Event description not supplied.

Queerpanorama 眾生相

Venue: ACMI - Cinema 1, ACMI - Cinema 2

Date and time: 28 Jan, 6 Feb | Thu 6:30pm | Sat 4:30pm | Captioned: English, Persian, Thai and Mandarin with English subtitles

Cost: $20 full | $16 conc | $14 acmi members

Event description not supplied.

Silent Sparks 愛作歹

Venue: ACMI - Cinema 2

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 6:30pm | Captioned: Mandarin and Taiwanese with English subtitles

Cost: $20 full | $16 conc | $14 acmi members

Event description not supplied.

Kids and families

Love Love Love Love Love Love

Venue: ArtPlay

Date and time: 4-7 Feb | Thu-Sun 10:30am | Sat 2pm

Cost: $20 for 1 baby and up to 2 carers

An immersive performance and interactive play experience for babies under one year old and their carers.

Once Upon a Different Time

Venue: State Library Victoria - Create Quarter

Date and time: 21 January | Thu 11:30am | Auslan: Available on Request

Cost: FREE

Once upon a time there were three bears...but it wasn't always Goldilocks who broke into their home!

The Extraordinary Flying Ship

Venue: State Library Victoria - Create Quarter

Date and time: 21 January | Thu 1:30pm | Auslan: Available on Request

Cost: FREE

A flying ship, a band of superheroes, and a sky-shanty or two!

Rainbow Storytime

Venue: State Library Victoria - Create Quarter

Date and time: 19-20 Jan | Tue, Wed 1:30pm | Auslan: Available on Request

Cost: FREE

Do you love stories, songs and a bit of sparkle?

Rainbow Families Extravaganza

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette

Date and time: 19 January | Tue 12:30pm

Cost: FREE

Family-friendly school holiday fun.

Collingwood Underground Roller Disco presents YASS KWEEN at the QVM

Venue: Queen Victoria Market Underground Car Park

Date and time: 29 January | Fri 3pm

Cost: $30 full | $15 conc

Collingwood Underground Roller Disco bring their all-ages event to the city at Queen Victoria Markets Underground Car Park for Midsumma Festival.

Stories across the Rainbow with Emma

Venue: Sunshine Library

Date and time: 20 January | Wed 10:30am

Cost: FREE

Experience live storytelling with storyteller, theatre-maker and magician Emma Chandler.

Fractured Fairy Tale Workshop

Venue: Sunshine Library

Date and time: 20 January | Wed 1pm

Cost: FREE

Join storyteller Emma Chandler for a playful drama workshop where classic fairytales are reimagined with creativity, music and movement.

Rainbow Families Storytime

Venue: Sunshine Library

Date and time: 22 January | Fri 10:30am

Cost: FREE

Join us for a fun, inclusive Storytime.

Ched & Charles

Venue: Circus Centre Melbourne

Date and time: 30 Jan, 6 Feb | 30 Jan 12:30pm + 3:30pm + 6pm
6 Feb 12:30pm + 3:30pm

Cost: $30 full | $25 conc | $22 under 16s | $20 child | $10 First Nations

Ched & Charles is a heartwarming circus show for families with children ages 5 and up.

Midsumma Storytime

Venue: The Little Bookroom

Date and time: 19 Jan, 2 Feb | Tue 9:30am | Auslan: Available on Request

Cost: FREE

This Midsumma Festival we have a new rainbow storytime at The Little Bookroom in Brunswick East.

Hugo's Rainbow Show

Venue: Northcote Town Hall MAIN HALL

Date and time: 22-24 Jan | Fri 4pm | Sat, Sun 1:30pm | A show for children from 2-10 years old

Cost: $30 full | $25 conc | $35 a little extra | $15 child | $15 First Nations

Join drag super star Hugo Grrrl (New Zealand) for a musical, magical adventure exploring the skies above.

Joy Stations

Venue: Woods Street Arts Space

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 12-4pm

Cost: FREE

Joy Stations is a playful, hands-on artistic experience for all ages by Slow Art Collective and Lichen Kelp.

Youth

A Midsummer's Daydream

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel - The Chapel

Date and time: 20 January | Wed 1-4pm

Cost: FREE

Drawing on the fantasy of Shakespeare’s fairytale to transform Chapel Off Chapel into an enchanted world with fairies, sparkles and spells for a joyous afternoon of celebration, drag performances and craft stations perfect for young people 12-25.

Queer Youth History Workshops

Venue: Australian Queer Archives (AQuA)

Date and time: 28-30 Jan | Thu 6:30pm | Fri, Sat 2pm

Cost: FREE

LGBTIQA+ young people aged 16-25 are invited to join us for workshops on queer youth histories.

Touch Grass with Crystal Queer

Venue: Westvale Community Centre

Date and time: 18 January | Mon 11am

Cost: FREE

Join the Crystal Queer program, run by Brimbank Youth Services, for the official launch of Melbourne west's brand-new queer garden, a beautiful space dedicated to celebrating and supporting LGBTQIA+ young people across the west.

Worldbuilders

Venue: Arena Theatre Company

Date and time: Jan | Multiple dates | See website for details | Relaxed: See website for details

Cost: FREE booking required

Work with professional artists to sculpt foam armour, build props and design an original creature brought to life in augmented reality.

Minus18 Pride March Banner Making!

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - The Forum

Date and time: 20 January | Wed 6:30pm

Cost: FREE - registration required

This is an event for LGBTQIA+ teens to make Pride March banners and signs together!

Community and culture

Social Butterflies

Venue: Wheat, Wine & Whisky

Date and time: 22 January | Fri 7:30-11:30pm

Cost: FREE

Join our community for trans women, non-binary, and femme-leaning gender-queer people for our 5th Birthday!

Outdoors for All: Inclusive Camping Experience

Venue: Werribee South Tourist Park

Date and time: 30 January | Sat Midday

Cost: FREE

A free, inclusive overnight camping experience for LGBTQIA+ adults.

City of Port Phillip's Midsumma Flag Raising

Venue: St Kilda Town Hall

Date and time: 27 January | Wed 4-5pm

Cost: FREE

Join the City of Port Phillip as we raise the Pride Flag above St Kilda Town Hall to launch Midsumma Festival.

Rainbow Quaker Meeting for Worship

Venue: Victorian Quaker Centre

Date and time: 24 January | Sun 2-3:30pm

Cost: FREE

You are invited to a Rainbow Quaker Meeting for Worship!

Rainbow Mass: A celebration of faith, diversity and inclusion

Venue: St Mark's Anglican Church Fitzroy

Date and time: 5 February | Fri 7pm

Cost: FREE

Experience inspiring liturgy, music and preaching, followed by supper and drinks on the lawn.

Out Loud on the Ninch

Venue: Peninsula Community Theatre

Date and time: 6 February | Sat 4pm

Cost: $28 full | $12 conc | $12 First Nations | $12 youth (12-25) | under 12's FREE with adult

Out Loud on the Ninch returns bringing Midsumma to the Mornington Peninsula.

GAYmazing Race

Venue: Pacino's Italian Family Restarant (carpark)

Date and time: 26 January | Tue 10am

Cost: $25 Car & driver | $7.50 each passenger

Use your best navigation, observation and problem-solving skills along the way.

Southside Queer Pool Party

Venue: Prahran Aquatic Centre

Date and time: 24 January | Sun 12-4pm | Tactile Tour: 24 Jan 11:45am

Cost: $22.50 full | $17.50 conc | $5 First Nations | $5 PLHIV

Dive into Thorne Harbour's iconic Queer Pool Party at Prahran Pool.

Midsumma Carnival

Venue: Alexandra Gardens

Date and time: 17 January | Sun 11am | Auslan: Picnic & Main Stages

Cost: FREE

Grab your mates, rally your family, rock your festival finest and kick off Midsumma with a banger of a day!

Midsumma Pride March

Venue: Fitzroy St and Catani Gardens

Date and time: 31 January | Sun 10am | Auslan: for official proceedings

Cost: FREE

Friends, families, community groups and loved ones are all welcome to join the Midsumma Pride March!

Victoria's Pride Street Party

Venue: Gertrude Street and Smith Street

Date and time: 7 February | Sun 12-9pm | Auslan: Smith & Gertrude Street Stages

Cost: FREE

Victoria's Pride Street Party is back and spreading the queer joy throughout Fitzroy and Collingwood for another year!

Open to all. We mean it.

Venue: St Michael's Uniting Church

Date and time: 7 February | Sun 10-11am

Cost: FREE

Come as you are!

Pack is All: Roller Derby Champs

Venue: City Library Gallery

Date and time: 3-7 Feb | Wed-Fri 9am-6pm | Sat 10am-4pm | Sun 12-4pm | Captioned: All

Cost: FREE

In 2017, the Victorian Roller Derby League made history as the first team ever to take the Hydra Trophy out of America.

Sunset Pride Party

Venue: Greensborough Walk

Date and time: 5 February | Fri 5-9pm

Cost: FREE

Sunset Pride Party returns to Greensborough Walk for a free, all-ages celebration of Pride in Banyule.

Bi+ Pride Victoria Annual Community Picnic

Venue: Edinburgh Gardens - Circle of Trees

Date and time: 23 January | Sat 12-3pm

Cost: FREE

A social gathering in the beautiful relaxed outdoor setting of Edinburgh Gardens, aimed at building connections within the bi+ community & our allies.

Rainbow Recharge Hub

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette

Date and time: 31 January | Sun 10am-5pm

Cost: FREE

Take a break from the buzz of Midsumma Pride March at the Rainbow Recharge Hub inside the Victorian Pride Centre's Theatrette - a free, inclusive, and accessible space designed to support the community, especially our ageing, regional and rural communities.

Gay Stuff Market

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - The Forum

Date and time: 23 January | Sat 12-4pm

Cost: FREE

Gay Stuff is back at Midsumma Festival for a 9th year!

Lanterns of Pride

Venue: 75 Reid St

Date and time: 23 January | Sat 11am

Cost: FREE

Lanterns of Pride brings LGBTQIAPN+ people, family and friends together for Lunar New Year.

Hobsons Bay Pride Big Brunch

Venue: Newport Community Hub

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 11am

Cost: FREE

Hobsons Bay Pride Big Brunch brings our community together for a vibrant morning of connection, inspiring guest speakers, and a delicious brunch.

Screenprinting with Chira Grasby and Oxy Customs

Venue: Bundoora Homestead Art Centre

Date and time: 6 February | Sat 1-4pm | Auslan: Available on Request | Captioned: On request

Cost: FREE

Join artist Chira Grasby, and local creative Oxy Customs for a free drop-in screen printing event and pop- up market.

Trans Women Society Monthly Meet

Venue: The Fox Hotel

Date and time: 29 January | Fri 7-9:15pm

Cost: FREE

We'd absolutely love for you to join our community for trans women, non-binary folks and those who identify outside the gender binary, and supportive cis women allies!

Talks, tours and workshops

Retracing Stonnington's Queer Footprints tour

Venue: In front of the Braille Library, 31-51 Commercial Rd, South Yarra

Date and time: 4 February | Thu 10am

Cost: FREE

Join us for a tour of Stonnington's queer history, guided by Thorne Harbour Health.

The Inaugural Jamie Gardiner OAM Oration

Venue: The Wheeler Centre - Performance Space

Date and time: 4 February | Thu 6:30pm

Cost: $30 full | $20 conc

The Victorian Council for Civil Liberties presents the inaugural Jamie Gardiner OAM Oration in honour of Jamie's long-standing activism.

Bound in Pleasure: An Introduction to Rope & Bondage

Venue: Peninsula Sauna

Date and time: 20 January | Wed 6:30pm

Cost: $25 full

Unleash the art of bondage in a safe, supportive and playful environment at Peninsula Sauna.

Unmasking Desire: A Sounding & Electro Journey

Venue: Peninsula Sauna

Date and time: 21 January | Thu 6:30pm

Cost: $25 full

A transformative, hands-on workshop designed to ignite your senses and explore the depths of your desires.

NGV x MIDSUMMA

Venue: NGV International

Date and time: 6 February | Sat Various times | Auslan: Available on request

Cost: FREE

Join us as we highlight and explore LGBTQIA+ stories and experiences woven throughout the 2027 NGV Triennial, an exhibition that unfolds across all four levels of NGV International, bringing together the work of some of the most respected artists and designers from around the world.

AIDS Memorial Garden Tour

Venue: Melbourne Polytechnic College Fairfield - AIDS Memorial Garden

Date and time: 21 January | Thu Midday | Thu 4pm | Relaxed: All

Cost: FREE

Join a guided tour of the AIDS Memorial Garden at the former Fairfield Hospital.

Sketchy Behaviour

Venue: Pride of our Footscray Community Bar

Date and time: 4 February | Thu 6:30pm

Cost: $19 full | $14 conc

An evening of laughter, strange drawings, and surprising conversations, hosted by drag king Roxy Rawhide.

Queer History Walking Tour - St Kilda

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - The Forum

Date and time: 27 January | Wed 5:30-7pm

Cost: FREE

Join the Australian Queer Archives and Thorne Harbour Health for a walking tour of St Kilda’s LGBTQIA+ history.

Queer Melbourne in Historical Novels

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette

Date and time: 3 February | Wed 7pm

Cost: FREE

Step into the hidden histories of Melbourne's queer past, through the lens of historical fiction.

Queer Nature

Venue: Truganina Explosives Reserve

Date and time: 4 February | Thu 7:30pm

Cost: FREE

Many of Hobsons Bay's most fascinating animals are nocturnal, preferring to come out after dark.

Weaving Connections - Bilang (dilly bags)

Venue: Woods Street Arts Space

Date and time: 6 February | Sat 1pm

Cost: $6.55 full

Bilang (dilly bags) are traditional bags that First Nations people used to carry foods, tools and more.

Gather for Good: Blossoming Trans Allyship and Drawing Queer Floriography (ALIA Program)

Venue: Newport Community Hub

Date and time: 6 February | Sat 10am

Cost: FREE

The event begins with an informative workshop focused on strengthening allyship for trans and gender diverse people.

Printing Pride: Stories in Ink

Venue: Woods Street Studios

Date and time: 22 Jan, 24 Jan, 29 Jan, 31 Jan, 5 Feb, 7 Feb | Fri, Sun 11am

Cost: $17.2 full/ $12.2 conc (per session)

Printing Pride: Stories in Ink is a six-session inclusive visual arts program celebrating LGBTQIA+ identity, community, storytelling and creative expression through contemporary printmaking.

Pub Queer

Venue: Old Stone Hall

Date and time: 22 Nov, 13 Dec, 24 Jan, 4 Feb, 7 Feb | Sun 1pm | Thu 7pm | Relaxed: See website for details

Cost: FREE

Local lesbian (and award-winning musician/poet) Ruby Gill is taking over Beechworth's halls and pubs with a summer of poetry/songwriting workshops, to celebrate stories of local LGBTQIA+ hotties, and build visibility for community.

MIC CHECK

Venue: The Memo Healesville

Date and time: 13-22 Jan | Mon-Sun 10am | Fri 6pm | Relaxed: 22 Jan 6pm

Cost: FREE

Bring an idea!

Oceanside Pride: Building the Wave

Venue: Portland Arts Centre

Date and time: 20-22 Jan | Wed-Fri 6pm

Cost: FREE

BEAT ENTERTAINMENT returns to Portland for three days of LGBTQIA+ creativity, connection and community.

Creative Healing: Identity, Culture & Connection

Venue: Burraja Cultural Centre

Date and time: 14 January | Thu 10am

Cost: FREE

Creative Healing is a free, culturally safe creative arts event for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rainbow Mob.

Seams Affirming

Venue: Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre

Date and time: 9 Jan, 13 Jan, 16 Jan, 20 Jan, 23 Jan, 27 Jan, 30 Jan, 3 Feb, 6 Feb | Sat 10am-4pm | Wed 5-9pm

Cost: FREE | Image: MVP Productions

Seams Affirming is a joyful, TGD-led sewing series where trans and gender diverse adults learn to alter, upcycle and create clothes that fit who they are, while exploring queer textile histories across cultures, contemporary role models, community connection, wellbeing and creative self-expression.

REPRESENT!?!

Venue: Grouse Melbourne - Room 7

Date and time: 21-23 Jan | Thu, Fri 7pm | Sat 2pm

Cost: FREE

A series of panel discussions about what it means to represent as queer.

Sport

Aikido Shudokan

Venue: Aikido Shudokan

Date and time: 23 Jan, 30 Jan | Sat 3pm

Cost: FREE

Join a welcoming self-defence class with Fulori Smith, 5th Dan Aikido Shudokan instructor (40+ yrs teaching in Melbourne).

Evolution Of St Kilda Road Through A Gay Nomads Lens

Venue: Federation Square

Date and time: 24 January | Sun 10:30am

Cost: FREE

From a swamp to a commercial, entertainment & recognition space, explore St Kilda Rd's features, with background stories, from Fed Square to Toorak Rd.

Rainbow Golf 2027

Venue: Yarrambat Park Golf Course

Date and time: 7 February | Sun 8:30am

Cost: $33 full

Hosted on Sun 7 Feb at Yarrambat Park Golf Course (649 Yan Yean Rd, Yarrambat), it is a fun and inclusive day with plenty of colour, laughs and good times.

Pack Is All: Roller Derby & Open Skate

Venue: The Factory

Date and time: 6 February | Sat 5:30-10:30pm

Cost: $10 game | $10 open skate | $15 game and skate combo

Victorian Roller Derby League invites you to its home in Preston for an action-packed celebration of grassroots sport.

Glamourhead Sharks "Give Squad Swimming a Go" Day

Venue: Fitzroy Pool

Date and time: 6 February | Sat 10:30am

Cost: $5 full

Melbourne's Glamourhead Sharks swim club invites social swimmers to competitive swimmers to 'Give Squad Swimming a Go' this Midsumma Festival.

AO Pride Day

Venue: Melbourne Park

Date and time: 29 January | Fri 11am-9pm

Cost: ENTRY into Melbourne Park requires an Australian Open Ground Pass Ticket - starting from $19

AO Pride Day brings LGBTQIA+ communities, allies and tennis fans together for a day of world-class tennis, entertainment and celebration.

AO Glam Slam

Venue: Melbourne Park

Date and time: 29-31 Jan | Fri - Sun | Various times

Cost: ENTRY into Melbourne Park requires an Australian Open Ground Pass Ticket - starting from $19

Part of a global series of LGBTQIA+ tournaments, the AO Glam Slam brings LGBTQIA+ tennis players together at the Australian Open to celebrate queer visibility, inclusion, competition and community.

Rovers v.s. Royalty

Venue: Home of the Matildas

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 12-5pm | Auslan: All

Cost: FREE

As part of a mini 7v7 tournament, two teams of Melbourne drag royalty go wig to wig against two teams of Melbourne Rovers.

Parties

Wet Pool Party 2027

Venue: Wet on Wellington

Date and time: 6 February | Sat Midday

Cost: $70 full

Dive into an unforgettable day of sun, beats and premium vibes at Wet on Wellington.

Pride Tide Boat Party

Venue: Victoria Star Cruises

Date and time: 23 January | Sat 6pm | Launch of The Drag Academy

Cost: $40 full | $35 group (min 4) | $30 group (min 6)

Join Kween Kong and the Dragged To crew for THE Boat Party that warmly welcomes everyone from the LGBTQIA+ community and our cherished allies.

Under 30s @ Wet

Venue: Wet on Wellington

Date and time: 1 February | Mon 6:30pm-2am

Cost: $35 full

Make a splash at our Under 30s Midsumma Special!

Furocious @ Wet

Venue: Wet on Wellington

Date and time: 2 February | Tue 6:30pm-2am

Cost: $35 full

Calling all bears, cubs, otters & everyone who loves a little fur.

The Coast Is Queer x DIVE BAR Carpark Party

Venue: Dive Bar Geelong

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 6pm

Cost: $55 full | $40 conc

Get ready for an outdoor celebration of queer culture, music and community featuring a headline act, DJ's, Drag and group performances.

Lady Like Pool Party 2027

Venue: Wet on Wellington

Date and time: 3 February | Wed 7pm

Cost: $35 full

A Lesbian, Queer, Trans-femme, AFAB & Sapphic Event!

Queer AF @ Wet

Venue: Wet on Wellington

Date and time: 4 February | Thu 6:30pm-2am

Cost: $35 full

A bold, welcoming night created for the queer community to connect, explore and express themselves freely.

Happy Hour @ Wet

Venue: Wet on Wellington

Date and time: 5 February | Fri 6:30-11pm

Cost: $35 full

Turn up the heat & start the weekend off the right way at Wet on Wellington for some drink specials and amazing tunes from our DJ!

Peninsula Sausage Fest 2027

Venue: Peninsula Sauna

Date and time: 31 January | Sun Midday

Cost: $30 full

Get ready for a day that’s serving meat in more ways than one.

Pride Rooftop Party Presented by Chemist Warehouse 2027

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - Rooftop

Date and time: 29 January | Fri 6:30pm

Cost: $10 full

Join us, along with some amazing brands, as we celebrate the Midsumma Festival!

Library Up Late x Midsumma Festival

Venue: State Library Victoria

Date and time: 5 February | Fri 7:30-10:30pm

Cost: $36 full | $30 conc | $25 First Nations

Your childhood Book Week just got an adult upgrade.

Nocturnal

Venue: Melbourne Museum

Date and time: 4 February | Thu 6pm

Cost: $25 full | $22.50 conc | $20 museum member

Wander the galleries after dark, once the daytime crowds have left and the place is all yours.

Provocation

Venue: Inflation Nightclub

Date and time: 22 January | Fri 9pm-3am

Cost: $45 full | $40 conc

Provocation turns up the summer heat with jelly wrestling, a Wet T-Shirt Competition, DJ Slave Barbie and beach-club mayhem.

Aruma All-Abilities Pride Disco

Venue: Collingwood Town Hall

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 1-5pm

Cost: FREE

Join Aruma's first-ever Midsumma event!

Plus 55 - Return to the Disco

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette

Date and time: 24 January | Sun 6pm

Cost: FREE

Plus 55: Return to the Disco is a Midsumma event made for the older members of our LGBTIQA+ communities.

Sunday Sizzle: Pride March Rooftop Party

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - Rooftop

Date and time: 31 January | Sun 12-6pm

Cost: FREE

This is THE spot to land after Pride March to beat the heat: fabulous live performances, queer anthems spun by DJ Sugarplump Fairy, a cold one from Stomping Ground and a snag at our famous sausage sizzle.

Gay Skate: Reimagined

Venue: Sunshine Roller Rink

Date and time: 29 January | Fri 6pm

Cost: FREE

Lace up your best roller skates and head to the Sunshine Roller Rink for a fabulous night of all-ages skating, good vibes and plenty of queer ’70s flair.

Rooftop Rodeo

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - Rooftop

Date and time: 6 February | Sat 6-10pm

Cost: $27.50 full | $20 conc

HOEDOWN!

Deep Fried Disco

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre - Rooftop

Date and time: 23 January | Sat 4-10pm

Cost: $44 full | $34 conc | $24 First Nations

For one night only, Tanzer takes over The Big Top against the St Kilda skyline.

Shattered Heels

Venue: Coburg RSL

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 7:30pm | One Night Only

Cost: $21.50 full | $17.50 conc

Step into a magical world of Disney-inspired drag, where fabulous performers bring your favourite characters to life!

F*** Fabulous Warehouse Party Castlemaine

Venue: Theatre Royal

Date and time: 23 January | Sat 6pm

Cost: $45 FT worker | $25 low inc/conc | $10 Mob

Fat Fruit brings you a punk, art, performance party created with and for trans, gender diverse and queer community.

So Last Century

Venue: Jeparit Memorial Hall

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 7pm

Cost: $30 full

Step into retro glamour at this one-night-only Midsumma celebration in Jeparit, inspired by Dynasty and Number 96, featuring live entertainment, themed dress-ups and powerful LGBTQIA+ stories celebrating regional pride, resilience, visibility and connection.

Verbena Pride

Venue: SPIEGEL HAUS MELBOURNE

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 2pm

Cost: FREE

Verbena is back.

THICK 'N' JUICY • Pride Pool Party

Venue: Fitzroy Pool

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 2pm

Cost: $35 full

THICK ’N’ JUICY is turning up the heat this summer at the iconic Fitzroy Pool.

Blanke P

Venue: The Mission to Seafarers Victoria - Courtyard

Date and time: 30 January | Sat 3-11pm

Cost: FREE

Event description not supplied.

About this plain English guide

This guide uses the event information supplied in the Midsumma Festival 2027 event listing spreadsheet and introductory information from the printed festival program. Event descriptions are shortened to the first sentence to help readers scan the listings.

This is a plain English text guide. It is not a formally assessed Easy Read document. For full event details, access information, tickets and updates, visit midsumma.org.au or contact the event presenter.