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THE

PEONY

PAVILION

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with the National Ballet of China Symphony Orchestra

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‘China's equivalent of Romeo and Juliet... stands out as a captivating original’
THE GUARDIAN

‘A ravishing spectacle few will forget’
WALL STREET JOURNAL

TICKETS
$89 – $159
Group and concession tickets also available

15 – 18 MARCH 2012
THE ARTS CENTRE, STATE THEATRE
FIVE SHOWS ONLY!

theartscentre.com.au*, 1300 182 183*
or the Arts Centre Box Office
*Transaction fee applies

The Ministry of Culture,
People’s Republic of China
Welcome one and all

It's Midsumma! Time to come together to celebrate queer culture in Melbourne. Wherever you are on the LGBTI spectrum the team at Midsumma wants you to feel this is your festival.

There's a rich and diverse program this year and we are proud to deliver it to you.

To the excellent staff, board, volunteers, sponsors and government support – a huge thanks.

Book tickets, see shows, enjoy the parties and celebrate the diversity of our community.

Lisa Watts

MIDSUMMA CHAIR
Spontaneous Broadway

Spontaneous Broadway is one of the world’s premier comic musical improvisation shows. The audience invent song titles that inspire the cast to present a song and pitch for a new musical. The audience then chooses its favourite, the musical director improvises an astounding overture, and the cast create a world premiere musical on the spot. Complete with costume and character changes and dance sequences, much musical theatre mayhem and hilarity assured.

DATE: Jan 19-21 2012
OPEN: 7.30pm
VENUE: Gasworks Art Park
ADDRESS: 21 Graham St, Albert Park
PHONE: 03 8606 4200
WEB: www.gasworks.org.au
COST: $35/$32

Golden Babetime

Golden Babetime is a new addition to the Midsumma program, an alternate Carnival after-party, curated as a collaboration between Grouse Party and Danceteria, and catering more to the ladies and the queer underground. Golden Babetime takes you from Birrarung Marr to Beer-among Babes, after the sun sets, kicking off at 6pm at indoor/outdoor CBD oasis The Deck.

DATE: January 15, 2012
OPEN: 6pm
VENUE: The Deck
ADDRESS: cnr Flinders & King Sts (enter via Mercantile Place)
PHONE: 03 9534 4879
WEB: www.midsumma.org.au
COST: $16
PRESENTED BY: www.grouseparty.com and www.facebook.com/danceteriaparty

Cycles&Sequences

Ross Watson

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the artist’s career, Cycles&Sequences defines an exciting new development in Ross Watson’s art.

Cycles&Sequences explores cycles of life, notions of time and enduringness, change and transition in today’s disposable society. Recent paintings and edition photography feature new models including Bel Ami stars Dolph Lambert, Kris Evans, Lukas Ridgeston and Lance Corporal James Wharton, who with Sir Ian McKellen toured the UK on an anti-homophobia and anti-bullying tour.

Consummate skill and expansive imagination are evident in this gently surrealist series, which invites us to contemplate our own existence, place in time, and mortality.

DATES: January 20-February 5 2012
OPEN: Fri-Sun, 11am-5pm
VENUE: Ross Watson Gallery
ADDRESS: 465 Nicholson St, Carlton North
PHONE: 03 9348 2821
WEB: www.rosswatson.com
COST: Free
Carnival 2012
Carnival is the opening event of Midsumma's annual queer arts and cultural festival that attracted a whopping crowd of nearly 100,000 in its first year at Birrarung Marr in 2011. It is the biggest single event in Midsumma's program.

Thanks to the support of our principal partner, the City of Melbourne, Carnival 2012 will again be a free celebration for the entire community to enjoy — queer, straight and everything in between — everyone is welcome!

Free entertainment will also feature from noon-5pm. Teaser performances from some of the best events in the program will whet your appetite for what's on offer for the next three weeks of festival, all over Melbourne. Be sure to take the tram or train in preparation for a fun-filled day.

A feast of diversity will be laid out for your pleasure on the lower terrace, where a cacophony of stallholders will bare their wares, providing the perfect strolling destination for new friends and eye candy!

Eagle Pack presents the inimitable Dulcie's Dog Show, everyone's favourite pack of bitches. The 2012 categories include 'cutest bitch' and 'best owner and dog combo' so head to the Eagle Pack stand to check in or register on the day.

JOY 94.9 will broadcast the excitement of the Midsumma Carnival live to air, so don’t forget you can listen at www.joy.org.au Make sure you get the JOY iPhone app and while you’re there you might as well get Midsumma12 — Midsumma’s iPhone app.

Keep your eye out for Southern Star Observer to get all the latest information.

Stories by Starlight
Candy Royalle and Sloppy Joe (plus a number of secret guests and collaborators) come together to offer up Stories by Starlight, an all-consuming fusion of music, poetry, performance and soundscapes.

Known for her arresting and confronting work, performance artist and wordsmith Candy Royalle found a natural fit with Sloppy Joe, a trio who bend the genres of funk, jazz and soul. Their unique sounds are now the backdrop to her latest body of work. Born of desire, politics and self-discovery, Stories by Starlight is an intense, rhythmic journey through the self and into the stars.

DATE: January 18-21 2012
OPEN: Wed Sat 8pm
VENUE: Thousand Pound Bend Gallery
ADDRESS: 361 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne
WEB: www.thousandpoundbend.com.au
COST: $25/$18 conc

The Pineapple Sorrows
An absurd tragic-comic new work from Melbourne theatre company, crossditch.

In the wake of a wake, one platter remains. Three hors d’oeuvres remember — the Pineapple Sorrows. Performed by Jake Preval, Sherilee Kahui and .... Music by Dylan Lardelli. Costumes by Chloe Greaves. Directed by Felix Preval.

“And then, he was just gone. Toothpick and all!” — Asparagus Roll.

DATE: From January 17, 2012
OPEN: Wed & Sun 6.30pm; Thu-Sat 7.30pm
VENUE: La Mama Courthouse
ADDRESS: 205 Faraday St, Carlton
PHONE: 03 9347 6948 WEB: www.lamama.com.au
COST: $25/$15 conc

Liz isn’t the only QUEEN who rides trams.

This Midsumma
Look. Listen. Be alert around trams.

yarratrans.com.au

Proud to Present Midsumma Premier Events
Midsumma Mooning

This men-only fundraiser has guys baring all to win prizes, and maybe a few fans in the crowd.

With the talent and wet-jack segments, the crowd are guaranteed an all-round view of the contestants as they compete for a tropical Queensland getaway.

Throw in a half time comedy act with rapid-auction and it’s a great night’s entertainment for bugger-all money.

A fundraiser for the David Williams Fund, there’s no better way to show your support for those living with HIV/AIDS.

Date: January 27 2012    Open: 8pm
Venue: The Laird Hotel
Address: 149 Gipps St, Abbotsford
Phone: 03 9417 2832
Web: www.lairdhotel.com  Cost: $12

The Year of Magical Wanking

Neil Watkins has wanked more than is healthy, allegedly. One of Ireland’s most exciting artists and incendiary performers, Neil is a maverick, a 35-year-old homosexual with a Jesus complex. On orders from heaven, this is Neil’s journey through the wilderness of queerness — from Catholic Ireland to the cruising bars of the world.

This is a brave and heartbreaking exploration of porn addiction, destructive sexual behaviour, Catholic guilt and family heartbreak.

Date: From January 17 2012    Open: Jan 17-21 7pm; 22 8.30pm; 24-29 8.30pm
Venue: Theatreworks
Address: 14 Acland St, St Kilda
Phone: 03 9662 4530
Web: www.theatreworks.org.au  Cost: $25/$30 conc
Season Pass: with Mother/Son and Negative Energy Inc $50/$45 conc

Leggings Are Not Pants

Raw, raucous and beautiful, Leggings Are Not Pants shows that there are no boundaries to gender identity, but there are toya.

Full of laughter, sweat, acrobatics, beauty, rocking live music and muscles, this hilarious show defies the divide between masculinity and femininity and explores being queer in today’s world.

By the same director as last year’s fabulous Ladies Prefer Brunettes, it is presented in conjunction with the Women’s Circus.

Date: February 01-05 2012    Open: Wed-Fri 8pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm, Sun 8pm
Venue: fortyfive downstairs
Address: 45 Riddiers Ln, Melbourne
Phone: 03 9662 9966
Web: www.fortyfivedownstairs.com  Cost: $28

Love In A Cubicle

The all-new 10th anniversary production of one of Out Cast Theatre’s biggest successes, Love In A Cubicle.

A glittering coming-of-age comedy with healthy doses of pathos, nudity and whimsy — and on of the most outrageous comedies you’ll ever likely to see. Two schoolboys fall in love then catch up years later by accident during a hilarious night at a sex club. One man’s painful search for love with a little groin-crunching and Greek drama along the way.

Scathing one-liners, sparkling dialogue and a gory love story guaranteed to keep you on your toes from start to finish.

Date: Jan 11-Feb 11 2012    Open: Tues-Sat 8pm
(no show Jan 26)
Venue: Mechanics Institute Performing Arts Centre
Address: 270 Sydney Rd, Brunswick
Phone: 03 8377 3750
Web: www.mechs.vic.gov.au  Cost: $34/$24 conc

T Dance

T Dance, presented by Midsumma, is the ultimate party in the park: an out and proud celebration for the queer community and our not-so-queer friends.

In 2011 T Dance sold out — the biggest crowd in Midsumma history! Get your tickets early to enjoy a sweaty summer evening of dancing, laughing and, if you’re lucky, maybe even some ‘lovin’.

Midsumma has been around the country on a national DJ search, to bring you the very best Australian talent on the decks for T Dance 2012. Watch our winner in action and you be the judge.

What good are rockin’ beats without sexy dancers burning it up for your enjoyment? Never fear, at T Dance all your party desires will be satisfied. And to top it off, Midsumma has decided to get back to our roots and showcase the brilliant local talent on offer.

Don’t miss the glistening sun over the fine Melbourne cityscape. Immerse yourself in the pumped crowd, skin to skin in the middle terrace of Birrarung Marr, a stone’s throw from our vibrant CBD.

If you prefer to watch that sweaty crowd from just a little further away, get priority service and, the most important of all, toilet access. Book your VIP tickets now — before the restricted release runs out.

Check the website for updates on all the tantalising treats on offer.

Date: January 15 2012    Open: 5-10pm
Venue: Birrarung Marr
Web: www.midsumma.org.au
Presale Tix: $35/$27 conc & members
Door Tix: $50/$38
VIP Tix: $100

In Vogue: Songs by Madonna

The controversial smash hit of the Adelaide Cabaret Festival, Michael Griffiths is Madonna. No accent, costume or wig. Just ‘Midge’ accompanying herself at the piano leading you on a journey through her tough life and tender songs.

Strike a pose, get into the groove and express yourself as Madonna opens her heart! Written and

Date: January 18-20 2012    Open: Jan 18-21
Venue: fortyfive downstairs
Address: 45 Riddiers Ln, Melbourne
Phone: 03 9662 9966
Web: www.fortyfivedownstairs.com  Cost: $25/$35 conc

The Australian Same-Sex Dancesports 2012

Hosted by Luke Gallagher and Kaye Sera, the glamour and glitz will be dazzling at St Kilda Town Hall as same-sex couples glide by. The excitement grows and grows on this night of heated competition with a brilliant climax at the end, the Latin American A Grade final. The couples converge from around Australia and New Zealand to battle it out. Audience members can join in too (at no extra charge). Register for the Most Out-of-Time Waltz, but don’t forget your tara. This event has been a regular on the Midsumma Festival calendar, proudly hosted by Dance Cats.

Date: February 4 2012    Open: 8pm
Venue: St Kilda Town Hall
Address: 98A Carlisle St, St Kilda
Phone: 03 9299 6777  Web: www.portphillip.vic.gov.au  Cost: $20/$15 conc
New York’s Les Ballets Eloelle

“Freshly funny, sweet-tempered and inventive.”
- The New York Times

Melbourne
14 April 2012
Palais Theatre, St Kilda
Book now on 136 100
ticketmaster.com.au

Sydney
19 May 2012
State Theatre, Sydney
Book now on 136 100
ticketmaster.com.au

see website for regional dates:

www.balletlol.com
www.meninpinktights.com
Yarra Arts
Urban in Colour and Elegance in Line

Urban in Colour (upstairs) is the aspect of visual perception and an exploration of colour in its present form. It questions and inspects us as people and the world that surrounds us all the way from the streets to the alleys. Urban in Colour takes not only colours but also the shapes, lines, 3D forms and subject matter of the urban landscapes we inhabit.

Elegance in Line (downstairs) is an exhibition that dignifies grace in its appearance. The refined arrangement of perfectly styled lines creates a peaceful and quiet movement in a seemingly still group of works.

LAUNCH NIGHT: January 19 2012
OPEN: Wed-Sat 11am-5pm; Sun Noon-5pm
VENUE: 69 Smith St Gallery
ADDRESS: 69 Smith St, Fitzroy
PHONE: 03 9347 2713
WEB: www.69smithstreet.com.au
COST: Free

The Divine Miss Bette
This Midler cabaret, starring Catherine Alcorn, is like a snort of something expensive and naughty. Bawdy, brash and just as glamorous as the original, Alcorn returns to The Butterfly Club with her acclaimed show The Divine Miss Bette.

DATE: From January 19-22, 26-29 2012
OPEN: Thu-Sat 9pm; Sun 8pm
VENUE: The Butterfly Club
ADDRESS: 204 Bank St, Sth Melbourne
PHONE: 03 9690 2000
WEB: www.thebutterflyclub.com
COST: $27/$24 conc

Stories from the city, stories from the sea, queer urban tales

Visual Arts Exhibition: The industrial exhibition spaces of The Substation house an exploration of urban myths and queer legends with exhibitions by artists including Andrew Browne, Lucas Grogan, Kate Just, Martha Mcdonald and Heather B Swann.

Martha McDonald Boat Performance: Philadelphia-born performer Martha McDonald will host evenings of maritime revelry with intimate performances involving music, storytelling and song aboard the HMAS Blackbird.

EXHIBITION: Jan 14-Feb 25
VENUE: The Substation
COST: Free
BOAT PERFORMANCE: Jan 19-28 2012
OPEN: Thur-Sat 7.30pm
VENUE: HMAS Blackbird, travels from Docklands to The Substation
COST: $35

Her Majesty’s Theatre
Call Ticketek 1300 555 593 | Visit AChorusLine.com.au

WINNER OF 9 TONY AWARDS AND PULITZER PRIZE

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35 SHOWS ONLY FROM FEB 4

A CHORUS LINE
THE CLASSIC BROADWAY MUSICAL FOR A NEW GENERATION
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- overnight accommodation
- full buffet breakfast for two
- must-have vibe towel!

book online @ vibehotels.com.au

* subject to availability, minimum two night stay, valid until 29 January 2012, one towel per stay.
PREMIER EVENTS

MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL 15 JANUARY - 5 FEBRUARY 2012

MIDSUMMA'S PLAY-IN-THE-RAW @ THE CHAPEL

Bringing you a cornucopia of the most mouth-watering plays from around the globe for a scorching Midsumma season, PLAYING-IN-THE-RAW takes the playreadings out of the chairs + the productions out of the theatre. Featuring works by acclaimed writers Sam Peter Jackson, Duncan Graham, Alex Brum, the controversial Tim Fountain + Oscar Winner Alan Ball (American Beauty, Six Feet Under, True Blood).

DATES: Jan 11 - Feb 5 2012 OPEN: See website for details VENUE: Chapel off Chapel ADDRESS: 12 Little Chapel Street, Prahran WEB: www.chapeloffchapel.com.au PHONE: 03 9690 7000 COST: $18 - $26

Word is Out

Hares & Hyenas will host its 20th birthday season of Word is Out, including twenty readings, events and performances to celebrate the 20 years of queer literary culture developed by the bookstore. It features writers, artists and performers from its entire history, and a range of new writers from across the country and an international guest. Featuring a range of book launches, readings and performances, highlights include, Rapid Fire, Novel Conversations, Julie Peters’ I Dream Therefore I Am, Word is Out poetry slam, deaf and disability event Quippings, and much more. Special performance nights include programming by Bryan Andy, Bumpy Favel, Kath Duncan, Ursula Dawkings, Jules Wilkinson, Crusader Hills and Rowland Thomson. Guests include, Joan Nestle, Kim Westwood, Andrea Goldsmith, Christos Tsiolkas, Geoffrey Knight, Steve Dow, Kelly Gardiner, Benn Bennett, Noel Tovey, Jack Charles, Moira Finucane, Jackie Smith, Sally Goldner, Maude Davey and Sophie Cunningham.

DATES: Jan 17-Feb 4 2012 OPEN: see website VENUE: Hares & Hyenas ADDRESS: 63 Johnston St, Fitzroy PHONE: 03 9495 6589 WEB: www.hares-hyenas.com.au COST: From $10 (group from $8, 8pp min) SEASON PASS: $150

TOONARAMA

Midsumma’s premier TOON event!

Introducing Facebook phenomenon TOONARAMA : The Exhibition. A caricature collection of the famous and infamous — cool celebrities, sexy sports stars, community cuties and fabulous friends drawn by cartoonist Brett Willis.

DATES: January 12-29 2012 OPEN: Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 11am-4pm VENUE: Artboy Gallery ADDRESS: 59 Grenville St, Prahran PHONE: 03 9503 0333 WEB: www.artboygallery.com COST: Free
eFirst is proud to supply the Midsumma iPhone app
Aurora, Australia’s leading not-for-profit subscription community channel, will launch its Australian Short Film Festival on 1st December 2011. Aurora invites all creatives to submit their own digital content for a chance to receive industry acknowledgement, television exposure and sponsorship opportunities to help kick-start their film and television careers.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**
- Can be animation, drama, photostory, documentary, music clip – anything
- Max 10 minutes in length
- T’s and C’s on www.aurora.tv
- Online entry form at www.aurora.tv
- Entries to be delivered on DVD (file format .avi, .mpeg2, .mov etc.) or uploaded to youtube.com
- Finalists must provide a broadcast quality version of the film if they reach the top 10.

**FINALISTS**

**Top 10 Announced:** May 4th 2012
**Voting:** May 4th 2012 – May 31st 2012
**Winner Announced:** 3rd June 2012
**Prizes:** Critics Choice $1000 (panel of industry experts) and Viewers Choice $1000 (online voting)
**Metamorphosis**

Metamorphosis the fight for survival and the grasp at life that follows. Interpreting the transformation of caterpillar to moth, the show draws heavy influence from Butoh Dance Theatre. Metamorphosis sees the Butoh Body born from Butoh Dance Theatre. Metamorphosis is explored in the intimate space of the La Mama Theatre as a richly visual and interactive performance. The audience’s actions and response affect the developing Butoh Body and, by extension, the environment it inhabits.

**DATE:** January 15 - Feb 05 2012  
**VENUE:** La Mama  
**ADDRESS:** 125 Faraday St, Carlton  
**PHONE:** 03 9347 6948  
**WEB:** www.lamama.com.au  
**COST:** $25/$15 conc

**Negative Energy Inc**

If you’re not angry you’re either heavily medicated or not paying attention. Angry homosexualist Ash Flanders takes no prisoners in this unvarnished attack on modern society. From Christianity to Cher, The Secret to Shelly Croft, watch him direct his misplaced rage at anyone and everyone. And who knows — it could be you! Accompanist and actual ‘talent’ Dave Barclay will support Ash as he rants and wabbles in a desperate attempt to prove life is an exhausting, pointless and thankless task — made harder by the sheer volume of arseholes in the world.

**DATE:** Jan 15 - Feb 05 2012  
**VENUE:** Theatreworks  
**ADDRESS:** 14 Acland St, St Kilda  
**PHONE:** 03 9534 4879  
**WEB:** www.theatreworks.org.au  
**COST:** $32/$22 conc  
**SEASON PASS:** $25/$20 conc

**Unanswered!**

Unanswered! was a dance work prepared as a Short Sweet Dance piece for the Short Sweet Dance Melbourne 2011. It was awarded Best Choreography and Best Female Dancer at the festival. Collaboration with The Project will extend this work to a full-scale 45 minute to one-hour production. Unanswered! looks at the beauty which is life. Life as equals. With all the opinions and structures that have formed in society, no person, shape, size or gender is different. We are a race looking for identity and ephemera. Unanswered! explores a world where arseholes in the world.

**DATE:** January 18-29 2012  
**VENUE:** Thousand Pound Bend Gallery  
**ADDRESS:** 361 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne  
**PHONE:** 0450 258 736  
**WEB:** www.thousandpoundbend.com.au  
**COST:** Free

**Queer City Premier Arts**

Reveal discloses, divulges and displays the various stories that need to be told. It explores a number of topics from gender, stereotypes, body image, sexuality, identity and the real world. The images mix irony, symbolism and a keen sense of humour, while also questioning the viewer.

**DATE:** February 05 2012  
**VENUE:** Catani Gardens  
**ADDRESS:** 253 Flinders Ln, Melbourne  
**PHONE:** 03 9668 9500  
**WEB:** www.citylibrary.org.au  
**COST:** Free

**Pride March Victoria 2012**

Join your fellow LGBT community and those who support us in a show of solidarity and diversity as we march down Fitzroy St in the 17th annual Pride March Victoria. The celebration continues into the night at Catani Gardens. Please note this is a NO BYO event.

**DATE:** February 18 2012  
**VENUE:** Catani Gardens  
**ADDRESS:** 253 Flinders Ln, Melbourne  
**PHONE:** 03 9668 9500  
**WEB:** www.pridemarch.com.au  
**COST:** Free

**Urban Scrawl**

Through street art, words, photography and light painting, urban artists Kaff-eine, Tigtab, Blacklodge and Precious Little lead the expedition into the clandestine corners of Melbourne, from the painted laneways to the subterranean catacombs, snaking like a circulatory system under the city skin. Urban Scrawl is where identity and ephemera intersect.

**DATE:** From January 16 2012  
**VENUE:** City Library  
**ADDRESS:** 253 Flinders Ln, Melbourne  
**PHONE:** 03 9668 9500  
**WEB:** www.citylibrary.org.au  
**COST:** Free

**After ‘Homosexual’: The Legacies of Gay Liberation**

This event brings together international figures in queer history and politics to discuss the impact of Dennis Altman’s book Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation, and the legacies of gay liberation 40 years on. Featuring Altman, UK gay historian Jeffrey Weeks, American cultural historian Alice Elder, and archival footage curated by the Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives, the panel opens a two-day international conference marking this anniversary. Supported by La Trobe University, the Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives, Victoria University and Midsumma.

**DATE:** February 02 2012  
**VENUE:** Australian Centre for the Moving Image  
**ADDRESS:** Federation Square, Flinders St, Melbourne  
**PHONE:** 03 8663 2200  
**WEB:** www.acmi.net.au  
**COST:** $17/$14 conc
Girls Do Gertrude!

“You look ridiculous if you dance. You look ridiculous if you don’t dance. So you might as well dance.” — Gertrude Stein, poet, playwright and renegade.

Set against the Victorian splendour of Northcote Town Hall, Girls Do Gertrude! unites more than 40 of Australia’s most talented performers, musicians and designers who, over seven days and nights, will race against the clock to bring you this all-female, all-fabulous spectacular.

DATE: January 24-29 2012
OPEN: Tues-Sat 8pm; Sat 2pm; Sun 6.30pm
VENUE: Northcote Town Hall
ADDRESS: 89 High St, Northcote
PHONE: 03 9481 9500
WEB: www.northcotetownhall.com.au
COST: $22/$23 conc

Mother/SON

In his internationally acclaimed one-man show Mother/SON, New York Jewish writer/performer Jeffrey Solomon plays both a son and a mother as they struggle to accept his homosexuality. The show traces the mother’s transformation from shell-shocked parent to marching at the front of a Pride parade.

Time Out London picked the show as its critic’s choice and raved, “Profound, witty … Disarmingly funny and deeply moving…a tour de force!”

Winner of Best Performer Leading Role in the 2010 Absolut Gay Theatre Festival, Dublin winner of Best Solo Playwright and Best Male Solo Performance at the National Gay Theatre Festival (US).

DATE: From January 18 2012
OPEN: Wed, Thurs, Sat and Sun 7.30pm
VENUE: La Mama Courthouse
ADDRESS: 205 Faraday St, Carlton
PHONE: 03 9654 4679
WEB: www.lamama.com.au
COST: $25/$19 conc

The decision is yours

Celebrating women, Rynelle Walker uses colour and intricate dot patterns to reveal the feminine power.

Art critics the world over acknowledged that ‘modern’ Aboriginal art is the last great art movement which came into being at the end of the 20th century. Walker is an artist who is continuing the practice of the most ancient cultural tradition, but she is imbuing her work with a contemporary vibrancy.

DATE: Jan 17-Feb 5 2012
OPEN: Daily, 9am-5pm
VENUE: ARB Gallery, Gasworks Art Park
ADDRESS: 21 Graham St, Albert Park
PHONE: 03 8606 4200
WEB: www.gasworks.org.au
COST: Free

Landscape Dreaming

Marco is sick of his family pressuring him to ‘find a nice gay man and settle down’ and is convinced the only way to shut them up is to bring his ideal boyfriend to an upcoming wedding.

The trouble is, he can’t think of anyone who’s up to scratch. So he hires John, a heterosexual actor, to fill the role.

When John’s girlfriend rejects his spontaneous proposal, John moves in with Marco and the real trouble starts: Marco’s jaded friend, Trent, falls in love with John but is too embarrassed to reveal it.

Marco’s hook-up on the side proves to be more to his liking than the man on his couch and he discovers the problem with wanting what you can’t have.

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SEASON PASS: With Negative Energy Inc and The Year of Magical Wanking $50/$45 conc

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The decision is yours

Celebrating women, Rynelle Walker uses colour and intricate dot patterns to reveal the feminine power.

Art critics the world over acknowledged that ‘modern’ Aboriginal art is the last great art movement which came into being at the end of the 20th century. Walker is an artist who is continuing the practice of the most ancient cultural tradition, but she is imbuing her work with a contemporary vibrancy.

DATE: Jan 17-Feb 5 2012
OPEN: Daily, 9am-5pm
VENUE: ARB Gallery, Gasworks Art Park
ADDRESS: 21 Graham St, Albert Park
PHONE: 03 8606 4200
WEB: www.gasworks.org.au
COST: Free
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MIDSUMMA GETS HOTTER THIS SUMMER

A media publication

FESTIVAL EVENTS
THE ARTS CENTRE PRESENTS AN AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

THE PEONY PAVILION

National Ballet of China
with the National Ballet of China Symphony Orchestra

★★★★
‘China’s equivalent of Romeo and Juliet… stands out as a captivating original’
THE GUARDIAN

‘A ravishing spectacle few will forget’
WALL STREET JOURNAL

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The Ministry of Culture,
People’s Republic of China
Confessions of a Grindr Addict

A funny, intimate and awkward journey through the pleasures and pitfalls of sex, love and Grindr.

Felix has a date. A real one! But this time it's different — it wasn't set up over the internet, nor did he have to spend hours grinding him first.

So why is he freaking out? It's been over a year since Felix has been on a proper date and he can't help but wonder: What does a guy actually do on a date that doesn't involve sex?

DATE: Jan 25-26; Feb 1-2 2012 OPEN: Wed-Thu 7pm VENUE: Downstairs at Alma’s ADDRESS: 1 Wilks St, Caulfield North PHONE: 0467 903 345 COST: $25/$20 conc

Ms Gay & Ms TS Australia 2012

Behold the outrageous beauties and hidden talents competing for the title of the year.

A Gentleman’s Guide to Eating Out in Melbourne

Writers, creatives and gents about town Dale Campisi and Michael Brady like to eat out — a lot! What happened when they were invited to eat out every night for three months? The end result is Eating and Drinking Melbourne 2012, a new guide to the city’s dining and drinking scene.

Drinks and nibbles on the lawn of historic Williamstown Mechanics Institute from 6.30pm. This event is part of GOWEST, a Hobsons Bay City Council initiative.

DATE: January 17 2012
OPEN: 6.30pm
VENUE: Williamstown Mechanics Institute
ADDRESS: 5 Electra St, Williamstown
PHONE: 1300 462 542
WEB: www.eatingoutmelbourne.eventbrite.com
COST: Free

My BIG GAY Family

My BIG GAY Family is a free, visually striking projection project at Melbourne’s iconic Northcote Town Hall.

What does family mean to the gay and lesbian community? Stunning artwork will light up the Civic Square, further enhancing Northcote Town Hall as a cultural landmark and central point for arts activities in the northern suburbs. It is proudly presented by the City of Darebin.

DATE: Jan 15 - Feb 5 2012
OPEN: Mon-Sun, sunset-11pm
VENUE: Northcote Town Hall Civic Square
ADDRESS: 189 High St, Northcote
PHONE: 03 9481 9500
WEB: www.northcotetownhall.com.au
COST: Free

Pink Narcissist

Fad Gallery proudly presents Pink Narcissist, an exhibition celebrating 20 years of gay artist Richard Morrison.

Collaboration is always at the heart of Midsumma Festival. The art of visual storytelling takes centre stage this year, as we combine the talents of two acclaimed artists.

Pink Narcissist celebrates 20 years of Richard Morrison’s highly imaginative and colourful paintings, curated by Kevin McGreal. Morrison’s work gives us a tantalising, provocative and sexy insight into our fantasies as a gay man.

DATE: Jan 12 - Feb 5 2012
OPEN: Tues-Wed 7pm-midnight; Thurs-Fri 7pm-1am; Sat 4pm-1am
VENUE: Fad Gallery
ADDRESS: 14 Corrs Ln, Melbourne
PHONE: 03 9639 2700
WEB: www.fadgallery.com.au
COST: Free

ConfiguRATion

For a long time Rat Simpson has had a thing. No, wait, you’d have to call it an obsession with circles and the things they represent. Things like the colour wheel, earth, unity, perfection, wholeness and inclusion.

ConfiguRATion delves into elements of this obsession and explores the relationship between variant fields of colour and abstracted circular imagery. Rat’s urban beginnings are not forgotten in this series; however, these paintings do possess a more organic structure and are self-contained units of raw human expression. ConfiguRATion is an unknown adventure in an unknown space.

DATE: Jan 17 - Feb 5 2012
OPEN: Jan 17 6pm; Thurs-Fri 11am-6pm; Sat-Sun 11am-5pm
VENUE: Tacit Contemporary Art
ADDRESS: 323 Johnston St, Abbotsford
PHONE: 03 9418 8399
WEB: www.tacitart.com.au
COST: Free
Midsumma’s Men on Men Competition Winner
Steve Edwards Untold

Open the door and spill some light: Untold explores midnights stolen moments, rough landscapes of male bodies and silent secrets on busy streets.


Satisfy your cravings. On display January 16 - February 12 2012. Artworks for sale unless otherwise noted.

General viewing Mon-Sat 5pm-late, Sun 4pm-late.

Men only VCAT A201/2010. Open day Saturday, January 21 2pm-6pm. Women welcome.

If Mother Killed Her Wife Will She Hang?
Sydney artists Mills & Morte continue their Falleni Series in If Mother Killed Her Wife Will She Hang?

Drawing from the incredible life of Italian immigrant Eugenia Falleni (1875-1938), the artists recreate the public fascination with her transgender identity through lushous paintings and intriguing mixed media work.

The exhibition draws from circus and freak show imagery to tell the story of her 1920s court case.

Falleni was a mother. Living in male persona since her arrival in Australia in 1898, her transgender identity became front-page news, causing a scandal.

DATE: Jan 15 - Feb 5 2012
OPEN: Tues-Sat noon–6pm
VENUE: Blindside Gallery
ADDRESS: Level 7, Room 14, Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston St, Melbourne
PHONE: 03 9534 4879
WEB: www.blindside.org.au
COST: Free

Art, Stories, Celebrations
An exhibition of 12 extraordinary artists and a wall of amazing stories.

The work includes painting, photography, sculpture, embroidery, music, body art, jewellery and some original art as fashion pieces.

My Life on a Page is a short story relating to family, friend, neighbour, self, experience or fantasy.

Joan Nestle, well known lesbian activist, writer and original creator of The Herstory Archives will launch the exhibition on Friday, January 27.

This event is part of GDWEST, a Hobsons Bay City Council initiative.

DATE: Jan 27 - Feb 5 2012
OPEN: Mon-Sat 5pm-late, Sun 4pm-late
VENUE: Joel Gallery
ADDRESS: 5 Saragood St, Altona
PHONE: 03 9398 2511
WEB: www.luisijlc.com.au
COST: Free

This Midsumma
Look. Listen. Be alert around trams.
The Advocates
This is a sculptural exhibition of works made using chairs reclaimed from hard rubbish, twine and twigs.
Cecile Knight is an artist based in regional Victoria who is presenting an encore exhibition of her unforgettable wooden sculptures.
“These are my advocates, they represent my fight for a simpler life. All things deserve a second chance, as an artist it is my duty to reclaim, reanimate and reform,” she said.
The Advocates is Cecile’s first solo exhibition and the work embodies her commitment to sustainability.

DATE: Jan 16 - Feb 5 2012
OPEN: 9am-5pm
VENUE: Foyer Gallery, Gasworks Arts Park
ADDRESS: 21 Graham St, Albert Park
PHONE: 03 8606 4200
WEB: www.gasworks.org.au
COST: Free

The Dinner Party
Saints or sinners? Do you see what I see?
John Knap presents a gorgeous array of icons to celebrate the saint and sinner in all of us... John’s current body of work uses multiple colour prints to create small iconic images. The work is hand-woven and shellacked, and the visual narrative is about perceptions. Was it the Last Supper or the first Dinner Party... you decide!

DATE: Jan 16 - Feb 5 2012
OPEN: Daily, 9am-5pm
VENUE: Gasworks Arts Park
ADDRESS: 21 Graham St, Albert Park
PHONE: 03 8606 4200
WEB: www.gasworks.org.au
COST: Free

The Interior Orchestra
Analog and Digital Work by Sol
Join the artist for drinks at 6pm, Friday, January 20. Sol is the artistic alter ego of Sydney-based new media artist Phil Soliman.
Unlike Soliman’s other work, the Sol series is deeply personal and casually controversial, embracing the subconscious, and the tangled forest of desires, insecurities and dreams that dwell within it.
Working across drawing, painting, collage and printmaking, using both analog and digital technologies, the Dadaist riot of visual styles and techniques reflects how Soliman sees his own inner universe — a chaotic kaleidoscope of sensory and cognitive impressions, unconstrained by regular forms of definition and categorisation.

DATE: Jan 20 - Feb 2 2012
OPEN: Jan 20, 6pm; Tue-Sun 10am-10pm
VENUE: Brunswick Street Gallery
ADDRESS: 322 Brunswick St, Fitzroy
PHONE: 0419 390 478
WEB: www.brunswickstreetgallery.com.au
COST: Free
Take Care (out) There ’12 LGBTIQ Short Film Contest

The ALSO Foundation has created the first professional LGBTIQ accolade for short filmmakers, offering a unique and fresh communications platform for emerging talent to show their creativity around the subjects of sexual health and relationship issues, as well as the chance to debut works before award-winning judges Tony Ayres and Ana Kokkinos. Join us for the finalists’ screening and winner announced!

The Take Care (out) There Short Film Competition is modelled on ‘Make A Film, Make A Difference’, the TAC’s short film competition based around road safety.

The contest is open to anyone with a film or experimental cinema piece that addresses sexual health or relationship issues around sexual health. Entrants are in the running for the winning prize of $2500 and $1000 of film equipment hire from Open Channel.

The gala screening as part of Midsumma Festival is at Red Bennies on Tuesday, January 17. Further glory abounds with screenings across leading industry events via our affiliated festival partners.

DATE: January 17 2012
OPEN: 7pm
VENUE: Red Bennies
ADDRESS: 373 Chapel St, South Yarra
PHONE: 03 9826 2689

They’re a Queer Mob

An exhibition of artists from a diverse range of cultures that make up a part of Melbourne’s LGBTIQ community.

Sexy, funny, dangerous, black and loud are just a few adjectives to describe some of the work on show.

Opening night will be a party with performers scheduled to entertain all evening. The exhibition features an informal discussion on LGBTIQ diversity in Indigenous cultures. Speakers will cover such topics as the third gender in Indigenous cultures such as faafafine (Samoa), fakaleiti (Tonga), rae rae (Tahiti Nui) and sistagirls (Indigenous Australia). Also to be covered is the continuum of specific Indigenous sexualities which have become distinct parts of Western LGBTIQ minority culture.

DATE: Jan 19 - Feb 5 2012
OPEN: Thur-Sun noon-5pm
VENUE: Black Dot Gallery
ADDRESS: 413 Lygon St, East Brunswick
WEB: www.blakdot.com.au
COST: Free

31@21

Thirty-one lesbian artists will showcase their exciting new work for your viewing pleasure.

Back by popular demand, the huge lesbian art exhibition 31@21 returns to Midsumma in 2012 with emerging and established lesbian artists. Don’t miss the opening night party where the cream of Melbourne’s lesbian art community come out to play.

Opening night is on Friday, January 20, Easey Street Artist Studios and Gallery.

DATE: Jan 20-29 2012
OPEN: Jan 20 7pm-late; Sat-Sun 11am-4pm
VENUE: Easey Street Artist Studios and Gallery
ADDRESS: 21 Easey St, Collingwood
WEB: www.easystartists.com
COST: Free
Taste of Northern Spain
What better place to experience travel and food than at Melbourne’s best food lovers’ bookstore - Books for Cooks.
Join Karen Manwaring and Angela Nicolettou for a walk on the Camino trail across Northern Spain, with stunning images from the Pyrenees to Galicia.
Enjoy delicious tapas and some very good Spanish wine as Karen and Angela share stories and answer your questions about their two walks on the Camino.
Karen and Angela have been running their popular workshops on walking the Camino for over five years. Angela also runs cooking classes on Spanish, Greek and Cypriot cooking at venues across Melbourne.
Karen’s book ‘A Slow Walk Across Spain’ will be available for purchase on the night.

DATE: February 1 2012
OPEN: 6.30pm
VENUE: Books For Cooks
ADDRESS: 233-235 Gertrude St, Fitzroy
PHONE: 03 8415 1415
WEB: www.booksforcooks.com.au
COST: $15

A Midsummer Night’s Dean
Shall I compare thee to a summer’s gay?
The queen of the fairies falls in love with an ass, thanks to a short (but satisfying) puck!
Move over Shakespeare as cabaret comedian Dean Arcuri takes you on a tour of literary laughter laced with a kitsch and campy collision of musical melodies in an hour of songs, skits, scandals and soliloquies.
To Dean or not to Dean, that is the question. And the answer is YES!

DATE: Jan 17-21 2012
OPEN: Tues-Thur 8pm; Sat 6pm
VENUE: Loop
ADDRESS: 23 Meyers Place, Melbourne
PHONE: 03 9654 0500
WEB: www.looponline.com.au
COST: $25/$22 conc

Facade
Facade: a front, barrier or mask. Can we ever really trust those we care about?
Facade follows the story of six individuals whose lives are caught up in a web of deception. Fran and Sylvia own a developing events business in Melbourne and to the public they are happily married. Donna and Nathan have been close friends for years, some may say too close. Guy and Steve seem your average Joes, but even blokes have secrets. Dealing with themes of fear, betrayal and loss, Facade will have you asking yourself, what am I hiding?

DATE: Jan 19 - 28 2012
OPEN: Thurs-Sat 8pm
VENUE: Kew Court House
ADDRESS: 188 High St, Kew
PHONE: 03 9853 3551
COST: $25/$18 conc

Painted and Pushed Male Art
Painted and Pushed is an exhibition of oil paintings of the male image by life partners Gregg Wilson and Kwong Yap. The exhibition, at Kingston Art Centre, Moorabbin, runs between January 19 and February 9. All works of art are for sale at very reasonable prices and are a joyous and colourful celebration of male energy and intimacy.
Enquiries through Kingston Arts Centre or email kingart@kingston.vic.gov.au or paintedandpushed@yahoo.com.au

DATE: Jan 19 - Feb 9 2012
VENUE: Kingston Art Centre
ADDRESS: 979 Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin
PHONE: 03 9556 4400
WEB: www.kingstonarts.com.au
COST: Free
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TROY COX
& STAR UK TRANSFER

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PLUS HAIRYBOYZ
MOVIE ROOM.

POOL ROOM
DJMIKEYB (BRISBANE)
DJ MAN
AND SEXY SOCCER SHOW

VEGAS LOUNGE
DJ ROB

@Q BAR
34-44 OXFORD ST
DARLINGHURST.
9PM ‘TIL LATE
Afterwards head down to UP
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Matilda’s Project
Matilda’s Grade 1 teacher has set the class a project; to present about their families. Constantly bombarded with stereotypical images in books and media about what a family should look like, she is nervous about seeming different from her peers.
Written, acted, directed and produced by qualified primary and high school teachers, the play aims to break through the stereotypes and present a more balanced perspective of what constitutes a family.
The audience is treated to a lighthearted and inspiring experience.

In One Day
Melbourne Ballet Company

Pirate Rhapsody, Mermaid Requiem
A siren and a sailor. Brought together by chance. Of shipwrecks and blowholes.
Their killer romance.
Down and dirty award-winning cabaret artist Tommy Bradson retells Hans Christian Andersen’s The Little Mermaid with an original score penned by the legendary John Thorn.


DATE: Feb 2-4 2012 OPEN: Thu-Sat 8pm VENUE: Gasworks Arts Park ADDRESS: 21 Graham St, Albert Park PHONE: 03 8606 4200 WEB: www.gasworks.org.au COST: $33/$30 conc
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“Great Christmas Gift Idea!”

from the Artistic Director of Men in Tutus, Victor Trevino

see website for regional dates:

www.balletlol.com

www.meninpinktights.com
Movies Under the Stars 2012
Melbourne Queer Film Festival, in partnership with the City of Yarra, presents four warm and romantic nights of queer film favourites on the banks of the Yarra.
BYO picnic hamper and cushions. Prizes for best hamper. Don’t miss these queer film highlights, including romantic comedy Is It Just Me?, MGFF festival favourite The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister, spy-spoof-meets-teen flick D.E.B.S. and camp drama Eating Out 4: Drama Camp!
Celebrate Midsumma with us in Melbourne’s most relaxed outdoor cinema environment. Where else can you bring well-behaved dogs, recline in your own bean bag and dip into your own hamper or easy full of delicious goodies while watching quality queer flicks?

Movie listings:
Friday Jan 20
Is It Just Me?
(“JC Calciano, USA 2010)

Fresh from its 2011 MGFF sold-out sessions. Perennially single writer Blaine is on a quest to find a guy who isn’t entirely concerned with appearances — no easy task in an image-obsessed city like Los Angeles. One night on a chat site he meets naive and hunky cowboy Xander who is new to LA, and who sounds exactly like someone Blaine could connect with on a more personal level, maybe even have a relationship with. After many romantic web chats, they decide to take the plunge and meet in person. But unbeknownst to Blaine he has been logged on to the web chat using his incredibly hot, but slightly vacuous flatmate Cameron’s profile. Not wanting to lose contact with Xander, and knowing he’s expecting a hottie, Blaine enlists Cameron’s help to pretend to be him — a charade that sets in motion a convoluted comedy of errors that may or may not result in Blaine getting his Mr Right. One of the funniest and sweetest gay romantic comedies in years.

Saturday Jan 21
The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister
(“James Kent, UK, 2010)
Don’t miss this MGFF 2011 festival favourite. Opening and closing queer film festivals worldwide, The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister tells the incredible, based-on-a-true-story tale of an early 19th century English gentlewoman who preferred the fairer sex and recorded her conquests in a coded diary, later discovered by a local historian. But you can expect more than a restrained, straitlaced Jane Austen costume drama, as saucy Anne (magnificently played by Maxine Peake) and her fiancée Marian are sneaking off into the woods for furtive dalliances at the church on Sunday. This outstanding BBC-produced period romance moves at a cracking pace as Anne juggles erratic lovers, jealous best friends, evil businessmen, major estate renovations, all while practising her shooting. And so the big question becomes, which lady does Anne have in her sights? Love of her life Mariana? Faithful friend Tib? Or will it be pretty Miss Walker, the wealthiest heiress in the county?

Friday Jan 27
D.E.B.S.
(“Angela Robinson, USA, 2004)
Opening night MGFF 2005. Back by popular demand. Audiences all over the world loved this spy-spoof-meets-teen-flick D.E.B.S. in 2004. While comparisons with Charlie’s Angels and Austin Powers are inevitable, a more precise reference would be the smart 1980s teen comedies from John Hughes, which seemed to define a generation. Embedded in the Standard Aptitude Test for American high school students is a hidden test which cherry-picks pupils who can lie, fight, and steal for an elite secret defence program called the D.E.B.S. Amy is the ‘perfect score’ and the Academy’s great hope for finally defeating gorgeous and sexy archvillain Lucy Diamond (‘so evil no agent has survived a meeting with her’ and a dead ringer for Demi Moore!). Right off the bat it’s clear that Lucy intrigues Amy more than she cares to admit, and when they finally meet, the chemistry is more than they can handle. Will Amy give up her alpha, beta, gamma existence, and trade it all in for romance with the alluring Diamond? In D.E.B.S., Robinson has created a genuinely funny all-girl-action romp, with an easy-on-the-eye cast and a cracking retro soundtrack. For all the girls who longed for Charlie’s Angels with a bit of comparisons with the world loved this film festivals the world over, The

Saturday Jan 28
Eating Out 4: Drama Camp
(“Q. Allan Brocka, USA, 2011)
There’s no shortage of drama or camp in the fourth instalment of Q. Allan Brocka’s hilarious Eating Out series. Zack and Casey’s relationship is in a slump, but things are about to change at Dick Dickey’s drama camp. Zack meets gorgeous Benji, and when they are cast as lovers in a sexed-up version of The Taming of the Shrew, their self-restraint is put to the test. Will Zack and Casey’s relationship last with Benji in the picture? Please note: There is limited wheelchair access available at the venue, please contact MGFF on 9662 4147 for more information.

 Beginners
What does one do if the man one has known as a loving father and a devoted husband for 44 years comes out of the closet and decides to live a full, energised, and wonderfully tumultuous gay life from now till the end?
Sit back on the grass at Gasworks Arts Park on a summer evening with your best friends and your favourite picnic food and join us in a special Midsumma screening of the hugely popular Mike Mills film, Beginners.

对外开放: 7:30pm VENUE: Gasworks Arts Park ADDRESS: 21 Graham St, Albert Park PHONE: 03 8606 4200 WEB: www.gasworks.org.au COST: $18
37 Ways to Say I’m Gay
37 Ways To Say Im Gay is the new play by award-winning prominent gay writer and director Wayne Tunks.

Wayne is known as one of Sydney’s top independent theatre writers. This is Tunks Productions first production in Melbourne.

His successful plays include The Subtle Art of Flirting, We’ll Always Have Wagga, The Bridesmaid Must Die!, and this year’s massive hit, The Burlesque Effect, as well as the gay-themed hits Silvertop Ash and Go West.

DATE: Jan 15, 19 - Feb 5 2012 OPEN: Thur-Sat 8.30pm; Sun 5pm VENUE: Downstairs at Alma’s ADDRESS: 1 Wilks St, Caulfield North PHONE: 0487 903 345 COST: $30/$26 conc PREVIEW: Jan 15, $15

Andy & Jonny present: Cocktails & Cocktales
“Bright copper kettles and crisp apple strudels, boys in loose trackies with big floppy doodles...” Join Andy and Jonny as they add a gay twist to some old classics.

Take a magic carpet ride with the boys on their super-studley-narcissistic-expertly-awful journey through the wonderful world of the gay scene, all set to your favourite childhood tunes — well sort of.

DATE: Jan 17-27 2012 OPEN: Tue-Fri 7pm VENUE: Paloma Bar ADDRESS: 480 Collins St, Melbourne WEB: www.palomabar.com COST: $19/$15 conc

Another Walk on the Wes Side...
Melbourne’s very own king of cabaret returns with his variety night which proved a hit of the 2011 Festival.

Wes leads a host of Melbourne’s (and indeed, the World’s!) cabaret and comedy talent. Shimmy? You think you can shimmy? You ain’t seen anything yet! For this year’s special guests visit www.thesubstation.org.au


Bent Burlesque
The best of burlesque from Australia’s queer fringe.

Starring Australia’s Queen of Burlesque Imogen Kelly, ex-Gurlesque saucy superstar Glitta Supernova and Sydney’s favourite bent hottie Lillian Starr with a plethora of special guests Arian Levanael, Dallas Dellaforce and more.

Come razzle your vajazzle in the burlesque Hall of Fame with Bent Burlesque 2012.

DATE: Jan 18-21 2012 OPEN: 9pm VENUE: Red Bennies ADDRESS: 373 Chapel St, South Yarra PHONE: 03 9015 6809 WEB: www.redbennies.com COST: $20/$15 conc

*star observer

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MIDSUMMA GETS HOTTER THIS SUMMER

FESTIVAL EVENTS
The Arts Centre presents

Carnegie 18
new music theatre series

Curious about the creative process? Be the first to see three new music theatre projects in development.

The Arts Centre presents

The New Black
A musical journey of identity and winking ambition.
1–4 February

Dreamsong
An irreverent musical satire of faith, fortune and the mega-church
4–7 February

Cautionary Tales for Children
A lyrical satirical cabaret based on the verse by Hilaire Belloc
4–7 February

1–7 February 2012
The Arts Centre, Fairfax Studio

Tickets only $10
theartscentre.com.au*, 1300 182 183* or at the Arts Centre Box Office

*Transaction fee applies

Stay back for a Q&A with the artists after each performance

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.
Fair go, sport! forum

We’re here, we’re queer and we wanna play! Sport remains a significant site for homophobic harassment and exclusion. Failure to ensure safe and welcoming cultures creates unique challenges, not only for LGBTIQ communities, but also for sports. The Fair go, sport! project aims to respond to these challenges by increasing awareness of sexual and gender diversity in sport and promoting action. This forum will bring together the key partners to explain and explore the project.

DT’s Golden Stiletto Rally

Now in its 14th year, DT’s Golden Stiletto Rally is an excursion on foot around Richmond answering a questionnaire, the clues to which can be found on the route.

Bonus points are awarded to people or teams dressed in theme, or anything interesting. There are marshals along the way where more points can be earned. Beware! All marshals are corrupt and can be bribed.

GLOBE’s 20th Anniversary Dinner

2012 marks GLOBE’s 20th anniversary. Beginning during Midsumma 1992, GLOBE is a not-for-profit organisation known for its networking events such as Fruits and Blend, and the financial support it provides to the Melbourne LGBT community via the GLOBE Community Grants. Guest speakers include Professor Kerryn Phelps AAM, the ex-federal president of the Australian Medical Association. Catering will be provided by Epicure.

JOY 94.9 Picnic

This open day is an annual fixture in the Midsumma calendar and is a wonderful fundraising event for JOY 94.9. The Melbourne Rainbow Band and the Melbourne Gay & Lesbian Chorus will be on hand and Motafrenz will have classic cars on display.

DATE: January 26 2012
TIME: Gates open 10am-4pm
WHERE: Forest Glade, Mt Macedon Rd, Mt Macedon.
GETTING THERE: About 1km after the township you will see Forest Glade on the right, with JOY signage and balloons.
BRING: Picnic, hat, sunscreen, rug/chairs
NOTE: BBQs and pets not permitted. All rubbish must be removed.

Red Ribbon Cabaret

Join Kaye Sera and friends for a spectacular night of cabaret under the majestic dome of the Positive Living Centre. This magical cabaret evening celebrates the strength of our community in the face of HIV/AIDS. Hosted by Kaye Sera. Starring Dolly Diamond, Luke Gallagher, Jon Jackson and special guests. Featuring Maxi Shields’ inaugural Red Ribbon raffle. Staged in honour of family, friends and lovers affected by HIV/AIDS, all proceeds from this event are donated to the Positive Living Centre.

FESTIVAL EVENTS

THE VICTORIAN COALITION GOVERNMENT PROUDLY SUPPORTS MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL 2012

Star Observer

www.starobserver.com.au

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**FESTIVAL EVENTS**

**Ace Girls Tennis**
Come out and hit with the Ace Girls at this women’s tennis night. Get fit, meet women of all ages and dust off your tennis game.

All standards are welcome from beginners to advanced. The session will focus on stroke production, point play and social hitting. All you need to do is bring a racquet and we’ll do the rest.

Dinner at the Pumphouse Hotel will follow the tennis session (dinner at own cost).

The Ace Girls have provided an opportunity for lesbian tennis players to meet socially and improve their tennis since 2002. The group has monthly dinners and regularly travels to play in tournaments throughout Victoria and Australia.

**DATE:** January 23 2012  
**OPEN:** 7pm  
**VENUE:** Carlton Gardens Tennis Club  
**ADDRESS:** 11 Nicholson St, Carlton  
**WEB:** www.acegirls.org  
**COST:** $10

**Cliffhanger Indoor Rock Climbing**
Make this your day of adventure! The Cliffhanger Centre is Australia’s tallest indoor climbing facility and this two-hour ‘come n try’ experience includes a half-hour instruction by a qualified staff member, climbing harness and shoe hire, for a heavily discounted price exclusive to the GOWEST Midsumma Festival.

After a day out of Midsumma fun and festivities - perhaps you’ve played a spot of croquet or been sailing for the first time - up the adrenaline rush and come rock climbing, you won’t be disappointed.

Grab a couple of friends and enjoy the thrill.

Bookings are essential. For enquiries, phone 9369 6400 or visit www.cliffhanger.com.au

**DATE:** From January 22 2012  
**OPEN:** 6pm  
**VENUE:** Westgate Entertainment Complex  
**ADDRESS:** Cnr Grieve Pde & Doherty Rd, Altona North  
**PHONE:** 03 9369 6400  
**WEB:** www.cliffhanger.com.au  
**COST:** $12

**Come OUT and Bowl**
Midsumma’s only gay bowling event at the home of Downstairs at Alma’s. Bring your partner. Cost of play is $30 for one day, $50 for two days (includes complimentary beer or wine and a BBQ lunch on each day).

**DATE:** January 22 & 29 2012  
**OPEN:** 10.30am - 4pm  
**VENUE:** Alma Sports Club  
**ADDRESS:** 1 Wilks St, Caulfield North  
**PHONE:** 03 9527 2625  
**WEB:** www.almasportsclub.com.au  
**COST:** Free

**Croquet and Afternoon Tea**
How does a warm summer afternoon with a Pimms or a G&T on the verandah overlooking our lawns, followed by homemade cream cakes with China or Darjeeling teas sound?

Interested? Williamstown Croquet Club is especially proud to welcome members of the LGBTIQ community. The club looks forward to introducing you to playing croquet and ensuring that you and your friends have a great afternoon with us.

Not only will you enjoy learning a new sport but on offer will be a delicious traditional afternoon tea.

This has been a very popular event in the past, so please book quickly.

**DATE:** January 22 2012  
**OPEN:** Noon-5pm  
**VENUE:** Williamstown Croquet Club  
**ADDRESS:** 104 Victoria St, Williamstown  
**PHONE:** 0433 111 068  
**WEB:** williamstowncroquet.org.au  
**COST:** $10

**ChillOut Festival 2012**
**DAYLESFORD LABOUR DAY**  
**LONG WEEKEND 9-12 MARCH 2012**

**WEB:** www.chilloutfestival.com.au
The Crowd

Written for the 2012 Midsumma Festival, E D Downs’ The Crowd is a heartwarming story of resilience and reconciliation.

When Ray attempts to reconnect with his son Tom, he sparks a chain of events that even he couldn’t fathom. From connecting with Tom’s partner Peter to being immersed in the world of his seemingly lost son, it becomes apparent that everyone has been affected by the trauma of Tom’s past. The only question now is how can Tom be healed?


A Bumpy Night

After 15 years of bringing us wild and creatively maverick programming in venues across the city, we present a Bumpy tribute to her favre lue and local queer stars, rebel poets, and fierce and study showbiz sensations. Bumpy Favell brought us the King Victoria drag kings and the periodic spoken-word Translebian Gendermash nights.

DATE: Jan 26 2012 OPEN: 8pm VENUE: Hares & Hyenas ADDRESS: 63 Johnston St, Fitzroy PHONE: 03 9495 6589 WEB: www.hares-hyenas.com.au COST: $17/$12 conc; season pass $150

BanQuet 2012 Book Launches Queer Writing and Art

BanQuetpress is thrilled to launch two new collections of stories, poetry and art which showcase sensual, edgy and sweat-inducing tales of LGBTIQ desire, romance and erotica. Bookings essential — limited capacity.

DATE: February 3 2012 OPEN: 7pm VENUE: Hares & Hyenas ADDRESS: 63 Johnston St, Fitzroy PHONE: 03 9495 6589 WEB: www.banquetpress.com COST: $15/$10 conc; season pass $150

Benn Bennett Live at the Harehole

Alice took us down the rabbit hole, now let Benn Bennett take you on his twisted hallucinatory ride through the Harehole. In a night where stories, song and stand-up combine effortlessly with piano and projection, Benn Bennett tells us what he really thinks about his friends, his aspirations and his life to date.

FESTIVAL EVENTS

MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL 15 JANUARY - 5 FEBRUARY 2012 FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.MIDSUMMA.ORG.AU | STAROBSERVER.COM.AU

Life Stories
Some of our most talented and thought-provoking writers join us in a session that spans lives, ages, cultures, upbringing and outlooks.

Neil Tovey’s performance work Little Black Bastard was developed into a bestselling memoir recounting his life story, from Melbourne’s slums to the UK as an acclaimed author. Joan Nestle, author of The Courier’s New Bicycle. Herstory Archives in New York, choreographer, curator, director to the UK as an acclaimed story, from Melbourne’s slums memoir recounting his life developed into a bestselling work Little Black Bastard was Westwood, author of The Courier’s New Bicycle. paean to Sydney; and genre-defying writer Kim Dow, who will read from his satirical e-novel Secret of Talmor Manor; Steve Matthew Lang, author of The Curse of the Dragon King; Geoffrey Knight, author of erotic Goldsmith, award-winning writer their choice, followed by a Q&A.

Love Me, Love Me Not
A night to talk love. Silly, sexy, happy, sad, dark, uplifting and everything in between! Performers from all colours of the queer spectrum present stories, comedy, songs and reflections on love. From half of the creative team behind sell-out events like Dangerous Curves Ahead, Come As You Are, Femme Fever, Mummy Deerant and Papa Don’t Preach, this will be an unforgettable night of lovey-dovey bliss and spiteful revenge.

Performers include Linda Beatty, Kimy Bang, Lia Incognito, John Stevens, Margaret Mayhew, Tim Baxter and Lisa-Slye.

John Henry presents: Crack A Fat Circus
How does a lass from the mountains of Canada end up cycling to Wagga Wagga with a Brunswick mum? Direct from Brazil, with a critically acclaimed Sydney season under their belt, Ruby and Sharon (Circus Oz, Soleil, Medrano) are joined by some of Melbourne’s most illustrious and radical performers. These guys are the acoustic guitar of circus — right, tender, gritty, silly, confronting, delectable circus. Real people with unreal stories. Drink and music afterwards in the legendary Speigelten. Proceeds to benefit four-year-old Fin who lost his mum last year.

Word is Out
Poetry Slam v03
Poets and spoken word artists are invited to share their words before judges and audience.

With a maximum of two minutes in round one, four minutes in round two, and six minutes in the final round, do you have what it takes to be the 2012 Midsumma Slam Poet? Register by emailing contactus@hares-hyenas.com.au or calling 03 9495 6588. A limit of 12 writers, with three in the final round.

Dirty Deeds 4: Sex Writing
Our Dirty Deeds contributors write to titilate, push boundaries and transgress the rules of polite society.

Our sex writers include queer-lit outlaw Aimee Rhodes, winner of the 2011 Sex Write-Off Competition Andy Murdoch, the prodigiously filthy Jules Wilkinson, and the dirty-minded author of the erotic Fathoms Five adventure series, Geoff Knight. Hosted by Cyndi Darnell, founder of Pleasure Salon Melbourne. Like all good sex, you'll be screaming out for more, more, more.

Queer 3000
An evening with acclaimed Melbourne writers and writers writing about Melbourne including novelist Kim Westwood, novelist Christos Tsiolkas (The Slap), La Trobe University professor Dennis Altman, novelist and editor Sophie Cunningham and novelist Neal Drinnan.

Melbourne can be an inspiration or an irritant, but there’s no denying that our fair city has been the source and subject of much Australian contemporary writing.

Is that a dildo in your pocket, Harry Potter?
Did Snape tutor Harry in the dark arts of kink? What if Iron Man and Batman met at a bea? Or and having hot sex. Erotic and reimagines them as queer

Harry Potter? Authors include the Ash Flanders (pictured) and his Golden Girls femslash Jules Wilkinson who’ll explore why superheroes are obsessed with latex and Emily Turner who reinvents the cast of Merlin as horny uni students. Featuring femvids that show the hidden gay in films and TV from the 1940s till now.

Novel Conversations
A Word is Out favourite makes a welcome return, as we present five Australian writers reading a section of their choice, followed by a Q&A.

Authors include Andrea Goldsmith, award-winning writer of Reunion, among others; Geoffrey Knight, author of erotic adventure novels including The Curse of the Dragon King: Matthew Lang, author of modern gay gothic novel The Secret of Talmor Manor; Steve Dow, who will read from his satirical e-novel parody to Sydney, and genre-defying writer Kim Westwood, author of The Courier’s New Bicycle.


DATE: January 19 2012 OPEN: 7.30pm VENUE: Bar Nancy ADDRESS: 61 High St, Northcote PHONE: 03 9486 4632 COST: $15/$10 conc; season pass $150


DATE: Jan 20-28 2012 OPEN: Wed-Sat 8.30pm; Sat Jan 29 8.30pm & 8.30pm VENUE: Melba Spiegeltent Docklands COST: $33/$30 conc


In One Day, prologue: Infinite Space
Melbourne Ballet Company

Immerse yourself with beautiful and athletic vignettes coupled with a prologue choreographed to Mozart’s 27th piano concerto.

Dates Thu 2 Feb to Sat 4 Feb
Venue Gasworks Theatre
Time 8pm
Cost $33 Full / $30 Conc / $30 Group 10+

Spontaneous Broadway
Troupe Du Jour

Enjoy a new queer Broadway musical each night!

Dates Thu 19 Jan to Sat 21 Jan
Venue Gasworks Theatre
Time 7:30pm
Cost $35 Full/ $32 Conc / $32 Group 10+
Under the Sheets: Lesbian subtext in a Gay World
Lindy Cameron is the author of the fictional Kit O’Malley lesbian private investigator trilogy. Her latest book is the adventure thriller Redback. She is also co-author of the true crime collections Killer in the Family and Women Who Kill. Speaking at Go West Midsumma, Lindy will enthral us with stories of her life and work.


What A Piece of Work: Queer Verse
An evening of contemporary Australian poets.
Our poets include Peter Rose; Australian Book Review editor Margaret Vandeleur; emerging writer Lia Incognito; Maria Zajkowski; and Rhys Rodgers.


I Dream Therefore I Am ... Plus TIQ* scripts
The past 15 years have seen an explosion of trans cultural output. At the forefront of this cultural incursion was Julie Peters, Australia’s first transgender parliamentary candidate, theoretician and activist for gender and individual equality. Her multimedia work I Dream Therefore I Am was a 1997 Melbourne Fringe Festival Writers Award winner, and 15 years later is presented in an abridged version that adds new flavour to a life lived large. Joining Julie will be sex-diverse, genderqueer and trans writers and performers, including Jez Wiggins and Sally Goldner.


Works in Progress 1: Other Places
The first of two nights featuring new work by Word Is Out alumni and newcomers. Writers include Merilee Moss with new work from her drama Tango Femme; poet and novelist Marg Vandeleur; performance artist Maude Davey; and Finucane Smith performance artist Moira Finucane and writer/director Jackie Smith.


Works in Progress 2: Other Times
The second of two nights featuring new work by Word Is Out alumni and newcomers. Novelist Kelly Gardiner reads from Trag_die. Allister Hardiman reads from The Painters Companion. Disparate times and places are brought together by Urszula Dawkins. Jesse Blackadder reads from her work-in-progress about the Antarctic.

From Federation Square to Docklands, Melbourne’s waterfront is a great place to continue your day of fun and festivities. Take in the breathtaking views of the city skyline as you kick back and relax.

With shopping, dining, arts and attractions, it is well worth discovering this Summa.

Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/whatson
FESTIVAL EVENTS

MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL 15 JANUARY - 5 FEBRUARY 2012

Queerpreneurs and Changemakers
This event is for queer changemakers, social entrepreneurs and philanthropists. Come along and meet other changemakers from Melbourne’s LGBTQI community who are pursuing innovative and dynamic projects that make an impact both within the LGBTQI community and beyond.
The evening will feature guests such as Ehon Chan, creator of Soften the Fuck Up!; Rebecca Scott, founder and CEO of STREAT; Benny Callaghan, CEO, School for Social Entrepreneurs; Steff Tipping, founder/editor of My Agender.

DATE: February 2 2012
OPEN: 6pm
VENUE: HUB Melbourne
ADDRESS: 673 Bourke St, Melbourne
PHONE: 1300 482 611
WEB: hubmelbourne.com
COST: $20/$17 conc

Spoil Yourself Wellbeing Workshop
A day of pampering, primping and preening. Hobsons Bay Youth Services is hosting a day of pampering fun. Beauty and skincare, meditation and massage, yoga and pilates — there is something for everyone. Age strictly 12+. Free for ages 12-17. $5 per workshop for 18+. Bookings recommended as places are limited. Part of GOWEST, a Hobsons Bay City Council initiative.

DATE: Jan 19 2012
OPEN: 10am-3pm
VENUE: Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre
ADDRESS: 2 Newham Way, Altona Meadows
PHONE: 03 9932 4001
WEB: www.libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au
COST: Ages 12-17 free; 18-plus $5

VicTennis Midsumma Tournament
VicTennis Midsumma Tournament is on Sunday, January 22 2012. Register your interest now - limited numbers.
Contact: victennis1@gmail.com

DATE: January 22 2012
STARTS: 9am
VENUE: Elsternwick Park Tennis Centre
ADDRESS: Cnr St Kilda St & Elleenhurst Rd, Brighton
REGISTER: victennis1@gmail.com
BRING: Camera (film, digital, DSLR, Polaroid, etc)
COST: $30

Northside Exposure Photowalk
Calling all budding photographers and flashbulb enthusiasts. Grab your cameras and come to the northside Mecca of Melbourne’s gay and lesbian strip for some walking and talking, socialising with snapshots and general playing around.
Northside Exposure Photowalk is for beginners to experts. From buildings to breweries, dance bars to dungeons, explore gay and lesbian businesses and bars with a camera in your hand.
The photowalk will be led by Steve Edwards, winner of the Laird Hotel’s Men on Men art competition 2011, who has an exhibition during Midsumma at the hotel.

DATE: January 28 2012
OPEN: 2pm
VENUE: Cnr of Peel and Smith Streets, Collingwood
BRING: Camera (film, digital, DSLR, Polaroid, etc)
COST: $30

THE NEXT MIDSUMMA MINI MAGAZINE IS ON THE STREET 13 JANUARY 2012

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ROB GILBERT

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DAVID VIRGONA

Men Only Dance Party

Saturday January 21, 2012
7.00PM - 2.30AM at CLUB80

$35 Members + Bear Clubs / $45 Non-Members / $50 Door
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Summer BearFest

Carnival
Sun 15th January 2012 - 12PM
Free Entry
Birrarung Marr

Manboobs
13-19-21 January 2012 - 12PM
General $23 & B/F (Discounts Available)
Kerinyca Cafe

Underbear
Wed 25th January 2012 - 7.30PM
$15 Presales at The Laird
The Laird Hotel

Bearsoup
Thu 26th January 2012 - 1PM
$23 Entry Includes BBQ Lunch
Wet On Wellington

Bearaoke
Sat 28th January 2012 - 8PM
Free Entry
The Laird Hotel

Pride March
Sun 5th February 2012 - 12PM
Lazy Sunday Afternoon Lunch & Pride March
Pitroy Street, St Kilda

Visit www.vicbears.org.au for Event Info & Tickets
Rainbow Families Welcome!
Who is in your family? Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer parents and their kids, donors, surrogates, family, friends and supporters - all are welcome at the annual Rainbow Families Picnic.

Walk with the Nomads
Join the Nomads on a scenic walk through beautiful bush settings close to the CBD. We will be walking along the Yarra River on both bush paths and pavements from Victoria Gardens (Richmond) to Fairfield. Key spots will include Kew Vineyard, Studley Park Boathouse, Kew to Fairfield (over the Yarra). This walk will be easy for anyone who is reasonably fit. Bring water, comfortable shoes, sunscreen and hat. Buy lunch or bring your own. Register before January 19 at www.thenomadsinc.org.au or email thenomads@thenomadsinc.org.au

Wyndham Family Fun Day
Join our Family Fun Day at Point Cook Coastal Park. Bring a picnic or use the BBQ facilities and your walking shoes. Amazing playground, face painters, entertainment. Relax with family and friends alongside a migratory bird habitat, a marine sanctuary and a park setting on Port Phillip Bay.

Truth, Dare & Promise: Issues in Youth Literature
Featuring academics, editors and young adult fiction authors, this panel discussion aims to unpack what's fit to print for young adults. Could young adult fiction be better described as trauma fiction? Has it become too dark? If pressure on some writers to de-gay their characters is about increasing sales potential, is this homophobic? Panellists include Kelly Gardiner, author of novels for young people, and author and academic Maria Pallotta-Chiarilli.

Free Sailing Day
Come and try sailing on the seductive azure waters of Altona Bay. Our club has many yachts of all sizes and speeds to give you a great sailing experience. Part of GOWEST, a Hobsons Bay City Council initiative.

Trivia Night
Cruise on down to the Cruiser Bar and Cafe Function Room for an unforgettable, fun-filled Trivia Night featuring the incomparable queen of drag Kaye Sera (pictured) as Quiz Mistress with the Mostess. You will be guaranteed not only great questions and categories, but a whole lot of laughs. The Cruiser Bar is located inside the landmark Westgate Entertainment Centre and only 10 minutes from the Melbourne CBD.

Tom Sharah in Que Sera, Sharah
Can a cabaret show have too much attitude? Too much pizza? Or a young star have too much showbiz in his veins? When the star is Tom Sharah, winner of the 2009 Sydney Cabaret Showcase. Too much is just enough.

FUORI!! Dance under Midsumma stars
FUORI! was Italy's first major gay and lesbian rights group, founded in 1972. FUORI!, in Italian, means 'to come out'. Arcolisbica Australia invites everybody to FUORI!, an evening of dancing under the stars al fresco.

GLOBE’s Midsumma Networking Event
GLOBE’s Midsumma combined networking event for guys and girls is being held between 6:30pm at Crown Metropol 28.

EVENTS
**MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL 15 JANUARY - 5 FEBRUARY 2012**

**NEW YEARS EVE**

**MASQUERADE BALL**

2 SPECIAL NYE SHOWS and a MIDNIGHT COUNTDOWN

2 DJ’s
Mark Robbo & David Virgona

DOORS OPEN FROM 8PM TILL 3AM
Tickets on sale thru the venue $40 presale or $50 on the night

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**FESTIVAL EVENTS**

**Glamourhead Sharks Women’s Seminar and LGBTI Make A Splash Session**

The Glamourhead Sharks, Melbourne’s LGBTI swimming squad, are calling all women interested in swimming to come to our women’s information seminar. No need to get wet unless you want to stay for our general LGBTI ‘Give It A Go’ swimming session. You can then join us for a free BBQ at noon.

**DATE:** January 21 2012
**OPEN:** Women’s Seminar 10am; Make A Splash 11am
**VENUE:** South Yarra Sports Centre
**ADDRESS:** Melbourne High School, 679 Chapel St, South Yarra
**WEB:** www.glamourheads.org/
**COST:** Free

**Les Rock - Indoor Rockclimbing: CBD**

After last year’s success, Les Rock is delighted to organise three indoor rockclimbing events during the 2012 Midsumma. To mix it up a bit, two sessions will be held with The Nomads. Les Rock is a social indoor/outdoor rockclimbing network for lesbians, open to all, in and around Melbourne. If you are already a climber, a keen beginner or just curious to give rockclimbing a go, please come and join us. Afterwards, we generally head to the pub for friendly drinks and dinner. Please register by Tuesday, January 11 2012.

**DATE:** January 16, 23, 30, 2012
**OPEN:** 5.45pm
**VENUE:** Jan 23 Hardrock Nunawading; Jan 16 & 30 Hardrock CBD
**EMAIL:** Les.rock@yahoo.com.au
**COST:** $17+ bf/$15 at door

**Motafrenz Magical Mystery Tour**

Come join your Motafrenz for this great annual event. Try your best navigation, observation and problem-solving skills in the most enjoyable way as you drive through small towns, country roads, highways and byways to our fabulous secret lunch spot. Pack a picnic lunch or pick up a little something along the way. Relax, swap war stories and catch up with your frenz. Prizes will be given for highest scores, wooden spooners, best bribes, best dressed and fabbest auto.

**DATE:** January 22 2012
**OPEN:** 9.45am
**START AT:** Como Park North, cnr Alexandra & Williams Rds, South Yarra
**WEB:** www.motafrenz.org.au
**COST:** $22 per car/$5 per passenger

**NudeManFest**

Midsumma’s NudeManFest is a place where men can be themselves, glorify and revel in their naked-as-a-jaybird status. They can experience the ultimate feeling of freedom, leaving clothes, inhibitions and other restraints of the outside world behind. Here is an opportunity to celebrate and explore others and themselves, extend boundaries, re-acquaint themselves with nature.

**DATE:** January 20-22 2012
**OPEN:** Fri 4pm - Sun 5pm
**VENUE:** Riverview
**WEB:** www.motafrenz.org.au
**COST:** $82

**QSAM Midsumma Sports Day**

Queer Sports Alliance (Melbourne) (QSAM) will host a Sports Day at the South Yarra Sports Centre. Sports such as rugby, soccer, swimming, dancing, volleyball, running, tennis, etc may be available. Come try one or more of those sports. Please refer to www.queersportsmelbourne.org for up to date scheduling information. There will be a BBQ for participants to socialise.

**DATE:** January 22 2012
**OPEN:** 10am-4pm
**VENUE:** South Yarra Sports Centre
**ADDRESS:** Melbourne High School 679 Chapel St, South Yarra
**WEB:** www.sysc.com.au
**COST:** Free
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FESTIVAL PARTIES
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10 Years Later

A Red Stitch Theatre production

16 – 26 May

Written by Moisés Kaufman and Members of the Tectonic Theater Project.
Directed by Gary Abrahams

Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio

Book at the Box Office, online or call 1300 182 183
MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL 15 JANUARY - 5 FEBRUARY 2012 FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT : WWW.MIDSUMMA.ORG.AU | STAROBSERVER.COM.AU

Boylesque
Step right up for the most extravagant, arousing, flesh-filled performances Australia has ever seen! Boylesque is here to put a lump in your throat and maybe in your pants!
It’s snazzy! It’s style! It’s camp! It’s gorgeous! It’s beautiful people! It’s boys! It’s Boylesque! It’s sexy, stunning and truly spectacular.
The incredible Boylesque isn’t a drag show. It’s a visual feast and a theatrical arena spectacular everyone should see. No expense has been spared in the staging of this show.

Blonde on the Bay
Calling all pirates and wenches aboard for Blonde’s Midsuma night cruise.
So don’t miss out this year as Blonde boards the glamorous Victoria Star boat once again on Saturday, February 4. Join 50 of Melbourne’s finest on this high summer eve, as she sets sail at sunset for the calm waters of the bay.
Toast to the cocktail hour as this double-deck, luxury boat (Melbourne’s largest) heads for the scenic views of the city’s foreshores and beyond.
Blonde is again upgrading by featuring two dancers, (with two different music styles) DJs in both rooms and a sound system to be reckoned with.
Throw in a complimentary glass of bubbles on arrival with all cocktail facilities, Blonde is again upgrading by featuring two dancefloors (with two different music styles). DJs, in both rooms and a sound system to be reckoned with.
For lovers of a dress-up, ‘Pirates and Wenches’ is your theme this year, girls. Wenches’ is your theme this year, girls. For lovers of a dress-up, ‘Pirates and Wenches’ is your theme this year, girls. Wenches’ is your theme this year, girls.

Foam-A-Sexual
Now in its sixth year, the Peel Hotel presents Foam-A-Sexual, the ultimate suds party with two of your favourite DJs playing all the latest and campiest bubbly hits.
With full cloakroom and shower facilities, Foam-A-Sexual is the dirtiest way to get boys clean this year!
Don’t miss the sexy Surge water polo lifeguards and moisturising booth. Foam-A-Sexual is proudly supported by Manhunt.

The Kingpins
The Kingpins play with the gaps in and between with an infinite series of transgressive drag acts.
Coming out of Sydney’s drag scene, the male foursome utilise an aesthetics of remixing, with elements taken from mainstream media, pop culture and art history, to comment on issues of gender, sex, public space, consumerism and corporate branding.
Their performances play with music, video and costume, and are presented as public interventions, sometimes in the form of ‘surprise’ actions, as well as gallery installations with posters, projections and soundtracks. Humorous, spectacular, grotesque and colourful, their work engages the audience in a subversive politics of pleasure.

Manhunt Pool Party
Come party poolside at the hottest, wettest party all summer! Manhunt brings you a stellar DJ line-up which will see eight hours of pumping tracks to groove and cruise.
Get into your favourite boardies or sexiest trunks and join us under the poolside palms. It’s clothing optional downstairs, towel or swimsuits only upstairs.
Don’t miss the hot swimwear parades and wet jocks competition.

DATE: January 20, 27 & Feb 3 2012
OPEN: 10pm & 11.30pm VENUE: GH Hotel ADDRESS: 1 Brighton Rd, St Kilda PHONE: 03 9534 4189 WEB: www.greyhoundhotel.com.au COST: $15


DATE: January 20, 27 & Feb 3 2012
OPEN: 10pm & 11.30pm VENUE: GH Hotel ADDRESS: 1 Brighton Rd, St Kilda PHONE: 03 9534 4189 WEB: www.greyhoundhotel.com.au COST: $15


Candice McQueen: NASTY
Candice McQueen: NASTY is a solo cabaret show about an immortal demi-goddess who has sipped nectar with Allah and was once Helen Keller’s primary caregiver.
Candice is much like Hercules but with a superior weave. Ms McQueen is taking over The Butterfly Club to finally make herstory. No secrets. No limits. No taboos.
Candice will reveal the untold love story of herself and a fallen ’90s cinema idol.
Candice McQueen is the creation of London cabaret tranny artist Spanky who is widely known for his seven-year residency in East London’s famous Bistrotheque.

DATE: Jan 31 - Feb 5 OPEN: Tues 8pm; Wed_Fri + Sun 9pm VENUE: The Butterfly Club ADDRESS: 204 Bank St, South Melbourne PHONE: 03 9690 2000 WEB: www.thebutterflyclub.com COST: $27/$24 conc

Cath Jamison: I Know What You’re Thinking!
Award-winning magician Cath Jamison undoubtedly proves that conjuring, the paranormal and women’s intuition do exist.
In her new and hilariously entertaining stage show, Cath explores and demonstrates bizarre dating rituals and the feminine mystique, with her trademark sass, style and mind manipulation.
Often noted as one of the most bizarre and unusual women in Australia, Cath will delve and play with your mind, the only way a woman can.
She will leave you gasping from her infamous obsession with the blade and playful antics of the Voodoo Dolls.

DATE: January 27+ 28, Feb 03+04 2012 OPEN: Fri & Sat 7.30pm VENUE: Downstairs at Alma’s ADDRESS: 1 Wilks St, Caulfield North PHONE: 0467 903 345 COST: $22/$17 conc

Glenda Waverley Presents Four Dead Divas
Glenda Waverley puts four dead divas under the microscope.
Following last year’s hilarious sold out season Glenda Waverley’s Show Room, Dr Glenda Waverley, sociologist, day-show host and purveyor of fine wines, assembles four of the world’s finest dead divas to dissect the meaning of camp.
With highlights from their stellar careers and beyond, Glenda explores what makes Dusty, Judy, Bette and Joan such gay icons.


Good Works
Good Works by Australian author Nick Enright is an intriguing look at the behaviour of human beings, and what we are capable of in the most extreme situations.
From the betrayal of best friends through to the intuitive love between two boys and the consequences of misguided parental love, Good Works shows us the darkest moments between two families over three generations.
The play takes us on a journey through the themes of male homosexuality, feminism, devotion, love and deceitfulness.
Good Works is a distinctive and remarkable Australian play that is absolutely unmissable.

DATE: Jan 16-28 2012 OPEN: Tues-Sat 8pm VENUE: Revolt Melbourne ADDRESS: 12 Elizabeth St, Melbourne PHONE: 03 9376 2115 WEB: www.revoltproductions.com COST: $20/$18 conc
Saloon Speed Dating

Who said the farmer wants a wife when city slickers have Dating with Dean? Listen up all you queer cowboys and lady-loving cowgirls — you don’t need to be a Lone Ranger any more as matchmaker extraordinaire Dean Arcuri brings you another night of themed speed dating.

This time, it’s dating with a difference as you dress up in your finest flannel and dosey doe from match to match in an evening of summer fun filled with flirty frolics. Come on down and lasso yourself some lovin’! Yee haw!

The Glasshouse opens its doors and rolls out the hay bales. Come and get a bite to eat before we begin or just rock up for registration and enjoy the night.

Once you have purchased your ticket via Midsumma all you need to do is come along, take your registration pack and get ready to spin your partners round! Whether you’re looking for love, laughs, mates or dates, remember, the magic is in the mingling. When you get thrown from a horse, you have to get up and get back on, unless you landed on a cactus — then you have to roll around and scream in pain. And please, don’t squat with your Spurs on.

DATE: February 01 2012  OPEN: 7.30pm
VENUE: Libation (upstairs)  ADDRESS: 302 Brunswick St. Fitzroy  PHONE: 03 9416 5302

Love

Love (for women). Without love we are heartless. So many things in life can be a waste of time, but not love. The world has too much hate. The world holds not enough love. When we come together tonight, we come together to celebrate and show love. For one night, let us forget the hate and show nothing but love. Featuring everything pink and red, two rooms of music, retro, ’80s, ’90s, deep house and ambient music, pink champagne, sweets, finger food, canapés and all that other fluffy stuff. Drink. Dance. Conversation. Friends. Love for women. Dedicated to the independent, sexy and mature woman in all of us. (No dress code, come as you are.)

DATE: January 20 2012 OPEN: 8pm-4am
VENUE: Secret Location  COST: $15

Lick @ Pride March

Sunday. Pride March. Cheering. Friends. Beach. All you need now are drinks, a great venue over-looking the breathtaking St Kilda bay views, some great DJs playing some great music and you’re set for the rest of the afternoon and into the night.

Join us on this mini-Lick event as we shape up your afternoon with exactly all of the above. Two levels of music, electro/house on one and R&B/hip hop on another, the finest female DJs, beautiful women everywhere. Best of all, it’s free until 8pm. It’s pretty much like a popular Lick night - but at the beach.

DATE: February 5 2012  OPEN: 4pm-1am
VENUE: The Saint Hotel  ADDRESS: 54 Fitzroy St, St Kilda  PHONE: 03 9593 6333  WEB: www.thesainthotel.com  COST: Free before 8pm

FESTIVAL PARTIES

BEWARE

THIS MIDSUMMA

Look. Listen.
Be alert around trams.

Lick

yarratrams.com.au

yarratrams.com.au

Love

Love (for women). Without love we are heartless. So many things in life can be a waste of time, but not love. The world has too much hate. The world holds not enough love. When we come together tonight, we come together to celebrate and show love. For one night, let us forget the hate and show nothing but love. Featuring everything pink and red, two rooms of music, retro, ’80s, ’90s, deep house and ambient music, pink champagne, sweets, finger food, canapés and all that other fluffy stuff. Drink. Dance. Conversation. Friends. Love for women. Dedicated to the independent, sexy and mature woman in all of us. (No dress code, come as you are.)

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DATE: February 5 2012  OPEN: 4pm-1am
VENUE: The Saint Hotel  ADDRESS: 54 Fitzroy St, St Kilda  PHONE: 03 9593 6333  WEB: www.thesainthotel.com  COST: Free before 8pm
Love and Other Psychological Disorders and Afflictions

The trials and tribulations of a young lovesick man in pursuit of that elusive condition called love. Is it real, or should I not have followed you home?

DATE: Jan 19-21, 25-25 2012
OPEN: Sun 19-21 7pm; 24-7.30pm, 25 9pm
VENUE: Downstairs at Alma's ADDRESS: 1 Wilke St, Caulfield North PHONE: 0467 853 345 COST: $30/$18 conc
WEB:

Goddess Grooves

Goddess Grooves showcases some of the finest lesbian singer-songwriters from our community in a night of divine original music and celebration. The 2012 line-up includes Rosie Burgess, Kerry Kilfoyle, Sam Lohs and guests.

From contemporary folk-rock to blues and pop — come and join these great artists as they sing and play their way through original tunes and perhaps a cover or two.

Support live music and see these women strut their stuff. One night only — don’t miss it.

DATE: Jan 24 (preview 7.30pm) Jan 25-28 7.30pm
OPEN: Sun 25 7.30pm
VENUE: Gasworks Art Park ADDRESS: 21 Graham St, Albert Park PHONE: 03 8606 4200 WEB: www.gasworks.org.au COST: $30/$15 conc

Road Movie

Joel’s journey westward across the United States to be reunited with the man of his dreams. Along the way, he stumbles across a series of people grieving for lost loved ones — before dealing with a tragedy of his own. This one man show is a compelling and moving tale of love, loss, and letting go, set in a mid-90’s America at the height of the AIDS crisis. The piece stands beside other queer classics like Angels in America and The Laramie Project and combines Godfrey Hamilton’s evocative writing with an astonishing central performance from Dirk Hoult.


Homophonic

3 Shades Black presents Homophonic, an evening of classical music by queer composers.

Spanning the centuries to bring you sapphic symphonists and homosexual harmonies. Performed by an ensemble of Melbourne’s most in-demand musicians, and featuring Melbourne composers alongside more established names. We’re bringing the disco ball to the concert hall. One night only.

DATE: Jan 21 2012 VENUE: The East Brunswick Club ADDRESS: 280 Lygon St, Brunswick East PHONE: 03 8888 2777 WEB: www.eastbrunswickclub.com COST: $30/$16 conc

Rigor Mortis

We should move somewhere new when the insurance payment for Mommy’s death comes through; just you and me, Daddy. Somewhere far away from all this death and destruction. The tropics. Or Guam. Or, that sounds super-nice, doesn’t it? Set in glamorous ‘60s Hollywood, Rigor Mortis tells the age-old tale of a nuclear family tragically torn apart by zombies. Cadence Baudelaire has it all: a loving husband, a beautiful daughter and a three-figure salary. But then Cadence dies. For a while anyway, like Mommy Dearest by way of Night of the Living Dead and The Exorcist, Rigor Mortis promises to entertain, enthrall, and shock.

DATE: Jan 19-21 7pm, 24-7.30pm, 25 9pm

Pageant: The Musical

Award-winning theatre company ShooSH! Productions presents the highly anticipated return of Pageant: The Musical.

You’ve never seen a beauty pageant like this one! Pageant pits six beauty queens (all played by men) against each other in an extravaganza of evening gowns, bathing suits and not-to-be-missed talent.

While Les Girls swirl around the charming host in the funniest beauty contest ever seen, judges selected from the audience decide who will be crowned Miss Glamourpuss. A different winner each night ensures nonstop nail-biting fun!

DATE: Jan 22 - Feb 04 2012 OPEN: Tues-Sat 8pm; Sun 5pm
VENUE: Northcote Town Hall ADDRESS: 89 High St, Northcote PHONE: 03 9534 4879 WEB: www.northcotedowntownhall.com COST: $33/$28 conc

The Horror of the Inch: A Cult Rock Concert

The music of cult classics, from The Rocky Horror Picture Show to Hedwig and the Angry Inch in concert.

Covering Rocky to Hedwig, Queen to Prince, Bowie to Tina, this cult rock concert is worthy of your finest glam-rock gear!

DATE: Feb 2 2012 SESSION 1 8pm VENUE: Order of Melbourne ADDRESS: 2/401 Swanston St PHONE: 03 9865 6707 COST: $27/$22 conc
SESSION 2 DATE: Feb 2 2012 8pm VENUE: DnM ADDRESS: 119 Commercial Rd, South Yarra COST: $27/$22 conc

One night only.
We're bringing the disco ball to the concert hall. In-demand musicians, and featuring Melbourne symphonists and homosexual harmonies. Spanning the centuries to bring you sapphic concert.

Inch: A Cult Rock Concert

The music of cult classics, from The Rocky Horror Picture Show to Hedwig and the Angry Inch in concert.

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SESSION 1 DATE: Jan 22 2012 8pm VENUE: Order of Melbourne ADDRESS: 2/401 Swanston St PHONE: 03 9865 6707 COST: $27/$22 conc
In One Day, prologue: Infinite Space
Melbourne Ballet Company

Immerse yourself with beautiful and athletic vignettes coupled with a prologue choreographed to Mozart's 27th piano concerto.

Dates  Thu 2 Feb to Sat 4 Feb
Venue  Gasworks Theatre
Time  8pm
Cost  $33 Full / $30 Conc / $30 Group 10+

Spontaneous Broadway
Troupe Du Jour

Enjoy a new queer Broadway musical each night!

Dates  Thu 19 Jan to Sat 21 Jan
Venue  Gasworks Theatre
Time  7:30pm
Cost  $35 Full/ $32 Conc / $32 Group 10+

Gasworks Arts Park
Bookings and more information
T. (03) 9699 3253 (+bf)
www.gasworks.org.au
**AUSTRALIA DAY EVE**

**WED 25TH JANUARY 2012**

**PALACE THEATRE MELBOURNE**

**FREEMASONARY (UK)**

**KATHERINE ELLIS (UK/LIVE)**

(RUFF DRIVER) PERFORMING: WHEN YOU TOUCH ME, WHEN I TRY, DREAMING

**SIAN EVANS (UK/LIVE)**

(KOSH EEN) PERFORMING: HIDE U, CATCH, LOUDER

**RUDY (LIVE)**

PERFORMING: PHAZING, IN THE AIR, LET IT GO, CATCH, LOUDER

**PLUS SUPPORTING TALENT FROM**

PLAYHOUSE (LIVE) GAZ KEMPER (LIVE) SAMMY BOON (LIVE) LEVI DOWSETT MEGMC (LIVE) MR STOJ OK NAR ANYO +MORE

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW FROM $49+BF**

www.ticketmaster.com.au

MORE DETAILS VISIT www.devilsplayhouse.com.au

**PALACE THEATRE 20 – 30 BOURNE STREET MELBOURNE 9PM–LATE**

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**DEVILS PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS**

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**FESTIVAL PARTIES**

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**MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL 15 JANUARY - 5 FEBRUARY 2012**

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**Grindr: A Love Story?**

Nath Valvo is addicted to Grindr, he is not alone. 1.4 million males use Grindr every day. Nath has spoken to half of them. Join this award-winning comedian as he dives head-first into the most influential application to hit the gay scene since fake tan. This hilarious new show reveals that not every Grindr hook-up has a happy ending. Valvo is quickly becoming one of Australia's most talked-about stand-up comedians. Midsumma is proud to present the premiere of Grindr: A Love Story? Six shows only. Book early to avoid disappointment.

**DATE:** Jan 15-21 2012 **OPEN:** Mon-Sat 9pm

**VENUE:** Revolt Melbourne

**ADDRESS:** 12 Elizabeth St, Melbourne

**PHONE:** 03 8376 2115

**WEB:** www.revoltproductions.com.au

**COST:** $25/$20 conc

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**Red Light Songs of Lust, Love & Death**

We meet, we have sex, we fall in love and then we die. And we make friends and create families along the way. Red Light Songs of Lust, Love and Death is a brutally funny exploration of sex, love, death and family featuring original songs as well as old favourites from Tina Turner and Edith Piaf. Written and performed by Eric Kuhlmann. Directed by Michelle Outram.

**DATE:** Jan 26-29 2012 **OPEN:** Thurs-Sat 7pm; Sun 5pm

**VENUE:** The Butterfly Club

**ADDRESS:** 204 Bank St, South Melbourne

**PHONE:** 03 8899 2200

**WEB:** www.thebutterflyclub.com.au

**COST:** $32/$19 conc

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**Separating The Dust**

The darkness of this tale engulfs the audience as the curtain rises. Chad and Michael are left to clean up after their mother’s funeral wake. She had divided her final will and testament equally.

Chad’s wife Raelene demands he contest the will for the lion’s share, aggravating the undertow of smouldering years of unspoken hatred between the three of them. This will not end pretty.

**DATE:** Jan 17-21 2012 **OPEN:** Mon-Sat 8pm

**VENUE:** Revolt Melbourne

**ADDRESS:** 12 Elizabeth St, Melbourne

**PHONE:** 03 9376 2115

**WEB:** www.revoltproductions.com.au

**COST:** $25/$20 conc

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**More Details Visit**

www.devilsplayhouse.com.au
From Federation Square to Docklands, Melbourne’s waterfront is a great place to continue your day of fun and festivities. Take in the breathtaking views of the city skyline as you kick back and relax.

With shopping, dining, arts and attractions, it is well worth discovering this Summa.

Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/whatson
MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Not everyone wants to get married, but we should all have the equal right to do so.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY
ADOPTION AND IVF RIGHTS
NO DISCRIMINATION IN WORK OR LIFE
BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT
CLEAN, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

MARRIAGE PARTIES

 MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL 15 JANUARY - 5 FEBRUARY 2012

Whole Lotta Woman
Urzula Carlson took to the stage in April 2008 for the first time, fell in love and so did the audience.

She won the NZ Comedy Guild’s Best Newcomer Award and since then she has had them splitting their sides and popping their stitches across New Zealand and the ditch.

You wouldn’t want to miss this opportunity to meet the lady labelled the adorable new blood in the stand-up world — smart and bent!

DATE: Feb 2-4, 7pm
VENUE: Gasworks Arts Park
ADDRESS: 21 Graham St, Albert Park
PHONE: 03 8859 4200 WEB: gasworks.org.au
COST: $25/$38 conc

WishingWell Presents What’s Love Got To Do With It?
Ruth Katerelos, singer-songwriter/actor/filmmaker and producer, presents her first one-woman show, weaving her way through the material on her latest CD, via personal stories and observations of life, love and the whole damn thing, with humour and pathos.

A memorable night of cabaret, beautifully supported by the dulcet tones of Monique Kenny on guitar.

DATE: Feb 2-4 2012 OPEN: Thu-Sat 7pm
VENUE: The Butterfly Club
ADDRESS: 294 Bank St, South Melbourne
PHONE: 03 9690 2000 WEB: www.thebutterflyclub.com
COST: $22/$19 conc

The Bitter End
In this technology-driven age, how can two people connect? Sean wants to find out. His boyfriend gave him love, technology, Facebook and other drugs. Then decided to pull the plug. Only to keep him on-line to ‘tag’ and ‘like’ him whenever it suits. Now all Sean’s got is a phone he doesn’t know how to use and an old school friend who just wants to talk about dildos. How can he make sense of the world when all the world wants to do is poke him?

The Bitter End is Kurt Phelan’s debut play.

DATE: Jan 22-24; 29-31 2012 OPEN: Sun 7pm;
Mon-Tues 7.30pm
VENUE: Downstairs at Alma’s
ADDRESS: 1 Wilks St, Caulfield North
PHONE: 0467 903 345 COST: $23/$15 conc

The LOL Big Gay Comedy Night
Back by popular demand. Midsumma’s very own comedy club is back for four weeks only.

A night of brilliant comedy from Australia’s best gays. See your favourite gay comedy stars from radio, TV, stage and screen. Five gays for the price of one! Come — it will be gay! Gay!

DATE: Jan 11-12, 17,19,25, 31 + Feb 2, 8-9 2012
OPEN: 8pm
VENUE: Order of Melbourne
ADDRESS: 2/401 Swanston St
PHONE: 03 9663 6707 COST: $20/$15 conc
Group (6-plus) $10 + BF

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Group (6-plus) $10 + BF

Authorised by Colleen Hartland, 75 Victoria St, Seddon 3011
WELCOME TO LIFE IN FULL COLOUR

Today’s amazing. Just take a look around you. You can connect with the world at the click of a button. You can buy flowers online, then smell them for real minutes later, or talk to your aunt in China whilst messaging with mates in Melbourne.

Pretty amazing right?

Telstra believes in the power of connection, because a life connected to everything and everyone you love is a life lived in full colour. That’s why we’ve built Australia’s fastest and most reliable network, and why we’re enhancing our mobile network with 4G. 4G will let you multitask with ease, or upload and download at speeds up to twice as fast as you’re used to. We’re also developing the connected home. Imagine downloading your media at even greater speeds and then being able to enjoy it from a completely connected living environment. And that’s just the beginning.

But if you really want to make the most of your connections today and into the future, you’ll need the network that’s been designed for them. Because the world is as amazing as you want it to be. And amazing is just a click away.

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health care for all of us

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Ladyboner

What gives you a ladyboner? Or man-ladyboner?

One night only! If you’re old and Greek, like Lisa’s grandmother, you might get a ladyboner through mindgames about dolites. And by breaking toasters.

If you’re a middle-aged blonde, like Lisa’s mother, it could be from forcing your daughter to wear a diamante belt buckle, as you cackle in your champagne haze.

And if you’re a tubby goth manchild, it could be from things that are apparently “sick and wrong, oh God, Lisa, you’ve ruined another family dinner”.

Come hear Lisa discuss pleasure in all its forms, from the creepy and grubby to the sublime. There will be stories. There will be music. There will be ladyboners across all genders.

For the discerning short attention span.

Date: February 1 2012
Open: 8pm
Venue: The Theatre Husk
Address: 161 Heidelberg Rd, Northcote
Phone: 03 9489 4632
Cost: $18/$15 conc

Her Majesty's ROYAL RUMBLE

The greatest show on earth comes to Melbourne as the legends of drag slam it out.

In a full-scale WWF wrestling ring, our leading ladies, butchest man-meat and furry flowers will fight it out in a full night extravaganza of the finest faggotry.

The stage is set to seethe as Dolly Diamond braves the sea of bloodthirsty onlookers to host the drag queen Battle Royale, Midsumma's ROYAL RUMBLE!

In association with Melbourne City Wrestling.

Date: January 23 2012
Open: 8pm
Venue: Redbennies
Address: 373 Chapel St, South Yarra
Phone: 03 9836 2668
Web: www.redbennies.com
Cost: $25

Vicbears presents: Man Boobs

Man Boobs written by J. Julian Christopher, directed by Jack Chapman

A Vicbears ARTicle II Initiative

As part of our trial project to provide the Bear community opportunities for expression and representation through the visual and performing arts, Vicbears are very excited to include our first-ever theatrical production into our bummer Midsumma program.

Man Boobs is a one-act story of two men about to embark on a night of passion until issues of obesity and self-esteem overpower their sexual and emotional connection.

Cost:
Fitzroy North
$8/$6 conc

Play reading: Her Naked Skin

Her Naked Skin is set in 1913 during the struggle for women to obtain the right to vote. The play centres around the lesbian love story between two women, who, under any other circumstance in 1913 Britain, would probably not have met. One is an upper-class middle-aged woman, who has nevertheless felt invisible. The other woman is a 24-year-old seamstress.

The Tricky Part

A true story of sexuality, spirituality and the mystery of human experience.

Between the ages of 12 and 15, the author had a sexual experience with an older man. Now in his 40s, he has transformed his story into a riveting, often funny and always surprising journey through Catholicism, his desires and human trespass.

A 2004 Obie Award play and two Drama Desk nominations for Outstanding Play.

Cost:

Date: Jan 26 - Feb 05 2012
Open: Thur-Fri 6pm, Sat-Sun 2pm
Venue: The Theatre Husk
Address: 161 Heidelberg Rd, Northcote
Phone: 03 9489 2772
Web: www.winterfalltheatre.com
Cost: $20/$16 conc

Twinky and the Bear

Very loosely, almost barely, hardly even based on the story of Beauty and the Beast.

When Sam and Jason are thrust together over a split drink on the dancefloor at The Peel, there is no telling what may ensue.

Twinky and the Bear is a hilarious cabaret of uncommon relations and opposing attractions between species and is loaded with sharp wit, phone sex, shopping, gratuitous nudity, expensive sunnies and a sex scene — all the things we hold near and dear to our hearts!

Cost:

Date: Jan 19-28 2012
Open: Thu-Sat 7.30pm
Venue: GH Hotel
Address: 1 Brighton Rd, St Kilda
Phone: 03 9534 4189
Web: www.ghhotel.com.au
Cost: $25/$22 conc

Femme Fight Club

Gay Nuptials Cake Bash

Discriminatory marriage laws make you wanna chuck?

Femme Fight Club presents a women’s-only wedding-cake fight followed by a reception to bash out our frustration with marriage laws discriminating against same-sex couples.

All who identify as female are welcome. Special provisions will be made to include those who have physical conditions such as being preggas or sporting broken limbs.

No kids allowed in the fight but some supportive fellas will mind kids in another area of the park. A change of clothes is advised.

No spectators! You show, you biff. Cake and reception provided.

Cost:

Date: January 22 2012
Open: 3pm
Venue: Edinburgh Gardens
Address: 7A Alfred Cres, Fitzroy North
Cost: $8/$6 conc

FESTIVAL PARTIES
Australia Day Hangover
Perplexed by patriotism? Jaded by jingoism? Sounds as though you need a dose of Vitamin B-lak! Let us cure your Australia Day hangover with the clinically proven power mix of out, black and proud. Join some of Aboriginal Australia’s best queer voices as they set up camp (and reinterpret it) with poetry, politics, prose and their very own home-grown patriotism.

DATE: January 27 2012
OPEN: 8pm
VENUE: Hares & Hyenas
ADDRESS: 63 Johnston St, Fitzroy
PHONE: 03 9495 6589
WEB: www.hares-hyenas.com.au
COST: $15/$10 conc; season pass $150

Quippings
Comic, sexy and black rants from some of Melbourne’s most bent cripples. On the agenda: the all-signing, all-limping, gimping, wheeling and sliding Quippings performers ride Midsumma hard again with poetic bluster, informed venting, twisted multimedia, stand up, dance and criptease.

DATE: From January 31 2012
OPEN: 7.30pm
VENUE: Hares & Hyenas
ADDRESS: 63 Johnston St, Fitzroy
PHONE: 03 9495 6589
WEB: www.hares-hyenas.com.au
COST: $15/$10 conc; season pass $150

Rapid Fire: Freshly Squeezed
Co-presented by Minus 18, Victoria’s queer youth organisation. Rapid Fire’s recipe for success is simple: give 12 writers six minutes each to read. This very special version of Rapid Fire offers new writers under the age of 25 a chance to get their start.

DATE: January 29 2012
OPEN: 5pm
VENUE: Hares & Hyenas
ADDRESS: 63 Johnston St, Fitzroy
PHONE: 03 9495 6589
WEB: www.hares-hyenas.com.au
COST: $15/$10 conc; season pass $150

History Walk
Join the gang from the Lesbian & Gay Archives as we reveal and revel in the secret histories of our very queer city. From the State Library to St Paul’s we uncover 1950s beats and bars, same-sex marriage in the 19th century, passing women, camp men and much, much more. The history they don’t teach at school.

DATE: From January 22 2012
OPEN: 11am
VENUE: State Library of Victoria, Forecourt
ADDRESS: 328 Swanston St, Melbourne
COST: $20/$10 conc; season pass $150

Bi & Poly 2
This year our bi and poly artists and writers share the complexity, joy, energy and occasional frustrations of bisexual and polyamorous life. Writers and performers include Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli and Sally Goldner, with an open mic section.

DATE: February 2 2012
OPEN: 7.30pm
VENUE: Hares & Hyenas
ADDRESS: 63 Johnston St, Fitzroy
PHONE: 03 9495 6589
WEB: www.hares-hyenas.com.au
COST: $15/$10 conc; season pass $150

Queer Nerd
Have 14 uni degrees? Love web comics? Put down the PS3 controller for one night, jump in your TARDIS and join us in a geektacular celebration of all things nerdy and queer! Performers of all dweeb levels will present short pieces about all things NERD. There will be stories. There will be lols. There will be every sort of geek, swot and dork you can think of. Come celebrate your braininess! NERDS UNITE!

DATE: February 2 2012
OPEN: 7.30pm
VENUE: Bar Nancy
ADDRESS: 61 High St, Northcote
PHONE: 03 9486 4632
COST: $15/$12 conc
Zero metres away

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