



19 Jan – 9 Feb 2025

Victoria's
premier festival
of LGBTQIA+
arts and culture

midsumma.org.au



more
than
money



More out and proud

Principal partner
of Midsumma
since 2013.





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Acknowledgement of Country

Midsumma acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are the First Peoples of these lands and pay our respects to First Nations Elders, past and present. We recognise their continuing spiritual and cultural connection to the land and acknowledge that Aboriginal sovereignty has never been ceded. Midsumma Festival takes place between High Summer and Late Summer according to the Wurundjeri calendar of seasons and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong/Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin nation as the traditional owners of the lands on which much of this festival is celebrated.

Stay in Touch!

Keep your eyes on our social media platforms and subscribe to our e-news for ticket discounts, giveaways and more!

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midsumma.org.au/subscribe

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#midsumma

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Background Image: *Existential Solace*
from the *Skyverse* series, 2024 by Melanie Skyers
See more details on page 6
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and Graphic Design by Timothée Nicot
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Please pass on, or recycle this guide responsibly!

Welcome!



A Message from
Judy Small AM

**Chair of Management Board
Midsumma Festival Inc.**

About Midsumma

Midsumma stands as Australia's leading queer arts and cultural festival, a vibrant hub where LGBTQIA+ artists, performers, communities, and audiences unite year-round to celebrate and amplify queer voices.

In 2025, Midsumma Festival returns with 22 days of transformative experiences, showcasing the power of connection through art, performance, and storytelling.

Our program invites you to an exploration of belonging, unity, and the intersection of personal and communal narratives. Across about 200 events, from visual arts to live music, theatre to spoken word, cabaret, film, sports, and public forums, Midsumma Festival 2025 offers something for everyone, with more than 500 creators bringing their vision to life across Naarm/Melbourne and wider Victoria.

While the festival takes centre stage during the summer, our work is ongoing—providing tools, platforms, and support for artists and culture-makers throughout the year. For over 37 years, we have been a cultural thought leader, expanding our reach and influence while staying true to our commitment to diversity, learning, and social change. Join us in 2025 as we continue to evolve, uplift generations of LGBTQIA+ voices, and create spaces where stories and identities are celebrated in all their richness.

Welcome to Midsumma Festival 2025!

Welcome to Midsumma Festival 2025!

You've found the program, and that's the perfect place to start!

Within these pages, you'll discover a vibrant arts program designed to astound, challenge, entertain, and delight. Expect to encounter theatre, cabaret, music, visual art, photography, literature, dance, comedy, and hybrid art forms, taking over Naarm/Melbourne and its surrounds for three spectacular weeks. This celebration explores and honours the rich diversity of our LGBTQIA+ communities, offering experiences that will evoke thought and emotion in ways you may not have imagined.

Midsumma's highlights include our large-scale public events: *Midsumma Carnival*, *Midsumma Pride March*, and *Victoria's Pride*.

The festival also features the Open Access Program, which welcomes any artist wishing to showcase their talent, and our renowned *Midsumma Presents* program, spotlighting commissioned and curated works—many debuting for the first time.

This year's festival theme is **COLLECTIVE IDENTITY(S)**.

In the era of identity politics, it is clear that "LGBTQIA+" represents not just one community but a collection of communities with unique perspectives and goals.

While we share much in common, this is an opportunity to explore our differences and celebrate the strength that comes from unity within diversity. Our collective identity must be preserved and strengthened by embracing these distinctions, not shying away from them.

Our signature program, *Queer Imaginings*, brings together multi-generational artistic teams from across LGBTQIA+ intersections to create new works that deeply engage their communities. The program culminates in All In Day, where artists will lead workshops, artistic activities, and a panel discussion co-hosted by LGBTQIA+ youth. This event provides a platform for diverse voices to come together, fostering stronger, more inclusive connections within our communities.

So, grab your diary, immerse yourself in this incredible program, and embrace the festival experience! Take a chance on something new—who knows what it could inspire?



A Message from
the Minister for
Creative Industries

The Hon,
Colin Brooks, MP



A Message from

The City of
Melbourne



A Message from

NAB

Each year, Midsumma Festival kicks off our annual calendar of creative events with a high-energy celebration of our LGBTQIA+ communities, and Victoria's proud diversity.

This year's program includes about 200 events—from intimate shows to events that bring together tens of thousands of people like *Midsumma Carnival* and *Midsumma Pride March*.

The Victorian Government is a proud and longstanding supporter of Midsumma Festival and we share its passion for providing a safe platform for diverse communities to come together, connect through art and creativity, and share experiences.

Midsumma Festival is one of the many organisations we collaborate with to deliver priorities of our Creative State creative industries strategy and our landmark 10-year plan for LGBTQIA+ equality, Pride in our future—Victoria's LGBTQIA+ strategy 2022-32.

It is also one of the many festivals that enliven city and state, attract visitors and underpin our reputation as Australia's creative and events capital.

Congratulations to the Midsumma Festival team on this latest program, to the many artists whose work will feature in this year's festival, and to the communities who are the heart and soul of Midsumma.

Melbourne thrives on diversity, creativity, and inclusivity, encouraging everyone to express their identity and celebrate what makes them unique.

For 37 years, Midsumma Festival has fostered connections, empowered voices, and illuminated the stories that enrich our community.

The City of Melbourne is proud to continue its long-standing partnership with Midsumma Festival recognising that this festival is more than just a series of events—it's a platform for voices that might otherwise go unheard. As Australia's leading LGBTQIA+ arts organisation, Midsumma Festival champions diversity and inclusivity nationwide. While celebrating progress, the festival also shines a light on the ongoing challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ communities.

Despite advances in acceptance and visibility, discrimination and stigma persist. Midsumma's work cultivates understanding, inclusion, and resilience, playing a vital role in Melbourne's social fabric. The City of Melbourne expresses its gratitude to the festival organisers, artists, and everyone involved in bringing this celebration to life. Your dedication helps build a future where all individuals, regardless of identity, can thrive.

Together, we continue to celebrate diversity, amplify voices, and create a city where everyone is valued, seen, and heard.

At NAB, we proudly celebrate the vibrant and diverse spirit of our communities. We are thrilled to continue our support as Principal Partner for *Midsumma Carnival 2025*, Australia's premier queer arts and cultural event.

We believe that when individuals are free to express their true, authentic selves, it benefits everyone, creating more enriched, inclusive communities. The NAB team is honoured to stand alongside Midsumma Festival in fostering spaces and opportunities where everyone can thrive, grow, and flourish in their unique journeys.

Midsumma Festival is a special time of the year, bringing people together to celebrate the power of love, unity, and acceptance. It serves as a vital platform for our communities to share their stories, giving everyone an opportunity to embrace equality, diversity, and the beauty of being authentic.

Join us at Midsumma Festival 2025 as we come together to celebrate being out and proud and continue to build a future where diversity is celebrated in all its forms.

Thank you to this year's amazing artists and performers for their creativity and courage, and to the volunteers and Midsumma team for making this festival an extraordinary celebration. Welcome, and happy Midsumma.



Crowd celebrating *Midsumma Carnival 2024* at Alexandra Gardens © Tom Noble

Welcome!



**A Message from
Karen Bryant**

**Chief Executive and Creative Director
Midsumma Festival Inc.**

The last two years have been extraordinary, breaking records in attendance, ticket sales, and event numbers. But our events are not just about numbers. They are about people. And about communities.

The primacy of identity politics has governed the queer arts ecosystem for the past several years. While a focus on an individual's connection to their identity is crucial, a key feature of our time is that as digital connectivity increases, true emotional community connection often fades.

In a world punctuated by digital interfaces and fleeting interactions, Midsumma Festival 2025 invites you to explore this paradox through our theme **COLLECTIVE IDENTITY(S)**. What does unity mean in a time marked by emotional separation and digital overload? Unified communities do more than offer support; they foster creativity, amplify diverse voices, thrive from collective brainstorming and collaboration. We do not need to agree with each other to enrich our community's cultural fabric and hold space for us all to thrive. We can dance with diverse bodies and sing with diverse voices.

For Midsumma Festival 2025 we intentionally turn towards the unique power of queer community connections. We celebrate the power of queer community connections through artistic spaces that promote deep listening, mutual respect, and solidarity. This year, we invite you to 'call people in', share experiences with those you might not yet know, and engage in new perspectives and conversations.

As Midsumma Festival 2025 approaches, bringing thousands of artists and hundreds of events, we invite you to embrace every transformative moment. Over 22 days and nights, we celebrate together, offering life-changing experiences that highlight the richness of our communities. Whether it's your first Midsumma Festival or you've been part of our journey for years, we can't wait to celebrate with you!

Navigating Midsumma

Welcome to the Skyverse!



Cover Image

**Midsumma Festival 2025 Visual Identity
Craate Creative x Melanie Skyers
Follow the star in the Skyverse**

craate.com
melanieskyers.com

[@craatecreative](https://www.instagram.com/craatecreative)
[@melanieskyers](https://www.instagram.com/melanieskyers)

In today's busy digital age, Midsumma Festival 2025 invites immersion in a visual narrative that connects us beyond screens. Welcome to the **Skyverse**—a fluid, organic exploration of our collective identities, merging past and present into a vibrant celebration of community.

This abstract, deconstructed Pride Flag goes beyond static stripes, reflecting the LGBTQIA+ community's hybrid and evolving nature. In collaboration with queer artist Melanie Skyers, Midsumma and Craate Creative bring this vision to life. Skyers' *Skyverse* series uses 35mm film transformed by heat, water, and smoke to create vivid, dreamlike visuals that embrace unpredictability and organic forms.

A central chrome star symbolises unity and intersectionality, guiding generations with a retro-futuristic aesthetic. Skyers' analogue approach contrasts digital saturation, reminding us that true connection lies in shared stories and communities. It celebrates the LGBTQIA+ experience and encourages harmony amidst differences.



Craate Creative

Founded in 2022, Craate Creative is an agile, Naarm/Melbourne-based team, featuring diverse members from multicultural, First Nations, and queer backgrounds. Craate takes pride in delivering world-class outcomes, leveraging a broad range of perspectives and experiences to create impactful and inclusive work.



Melanie Skyers

Melanie Skyers (she/her) is a queer artist based on Wurundjeri country. She works with analogue film, experimenting with non-digital techniques like in-camera effects, optical illusions, and film treatments. Beyond photography, her interests include writing, painting, music, and film.

Navigating Midsumma

This Guide, Event Listings
Accessibility and Ticket Information

This Guide Access and Facility Symbols

- Wheelchair access
- English no barrier
- Auslan interpreted
- Open captions
- Audio described
- Closed captions
- Assistive listening
- Relaxed performance
- Tactile tour
- Over 18 only
- Family friendly
- Food available
- Visual rating
- Bar
- Three ticket discount

More details on all Access and Facility Symbols on midsumma.org.au/access

Subgenre →

Curated Event →

Venue Information →

Date, time, duration →

Access Information →

Tickets Information →

Content Warnings →

Presented by →

Event Listings – see pages 32 to 74

Midsumma strives for accuracy, but event details may change without notice. Producers retain all rights, including moral rights. As an open access program, Midsumma Festival doesn't directly control individual events or any changes within the program. [Check midsumma.org.au](https://midsumma.org.au) for updates.

Access Symbols



Cabaret

Event's Name → **MESSY FRIENDS**

Winners of Best Cabaret
Adelaide Fringe 2024

Explore the world of this dynamic & innovative drag collective blending lip-sync, burlesque, dance and documentary-style videos in a unique "Drag-u-mentary" format. Led by Ginava, they explore queer identity, resilience & self-acceptance through dynamic performances and personal storytelling.

Event's Description

"Impressive would be an understatement"
★★★★★ - *Binge Fringe (UK)*

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Chapel Off Chapel - The Chapel, Prahran

6-8 Feb | Thu-Sat 8pm | 1hr

Captioned: 6 Feb 8pm
Audio Desc & Tactile Tour: 6 Feb 7:30pm

\$46 full | \$42 conc | \$65 table | \$42 group

△ Strong language | References to suicide and/or self-harm | Mature themes

Presented by Midsumma Festival & Gendermess Productions

Accessibility Information

Accessible Information

Audio, large print, plain text, and screen reader versions of the Midsumma Festival 2025 program can be downloaded on the Midsumma website midsumma.org.au/access. If you have any questions, feedback or would like any information in another format, please don't hesitate to contact us by email boxoffice@midsumma.org.au.

National Relay Service

If you are Deaf, hard of hearing or want assistance with spoken communication, contact the National Relay Service on 133 677 or via relayservice.com.au then ask for 03 9296 6600 during business hours. There is no additional charge for this service.

Wheelchair Access

To check a venue's wheelchair accessibility, look for the wheelchair access symbol alongside an event listing. Midsumma relies on accurate information provided by the venues; we recommend contacting the venue to confirm their accessibility.

Companion Card Holders

Please contact Midsumma Ticketing at boxoffice@midsumma.org.au or 03 9296 6600 for a complimentary ticket for your companion.

Ticket Information

How can I get tickets?

Online: [Search and buy at midsumma.org.au](https://midsumma.org.au)

Phone: (03) 9296 6600. Mon-Sat, 11am-4pm for enquiries, bookings or exchanges.

Terms & Conditions [See all at midsumma.org.au/ticketing](https://midsumma.org.au/ticketing)

Booking fee of \$5.25 applies per transaction (not per ticket).

E-tickets will be sent on purchase. Show on your smartphone or check in at venue box office. Refunds will only be issued in accordance with LPA's Ticketing Code of Practice. Refunds will not be issued for change of mind, illness, missed performance or where latecomers are not permitted. Exchanges for the same event can be processed by phone up to 48 hours prior to the original booked session. Fee applies. Privacy statement available at midsumma.org.au/privacy-statement

Discounts & Concessions [Read more at midsumma.org.au/ticketing](https://midsumma.org.au/ticketing)

3 Show Package - Book 3 or more eligible events for 10% off full price.

Concession - Full-time students, seniors, healthcare and pension cardholders.

Proof of concession may be required. Other discounts as marked for groups, previews, First Nations and passholders.

Free Events May require bookings where marked (no transaction fee).

Entry to non-ticketed free events is subject to capacity.

Children under two years old may be admitted to some events without a ticket.

Excludes 18+ events.



**LGBTQ
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
AWARENESS
FOUNDATION**

HELP US END FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES

Show your support for victims and survivors
by standing up and taking the pledge.

Change starts with you.

Take The Pledge



#SeenAndBelieved

DVAFoundation.org



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VACCA

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD
AND COMMUNITY AGENCY

Connected by culture

START YOUR FOSTER CARE JOURNEY

See us at the Midsumma Carnival or visit [VACCA.ORG](https://www.vacca.org)

Major Event



Midsumma Carnival

A Party For the Ages

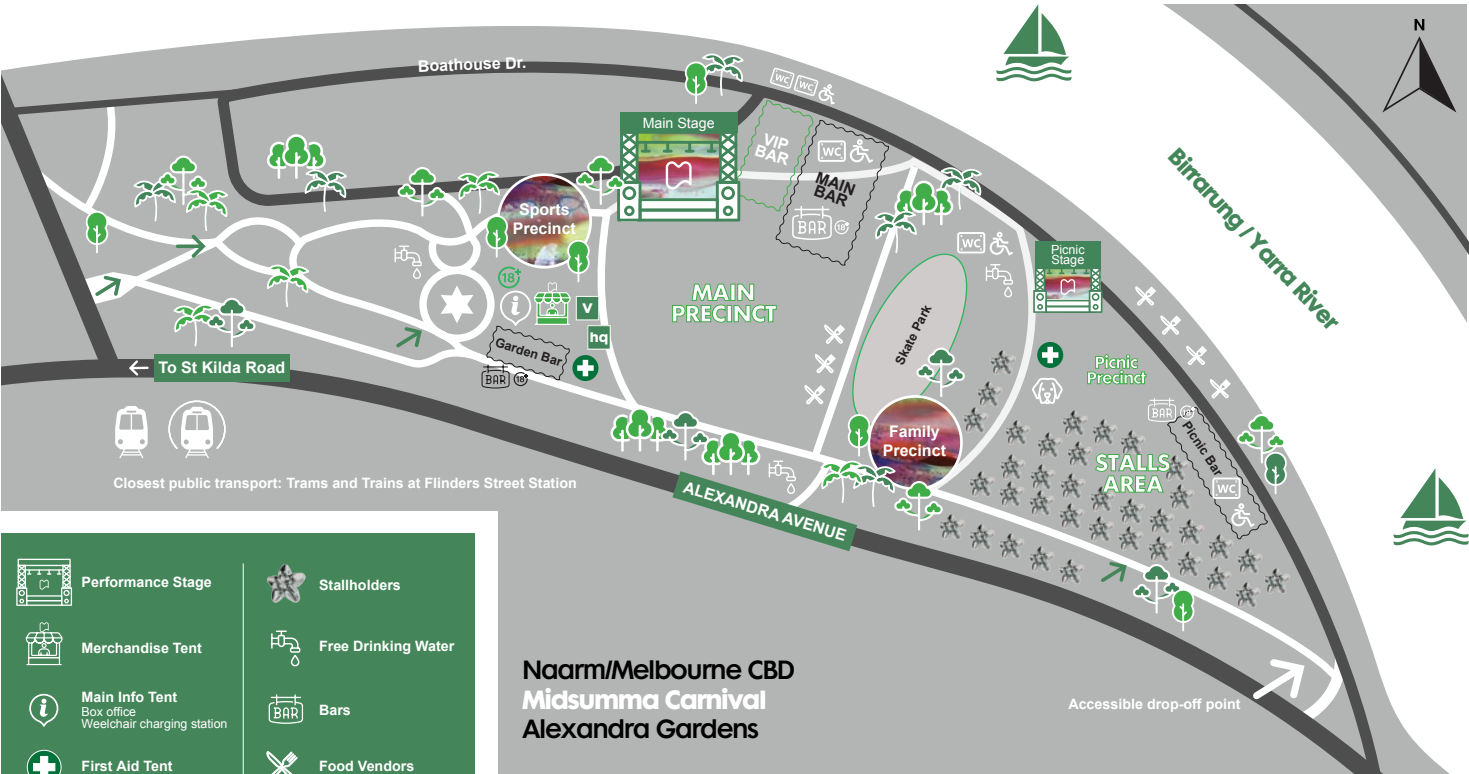
Join us in the vibrant heart of Naarm/ Melbourne's CBD at Alexandra Gardens for *Midsumma Carnival 2025*! This free-entry event attracts over 100,000 passionate attendees, creating an electrifying atmosphere. Explore 55,000 square metres of Carnival, featuring two dynamic stages, two diverse food hubs, and pop-up bars. Discover stalls showcasing LGBTQIA+ friendly businesses and essential community organisations, offering delightful complimentary goodies as we come together in a joyful celebration of unity and creativity.

Experience captivating performances from talented vocalists, dancers, and DJs, and feel inspired to share your own talent in our *Lip Sync Limelight* competition! Plus, don't miss the chance to enter your furry companion in our annual *Dog Show*. *Midsumma Carnival* embodies togetherness, reminding us of the importance of in-person connection and unity within the community. By bringing together a variety of perspectives, diversity fuels creativity and strengthens efforts toward impactful social change.

Midsumma Carnival – details p.61
Sun 19 Jan 2025, 11am–9pm, Free
Alexandra Gardens, St Kilda Rd, CBD
Presented by **Midsumma Festival**
Auslan Interpreters: **Main Stage,**
Picnic Stage and **Families Precinct**
Audio Described Tour
No glass or erected marquees



© Suzanne Balding



	Performance Stage		Stallholders
	Merchandise Tent		Free Drinking Water
	Main Info Tent Box office Wheelchair charging station		Bars
	First Aid Tent		Food Vendors
	Event Headquarters		Toilets
	Volunteers Tent		Accessible Toilets
	18+ Wristbands		Dog show Rego
	Entrances to Garden		Wheelchair Accessible Paths



Major Event



Midsumma Pride March

30th Anniversary

30 Years of Pride
and Progress

Join us in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the *Midsumma Pride March*! Gather your friends, family, and beloved pets to proudly express your pride at this landmark event. Whether you participate on foot or wheels, as an ally or a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, we unite to celebrate the rich tapestry of gender expressions, sexualities, experiences, and identities. March along Fitzroy Street on a one-kilometre route leading to the beautiful waterfront of Catani Gardens, where hundreds of vibrant groups dazzle with their glitter and glamour.

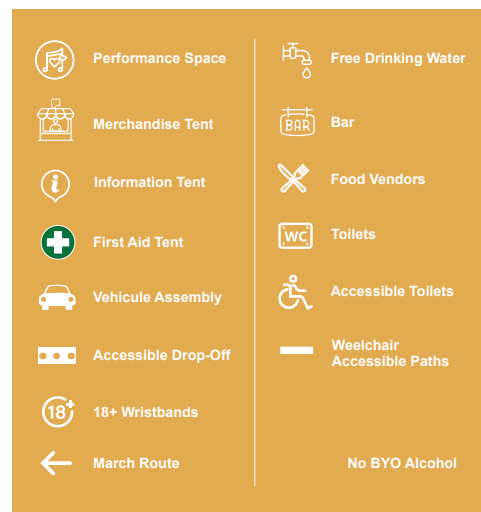
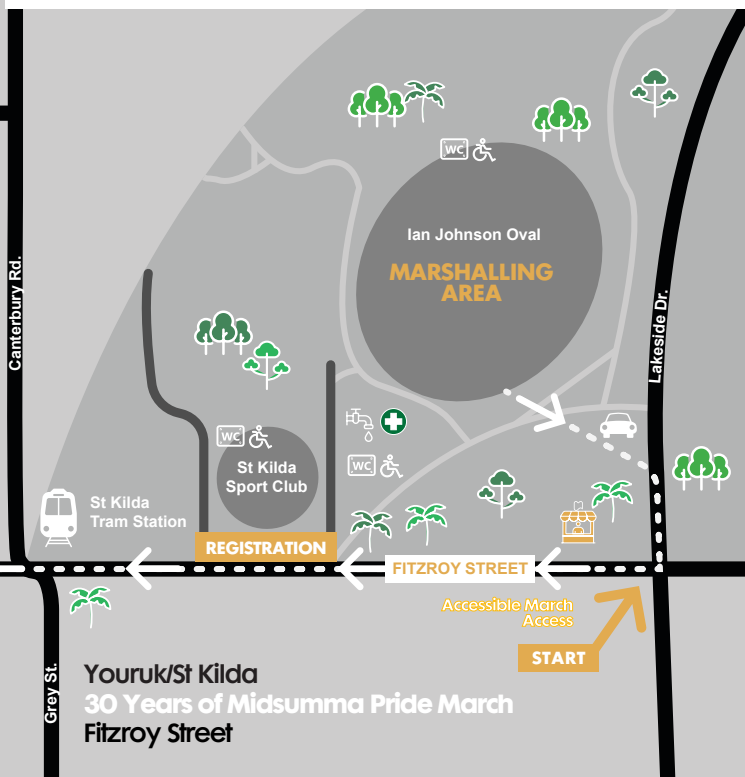
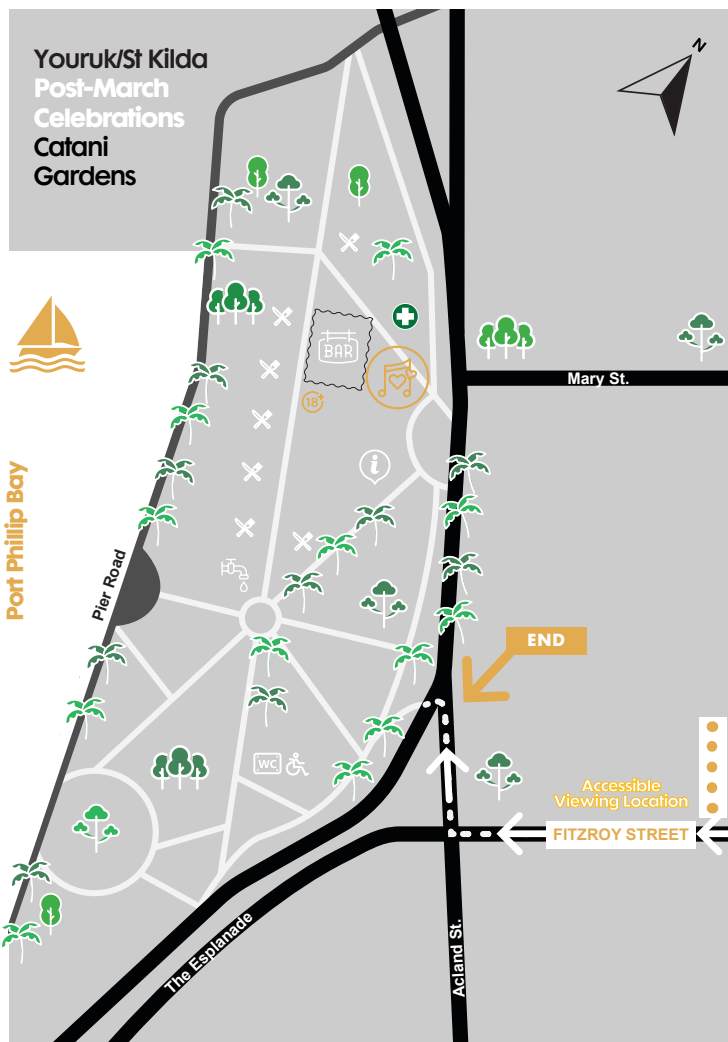
We march because we are fierce, fabulous, loved, and proud. This milestone anniversary will see over 14,000 marchers and more than 45,000 spectators lining the route. Young people, often the most vulnerable, lead the way as a strong affirmation for LGBTQIA+ youth. The *Midsumma Pride March Awards* celebrate innovative contributions from participants, judged by community members. After the march, you are invited into Catani Gardens for an afternoon of festivities, featuring DJs and a few surprises to celebrate our collective identities.

30 Years of Midsumma Pride March
Sun 2 Feb 2025, March starts 11am, Free
Fitzroy St, St Kilda – details p.62
Post-March Celebrations
Catani Gardens, St Kilda

Presented by **Midsumma Festival**
Auslan Interpreters: **Performance Space**



© Suzanne Balding



Major Event



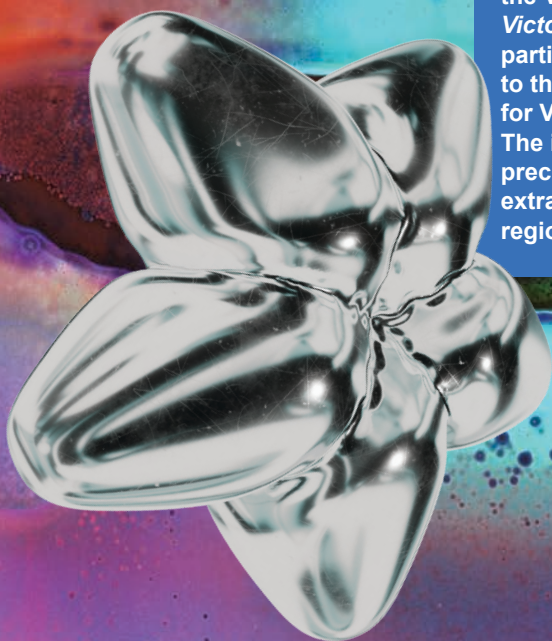
Victoria's Pride

Our Pride, Our Streets



Victoria's Pride unfolds across Victoria from November to February, culminating in a lively street party on Sunday 9 February 2025, in Naarm/Melbourne's eclectic inner North. Delivered in partnership with the Victorian State Government, *Victoria's Pride* champions state-wide participation and access, contributing to the ongoing journey toward equality for Victoria's LGBTQIA+ communities. The iconic Gertrude and Smith Street precinct will transform into an extravagant street party, showcasing regional, local and interstate artists

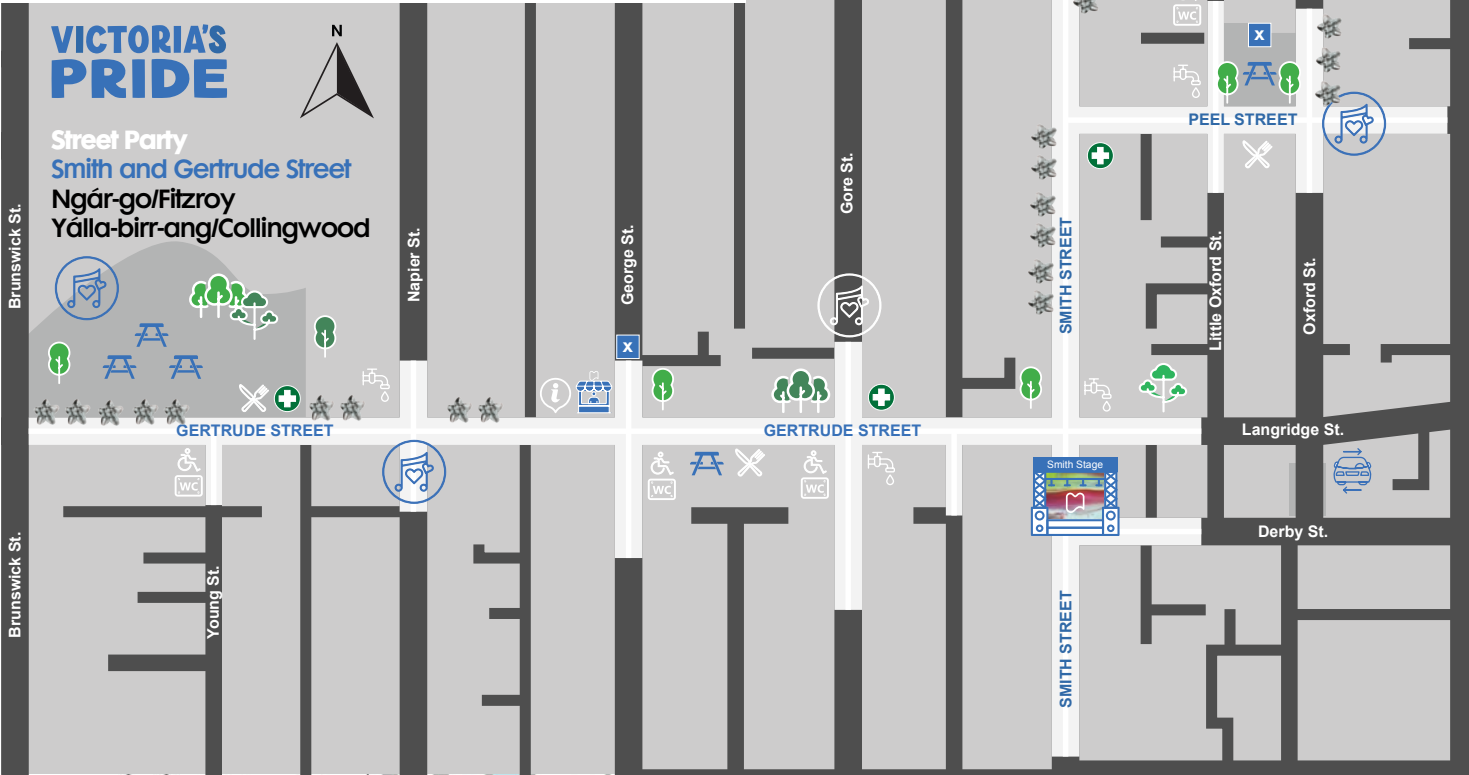
across multiple stages with a curated program that celebrates queer talent while prioritising community participation, cultural representation and creative diversity. Attendees can enjoy performances by musicians, dancers, comedians, and circus acts, alongside interactive activities and community stalls. Support local galleries, retailers, and food and beverage traders as they spruik their unique offerings. Join us in celebrating our collective identities: our pride, our streets—where the city comes alive in unison.



Victoria's Pride Street Party – details p.63
Sun 9 Feb 2025, 12pm–9pm, Free
Smith and Gertrude Street Precinct
Naarm/Melbourne Inner North
Midsumma Festival delivers Victoria's Pride in partnership with the Victorian State Government.

Auslan Interpreters: **Main Stages**





	Performance Stage		Community Stalls
	Performance Space		Activation Space
	Merchandise Tent		Picnic Tables
	Information Tent		Free Drinking Water
	First Aid Tent		Food Vendors
	Event Precinct		Toilets
	Accessible Drop-Off		Accessible Toilets
	RideShare Zone	No glass allowed on precinct	



Regional Events



Victoria's Pride Regional

Our Pride, Everywhere



What does true unity look like, and how do we create connections that matter? *Victoria's Pride Regional Program* embodies the essence of COLLECTIVE IDENTITY(S), emphasising the power of community. Through arts and culture, it celebrates diversity and amplifies regional voices, proving that unified communities don't just offer support—they inspire creativity, resilience, and a platform for meaningful social and political change. By coming together, we foster a sense of belonging that strengthens and uplifts every individual.

This year, *Victoria's Pride Regional* has commissioned 12 projects to energise LGBTQIA+ communities across rural and remote Victoria. Alongside *The Pridefinder Podcast* Season 2, these activations culminate in an electrifying day-and-night street party in Naarm/ Melbourne's iconic Gertrude and Smith Street precinct on Sunday 9 February 2025 (see pages 14-15). This statewide celebration goes beyond metropolitan borders, ensuring an inclusive representation of LGBTQIA+ cultures while fostering a sense of pride that resonates across Victoria.

Victoria's Pride Regional Activation Program
From Nov 2024 until mid-2025
VIC, Statewide
Audio, *The Pridefinder Podcast*
Midsumma Festival delivers *Victoria's Pride Regional* in partnership with the Victorian State Government.



Detailed regional map available at midsumma.org.au/info/venue-maps



1. Colour My World
The Goulburn Valley Experience
 Goulburn Valley Pride Inc.
 7 Nov 2024–9 Feb 2025
 Greater Shepparton

Regional creatives will showcase queer art throughout the Goulburn Valley, culminating in exhibitions across North-East Victoria.

With the support of **OUT in the OPEN Festival** Shepparton.

2. Queer Cakes & Butch Bakes
A Community Bake-off with Pride
Castlemaine Pride
 10 Nov 2024, Castlemaine

Castlemaine Pride is hosting its first ever bake-off *Queer Cakes & Butch Bakes* and we're on the prowl for Djaara Country's Gayest Cake! With the support of **Castlemaine Community House**.

3. Picture Me
 23 Nov 2024, Warragul

An event celebrating LGBTQIA+ self-expression, featuring free hair and makeup, clothing swaps, photography, and community connection

With the support of **Bendigo Bank, TGV, Gippsland Pride Initiative Inc., headspace Morwell, The Makeup Hub, and Gioia Hair**.

4. Party in Pride
Drag'd Out Beechworth Inc.
 23 Nov 2024, Beechworth

A day of community events, street art installations, Drag Storytime and a Q&A with Portia Turbo and Strewth. With the support of **BankWAW**.

5. FAB FRENZY
DANDROGYN
 30 Nov 2024, Warrnambool

Connect, and celebrate diversity in a space where RESPECT beams supreme! Grab your bio-glitter, and let's make memories that sparkle on the dance floor!



6. Now I see Colour
 Mieke Bosland
 Dec 2024–Jan 2025, Indigo Shire

Now I See Colour celebrates queer identities through Mieke Bosland's music video, featuring multigenerational LGBTQIA+ voices from Indigo Shire. Includes screenings, discussions, and insights into queer creativity and empowerment.

With the support of **LINE Wangaratta Inc.**

7. Vanity Torso Animal Spirit (image 7 above)
 Tim Hardy
 7 Dec 2024–11 Jan 2025, Mildura

Emerging artist Tim Hardy's *Vanity Torso Animal Spirit* at NAP Contemporary explores queer longing through photography and film, featuring two narrative threads, public workshops, and collaborative documentary work.

With the support of **NAP Contemporary**.

8. Seasons Along Rivers (image 8 above)
Short Film & Community Gathering
 Lesley Luo & Feifei Curiosity
 Pre Screening in Jan 2025, Mildura

Set in Mildura, this film uses the Murray and Darling rivers to symbolise queer migrants' resilience, celebrating multicultural identities through a romantic story, community gathering, and showcasing diverse migrant queer experiences. With the support of **Auspicious Arts Project, Arts Mildura, Our Point 3 and Sunraynbow Connection**.

9. Healing Together:
A Pride Strength Tour
What Were You Wearing? Australia
 10 Jan–4 Feb 2025

Geelong, Bendigo & Wangaratta
Healing Together: A Pride Strength Tour presents the LGBTQIA+SB edition of 'What Were You Wearing?' in Wangaratta, Geelong, and Bendigo, offering healing days for queer victim-survivors and informative support events for their loved ones, fostering resilience and awareness.



10. Q-Lit (image 10 above)
Q-Lit: Victoria's Queer Festival of Words
 19 Jan 2025, Horsham
 2 Feb 2025, Swan Hill

Start the day with a hands-on family workshop, followed by the Create-Develop-Perform masterclass, culminating in an evening gathering for drinks and story sharing.

11. Gippsland Pride Festival Day
Gippsland Pride Initiative
 25 Jan 2025, South Gippsland

A full-day event celebrating and connecting LGBTQIA+ and ally communities in Gippsland, featuring performances and activations in a heritage park.



12. Fourteen & Nine Months (image 12, p.16)
A Short Film by Yvette Turnbull
 7 Feb 2025, Bendigo

A queer, coming of age comedy. At its heart, the film is a journey of self-discovery and queer mentorship, set in the outskirts of regional Victoria.

The Pridefinder Podcast Season 2
Launch Fri 17 Jan 2025, 10am AEDT
35 Episodes, weekly release

Pride Finder: The Rainbow Road Trip Podcast returns 17 January 2025, with Season 2. Uncovering regional LGBTQIA+ stories from across Victoria, the podcast features fresh voices, resilience, and community pride every Friday.

Produced by **Helene Thomas**, available on **Apple, Spotify**, and all major platforms weekly.



More information on
midsumma.org.au/regional-ativations

Images

- 7. — *Vanity Torso Animal Spirit* © Tim Hardy
- 8. — *Seasons Along Rivers* © Lesley Luo
- 10. — *Q-Lit* © Q-Lit
- 12. — *Fourteen And Nine Months* © Lesley Luo

Curated Program



Queer Imaginings



Queer Imaginings invites audiences to immerse themselves in the diverse and nuanced experiences of LGBTQIA+ creatives, offering a unique lens on queerness as a shared and collective journey. With visionary artists leading the way, this program embodies Midsumma Festival 2025's theme of COLLECTIVE IDENTITY(S) by celebrating the strength of unity found within our differences. The curated projects reflect queerness as an ever-evolving practice, one that transcends individual experiences to embrace the full spectrum of queer life. Through intergenerational collaboration, these works foster creativity and connection across communities, engaging participants of all ages and stages. By holding space for the many perspectives that shape our shared identity, *Queer Imaginings* becomes a platform for exploring how queerness intersects with the themes of connection and community. It reminds us that queerness is not a solitary experience but a collective one, where the power of creativity and unity brings deeper understanding and stronger bonds within our communities.

In the same spirit, *Midsumma Pathways* (details p. 20) nurtures the creative careers of Deaf and Disabled LGBTQIA+ artists, prioritising deep collaboration and ongoing relationship and as key supports for skills development. *Pathways* embodies Midsumma's commitment to access, inclusion and equity, with creativity and community connection at the heart of the program. Working towards artist-led outcomes that are supported by program staff, we hold the goals and interests of program participants as central to program planning and delivery. In 2025, we are proud to support *Pathways* alumni to achieve their goals both on and off the stage, with participants engaged as producers and project managers in addition to the creative developments featured in this guide.

Together, *Queer Imaginings* and *Midsumma Pathways* exemplify how creativity, connection, and investment in skills development over time can foster meaningful change within our sector and better understanding within our communities.

Queer Visions, United Voices



HONŌUR images 1 & 2, above & below
Fed Square, Main Stage, CBD
31 Jan, 8.30pm, Free

Celebrate love, legacy, and recognition with HONŌUR, a tribute to the true royalty of our communities: Queer POC Elders.

This vibrant ceremony introduces audiences to Naarm/Melbourne's iconic legends, honouring them with a celebration that slays the house down with unapologetic pride and energy.

It's the love child of Beyoncé and RuPaul, blending star power, soul, and spectacle into a show-stopping tribute. *HONŌUR* has evolved through partnerships with *Victoria's Pride* (2022–2024, see page 14-15), and this new iteration promises a grand-scale public performance. Join us at sunset in the heart of the CBD for an unforgettable ceremony—A fierce and joyful celebration of the legends who shaped our past and continue to inspire our future. – details p.47

Presented by **Midsumma Festival**,
BEAT ENTERTAINMENT in association with
Fed Square, produced by **Performing Lines**





3



5



6

An Uncertain Time

Sarah Austin & Co images 3 & 4, above & below
ArtPlay, CBD
30 Jan–2 Feb

An Uncertain Time uses song, sound, physical theatre and projection to take audiences on an exploration through ideas of love, loss, hope and uncertainty. It is a tactile, sensory and visual experience that will captivate babies and adults alike. The 30-minute performance is followed by optional playtime in the space. This performance season of *An Uncertain Time* has been developed to put rainbow families and their experiences of becoming new parents at the centre of the work. This work is for babies and their carers only, to ensure a focused experience and bonding time. – details p.56

Thu-Sun 10.30am and 12pm

Fri-Sun Midday

Auslan: 31 Jan 10.30am and 12pm

Presented by **Midsumma Festival**
and **ArtPlay**, produced by **Performing Lines**

Midsumma Matters

House of Muchness

Fed Square, The Edge, CBD, Free

For the first time, *Midsumma Matters* is co-created by young people. Road-test your risk appetite, or experience a deconstructed panel event hosted by the next generation of artists and culture-makers. Presented by **Midsumma Festival, Fed Square** and **House of Muchness**

A Minor Adjustment

image 5 above

1 Feb, 10.30am & 12.15pm

Test your current levels of fun, messiness and adventure! Young artists invite adults and children (aged 6-12 years) to connect through interactive and playful tasks and tests. – details p.64

A Not So Small Talk

1 Feb, 2.30pm

Instead of traditional panels, join informal chat circles hosted by teenagers equipped with bread baskets! Engage with creatives and leaders from Midsumma's *Queer Imaginings* program. Expect playful questions, thoughtful discussions, and fresh perspectives. – details p.64

Queer Imaginings in the Making

Abbotsford Convent

Part of *Queer Imaginings*, these two projects in development will conclude with a private showing for invited guests to offer a unique glimpse into innovative storytelling.

Fekai

in Midsumma Hubs

Sarah Carroll image 6 above

8 Feb, Invitation Only

Written by award-winning artist Sarah Carroll, *Fekai*—named after a traditional Rotuman sweet pudding—explores queer romance and Pasifika identity. It follows Akanisi (AK), whose whirlwind relationship with Sam leads to plans for a proposal. But with a church-holding Grandma unaware of AK's sexuality, the story delves into themes of authenticity, tradition, and family acceptance. – details p.35

The Placeholder

in Midsumma Hubs

Ben MacEllen

25 Jan, Invitation Only

This six-handed ensemble piece, by trans playwright Ben MacEllen, is set in a rural town over five years. Following a group of women mourning their friend Barb, it tackles themes of feminism, inclusion, and evolving identities through the experience of a trans man. The play reflects on personal values, identity, and acceptance in close-knit communities. – details p.42

Presented by **Midsumma Festival**
and **Abbotsford Convent** with mentorship support from **Melbourne Theatre Company**



4

Images

1 & 2 — *HONOUR*, Samuel Gaskin

© Michelle Grace Hunder

3 & 4 — *An Uncertain Time* at Arts Centre Melbourne

© Sarah Walker

5 — *Midsumma Matters*, House of Muchness,

A Minor Adjustment © Eden Muster

6 — *Fekai* by Sarah Carroll

© Courtesy of the artist



Midsumma Pathways

Midsumma Pathways is a nine-month mentorship and career development program for Deaf, disabled, and neurodiverse LGBTIQ+ artists. In the *Midsumma Pathways* team, we work within multiple intersecting frameworks to deliver best-practice inclusive, accessible and community-engaged arts projects. In line with the social model of disability, we recognise that people are disabled by the barriers created by society. Rooted in queer theory, the program fosters authentic self-expression by challenging norms around gender and sexuality. We recognise the ongoing work of decolonising arts practice and co-design processes. We work with flexible timelines and hybrid delivery modes to support crip time. During Midsumma Festival 2025, *Midsumma Pathways* is proud to support our program alumni in the creative development and/or presentation of a number of projects that are aligned with their career and creative goals.

Images

- 7 — *Mystery call* © All Rights Reserved
 8 — *Magical Prescriptions* (working title)
 Jessie Ngaio © Jessie Ngaio
 9 — *Learning Unlearning And Redefining Intimacy*
 © Tom Noble
 10 — Ben Goss © All Rights Reserved

Mystery Call in Midsumma Hubs Alex Craig image 7 right Victorian Pride Centre, The Forum St Kilda 6–8 Feb, Various times

Mystery Call is an embodied one-to-one conversation, delivered digitally, connecting communities near and far. Led by the MindsEye Collective, it explores personal and collective queer bodies through listening and movement. Alex Craig invites audiences to engage in non-visual storytelling through bodily sounds, vocalisations, and instructional scores. Participants gather physically and virtually, fostering a sense of belonging. — details p.38

Presented by **Midsumma Festival**
 and **MindsEye Collective**



7

Mystery Call

Midsumma Pathways in the Making

This year, *Midsumma Pathways* alumni have been supported by Midsumma to explore new ideas and seed new projects.

Magical Prescriptions

Jessie Ngaio image 8 left

Jessie Ngaio's experimental pop-up artwork in development blends performance and visual art, creating a 15-minute immersive experience. Set in a dystopian hut inspired by witch-clown aesthetics, it explores art as medicine, inviting audiences to engage with the transformative and magical power of artistic expression.

Learning Unlearning And Redefining Intimacy Sam Martin with Catherine Dunn and Danni Wright image 9 below

Three Deaf queer artists explore relationships, intimacy, and social norms. Through personal stories, they challenge monogamy and heteronormativity, offering new perspectives on queer intimacy, friendship, and romance. This work uncovers the complexities and fluidity of connections beyond societal expectations.



9



NGV Teens x Midsumma

Queer Dialogues in Midsumma Presents, p.27

With Ben Goss image 10 right

Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia,
Fed Square, 22–23 Jan, 1.30pm–3pm
Free, Auslan on request

Teens, meet like-minded peers, jot down ideas and reflect on artworks in the NGV Collection that are connected to LGBTQIA+ experiences and histories in these social sessions with NGV curators and *Midsumma Pathways* Alumni, Ben Goss, a Naarm/Melbourne-based actor and theatre maker originally from Tasmania.

Ben was part of *Midsumma Pathways* in 2021–2022, mentored by Daniel Monks before performing in *A Resourceful Hero Struggling Against Incredible Odds* (Rawcus / Malthouse) at the 2022 Midsumma Festival. A VCA graduate, Ben is passionate about exploring how the theatre and screen industries can become more accessible and inclusive. Ben works as a teaching Artist at St Martins Youth Theatre. – details p.58

These sessions are open to people aged 14 to 18 years. For details visit ngv.melbourne

Presented by **Midsumma Festival**

in partnership with **NGV**

→ 10



More information on
midsumma.org.au/participate/midsumma-pathways

Each project within the *Queer Imaginings* program also included a community engagement element, designed in collaboration with the lead artist of the project. This engagement has been offered with the intention of building further connection and support for specific communities, and/or the further development of an idea or relationship that has the potential to strengthen our LGBTQIA+ communities.

Queer Imaginings – Funding & Support



Queer Imaginings has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.

**FED
SQ.**

ARTPLAY

Abbotsford
Convent.

MELBOURNE
THEATRE COMPANY

PERFORMING
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NATIONAL GALLERY
OF VICTORIA NGV

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**NGV
DESIGN
STORE**

Curated Program



Midsumma Presents



1

The *Midsumma Presents* program is the presentation of boundary-pushing queer arts and culture, supported through funding from Midsumma Festival. *Midsumma Presents* provides a dynamic platform where the intersection of art, performance, and the LGBTQIA+ experience thrives, challenging norms and creating a powerful connection with audiences.

We engage with a wide array of communities, spanning all ages, cultural backgrounds, and identities, promoting a deep sense of inclusion while celebrating the richness of diversity. This year, the program features an exciting mix of both emerging and established artists, from First Nations contemporary dance to multifaceted events that merge visual art exhibitions with live music. There are projects that delve into the history of queer Naarm/Melbourne, explore the significance of nightclubs in shaping queer identity and forming community, and offer everything from participatory theatre to powerful trans playwrights and performers, and Multicultural art and film.

We are excited to continue our long-standing partnerships with major arts organisations and key venues across Naarm/Melbourne, as *Midsumma Presents* continues to expand and evolve, reflecting the vast diversity of our LGBTQIA+ communities. This year, we are proud to include an Olivier-nominated play at Arts Centre Melbourne, Best Cabaret Award winning show from Adelaide Fringe Festival, and new work from the Women's Circus, showcasing artists aged 50 to 70.

The program features a youth program, late-night events, queer talks and tours for teens and adults, and a cross-section of awards and development programs. Many events are Auslan interpreted, audio described, or offering tactile tours to ensure accessibility and inclusion.

Midsumma Presents remains committed to supporting emerging artists year-round, offering development opportunities that strengthen the careers of LGBTQIA+ creatives, playing a pivotal role in fostering a more inclusive and vibrant arts industry.

Visual Arts, Literature, Music, Playwriting

Prizes, Awards and Development

Each year *Midsumma Presents* partners with institutions and organisations to present career development opportunities, awards and prizes. In partnership with Homophonic! we present music and composition prizes, and this year introduce a new networking event for queer musicians and composers, hosted by the Forest Collective. *The Pearl Prize* (image below) celebrates stories by queer writers, while the *Queer Playwriting Award Showcase* at Gasworks highlights emerging talent in playwriting for theatre.

The prestigious *Midsumma & Australia Post Art Award* (image above), offers substantial cash prizes for visual artists and an artist residency at Bundoora Homestead Arts Centre.

Midsumma fosters industry connections through a range of programs, competitions, and prizes that recognise artistic excellence and build platforms for creative growth across multiple art forms.

Where Queer Stories Rise



2

← **Visual Arts MAPAA 2025** image 1, p.22
Midsumma & Australia Post Art Award
The Finalists Group Exhibition
No Vacancy Gallery, CBD, Free
28 Jan–1 Feb, 4–8 Feb
 Celebrating its 10th year in 2025, the *Midsumma & Australia Post Art Award* presents a selection of queer artists and their unique perspectives. Finalists from across the country will display their works in a milestone showcase of queer, political, and powerful art at No Vacancy Gallery. Competing for a \$7K prize pool, these artists offer potent expressions of identity. – details p.50
 Presented by **Midsumma Festival** and **Australia Post**



Literature The Pearl Prize 2025 image 2, p.22
 A celebration of queer expression in Australian writing, featuring fifteen emerging voices selected for the 2025 edition. The award highlights the power of queer storytelling across three events:

1. The Pearl Prize 2025 in Midsumma Hubs
Victorian Pride Centre, St Kilda
26 Jan, 2pm

Celebrate the finalists of *The Pearl Prize 2025* at Hares & Hyenas with the Writers Award announced and book signings. – details p.63

2. The Pearl Prize Meet and Greet
Readings, St Kilda, 2 Feb, 3pm

Meet the talented finalists and hear about their writing journeys. – details p.66

Presented by **Osborne and Fawcner Publishing** supported by **Midsumma Festival**

3. QUEERISM: The Future Is Now
Queerism in the Age of AI
The Wheeler Centre, 6 Feb, 6pm

Join a thought-provoking panel exploring the intersection of queer identity and AI. – details p.65

← Presented by **Osborne and Fawcner Publishing**

Visual Arts At The First Flood Of Daylight
Ara Dolatian image 3 below
MAPAA Bundoora Homestead
Art Centre Award 2024
22–25 Jan, 29 Jan–1 Feb, 5–8 Feb, Free
Auslan-interpreted Artist talk: 25 Jan, 2 pm
 Ara Dolatian, winner of the Bundoora Homestead Art Centre Residency, as part of MAPAA 2024, presents a new ceramic exhibition. Held at Bundoora Homestead, the show explores queer and feminist interpretations of the ancient Epic of Gilgamesh. Born in Iraq, based in Naarm/Melbourne, Dolatian delves into themes and asserts sexual difference and gender multiplicity as a pathway to human connections. – details p.48
 Presented by **Midsumma Festival** and **Bundoora Homestead Art Centre**

Music Homophonic! in Midsumma Hubs
New Music by Queer Composers
Theatre Works, St Kilda image 4 below
7 Feb, 7pm–8 Feb, 1 & 5pm

Homophonic! is bringing the disco ball to the concert hall and raising the roof of Theatre Works, St Kilda, for the 15th annual celebration of queer chamber music. Featuring the winner of the *Homophonic! Pride Prize* by Ashleigh Hazel, performed by Jacob Abela. The RESPECT compositions tell the stories of LGBTQIA+ seniors in song, and feature established works from super gay icons of classical music. – details p.46

Presented by **Midsumma Festival**, **Miranda Hill** and **Theatre Works**



Playwriting QPAS 2025 in Midsumma Hubs
Queer Playwriting Award Showcase
Gasworks Arts Park, Albert Park

20 Jan, 6.30pm – details p.40, image 5 above

QPAS, a collaboration between Gasworks Arts Park and Midsumma Festival, champions bold new voices in queer theatre. Presented by **Midsumma Festival** and **Gasworks Arts Park**

1. Day For It
Winner of the 2024 QPAS People's Choice Award

Gasworks Arts Park, 4–8 Feb, 7pm

In this heartfelt comedic drama, Mother Peta & daughter Kelly navigate the rugged Victorian wilderness—and an unprecedented amount of time together. Spanning six days and over 100 kilometres of terrain that is both painfully familiar and completely unknown, *Day For It* is a muddy, uphill homage to the complexities of queerness and intergenerational relationships. – details p.34

Presented by **Midsumma Festival**, **Gasworks Arts Park** and **Lindstedt & Davies**

2. The Queer Kingdom:
A Staged Reading
By Tom Ballard, Winner of the 2024 QPAS
Gasworks Arts Park, 8 Feb, 1pm

Join Tom Ballard, winner of the QPAS 2024, for a staged reading of *The Queer Kingdom*. This new play tells the story of The Gay & Lesbian Kingdom of the Coral Sea Islands, filled with love, hate, freedom, sovereignty, and queer joy. – details p.42

Presented by **Midsumma Festival**, **Tom Ballard** and **Gasworks Arts Park**

Images

- 1 — MAPAA 2024 winner Rani Amvrazis, *extremismós* © Suzanne Balding
- 2 — 'POLO' © Osborne and Fawcner
- 3 — *Humbaba*, 2024 © Ara Dolatian
- 4 — Homophonic! © Steven Mitchell Wright
- 5 — QPAS © Rielly Bennie



← **CODED** in Midsumma Hubs
Amelia Jean O'Leary image 8 left
Abbotsford Convent, Oratory
23–25 Jan, 7pm

Abbotsford Convent Artist in Residence, Amelia, welcomes audiences into her creative space, giving a glimpse of her most recent creative projects. Witness three new First Nations femme queer contemporary dance works.

Presented by **Amelia Jean O'Leary, Abbotsford Convent** and **Midsumma Festival** – details p.33

Medium Ari Angkasa in Midsumma Hubs
Abbotsford Convent, Sacred Heart Courtyard, 23–25 Jan, 9pm

A live film, set under the light of the moon. Moving between performance lecture, sci-fi thriller, and musical extravaganza, Angkasa performs as the intermediary and director between stage and screen. Presented by **Ari Angkasa, Abbotsford Convent** and **Midsumma Festival** – details p.54

GRAVE Jessi Ryan in Midsumma Hubs
Abbotsford Convent, The Store
29 Jan–8 Feb

Explore queer histories, challenging colonial and binary structures with an immersive gallery experience. The performance will transform the Convent's Store into an intimate space where truth is told under nightlife beats.

Presented by **Jessi Ryan, Sissy!, Abbotsford Convent** and **Midsumma Festival** – details p.39 & 52

Forest Collective in Midsumma Hubs
Abbotsford Convent, Magdalen Laundry

Passionately advocating for diversity and artistic freedom, Forest Collective nurtures under-represented artists and creates safe spaces for multidisciplinary expressions.

1. Labyrinth – details p.47
31 Jan–2 Feb, 4, 6–8 Feb, 9pm (+Sat 4pm)
Through this otherworldly theatrical journey, you will descend into the labyrinth of Greek myth, witnessing the ordeal of Theseus, Ariadne and her half-brother, the Minotaur. Forest Collective presents its immersive dance-opera.

2. Queer Sound Exchange – details p.62

1 Feb, 1pm

Join queer musicians, composers, and sound artists for an afternoon of creativity and connection at this dynamic networking event. Presented by **Forest Collective, Abbotsford Convent** and **Midsumma Festival**

← **Feeling Afraid As If Something Terrible Is Going To Happen**

Starring Samuel Barnett image 6 left
Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Theatre
14 Jan–1 Feb

Tue–Thu 7pm | Fri 6pm and 8:30pm | Sat 3pm + 7pm | Sun 5pm Post-show Q&A Thu 23 Jan

Written by Marcelo dos Santos and starring Tony and Olivier-nominated actor Samuel Barnett, this dark comedy explores vulnerability, ego, and truth. From the Olivier Award-winning producers of *Fleabag* and *Baby Reindeer*, it tells the story of a permanently single, professionally neurotic stand-up who finally meets his Mr Right—then does everything wrong. – details p.35

Arts Centre Melbourne and **Midsumma Festival**, presents a production by **Francesca Moody Productions**, in association with **Roast Productions**

← **Thirty-Six**
By Jo Clifford & Bayley Turner image 7 left
fortyfive downstairs, CBD
21 Jan–2 Feb, 7.30pm (Sun 5pm)

An empowering and cathartic new work from the award-winning team behind *The Gospel According to Jesus*, *Queen of Heaven* and *The Inheritance*. An international collaboration between two transgender writer/performers, Jo Clifford and Bayley Turner, *Thirty-Six* explores the relationship gender diverse people have with ageing, mortality, grief and growth.

Directed by Kitan Petkovski. – details p.42
Presented by **fortyfive downstairs, Bullet Heart Club** and **Midsumma Festival**



Images

- 6 — *Feeling Afraid As If Something Terrible Is Going To Happen* © The Other Richard
- 7 — *Thirty-Six* © Meagan Harding
- 8 — *CODED* © Joseph Mayers
- 9 — *A Body At Work* © Darren Gill
- 10 — *MESSY FRIENDS* © Ezra Alcantra
- 11 — *MQFF Movies* © All Rights Reserved

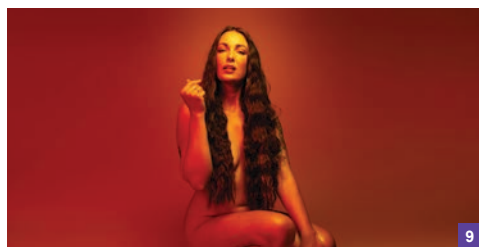
Small Acts of Resistance in Midsumma Hubs **Women's Circus**

Gasworks Arts Park

5–8 Feb, World Premiere

Bringing you defying acrobalance, inspiring aerials and feats of circus, this incredible female and gender-diverse ensemble embraces both the gravity and joy of what it means to be alive and striving for change. Join this cast of 50 – 70 year olds, blending inspiring circus and the soulful energy of live music and spoken word, as they question why the lessons of the past are seemingly forgotten and how small acts of kindness, resistance, and hope can promote change. – details p.40

Presented by **Women's Circus, Midsumma Festival** and **Gasworks Arts Park**



A Body at Work in Midsumma Hubs

Frankie Van Kan image 9 above

Theatre Works, St Kilda

28 Jan–1 Feb, 7pm

Directed by Maude Davey this intimate piece of confessional theatre is a tale of a queer woman's seventeen years in the sex industry. Returning from a sell-out season at La Mama in 2024, this unique work is powerfully performed by Frankie Van Kan and Dandrogyny, asking the question—will they love me at my Madonna when they've relished me at my whore? – details p.32

Presented by **Midsumma Festival** and **Theatre Works**

Truth to Power Café in Midsumma Hubs

Theatre Works, St Kilda

5–7 Feb, 7pm

From Adelaide to Zagreb, Jeremy Goldstein's internationally acclaimed *Truth to Power Café* makes its Naarm/Melbourne premiere at Theatre Works. This award-winning performance is told through memoir, image, film, poetry, music, and compassionate truth-telling. – details p.43

Presented by **Midsumma Festival**, **Jeremy Goldstein** and **Theatre Works**

MESSY FRIENDS in Midsumma Hubs

Winner, Adelaide Fringe Festival Best

Cabaret Award 2024 image 10 below

Chapel Off Chapel, Prahran

6–8 Feb, 8pm

Explore the world of this dynamic drag collective that fuses lip-sync, burlesque, dance, and documentary-style videos to create a unique "Drag-u-mentary" experience. Fresh from their acclaimed Edinburgh Fringe season, they have captivated audiences worldwide. Exploring the complexities of the queer experience, addressing themes of identity, resilience, and self-acceptance, while delivering visually stunning shows that leave a lasting impact. – details p.37

Presented by **Midsumma Festival** and **Gendermess Productions**



TMI Tuesday in Midsumma Hubs

Mamma Chen's, Footscray

28 Jan 2025, 7pm

Curated by Footscray's own Sarah Ward, this spoken word event brings together artists, activists, queers, and rebels for a night of raw, candid storytelling. Expect the awkward, the beautiful, the embarrassing and the hilarious. This is a safe and sacred night of candour, confession and vulnerability. – details p.42

Presented by **Midsumma Festival** and **Fat Fruit**

CHTHONIC CHORUS

Incinerator Gallery, Aberfeldie

1–2 Feb, 4–9 Feb, Free

Tue–Sun 11am–4pm

This exhibition unfolds as an imagined archaeological site, where queer theory unsettles normative, binary views of the past. By activating queer archaeology, *CHTHONIC CHORUS* digs into layers of strata and memory to radically rethink and critique colonial constructs of place, language, time, gender, sexuality, identity, and ecological relations. – details p.48

Presented by **Midsumma Festival** and **Incinerator Gallery**

MQFF Presents

Midsumma Movies image 11 below

31 Jan–2 Feb

Bunjil Place, Narre Warren, 31 Jan

Cinema Nova, Carlton, 1 Feb

Fed Square, Big Screen, 2 Feb

MQFF brings you a sizzling weekend of the newest and most fabulous queer cinema.

Get ready for a summer weekend filled with the very best in queer cinema as the Melbourne Queer Film Festival proudly presents an exciting series of screenings across iconic venues: Cinema Nova in Carlton, Bunjil Place in Narre Warren, and a special free screening at Fed Square. – details p.54

Presented by **Midsumma Festival** and **Melbourne Queer Film Festival**



Auslan Interpreted Tour in Midsumma Hubs

Of the Victorian Pride Centre, St Kilda

1 Feb, 3pm

Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities are invited to explore the Pride Centre's award-winning architecture and gallery spaces. This guided tour includes insights into resident organisations, bookable areas, and event highlights, along with visits to the Pride Gallery exhibition and Hares & Hyenas bookshop. – details p.64

Presented by **Midsumma Festival** and **The Victorian Pride Centre**



Golden Gate-Time

Luka Muller

Golden Gate Hotel, South Melbourne

8 Feb, 8pm

Hosted by triple j's breakfast host and asexual icon Luka Muller, this comedy night features a stellar lineup of Australia's best queer comedians. Expect big laughs, and big names, as Luka showcases his funniest friends in an unforgettable evening of queer comedy brilliance. – details p.35

Presented by **Midsumma Festival** and **Golden Gate Hotel**

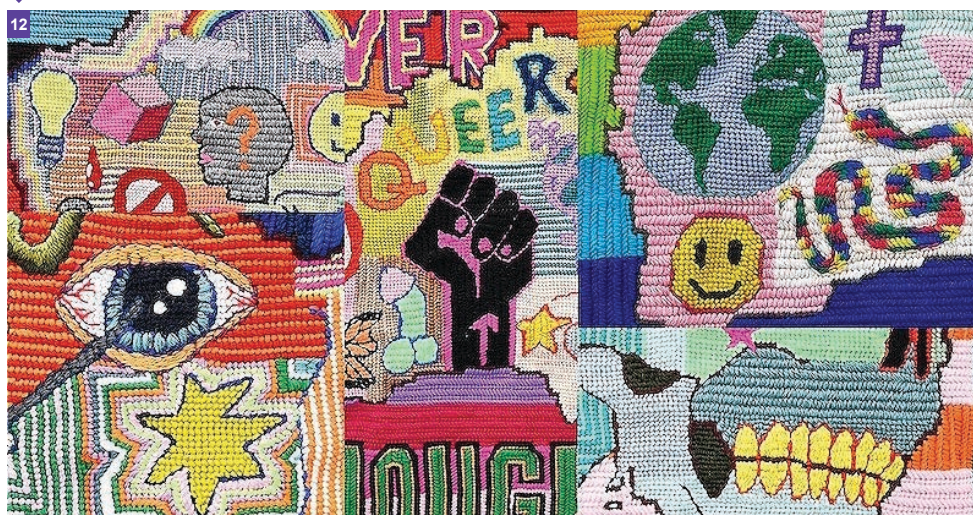
Midsumma
Presents



Paul Yore image 12 below
Scott Alley, Off Flinders Lane
19 Jan–9 Feb
Free Public Display

Midsumma is proud to present Paul Yore as part of our ongoing partnership with The Metro Tunnel Creative Program. Head down to Scott Alley (off Flinders Lane) to see this iconic artist's work in Naarm/Melbourne's laneway. Paul Yore is one of Australia's most iconic queer artists, and Midsumma Festival is proud to showcase his bold works. Known for his playful yet politically charged pieces, Yore's art is a fusion of creativity and activism. – details p.51

Presented by **Midsumma Festival**
and **The Metro Tunnel Creative Program**



NGV x Midsumma
Queer Stories
National Gallery of Victoria
8 Feb, Various times, Free

Art is a powerful medium to talk about the world, to share diverse lived experiences and reflect on important issues. In 2025, Midsumma Festival and the NGV come together again to co-present a day of community-centred talks and tours drawing on historical and contemporary art and design in the NGV Collection, to explore a rich array of stories and experiences. – details p.65

Presented by **Midsumma Festival**
in partnership with **NGV**



Midsumma Presents
At The State Library Victoria

1. Melbourne Out Loud image 13 above
Life through the lens of Rennie Ellis
19 Jan–9 Feb, 10am–6pm, Free

From the 1970s to the 1990s, Rennie Ellis captured a rich array of key moments for the LGBTQIA+ community. From early gay liberation marches and joyous party scenes in venues such as Inflation and the Hardware Club to alternative Arts Balls and the fashion scene, his photographs burst with creative energy and give us a vivid portrait of life as it was. The Midsumma Edition of the *Melbourne Out Loud* exhibition, curated with Angela Bailey, Vice President of the Australian Queer Archives, extends from Victoria Gallery and onto the Forecourt. – details p.50

2. Library Up Late x Midsumma
The Dome and Victoria Gallery
6 Feb, 7:30pm–10:30pm

Celebrate Melbourne's vibrant queer culture through the decades with *Library Up Late x Midsumma*! Curated by the fabulous MzRizk, join The Huxleys, Mo'Ju, Miss Katalyna, Forest Collective, Thndo & The Penny Quartet, Sexy B2B DJs Gavin Campbell x Jake Judd and more for this one-night-only event. Enjoy DJ sets in the grand dome, indulge in delicious food, and explore the *Melbourne Out Loud* exhibition after hours in a festive atmosphere. – details p.69

The two events above are presented by
Midsumma Festival and State Library Victoria

Midsumma Presents' Youth Program

Midsumma is committed to youth programs, fostering creativity, joy, and community. These diverse events engage and inspire kids and teens, encouraging a sense of belonging and pride.



The Story Keepers image 14 above

State Library Victoria
20 Jan & 25 Jan, 1.30pm & 3.30pm

Join *The Story Keepers* for queer, musical fairytales featuring silly Vikings, brave animals, and wise giants. For kids aged 5–12. – details p.57

Rainbow Storytime

State Library Victoria
22 & 29 Jan, 12.30pm

For kids aged 3–8, this storytime event features fabulous tales read by Cerulean and Govind Pillai in their signature storytelling styles. – details p.57

Hugo's Rainbow Show image 15 below

State Library Victoria
27 Jan, 1.30pm & 3.30pm

Join drag superstar Hugo Grrrl for a musical adventure exploring the science of rainbows, perfect for kids aged 2–10. – details p.56

The three events above are presented by Midsumma Festival and State Library Victoria supported by Rainbow Families Switchboard and Rainbow Community Angels



Joy image 16 above
Immigration Museum
19 Jan–9 Feb

Experience an emotive adventure blending creativity, colour, and storytelling. *Joy* features seven newly commissioned artworks by eight unique artists, inviting visitors on a transformative journey through this powerful exhibition at the Immigration Museum. – details p.50

Presented by Midsumma Festival and The Immigration Museum

Night at the Museum image 17 above

Midsumma Party with Minus18
25 Jan, 6.30pm
Immigration Museum

Join Minus18 for an epic pride party! Expect live music, drag performances, crafting, snacks, activities, new pals and exclusive access to the Immigration Museum exhibitions after dark. – details p.58

Presented by Midsumma Festival, Minus 18 and The Immigration Museum

NGV Teens x Midsumma
Queer Dialogues with Queer Imaginings, p.18

National Gallery of Victoria
22–23 Jan, Wed–Thu, 1.30–3pm

Teens, meet like-minded peers, jot down ideas, and reflect on artworks in the NGV Collection that connect to LGBTQIA+ experiences and histories in these social sessions with NGV curators and *Midsumma Pathways* Alumni, Ben Goss (see page 21). Ben is a Naarm/Melbourne based actor and theatre maker originally from Tasmania who is passionate about exploring how the theatre and screen industries can become more accessible and inclusive, and works as a teaching Artist at St Martins Youth Theatre. These sessions are open to people aged 14 to 18 years. – details p.58

Presented by Midsumma Festival in partnership with NGV



Midsumma Presents Program and Projects Partners

Abbotsford
Convent.



Bundoora
Homestead
Art Centre



Supported by the
City of Port Phillip



CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL

CREATIVE VICTORIA



IMMIGRATION
MUSEUM



GOLDEN
GATE
HOTEL



MINUS18

NOVACANCY



Readings



THEATRE WORKS

women'scircuit

Images

- 14 — *The Story Keepers* © Darren Gill
15 — *Hugo's Rainbow Show* © Polished Metal
16 — *Joy, Bring it to the Runway, Runway* by Spencer Harrison © Eugene Hyland
17 — *Minus18's Night at the Museum* Midsumma Youth Party, Midsumma Festival 2024 © Leah Hulst

All Events



Midsumma Hubs

Explore our Midsumma Hubs for 2025!
These venues offer diverse events across
22 days, ensuring exciting experiences day
and night throughout the festival.



© Daryl Groves

Gasworks Arts Park

This south side hub for Midsumma Festival offers a 2025 program of innovative circus and Playwriting—celebrate creativity in the parklands!

21 Graham St, Albert Park gasworks.org.au

Day For It in Midsumma Presents
Winner of the 2024 QPAS People's
Choice Award

4–8 Feb 2025 – details p.34

Queer Playwriting Award Showcase
in Midsumma Presents

20 Jan 2025 – details p.40

Small Acts of Resistance in Midsumma Presents
Women's Circus

5–8 Feb 2025 – details p.40

Tender

29 Jan–1 Feb, 4–8 Feb 2025 – details p.41

The Queer Kingdom in Midsumma Presents
Winner of the 2024 Queer Playwriting Award

8 Feb 2025 – details p.42



© Theatre Works

Theatre Works

In 2025, Theatre Works will buzz with seven shows celebrating the rainbowbush community through theatre, music, participatory events in St Kilda.

14 Acland St, St Kilda theatreworks.org.au

A Body at Work in Midsumma Presents
28 Jan–1 Feb 2025 – details p.32

Andy and His Dog
21–25 Jan 2025 – details p.33

Homophonia! in Midsumma Presents
7–8 Feb 2025 – details p.46

Psycho Beach Party
28 Jan–1 Feb 2025 – details p.39

SPARK
21–25 Jan 2025 – details p.40

Stallions
21–25 Jan 2025 – details p.41

Truth to Power Café in Midsumma Presents
5–7 Feb 2025 – details p.43

Abbotsford Convent

Just 4km from Naarm/Melbourne's CBD, Abbotsford Convent is Australia's largest arts precinct, hosting contemporary programs year-round.

1 St Heliers St, Abbotsford abbotsfordconvent.com.au

CODED in Midsumma Presents
23–25 Jan 2025 – details p.33

Fekel in Queer Imaginings
8 Feb 2025 – details p.35

Labyrinth in Midsumma Presents
31 Jan–2 Feb, 4 Feb, 6–8 Feb 2025 – details p.47

Matrimony
1–2 Feb 2025 – details p.50

Medium in Midsumma Presents
23–25 Jan 2025 – details p.54

QRAVE: The Exhibition in Midsumma Presents
29 Jan–1 Feb, 4–8 Feb 2025 – details p.52

QRAVE: The Performance in Midsumma Presents
29 Jan–1 Feb 2025 – details p.39

Queer Life Drawing PARADISE
1 Feb 2025 – details p.65

Queer Sound Exchange in Midsumma Presents
1 Feb 2025 – details p.62

ROPETIMES
1 Feb 2025 – details p.66

The Placeholder in Queer Imaginings
25 Jan 2025 – details p.42

TRIVIA OBSCURA
25 Jan 2025 – details p.71



© Anne Moffat

Chapel Off Chapel

Chapel Off Chapel is your intimate Midsumma 2025 hotspot in Prahran, showcasing diverse performances and iconic LGBTQIA+ stories.

12 Little Chapel St, Prahran chapeloffchapel.com.au

Blacknificense
The Cotton Club Experience
24–25 Jan 2025 – details p.33

Dolly Diamond's Midsumma Piano Bar
20 Jan 2025 – details p.34

Home Grown Musicals Australia
3 Feb 2025 – details p.36

Justin Clausen is "Back In Business"
24 Jan 2025 – details p.36

Mama Alto
De-Flowered
7–8 Feb 2025 – details p.37

MESSY FRIENDS in Midsumma Presents
Winner, Adelaide Fringe Festival
Best Cabaret Award 2024
6–8 Feb 2025 – details p.37

MONSTER
29 Jan–2 Feb 2025 – details p.38

Opulentia
20 Jan–9 Feb 2025 – details p.51

Stranger Queers
31 Jan–1 Feb 2025 – details p.41

Ziegfeld Boy
De-Nuded
7–8 Feb 2025 – details p.43



© Chapel Off Chapel

Midsumma Westside

In Altona, Footscray, Laverton, St Alban, Werribee

A vibrant program of exhibitions, drag, live music, circus, and more—bringing the west alive in 2025!

Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre

5 Sargood St, Altona ljac.com.au

Drag Life Drawing

1 Feb 2025 — details p.49

Nonlimerent // Monosexual:

An Aromantic and Asexual History

1–9 Feb 2025 — details p.51

Bluestone Church Arts Space

8A Hyde Street, Footscray maribymong.vic.gov.au

Lauren Bok: Boklesque

30 Jan–1 Feb 2025 — details p.36

Playing Second Fiddle

Minor Character, Major Song

28–30 Jan 2025 — details p.39

Toddler Social

7–8 Feb 2025 — details p.57

Mamma Chen's

42A Albert St, Footscray mammachens.com.au

Magic Makers

21 Jan–9 Feb — details p.50

TMI Tuesday

in Midsumma Presents
28 Jan 2025 — details p.42

Moon Dog Wild West

54 Hopkins St, Footscray moondog.com.au

Moon Dog Hoedown

23 Jan 2025 — details p.69

Pride of our Footscray Community Bar

Level 1/86-88 Hopkins St, Footscray prideofourfootscray.bar

ABCD Comedy

6 Feb 2025 — details p.32

All-Star Pride Drag Bingo

7 Feb 2025 — details p.32

Blak & Fabulous

31 Jan 2025 — details p.33

Hera Björk

The Queen of Effing Everything

21 Jan, 23–25 Jan 2025 — details p.46

Queer Comedy Gala

30 Jan 2025 — details p.39

Magic Men of Summer Risqué Revue

1 Feb 2025 — details p.37

Woods Street Arts Space

44 Woods St, Laverton hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Fluid Beauty

8 Feb 2025 — details p.61

Kelly Park

Cherry St, Werribee wyndham.vic.gov.au

Park Lounge

1 Feb 2025 — details p.62

Bowery Theatre

33 Princess Street, St Albans creativebrimbank.com.au

LGBTQIA+ Scented Cinema

Hairspray (1988) 24 Jan 2025

Inky Pinky Pony (2023) 7 Feb 2025



The Motley Bauhaus

Carlton's independent arts hub, offering queer performances, galleries, cocktails, and unforgettable art experiences for Midsumma Festival 2025.

118 Elgin St, Carlton themotley.com.au

DADDY DON'T DROP THE SOAP

3–9 Feb 2025 — details p.34

EQUALS

27 Jan–2 Feb 2025 — details p.34

Erasing Mamhood

9 Feb 2025 — details p.34

Gender Blender

21 Jan 2025 — details p.35

Harry Ball

A Baisly Cabaret

27 Jan–2 Feb 2025 — details p.35

Jacqui Randa Full Bloom Cabaret Show

24–26 Jan 2025 — details p.36

Les Improvisé

22 Jan 2025 — details p.36

Liza's Good Judy

30–31 Jan, 6–7 Feb 2025 — details p.37

My Queer Spiritual Entropy

3–9 Feb 2025 — details p.38

New Beginnings

8 Feb 2025 — details p.47

Not For Children's Programming

20–26 Jan 2025 — details p.38

Pull Yourself Together

24 Jan 2025 — details p.39

Queer Factor

23–25 Jan 2025 — details p.39

Sauna Boy

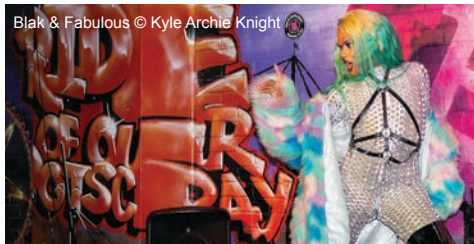
28 Jan–2 Feb, 4–8 Feb 2025 — details p.40

Smatch Game

25 Jan 2025 — details p.40

Thank God You're Queer

23 Jan 2025 — details p.41



Victorian Pride Centre

The Victorian Pride Centre hosts a bold Midsumma 2025 program: creative workshops, inspiring talks, markets, and rooftop events celebrating diversity.

79-81 Fitzroy St, St Kilda pridecentre.org.au

Auslan Interpreted Tour Of the Pride Centre

in Midsumma Presents

1 Feb 2025 — details p.64

Frock Hudson's Storytime Sing-a-long

23, 25 Jan 2025 — details p.56

Gay Stuff Market

1 Feb 2025 — details p.61

Gender Fluids

19 Jan–9 Feb 2025 — details p.49

Love, Rewind the Music

30 Jan, 6 Feb 2025 — details p.47

Love Unheard

Celebrating Queer Composers Through Music

1 Feb 2025 — details p.47

MARY! presents POOFTOP

25 Jan 2025 — details p.69

Mystery Call in Queer Imaginings

6–8 Feb 2025 — details p.38

No Pride in Racism

4 Feb 2025 — details p.65

Pride Rooftop Party Presented

by Chemist Warehouse

31 Jan 2025 — details p.70

Rainbow Families Extravaganza

22 Jan 2025 — details p.57

Sunday Sizzle

2 Feb 2025 — details p.71

THE BIG CAMP COUNTDOWN!

24 Jan 2025 — details p.41

The Pearl Prize 2025

in Midsumma Presents

26 Jan 2025 — details p.63

Trans Book Festival

8 Feb 2025 — details p.63



Your Stages, Your Stories

Abbotsford
Convent.



THE MOTLEY BAUHAUS

THEATRE WORKS



VICTORIAN
PRIDE
CENTRE

CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL



**DOLLY
DIAMOND**



**MESSY
FRIENDS**



**STRANGER
QUEERS**



**JUSTIN
CLAUSEN**



**MAMA
ALTO**



**JOTI VAN
CARLOS GORE**



**ZIEGFELD
BOY**



**FLORIAN
WILD**



**SARAH
JENNIFER**



**HOME
GROWN**

CHAPELOFFCHAPEL.COM.AU

 midsumma
festival

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BEST GROUP CATCH-UP SPOTS
Heroes Karaoke Bar



Scan to see
What's On



CITY OF MELBOURNE

We're committed to inclusion and belonging

At Woolworths Group, we believe our differences create a richness of ideas and perspectives. That's why we're committed to building a future where everybody can feel like they belong in our team.



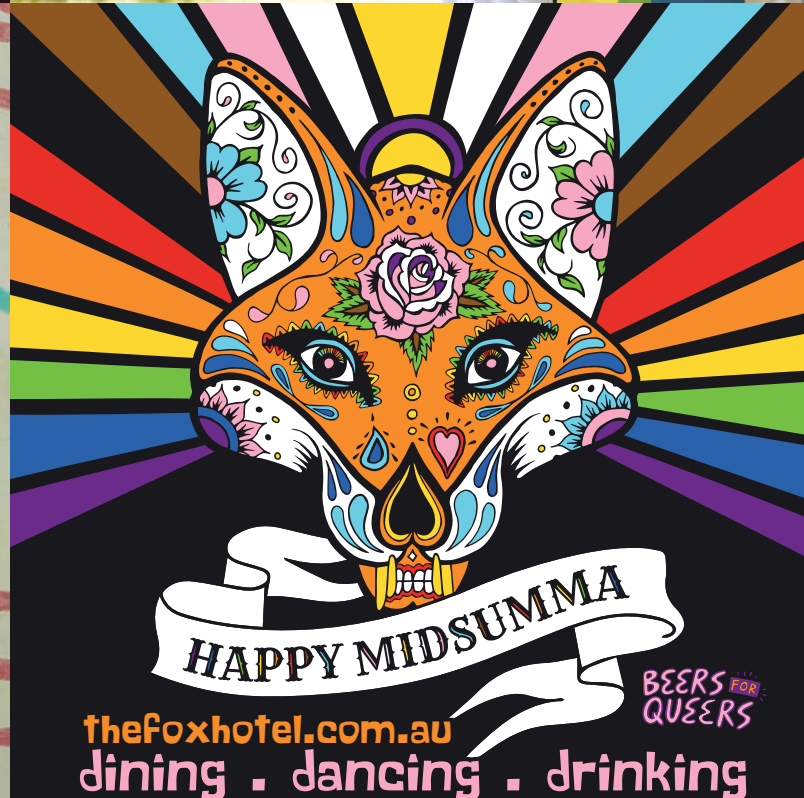
Find out more



on February 9
Pride continues
in our Yard

COLLINGWOOD
YARDS

collingwoodyards.org





Performances

Midsumma Festival
19 Jan–9 Feb 2025



CODED © Joseph Mayers

Theatre



Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Theatre Works, St Kilda

28 Jan–1 Feb 1hr 10m

Tue–Sat 7pm | Auslan: Wed 29 Jan 7pm |
Tactile Tour: on request

\$35 full | \$30 conc

△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature |
Strong language

Presented by Midsumma Festival and
Theatre Works

A Body at Work

The tale of a queer woman's
seventeen years, and counting,
in the sex industry

Serial nudist Frankie van Kan achieves the improbable task of exposing more of herself than ever before in this deeply intimate piece of confessional theatre. A Body at Work, directed by theatre alumni Maude Davey, is the honest, humorous, and heartfelt journey of a sex worker asking the question—will they love me at my Madonna when they've relished me at my whore?



Variety



Pride of our Footscray Community Bar,
Footscray

7 Feb 2hrs

Fri 7:30pm

\$15 full

△ Strong language

Image: by Tom Nguyen

All-Star Pride Drag Bingo

Balls flying everywhere!

It's Footscray's famous drag bingo! Get ready for a night of pure fabulousness hosted by our resident queens, HollyPop and Amanduh, with special guests to be announced. We've got number bingo, musical bingo, HEAPS of prizes, and the most delicious cocktails in the west, PLUS your ticket includes entry to our late night drag and dance floor!

Comedy



Pride of our Footscray Community Bar,
Footscray

6 Feb 2hrs

Thu 7:30pm

\$27 full | \$22 conc

△ Strong language | Mature themes

Presented by Pride Comedy

Image: by Kelsie Cosmic

ABCD Comedy

Anyone But Cis Dudes!

Come break the glass ceiling with a night of laughs from a hilarious cast of stand-up comics who are women, trans, and/or non-binary, and see what talent lies beyond the boys club!

This special event is presented by Pride Comedy, who produce our popular monthly queer stand-up comedy night at Pride of our Footscray.

Cabaret



Arts Centre Melbourne - Fairfax Studio,
Melbourne

5–8 Feb 1hr 5m

Wed–Sat 7pm | Sat 2:30pm

\$70 full | \$65 conc

△ Strong language | Smoke/haze

Presented by Arts Centre Melbourne

Image: by Steve Ullathorne


An Evening Without Kate Bush

The award-winning cult cabaret makes its triumphant return to Australian stages

Enter Strange Phenomena, howl with the Hounds Of Love and dance on the moors with Wuthering Heights. This smash-hit cabaret-style homage pays glorious tribute to the music, fans and mythology of one of the most influential voices in pop music.

"Spellbinding"★★★★- The Daily Telegraph

Theatre



Aquarium

Aquarium is an experimental play which explores queer identity through the lens of a captive jellyfish. Utilising their environment and experiences, they ponder the question: 'what does it mean to be queer?'

This poignant coming-of-age story blends queer joy, satire, and childhood catharsis, all while capturing the struggle of trying to find oneself under the gaze of others.

The Butterfly Club - Upstairs, Melbourne CBD

28 Jan-1 Feb1hr


Tue-Sat 7pm

\$39 full | \$35 conc

△ Strong language | Loud or sudden noises

Presented by Alanis Grocott

Cabaret



Bangers, Beers & Bears

Bavarian-themed singalong - Eurovision meets pop divas

Get ready for an Oktoberfest-tastic afternoon singing your heart out to Eurovision hits, Spice Girls, George Michael - and everything in between! Grab your mates, start your Midsumma day plans feasting on sausages, pretzels and brews at Midsumma's hairiest, hunkiest event. Prost to Pride and cheeky fun! Lederhosen optional, but always appreciated ...

Hofbräuhaus Melbourne, Melbourne

25 Jan, 1 Feb3hrs


Sat 1pm

\$25 full

Presented by Big Kev Productions

Image: by Kevin Perry

Cabaret



Blacknificense - The Cotton Club Experience

Starring award-winning triple threat, Joti Van Carlos Gore

An immersive dive into the musical journey inspired by the Cotton Club Era. Get dressed to the nines and experience the electrifying rhythm with smooth velvety vocals accompanied by a myriad of emotions heightened by Band Orchestrator, Adrian Szondy.

"Serving Up Mellifluous Vocals Every time They Croon" - The Guardian

Chapel Off Chapel - The Chapel, Prahran

24-25 Jan1hr 30m


Fri, Sat 8pm | VIP Red Carpet: 7pm | Relaxed: 24 Jan

\$45 full | \$30 conc

△ Mature themes

Image: by Joel Devereux

Cabaret



Blak & Fabulous

An intimate but upbeat evening of First Nations performance and discussion, hosted by current reigning Miss First Nations Supreme Queen - Cerulean! Throughout the event we'll enjoy live shows and Q&A sessions with each of our performers in a fun, respectful setting.

Pride of our Footscray Community Bar, Footscray

31 Jan1hr

Fri 8pm

\$20 full | \$15 conc | \$0 First Nations

△ Strong language | Mature themes

Image: by Kyle Archie Knight

Dance



CODED

A Night of Queer Storytelling

Amelia O'Leary welcomes the audience into her creative space, giving an inside glimpse of her most recent creative projects. Witness three 15 minute new First Nations femme queer contemporary dance works, choreographed by O'Leary, including Ngambaa (Mother in Gamilaraay), a trio; Winangaylanha ngay a nginunha (I love you in Gamilaraay), a group work and CODED, a duet that explores the embedding of queerness within landscapes in fear of personification of physicalised queerness.

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Abbotsford Convent - Oratory, Abbotsford

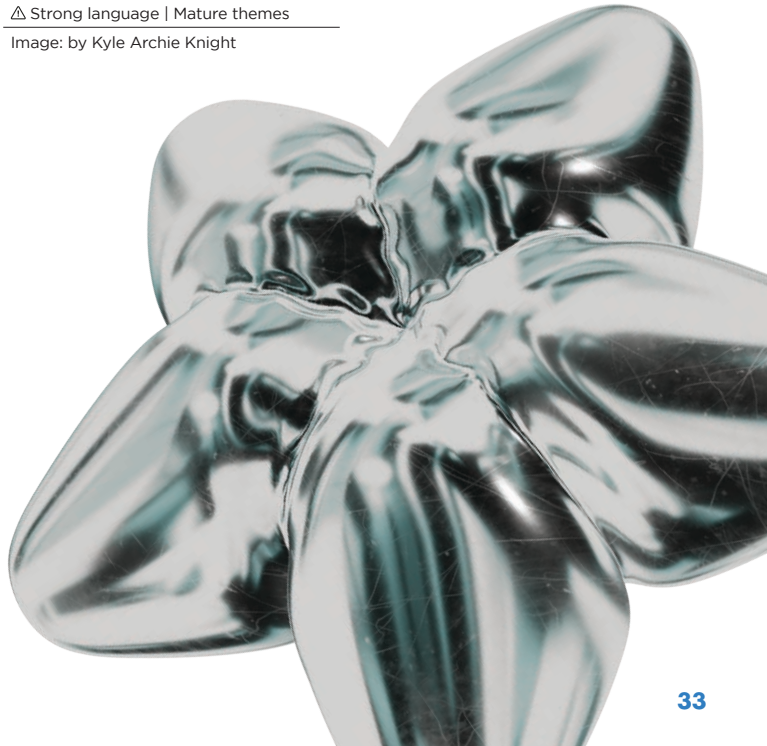
23-25 Jan50m

Thu-Sat 7pm


\$25 full | \$20 conc

Presented by Amelia Jean O'Leary, Abbotsford Convent and Midsumma Festival

Image: by Joseph Mayers



Theatre



DADDY DON'T DROP THE SOAP

DADDY is back in a brand new show DADDY DON'T DROP THE SOAP.

DADDY is here to set the wrong example to people young and old. He is paying homage to our queer past, disrupting the zeitgeist and looking forward to a fabulous future where all people live shamelessly and embrace life to its absolute fullest.

'This is not just a show, it's an experience.'

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette, Carlton

3-9 Feb1hr

Mon-Sun 9pm


\$32 full | \$28 conc

△ Strong language

Presented by DADDYCORP

Image: by Travis De Jonk

Theatre



Day For It

Mother Peta & daughter Kelly enter the wilderness together; one of them comes out

In this heartfelt comedic drama, the duo navigate the rugged Victorian wilderness – and an unprecedented amount of time together. Spanning six days and over 100 kilometres of terrain that is both painfully familiar and completely unknown, Day For It is a muddy, uphill homage to the complexities of queerness and intergenerational relationships.

Winner of the 2024 QPAS People's Choice Award

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Gasworks Arts Park - Studio Theatre, Albert Park

4-8 Feb1hr

Preview: Tue 4 Feb 7pm | Wed-Sat 7pm

\$27 preview | \$32 full | \$28 conc | \$24 group (min 6)

△ Strong language | Mature themes

Presented by Midsumma Festival, Gasworks Arts Park & Lindstedt & Davies

Comedy



Dead To Me: A Comedy Ghost Tour

The award-nominated show about the terrors of dating life

Join comedian and confirmed bachelor Matt Bell for a walking ghost tour through Melbourne's storied streets and fabled haunts where you will encounter terrifying tales inspired by single life.

And if the ghost stories aren't scary enough, a 32-year-old desperately single gay man will be!

"An extremely talented comedian"
★★★★★- The AU Review

Melbourne Town Hall Corner, Melbourne

23-24 Jan, 31 Jan-1 Feb1hr


Thu-Sat 7:30pm

\$25 full | \$20 conc

△ Latecomer lockout

Image: by Suzy Thresh

Cabaret



Dolly Diamond's Midsumma Piano Bar

Join Dolly for an intimate night of music, laughter and special guests

Kick off this year's Festival in style with Dolly Diamond's Midsumma Piano Bar. A night of music, laughter, and unapologetic glamour as the sensational Dolly Diamond takes the stage with the exceptionally talented Cameron Thomas on piano, and other surprise guests.

Chapel Off Chapel - Foyer, Prahran

20 Jan1hr 30m

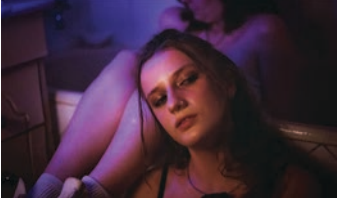
Mon 7pm

FREE booking required

Presented by Chapel Off Chapel

Image: by Paul Madeley

Theatre



EQUALS

This one's for the small town kids

EQUALS is a short, heartfelt, comedy duologue written and directed by Cynda Beare, performed by Annabel Hunter and Eli Biernoff-Giles, produced by Claudia Harris, stage management and set design by Ivy Miller, and lighting design by Alyssa Jayde.

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette, Carlton

27 Jan-2 Feb1hr


Mon-Sun 9pm | Relaxed: 29 Jan 9pm

\$24 full | \$20 conc | \$15 First Nations

△ Strong language | Mature themes | Loud or sudden noises

Image: by Tiah Bullock

Comedy



Erasing Mamhood

Binary busting just went nuclear

Explode the sex binary with dodgy musical comedy. Join Jack Brady, a bumbling academic come musical comedian, for an hour of toying with the fragile feelings of the manosphere-insecurity complex.

After the one-night-only successes of God Hates Me, dispensing with the cult of capitalism and its obsession with genitals, Jack takes on the space right between the eyes of manfluencers.

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette, Carlton

9 Feb1hr

Sun 7:30pm


\$32 full | \$28 conc

△ Depictions of violence | Strong language | Mature themes

Presented by CACA Inc. and Luke Belle Creative

Image: by Jack Brady

Comedy



Feeling Afraid As If Something Terrible Is Going To Happen
Starring Samuel Barnett

A permanently single, professionally neurotic stand-up finally meets his Mr Right and then does everything wrong. But is Mr Right quite what he seems? And how far will the comedian go to get a laugh?


Post show Q&A Thursday 23 January with Samuel Barnett.

*****- *WhatsOnStage*

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Arts Centre Melbourne - Fairfax Studio, Melbourne
 14 Jan-1 Feb 1hr 10min
 Tue-Thu 7pm | Fri 6+8:30pm | Sat 3+7pm
 | Sun 5pm | Auslan: Thu 23 Jan 7pm
 \$69 full | \$60 conc | \$34 First Nations
Presented by Arts Centre Melbourne, Midsumma Festival presents a production by Francesca Moody Productions in association with Roast Productions

Theatre



Fekai
A new play by award-winning artist Sarah Carroll

The story follows Akanisi (AK), a proud lesbian, and her whirlwind romance with Sam. As Sam plans to propose on the anniversary of AK's Grandpa's passing—the Hertekof, a significant cultural event—she's unaware AK hasn't come out to her conservative Grandma. Through themes of queer love, Pasifika identity, and family acceptance, Fekai explores the tensions between personal authenticity and cultural tradition.

Queer Imaginings – see p. 18 to 21

Abbotsford Convent - Oratory, Abbotsford
 8 Feb 1hr
 Sat
 Development showing by invitation only
Presented by Midsumma Festival, Abbotsford Convent and Sarah Carroll
 Image: Courtesy of the artist

Cabaret



Frock's Melodic Mondays
A pride piano bar like no other!

Start your week with camp musical mayhem as Frock Hudson brings the shenanigans with their summer Piano Bar filled with fun.

Joined by a gaggle of queer guests each week, come be dazzled with delight as you enjoy an aural experience like no other, in a fabulous evening of musical entertainment.

And be ready to sing along!

Grouse Melbourne, Fitzroy
 20 Jan, 28 Jan, 3 Feb 2hrs
 Mon, Tue, Mon 7pm
 \$25 full | \$20 conc
Presented by Dean Arcuri
 Image: by HDGImage Photography

Comedy



Gender Blender
Improv comedy with an all trans and gender diverse ensemble!

Take a handful of Narrm's finest trans and gender-diverse improvisers, a sprinkling of anecdotes, a healthy dollop of laughs, and mix well!

Gender Blender shakes up your night with a serving of long-form improv comedy, backed by their unique perspectives and a healthy cynicism of the cis-tem.

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette, Carlton
 21 Jan 1hr
 Tue 7:30pm
 \$28 full | \$24 conc
Presented by Cornershop Comedy

Comedy



Golden Gate-time with Luka Muller
A handpicked lineup of some of the best queer comedians in the country

Join triple j breakfast host and asexual icon Luka Muller as he presents a handpicked lineup of some of the best queer comedians in the country. Luka takes the reins as host and shows off some of his funniest friends for a Golden Gate-time. Expect big laughs, big names, and some razzle dazzle.

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Golden Gate Hotel, Melbourne
 8 Feb 1hr 15m
 Sat 8pm
 \$32 full | \$25 conc | \$28 group (min 4)
 △ Mature themes
Presented by Midsumma Festival and Golden Gate Hotel
 Image: by Brandon Lung

Cabaret



Harry Ball: A Ballsy Cabaret
The most famous footy player you never heard is coming out!

On the eve of an article that will out him publicly, Harry Ball goes to the one place no footy fan would go. The cabaret stage!

Come get to know the man behind the balls as he shares his wins, losses and his love of a good show before the world knows him as the gay footy player.

"Confident! Charismatic! And a real knack for comedic timing" - Praise Dionysus!

The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage, Carlton
 27 Jan-2 Feb 1hr
 Mon-Sun 7:20pm
 \$28 full | \$24 conc
 △ Themes of a sexual nature | Mature themes
Presented by Jackson
 Image: by Kathleen Lee

Musical

Chapel Off Chapel - The Chapel, Prahran
3 Feb 2hrs
Mon 7:30pm
\$44 full | \$39 conc | \$50 table seat
△ Strong language | Mature themes
Presented by Hedger & Nicholson
Image: by John McRae

Home Grown Musicals Australia

Musical theatre written by Australian LGBTQIA+ songwriters

In case musicals weren't queer enough, for one night only Home Grown becomes "Homo Grown", a unique concert of original musical theatre songs by queer Australian writers. This event features top queer artists and honours the rich tapestry of LGBTQIA+ experiences with authentic voices and infectious melodies for an unforgettable evening.

Theatre

The Butterfly Club - Upstairs, Melbourne CBD
3-8 Feb 1hr
Mon-Sat 8:30pm
\$39 full | \$35 conc | \$38 group (min 6)
△ Themes of a sexual nature | Strong language | References to sexual violence
Presented by James WF Roberts
Image: by James WF Roberts

Hot White Kiss

A twisted love story of addiction, sex, betrayal, obsession and misery

'Some love is fire, some love is rust, but the purest, most dangerous form of love is lust'

Five 30-somethings are involved in a twisted love story of drugs, addiction, betrayal, polyamory, bisexuality and abuse.

"'Hot White Kiss' was provocative." - Theatrehaus

Cabaret

The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage, Carlton
24-26 Jan 1hr
Fri-Sun 6pm
\$28 full | \$24 conc
△ Themes of a sexual nature | Mature themes
Image: by Stepha Stock

Jacqui Randa Full Bloom Cabaret Show

The one-and-only premier singing and piano playing lilac Queen!

Hailing from her small country town of Tambo in central Queensland.

She's in the big smoke now and is on a mission to become a big star, sing with her idol Tina Arena and is a hopeless romantic that suffers from being enduringly delusional. Who can relate?!

Theatre

Chapel Off Chapel - The Loft, Prahran
24 Jan 1hr
Fri 7pm
\$47 full | \$42 conc
△ Mature themes
Presented by Justin Clausen

Justin Clausen is "Back In Business"

Award winning cabaret artist

Big shot American talent agent Mr B. Cherri is scouting new talent. It's your job to help him cast the best worst show on earth. You'll meet a slew of unlikely auditionees as they just happen to be in the wrong place at the right time. From Dennis the amateur theatre star, Steven the Sondheim enthusiast, and Joe who thought that he had missed his opportunity to shine when Hiroshima hit. Justin Clausen plays them all.

Comedy

Bluestone Church Arts Space, Footscray
30 Jan-1 Feb 55m
Thu-Sat 8:30pm
\$30 full | \$25 conc
△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature
Image: by Lauren Bok, Nick Robertson & Jayden Byrne

Lauren Bok: Boklesque

A one-woman burlesque variety show of tease, hilarity and monsters of mayhem

Welcome to Boklesque! Burlesque Jester and comedian, Lauren Bok, performs a rollercoaster one-woman variety show, as each character revealed is more chaotic than the next with only her t!ts, teeth and a clown nose... Will they all make it to the curtain call?

"... Fierce, proudly feminine, and funny as hell." ★★★★★ - Lilithia Reviews

Comedy

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatre, Carlton
22 Jan 1hr
Wed 7:30pm
\$28 full | \$24 conc
Presented by Cornershop Comedy
Image: by Chris Parker

Les Improvisé

Special Pride Edition! YOU choose the title. WE make the musical!

After a SELLOUT season at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Les Improvisé is back (with their queerest cast members!) to make up a musical right before your eyes!

Will it be a nail-biting whodunnit, a wild western slapstick, a spicy romance...or maybe all 3?!

All we know is it will ALL be improvised!


Cabaret

3

11

Y

<50



The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage, Carlton

30-31 Jan, 6-7 Feb55m

Thu, Fri 8:40pm

\$28 full | \$24 conc

△

References to drug use | References to suicide and/or self-harm

Presented by Heirlume Productions

Image: by UCLA Library

Liza's Good Judy

Two divas for the price of one!

In an evening of cinematic melody and infamous haircuts, mother-and-daughter duo Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli reunite for a tete-a-tete and heart-to-heart.

This one-woman show (yes, you read that right) savours the survival anthems that defined Judy and Liza's careers and cemented their gay icon status, all washed down with a dose of Hollywood drama, amphetamines, and a long parade of closeted husbands.


Cabaret

3

18+

Y

<50



Pride of our Footscray Community Bar, Footscray

1 Feb1hr 30m

Sat 8pm

\$30 full | \$27 conc

△

Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature

Magic Men of Summer Risqué Revue

Steamier than ever!

The hottest event of the summer is back with a studlier and sexier cast than ever before! Prepare yourself for an evening of tantalising acts and eye candy galore from a range of boylesque, circus, and performance artists.


Cabaret

3

Y

11

<50



Chapel Off Chapel - The Loft, Prahran

7-8 Feb1hr

Fri, Sat 9pm | Sat 4pm

\$36 full | \$33 conc

△

Themes of a sexual nature

Presented by Smoke & Mirrors Productions

Image: by Trent Pace, colourised by Josh Sanders

Mama Alto: De-Flowered

"One could have heard a pin drop, until the cheering and applause at the end" - the Advertiser [www.ww](#)

In a sensual and risqué cabaret bacchanalia, Mama Alto is letting her hair down (without those iconic white flowers!). She's putting out (her most debauched repertoire), and getting loose (with those blue notes) to sing ravishing jazz-age songs about sex for you. That's right - de-flowered.

Cabaret

3

18+

Y

11

11

4D

OC

75

11



Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Chapel Off Chapel - The Chapel, Prahran

6-8 Feb | Thu-Sat 8pm | 1hr

Captioned: 6 Feb 8pm

Audio Desc & Tactile Tour: 6 Feb 7:30pm

\$46 full | \$42 conc | \$65 table | \$42 group

△

Strong language | References to suicide and/or self-harm | Mature themes

Presented by Midsumma Festival & Gendermess Productions

MESSY FRIENDS

Winners of Best Cabaret Adelaide Fringe 2024

Explore the world of this dynamic & innovative drag collective blending lip-sync, burlesque, dance and documentary-style videos in a unique "Drag-u-mentary" format. Led by Ginava, they explore queer identity, resilience & self-acceptance through dynamic performances and personal storytelling.

"A fully-formed masterpiece" ★★★★★- *Snack Magazine (UK)*.
"Impressive would be an understatement" ★★★★★- *Binge Fringe (UK)*.


Musical

3

Y

11

<50



Melbourne Recital Centre - Primrose Potter Salon, Southbank

31 Jan1hr

Fri 6pm | Fri 8pm

\$50 full | \$40 conc

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

Image: by Claudio Raschella

Michael Griffiths - It's a Sin: Songs of Love & Shame

Cabaret powerhouse Michael Griffiths pays tribute to Pet Shop Boys, the soundtrack of his life

For young Adelaide boy Michael Griffiths, coming of age in the 80s and coming out in the 90s was a real time. Before marriage equality and social media, pop songs were a safe space to explore being queer, and Pet Shop Boys provided a soundtrack to a gay new world.

Cabaret


3

11

Y

11

<50



Guild Theatre, Arts and Cultural Building, The University of Melbourne, Parkville

3-6 Feb1hr 10m

Mon-Thu 7pm

\$35 full | \$30 conc

△

Themes of a sexual nature | Strong language | Mature themes

Presented by UMAC

Image: by Lazyfair

Milo Hartill: Black, Fat and F**gy

At the centre of the Venn diagram of queer, chunky, brown women with the voice of a goddamn angel, you'll find the terrifying talent that is Milo Hartill

Part cabaret, part song-cycle and part influencer-takeover, 'Black, Fat and F**gy' is a tonic for our times and a queer Black fantasia that will leave audiences screaming with joy.

"One of the country's most exciting new entertainers" ★★★★★- *Time Out Sydney*

Cabaret

MONSTER

The Demon Twink of Smith Street

He's BAAAAACK! Drag cabaret artist. Trans man. Highschool teacher. Florian Wild is the MONSTER!

Cash in your cis guilt for the evening and worship at the altar of genderf*ckery!

Presented by Extraterrestrial

★★★★*"Part-art, part-activism and one-hundred-percent arse appreciation."* - *BingeFringe UK*

Chapel Off Chapel - The Loft, Prahran

29 Jan-2 Feb1hr

Wed-Sat 7:30pm | Sat 4pm | Sun 5pm | Opening: Thu 30 Jan | Community Night: Wed 29 Jan | Auslan: 1 Feb 4pm | Tactile Tour: 2 Feb 4:30pm | Relaxed: 2 Feb 5pm

\$40 full | \$32 conc | \$30 group (min 6)

△ Strong language | Latecomer lockout | Mature themes

Theatre

My Queer Spiritual Entropy

A wild, leafy tale of a non-binary spirit having a human experience

You are welcomed into the British woodland to explore non-binary belonging through the lens of Trans Ecology. In an alive forest of live-mixed animations, improvised music and the multi-rolling of six clashing characters, you will laugh cry and identify. With child-like play, we uproot the gender-binary as the buds of our raw complexity blossom back through the cracks.

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette, Carlton

3-9 Feb1hr

Mon-Sun 6pm | Relaxed: All

\$28 full | \$24 conc

△ Themes of a sexual nature | Strong language | Mature themes

Presented by Holly Rowan and the Wilderbeans

Image: by Meg Griffiths & Holly Rowan

Interactive Performance

Mystery Call

Mystery Call, an embodied 1-to-1 conversation, connecting community near and far, digitally and in person

The MindsEye Collective invites you to discover through acts of listening and movement: an experience of your own body, the history of our bodies and a relationship to the collective queer body.

Queer Imaginings – see p. 18 to 21

Victorian Pride Centre - The Forum, St Kilda

6-8 Feb1hr

Various times

FREE booking required

Presented by Midsumma Festival and MindsEye Collective

Image: by Imogen Ellis

Comedy

Not For Children's Programming

Open wide, come inside, it's 'Slay School'!

The comedy cabaret that blends your favourite childhood TV shows with stories of dating, relationships, and stigma— who knew adulting could be so delightfully awkward?

Feel the joy in this one hour comedy, from an out of work actor that gives Noni Hazelhurst a run for her money.

"Nostalgic references delivering huge laughs." - *Hugging Comedians*

The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage, Carlton

20-26 Jan1hr

Mon-Sun 7:20pm

\$24 full | \$20 conc

△ Themes of a sexual nature | Strong language | Mature themes

Presented by Samuel Roberts

Image: by Samuel Roberts & William Boyd

Comedy

PACKER'S PLAYHOUSE COCKTAIL HOUR

Nominated Best Drag King Event Finalist at the MEDEAs Awards

An all Drag King sharehouse? What could possibly go wrong!

Packer's is back with a brand new show. Grab a drink and see your favourite kings back on stage. Whether you're a long-time fan or new to the world of drag kings, this is your chance to experience the magic of Packer's Playhouse.

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7, Fitzroy

30 Jan-1 Feb1hr

Thu-Sat 8pm

\$28 full | \$25 conc | \$25 group (min 4)

△ Themes of a sexual nature | Mature themes

Presented by Packer's Playhouse

Image: by Imogen Ellis

Comedy

Personal Space

The Y2K Lesbian renaissance is here!

Join Brigitta as she takes audiences on a nostalgic trip through the pages of her personal space, blending music, dance and drag into a heartfelt, somewhat cringe sapphic, spectacle.

"Personal Space" is a must-see experience that resonates long after the music stops and the diary closes. - *Theatre Travels*

The Butterfly Club - Downstairs, Melbourne CBD

6-8 Feb1hr

Thu-Sat 7pm

\$39 full | \$35 conc


Presented by Brigitta Brown

Image: by Alexandra Mantoura

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midsumma.org.au #midsumma

Cabaret



Bluestone Church Arts Space, Footscray

28-30 Jan1hr

Tue, Wed 11am | Wed, Thu 2pm

\$27 full | \$16 conc


Presented by Little Pine Tree Productions

Playing Second Fiddle - Minor Character, Major Song

Come pay homage to the show-stopping Musical Theatre classics sung by female supporting characters

Even the smallest of parts can have a big effect. Featuring tunes from Showboat, Guys and Dolls, Oliver, Les Misérables and many more. This show is full of singing, dancing and gorgeous costumes!

Theatre



Theatre Works, St Kilda

28 Jan-1 Feb1hr 30m

Tue-Sat 8:45pm | Sat 2pm | Captioned: All

\$35 full | \$30 conc

Themes of a sexual nature | Strong language | Mature themes

Presented by The X Collective and Theatre Works

Image: by Naz Mulla


Psycho Beach Party

A little sex... A little sin... A lot psycho!!!

'Psycho Beach Party' is a twisted mash-up of 1960s beach party movies, B-grade horror flicks, and classic psychological thrillers. Written by Charles Busch, this dark comedy transports audiences to the sun-soaked beaches of Malibu, where the surf isn't the only thing that's up.

"It's Mel Brooks mixed with John Waters." - Backstreet Brisbane

Comedy



The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette, Carlton

24 Jan1hr

Fri 7:30pm

\$28 full | \$24 conc

Presented by Cornershop Comedy

Image: by Alex Winner


Pull Yourself Together

Pride Edition!

The SELLOUT success makes its Midsumma debut!

Marvel as a crack team of Melbourne's best actors are pitted against your favourite improvisers, who have to contend with well-rehearsed dialogue (hint: think queer anthems!) that might not always meet their expectations!

Theatre



Abbotsford Convent - The Store, Abbotsford

29 Jan-1 Feb1hr

Wed-Fri 8pm | Sat 6pm | Sat 9:30pm

\$30 preview | \$35 full | \$30 conc

Nudity | Mature themes

Presented by Jessi Ryan, SISSY!, Abbotsford Convent & Midsumma Festival

Image: by Storm Bloom

QRAVE: The Performance


"An agitation, scratching at the surface of queer histories"

"QRAVE: the performance" will transform the Convent's Store into an intimate space where truth is told under the nightlife beats.

Passionately recounted and moving stories will blur the boundaries between embodied performance and graphic installation, holding space for intimate reflection.

"Artistic Firebrand" - The Age

Comedy



Pride of our Footscray Community Bar, Footscray

30 Jan2hrs

Thu 7:30pm | Auslan: on request

\$29 full | \$24 conc

Strong language | Mature themes

Presented by Pride Comedy

Image: by Kelsie Cosmic


Queer Comedy Gala

The biggest night of queer comedy in the west!

An all-star line-up of LGBTQIA+ comics take to the stage for a mega night of laughs!

This event is presented by Pride Comedy, who produce our monthly queer comedy night at Pride of our Footscray.

Comedy



The Motley Bauhaus - The Cellar, Carlton

23-25 Jan1hr

Thu-Sat 8:15pm

\$28 full | \$24 conc | \$20 group (min 4) | \$10 First Nations

Themes of a sexual nature | Strong language | References to drug use

Image: Individual images by Chillary, Rory Gillen and Emma Holland

Queer Factor

High-Energy LGBTQIA+ Comedy Showcase

This, is Queer Factor. Five of Melbourne's sharpest queer comics come together for a jam-packed hour of stand up. Featuring 2024 Melbourne International Comedy Festival Best Newcomer nominees Maddy Weeks and Laurence Driscoll, and Melbourne comedy mainstays Maren May, Carmelo Costa and Chris Demos.

Midsumma Festival 19 Jan–9 Feb 2025 All Events Performances

midsumma.org.au #midsumma 39

Theatre

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Gasworks Arts Park - Gasworks Theatre,
Albert Park

20 Jan1hr 30m

Mon 6:30pm

\$22 full | \$18 conc | \$18 group (min 4)

△ References to sexual violence | Mature themes

Presented by Midsumma Festival & Gasworks Arts Park

Queer Playwriting Award Showcase

Witness the first staged readings of brand new queer-focused theatre works

Join us for a unique night of fresh excerpts from our top 4 finalists: Norm Things by Jorja Bentley, Much to do with the Law but more to do with Love by Danish Sheikh, White Christmas by Courtney Cavallaro and Abi is Missing by Sarah Bell. Experience new work on stage, hear queer issues and voices and have your say in the 2025 Award selection.

Musical

Ruthless! the Musical

"Ruthless! the Musical is a thoroughly wacky and enjoyable romp, well-worth the ticket price and a high-spirited night out" - Australian Pride Network

Back for a sizzling return season and reimagined with a sexy, stripped-back version exclusively for Midsumma, "Ruthless! the Musical" is a show you won't want to miss! Is talent something we're born with... or something worth killing for?

The MC Showroom - The Showroom,
Prahran

28 Jan-2 Feb2hrs

Tue-Sat 7:30pm | Sat 2pm | Sun 5pm | Closing party: Sun 2 Feb 7pm

\$49 full | \$45 conc | \$45 group (min 6)

△ Depictions of violence | Mature themes | Loud or sudden noises

Presented by Stagebugs Productions

Theatre

Sauna Boy
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Dan works at the UK's most infamous gay sauna. A place where men come to relax, socialise and most importantly... f**k. Join Dan as he navigates a hidden world of lust, friendship and unorthodox working relationships. Pulsing with frenetic energy and laced with sexual tension; Sauna Boy is guaranteed to touch you in more ways than one.

******BroadwayWorld*
******LondonTheatre!*
******FrontMezzJunkie*
******SceneMagazine*

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette,
Carlton

28 Jan-2 Feb, 4-8 Feb1hr 10m

Tue-Sun 7:30pm

\$30 full | \$25 conc

△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature | Strong language

Presented by Gavin Roach & Dan Ireland-Reeves

Image: by Dan Ireland-Reeves

Circus

Small Acts of Resistance
A Poignant Journey Through Hope, Humour, and Humanity

The world seems hopelessly stuck, repeating the mistakes of the past. Yet, there is always hope — slivers of light shining through the cracks in the facade. Blending circus, live music and spoken word, Small Acts of Resistance is a poignantly humorous celebration by our older generation, embracing the gravity and joy of a lifetime of striving for change.

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Gasworks Arts Park - Gasworks Theatre,
Albert Park

5-8 Feb1hr

Wed-Sat 6pm | Auslan: All

\$35 full | \$30 conc | \$25 group (min 6)

△ Strong language

Presented by Women's Circus, Midsumma Festival and Gasworks Arts Park

Image: by Alexis D. Lea Photography

Comedy

Smatch Game
It's here! It's live! It's Smatch Game!

After a SOLD OUT Midsumma 2024, you're invited to the return of the game show that dares to ask: what if everyone doing Snatch Game was actually funny?

Join Melbourne's best character comics as they showcase their most cooked and chaotic celebrity impersonations and battle it out for the ultimate prize!

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette,
Carlton

25 Jan1hr

Sat 7:30pm

\$28 full | \$24 conc

Presented by Cornershop Comedy

Theatre

SPARK
Love at First Swipe?

Step into a captivating spectacle of love and technology's intricate dance. This cautionary tale spotlights a gay man's experience along the narrow road of "love at first sight." When all is available at the swipe of your fingers, are you able to digest it fast enough? Are you too picky? Will you suffer from digital neglect? Join Simon on his quest through the smartphone screen and see if he will survive the hilarity, devastation and Camp of it all before time runs out (anyone have a charger he could borrow?)

Theatre Works, St Kilda

21-25 Jan1hr

Tue-Sat 9pm | Audio Described: All | Captioned: All

\$35 full | \$30 conc

△ Themes of a sexual nature | Strong language | Strobe lights

Presented by Theatre Works & Frenzy Theatre Co

Theatre

Stallions

The way a man's sweat tastes at sunset

There's an old mansion on the outskirts of town, and there's something too hot about the men that live there.

It's a big, dancey, masculine extravaganza. It's a bit 'Burlesque', it's a bit 'Moulin Rouge', a bit 'The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas', and a whole bunch of 'Brokeback Mountain'.

Theatre Works, St Kilda

21-25 Jan 1hr

Tue-Sat 8pm | Sat 3:30pm

\$35 full | \$30 conc

△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature | Mature themes

Presented by Kissing Booth & Theatre Works

Image: by Steven Mitchell Wright

Cabaret

Stranger Queers

A new production from Ezra Mishka

At the end of season 4, the town of whore-kins was left in destruction, and the team had lost hope. The United states government called upon us, a group of fabulous and strange queers, to use our powers of circus, drag and burlesque alongside iconic 80s hits, to reinvigorate the town and prepare them for their next fight.

Chapel Off Chapel - The Chapel, Prahran

31 Jan-1 Feb 1hr 10m

Fri, Sat 7pm

\$30 full | \$20 conc | \$40 table seat

△ Strong language | Strobe lights | References to drug use

Presented by Maison de Mishka

Image: by Daniel Spellman and Louis Green

Circus

Tender

The queer circus cabaret that will leave you aching for more

An all-queer cast probes at what it is to be tender, as they uncover and explore relationships, power play, desire, and sexuality with flips, tricks, high kicks, hair whips and musical quips. Aerial and ground disciplines merge with dance, and live original music to disassemble gender constructs and dismantle binaries. A joyous celebration of queer community, connectedness, vulnerability and, of course, tenderness.

Gasworks Arts Park - Gasworks Theatre, Albert Park

29 Jan-1 Feb, 4-8 Feb 1hr

Tue-Sat 8pm | Sat 8 Feb 4pm

\$28 preview (Wed 29 Jan) | \$40 full | \$35 conc | \$30 group (min 6)

△ Themes of a sexual nature | Strong language | Mature themes

Presented by Gasworks & Cirque X

Comedy

Thank God You're Queer

Improv with Pride!

After a SOLD OUT Midsumma 2024, 'Thank God You're Queer' is back to throw your favourite LGBTQIA+ comics into the deep end of improv comedy!

Join the fun as two local rising queer comedians perform a set of stand-up before squirming amongst the finest improv minds in the community.

Will they rise to the challenge? Come and find out!

The Motley Bauhaus - Theatrette, Carlton

23 Jan 1hr

Thu 7:30pm

\$28 full | \$24 conc

Presented by Cornershop Comedy

Interactive Performance

THE BIG CAMP COUNTDOWN!

The countdown eleganza extravaganza feat. The Top 50 Queer Anthems of All Time - VOTED BY YOU!!

Queer HERstory is about to be brought back to life! Category is: STUDIO 54, Honey! Sashay this way and get ready to SLAY the night away with drag divas and hype girl DJ Cassidy La Crème, as we count down through the "Top 50 queer anthems of all time" - Grab your tix to have a say in what we play!

Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette, St Kilda

24 Jan 2hrs 30m

Fri 7:30pm

\$40 full | \$35 conc | \$35 group (min 6)

△ Smoke/haze | Long periods of standing | Mature themes

Presented by Euphoria Social

Image: by Qashrul Hidafi

Spoken Word

The Fellowship Tales

A collection of original contemporary fables, written and performed by Letitia Kellion-O'Brien

Inspired by the trials of life, these tales were shaped through moments of challenge and resilience, drawing from Letitia's experiences in the hospitality industry and a personal journey through difficult times. This show will leave you reflecting on the people in your life, reminding you to reach out and reconnect.

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7, Fitzroy

30 Jan-1 Feb 1hr

Thu-Sat 6:30pm

\$24 full | \$15 conc

Presented by Letitia Kellion-O'Brien

Image: by Tim Young

Theatre

The Placeholder

Sometimes we can only hold a place for people in our hearts

Set in a regional Australian town, The Placeholder follows a group of women commemorating their late friend Barb, who died of breast cancer. The play centres around a trans man transitioning within the group, addressing themes of womanhood, feminism, and inclusion. It examines the dynamics of gender in tight-knit communities and the challenges faced by trans individuals in finding acceptance.

Queer Imaginings – see p. 18 to 21

Abbotsford Convent - Bishop's Parlour, Abbotsford

25 Jan1hr

Sat

Development showing by invitation only

Presented by Midsumma Festival, Abbotsford Convent and Ben MacEllen

Image: by Dale Harris

Theatre

The Queer Kingdom: A Staged Reading

Winner of the 2024 Queer Playwriting Award

Experience "The Queer Kingdom" - a new play by Tom Ballard, winner of the 2024 QPAS Award.

Join Tom and a cast of fine actors as they present a staged reading of the true(ish) story of The Gay & Lesbian Kingdom of the Coral Sea Islands: a tale of love, hate, emperors, freedom, sovereignty and queer joy.

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Gasworks Arts Park - Studio Theatre, Albert Park

8 Feb1hr 15m

Sat 1pm

\$20 full | \$15 conc

△ Strong language | References to suicide and/or self-harm

Presented by Midsumma Festival, Tom Ballard & Gasworks Arts Park

Cabaret

The Round's Big Gay Gala

Hosted by Reuben Kaye

Slip on your sequins, slop on some eye shadow, slap on a wig and join your host, Reuben Kaye, for this vivacious variety extravaganza at The Round. We've curated an absolutely dazzling line-up for this one-night spectacular, featuring the finest of Australia's LGBTQIA+ talent.

The Round Theatre, Nunawading

31 Jan1hr 20m

Fri 7:30pm

\$46 full | \$41 conc

△ Themes of a sexual nature | Strong language | Mature themes

Presented by The Round

Image: by JAX-MOUSSA

Theatre

Thirty-Six

An empowering and cathartic new work from the award-winning team behind 'The Gospel According to Jesus, Queen of Heaven' and 'The Inheritance'

So there's this party she's having. It might be a funerary rite or a birthday celebration, depending on your perspective. Co-written by Jo Clifford and Bayley Turner, directed by Kitan Petkovski, and performed by Bayley Turner.

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne CBD

21-25 Jan, 28 Jan-2 Feb1hr

Tue-Sat 7:30pm | Sun 2 Feb 5pm

\$35 preview (Tue 21 Jan) | \$49 full

\$39 conc | \$39 group (min 6)

△ Mature themes

Presented by fortyfivedownstairs, Bullet Heart Club & Midsumma Festival

Image: by Meagan Harding

Comedy

Tina Lets Loose

***** THE AUREVIEW

***** WEEKEND NOTES

***** GLAMADELAIDE

***** THE AGE

With a comedic wit that could shred brie and a voice as smooth as honey, Tina Del Twist's talents have toured the globe to wild acclaim and applause, garnishing her iconic. Winner - Comics' Choice Award Melbourne Comedy Festival 2022.

Accompanied by Cameron Thomas.

"Tina has an incredible stage presence and voice." - VOICEMAG.UK

Grouse Melbourne - Room 7, Fitzroy

30 Jan-1 Feb1hr

Thu-Sat 9:30pm

\$28 full | \$25 conc | \$25 group (min 4)

△ Strong language | References to drug use

Image: by Joel Devereux

Spoken Word

TMI Tuesday

(Too Much Information)

A spoken word event in the West, featuring a lineup of artists, activists, queers and rebels curated by Footscray local Sarah Ward. TMI Tuesday is an opportunity for guests to share an uncensored piece of personal writing. Expect the awkward, the beautiful, the embarrassing and the hilarious.

This is a safe and sacred night of candour, confession and open hearted vulnerability.

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Mamma Chen's, Footscray

28 Jan1hr

Tue 7pm

\$25 full | \$10 conc

△ Strong language | Mature themes

Presented by Midsumma Festival & Fat Fruit

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midsumma.org.au #midsumma

Theatre

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Theatre Works, St Kilda

5-7 Feb1hr

Wed-Fri 7pm | Auslan: 7 Feb 7pm

\$35 full | \$30 conc

△ Mature themes

Presented by Midsumma Festival, Jeremy Goldstein and Theatre Works

Image: by Kate Holmes

Truth to Power Café

"Revolutionary theatre at its best and most direct" - The Guardian

From Adelaide to Zagreb and now at Theatre Works for its Melbourne premiere, Jeremy Goldstein's Truth to Power Café is a profound theatrical reflection on loss, hope, and resistance. This award-winning international performance is told through memoir, image, film, poetry, music, and compassionate truth-telling in response to the question: 'who has power over you and what do you want to say to them?'

Cabaret

Chapel Off Chapel - The Loft, Prahran

7-8 Feb1hr

Fri, Sat 7:30pm | Sat 2:30pm

\$36 full | \$33 conc

△ Strong language

Presented by Smoke & Mirrors Productions

Image: by Joel Devereux

Ziegfeld Boy: De-Nuded

Ziegfeld Boy like you've never seen him before: fully clothed!

For once, Ziegfeld Boy is stripping away everything BUT his clothes. This time there's no quick costume changes, no sexy backup boys and no extravagant choreography. This cabaret features classic tunes like The Windmills of Your Mind, Nature Boy and Diamonds are Forever. Accompanied by just a piano, the only thing Ziegfeld Boy will be baring in this show is his soul. Okay, and maybe a touch of skin too!



Support. Celebrate. Repeat.

Support Midsumma, Spark the Future!

Ever wondered how the magic of Midsumma Festival happens? Spoiler alert: it's YOU!

Your donations and support bring the 22-day extravaganza to life, uplifting queer artists and culture makers through year-round mentorship programs and unforgettable events.

Want to make a real difference for queer arts and culture? Here's how:

Donate: Help us keep major events free and support over 1,600 artists, creators, and community members sharing stories that matter.

Become a Patron: Join our exclusive crew with VIP perks, insider updates, and special event invites—all while fueling Midsumma's future!



midsumma.org.au/support

Donate Now!



Become a Patron





**Arts
Centre
Melbourne**

Arts Centre Melbourne, Midsumma Festival present a production by
Francesca Moody Productions in association with Roast Productions

SAMUEL BARNETT IN

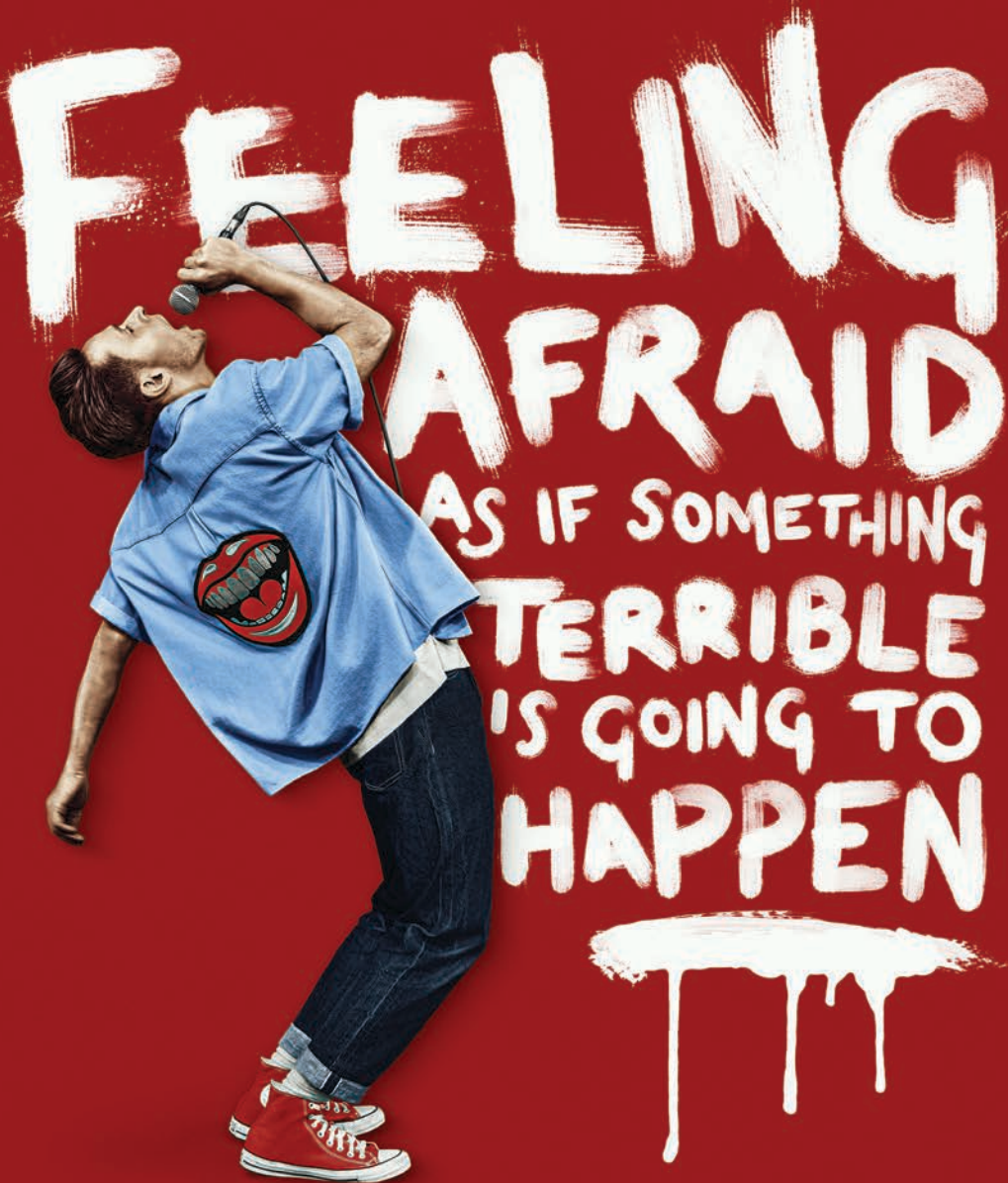


**The gag-count is
ridiculously high**

THE TELEGRAPH

**WRITTEN BY
MARCOS
DOS SANTOS**

**DIRECTED BY
MATTHEW
XIA**



**14 January – 1 February
Fairfax Studio**



TWO WORLD PREMIERES by CHRISTOPHER HEALEY



**SAT 6pm
1st FEB**

**TICKETS
FULL \$65
CONC \$45**

LOVE UNHEARD

ENSEMBLE CANE & VIOLETS

**Solo Performances by:
Adam McMillian &
Melina van Leeuwen**

Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette, St Kilda

For more info visit <https://loveunheard.com.au>





Music

Midsumma Festival
19 Jan–9 Feb 2025



HONOUR at Victoria Pride 2024 © Suzanne Balding

Classical



fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne CBD

6-9 Feb 1hr 30m

Thu-Sat 7:30pm | Sun 1:30pm | Captioned:
All

\$49 full | \$35 conc | \$40 group (min 4)

△ Themes of a sexual nature | References
to suicide and/or self-harm | Mature
themes

Presented by Divisi and Queerstories

Compose Queer x Queerstories

**12 Queerstories - 12 world
premieres**

Divisi and Queerstories connect
Australia's most accomplished
queer composers and writers to
develop 12 new collaborative works.
Your stories told by your community
in a showcase of the breadth and
depth of queer artistry.

*"Divisi have an incredibly
special voice" - Australian Arts*
*"Queerstories welcomes you in with
open arms and draws you into a rich
conversation." - The AU Review*



Brunswick Ballroom, Brunswick

24-25 Jan 1hr

Fri, Sat:
Doors 5.30pm for dinner and show 7pm.
Doors 8.30pm for 9.30pm show.

\$65 full

Presented by Brunswick Ballroom and
Watercooler Talent

Hans

International superstar, sex symbol
and piano accordionist, Hans
(America's Got Talent) is heading to
the beautiful Brunswick Ballroom
for a very special intimate evening
as part of Midsumma Festival 2025.

Dripping in glitter and diamonds,
join Hans for a night to remember.
Special and spectacular guests to
be announced.

★★★★★ "A Fringe favourite, and it's
clear to see why he sells out wherever he
performs." - Glam Adelaide

Popular Music



Pride of our Footscray Community Bar,
Footscray

21 Jan, 23-25 Jan 1hr 30m

Thu-Sat 8pm | Opening: Tue 21 Jan 8pm

Opening: \$39.95 full, \$29.95 conc
Season: \$49.95 full, \$39.95 conc

Presented by Euro Party

Image: RUV, Iceland

Hera Björk - The Queen of Effing Everything

**The Queen of Icelandic
Eurovision plus Euro Disco**

Two-time Icelandic Eurovision
star, Hera Björk, embarks on her
first Australian tour. This vocal
powerhouse shares her candid
stories of life in the crazy Eurovision
bubble. Join Hera for a not-to-be-
missed intimate evening of camp
comedy and cabaret, plus a Euro
disco to follow the show.

Classical



Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Theatre Works, St Kilda

7-8 Feb 2hrs 30m

Fri 7pm | Sat 1pm | Sat 5pm | Audio
Described: all | Relaxed: Sat 8 Feb 1pm

\$35 full | \$30 conc

Presented by Midsumma Festival, Miranda
Hill and Theatre Works

Homophonic!

**New music by queer
composers**

Homophonic! is bringing the disco
ball to the concert hall and raising
the roof of Theatre Works St Kilda
for the 15th annual celebration of
queer chamber music. Featuring
the winner of Midsumma Presents:
the Homophonic! Pride Prize by
Ashleigh Hazel, RESPECT pieces
telling the stories of LGBTQ+
seniors in song, and established
works from super gay icons of
classical music.

Popular Music

Queer Imaginings – see p. 18 to 21

Fed Square - Main Stage, Melbourne

31 Jan1hr

Fri 8:30pm

FREE

Images or recordings of Aboriginal people who have passed away

Presented by Midsumma Festival, BEAT ENTERTAINMENT in association with Fed Square, produced by Performing Lines

HONOUR

BEAT ENTERTAINMENT

brings a ceremony of love and recognition celebrating Queer Indigenous ICONS

HONOUR elevates and celebrates the true royalty of our communities, our Queer POC Elders.

HONOUR will introduce you to some of Melbourne's most ICONIC legends in a celebration and ceremony of love and recognition that SLAYS the house down!

She's like the love child of Beyoncé and RuPaul.

Classical

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Abbotsford Convent - Magdalen Laundry, Abbotsford

31 Jan-2 Feb, 4 Feb, 6-8 Feb 1hr

Tue, Thu-Sun 9pm | Sat 4pm | Audio Described & Tactile Tour: 8 Feb 3pm

\$55 full | \$45 conc | \$50 senior | \$45 First Nations | \$35 student

Long periods of standing | Mature themes | Loud or sudden noises

Labyrinth

Returning from their sell-out premiere 2024 season

In the haunting halls of Abbotsford Convent, Forest Collective presents its latest immersive dance-opera. Through this otherworldly theatrical journey, you will descend into the labyrinth of Greek myth, witnessing the ordeal of Theseus, Ariadne and her half-brother, the Minotaur.

"Forest Collective... seek to inspire, surprise and challenge audiences when it comes to expectations around what classical music and opera can be and do."

- My Melbourne Arts

Classical

Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette, St Kilda

1 Feb1hr

Sat 6pm | Ensemble CANE and Violets with Solo performances by Adam McMillian & Melina van Leeuwen

\$65 full | \$45 conc

Presented by Christopher Healey, Mark Chambers and Melina van Leeuwen

Love Unheard: Celebrating Queer Composers Through Music

Two World premieres by Christopher Healey with additional works by Beglarian, Tchaikovsky, Severn, Alexandra Dillon & Gershwin-Wild

Premieres of 'Fanfare for Midsumma Pride', commissioned for Midsumma, the Melbourne Queer community and the VPC and 'A Star, A Journey, A Fire'.

Popular Music

Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette, St Kilda

30 Jan, 6 Feb1hr 30m

Music event: Thu 30 Jan 7:30pm

Film screening: Thu 6 Feb 7:30pm

Music event: \$39 full, \$35 conc

Film screening: \$23 full, \$20 conc

Mature themes

Presented by Demetra Giannakopoulos

Love, Rewind the Music

A music film fusion of love, loss and renewal

30 Jan: Music icons Michelle Chandler, Michelle Parsons and JoJo Smith perform their songs and covers from film, LOVE REWIND.

6 Feb: Watch LOVE REWIND, a Melbourne film about a lesbian couple who separate during the same-sex marriage postal vote. Starring Ruth Katerelos, Maria Papas. Written and directed by Demetra Giannakopoulos.

Electronic

The Motley Bauhaus - Cabaret Stage, Carlton

8 Feb1hr

Sat 8:40pm

\$28 full | \$24 conc

Mature themes

Presented by Madam Nightingale

New Beginnings

Telling a story of redemption through spellbinding synthpop

Premiering at Adelaide Fringe 2024, Madam Nightingale's exciting collaboration with Cloutie Will, 'New Beginnings' is a gripping musical performance including spoken word and interpretive dance, elegantly storytelling what it means to be human. A transcendent contemporary rap and 80s influenced synthpop show that's not to be missed.

Electronic

Sub Club Melbourne, Melbourne

19 Jan

Sun 8pm-6am

\$35 full | \$25 conc

Presented by Pan Future Techno

Pan Future Techno: Carnival Edition

DJs: Matt Radovich | Dj Kiti | Simon Sliker | Afrenasia | MidNightSnack

What better way to start off the year? Join the Midsumma Festival festivities and celebrate Carnival in style. Join us for a cheeky little party just a stone's throw from the Carnival action. If you're craving some top-notch techno, good vibes, and an inclusive, safe environment, this is one event you can't afford to miss. Let's make this Carnival unforgettable together!

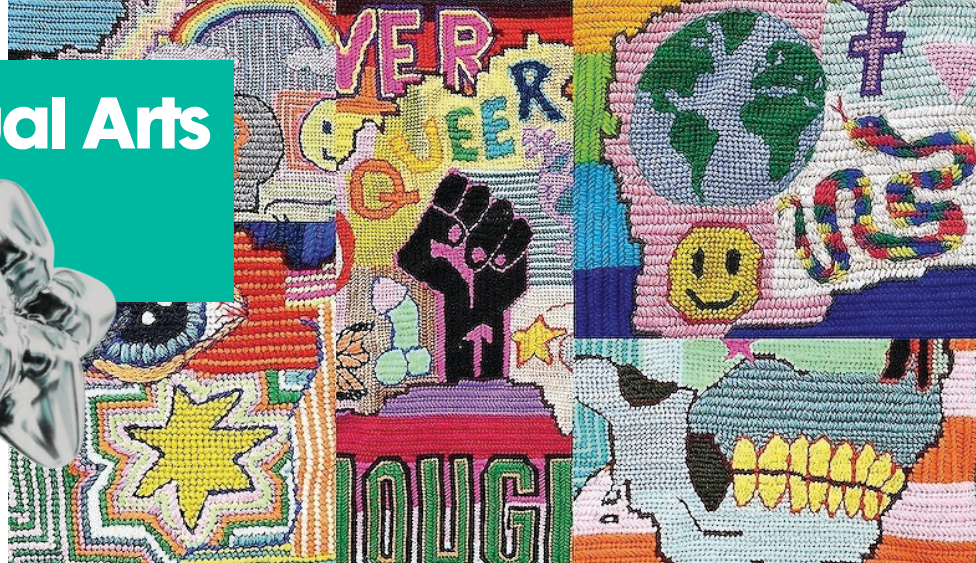
Midsumma Festival 19 Jan–9 Feb 2025 All Events Music

midsumma.org.au #midsumma 47



Visual Arts

Midsumma Festival
19 Jan–9 Feb 2025



© Paul Yore

Exhibition



Eltham Library Community Gallery,
Eltham

25-26 Jan, 28 Jan-9 Feb

Mon-Thu 9am-9pm | Fri 9am-6pm |
Sat, Sun 10am-5pm |

Opening: Fri 31 Jan 6:30-8:30pm

FREE

△ Mature themes

Presented by Nillumbik Shire Council

Arena

Solo presentation by award-winning visual artist, Alun Rhys Jones

"Arena" explores ingrained stereotypes still surrounding the LGBTQIA+ community, perpetuated by mainstream news media and the impact this continuous scrutiny has on the LGBTQIA+ world.

News and media are littered with examples of homophobia, gay stereotypes and perceived gay weakness.

Register online for opening event.

Exhibition



Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Bundoora Homestead Art Centre,
Bundoora

22-25 Jan, 29 Jan-1 Feb, 5-8 Feb

Wed-Fri 11am-4pm | Sat 10am-4pm |
Artist talk and Auslan: Sat 25 Jan 2pm

FREE

Presented by Bundoora Homestead Art
Centre and Midsumma Festival

Image: by Ara Dolatian, Humbaba, 2024.

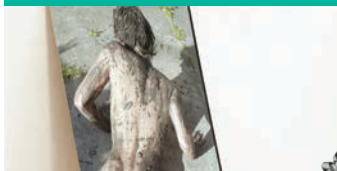
At The First Flood of Daylight

A new ceramic exhibition by Ara Dolatian

'At The First Flood of Daylight' sees ceramic artist, Ara Dolatian (born in Iraq, based in Melbourne) examine the ancient 'Epic of Gilgamesh'.

The exhibition responds to the queer and feminist interpretations of the Epic and asserts sexual difference and gender multiplicity as a pathway to finding deeper human connections.

Exhibition



Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Incinerator Gallery, Aberfeldie

1-2 Feb, 4-9 Feb

Tue-Sun 11am-4pm

FREE

Presented by Incinerator Gallery &
Midsumma Festival

Image: Tom Denize, Tipping an Oyster,
2023, MDF, inkjet print, wrought iron lace,
oyster shell. Photo by Sophie Spence.

CHTHONIC CHORUS

This exhibition unfolds as an imagined archaeological site, where queer theory unsettles normative, binary views of the past

By activating queer archaeology, CHTHONIC CHORUS digs into layers of strata and memory to radically rethink and critique colonial constructs of place, language, time, gender, sexuality, identity, and ecological relations.

Opening: Fri 31 Jan 6-8pm

Exhibition



fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne CBD +
Digital Event (Midsumma Festival)

21-25 Jan, 28 Jan-1 Feb | Digital: 24hrs

Tue-Fri 12-7pm | Sat 12-4pm |
Opening: Tue 21 Jan 5-7pm

FREE

△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature

Presented by fortyfivedownstairs

Image: 'Knowing' 2024 by Brent Leideritz

Divergent archetypes for old ideas

A photographic reclamation for aspiring ways of being, through the act of queering, oppositional action, and communal play

Portraits and promptographic resolutions where queer and alternative performances of self stand against religious and societal notions of control, shame and judgement.



Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre - Joel Gallery, Altona

1 Feb 2hrs

Sat Midday

FREE booking required

Presented by Louis Joel Gallery and Matto Lucas

Image: by Matto Lucas

Drag Life Drawing

A relaxed afternoon of drawing and camp!

Join us for a free afternoon of plein air queer (and rainbow family-friendly) drag life drawing. Facilitated by artist and educator Matto Lucas. Materials provided, however feel free to bring your own preferred media.

Create and network with other LGBTQIA+ artists as we attempt to capture the beauty, humour and glamour of our drag model.

Exhibition



40+ Melbourne locations, from Coburg to St. Kilda

27 Jan-9 Feb

All day

FREE

Presented by MJ Bentley | Instagram @mj_images for scavenger hunt clues & photo reshares

Image: by MJ Bentley

Find The Queens of Melbourne!

Slay the day on an art scavenger hunt. Find all 15-Queens and win a prize!

Find The Queens is part of MJ's ongoing photography series on drag that is both a defence of the art form of drag and a fantastical look into the worlds of drag queens. A response to those who may protest a drag festival or nay-say a queen reading a book at story-time. Featuring Rupaul's Drag Race's Aubrey Haive, Deja, Dettol, Jens Radda, and more! mj-images.com.au

Exhibition



Artemisia Gallery & Event Space, Windsor

22-25 Jan, 29 Jan-2 Feb

Wed-Sun 11am-5pm |

Opening: Fri 24 Jan 6-9pm

FREE

Presented by Alistair Fowler

Image: by Alistair Fowler

Forever Fabulous, Forever Queer

Join in the visual delights and playful characters that explore the power of slogans in the queer community. Words that foster healthy identities, drive social change, and spark dialogue. Delve into decades of impactful messages that have helped, empowered and shaped lives.

Exhibition



Bates Smart Gallery, East Melbourne

4-8 Feb

Tue-Sat 12-5pm

FREE

Presented by Briony Galligan

Image: Plane tree plans, 2023, Briony Galligan, photo: Astrid Mulder

Garden Sigh

Queerness and the London plane tree

A new installation work reimagining the urban London plane tree and public gardens as ciphers for queerness and disequilibrium. A play between objects in recline and repose and an environment in suspension.

Supported by the City of Melbourne Arts Grants.

Exhibition



Victorian Pride Centre - Pride Gallery, St Kilda

19 Jan-9 Feb

Mon-Fri 9am-6pm | Sat, Sun 10am-5pm | Artist in Conversation Thu 23 Jan 6pm \$15

FREE

Presented by The Pride Gallery

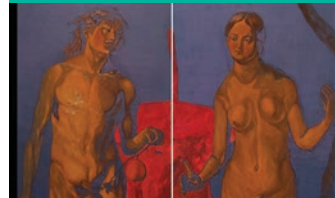
Image: by The Huxleys

Gender Fluids

The Huxleys explore the spectrum of gender fluidity through marine magic

Gender Fluids by The Huxleys is a stunning celebration of nature's ingenuity and resilience, highlighting the gender fluidity of marine creatures such as the starfish, sea slug, and oyster. Through a dazzling blend of framed photographs, textile banners, costumes, and video, this exhibition captures the luminescent beauty of these organisms in playful, sparkling tableaux.

Exhibition



SOL GALLERY, Fitzroy

19 Jan, 21-26 Jan, 28 Jan-2 Feb

Tue-Sun 11am-6pm |

Opening: Fri 17 Jan 6-9pm | Captioned: all

FREE

△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature | Strong language

Presented by Sol Gallery

Image: by Boonyarith Seeladech

Group Show: 'Souls'

100 Queer Artists

A curated selection of 100 artists will present their artwork and participate in 'Souls' as a part of Midsumma Festival.

The program amplifies the voices of marginalised individuals, shares queer history, and showcases new perspectives.

Curated by Pimpisa Tinpalit

Exhibition

I Me My: Seeing One's Queer Self

This exhibition brings together queer artists who work in the self portrait genre to express more about themselves and their experience than a selfie can.

Ayman Kaake (Melbourne), Jonathan Alexander (USA), Santy Mito (Mexico), Liu Tao (China), Alexis Orosa (Sydney) and William Yang (Sydney).

XYZ Photo Gallery, Docklands

19 Jan, 23-26 Jan, 30 Jan-2 Feb, 6-9 Feb

Thu-Sun 1-6pm

FREE

⚠ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature | Mature themes

Presented by XYZ Photo Gallery

Image: by Santy Mito

Exhibition

Joy

An emotive adventure where creativity, colour and storytelling join forces to take you on a transformative journey

Seven newly commissioned installations by eight unique creatives offer a unique opportunity to experience the power and meaning of joy. Big joyous moments and more reflective spaces capture all kinds of joy, from the carefree years of childhood to a celebration of belonging and togetherness.

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Immigration Museum, Melbourne CBD

19 Jan-9 Feb

Mon-Sun 10am-5pm

\$15 full | child and museum members free

Presented by Midsumma Festival and Immigration Museum

Image: Bring it to the Runway, Runway by Spencer Harrison, photo by Eugene Hyland

Exhibition

Magic Makers

An exhibition by performing artist Sarah Ward (Yana Alana)

Moving through a year of grief, Sarah picked up some textas and pastels and drew her friends and community. From pictures taken backstage, in kitchens, waiting for takeaway, on tour and in front yards. These are the queers and community that have brought Sarah comfort over this heart-breaking year. In an act of healing and love, these portraits encapsulate the spirit of each sitter with respect and honesty.

Mamma Chen's, Footscray

21 Jan-9 Feb

Mon-Thu 4-11pm | Fri 4pm-1am | Sat 1pm-1am | Sun 1-11pm | Opening: Sun 19 Jan 6-7pm

FREE

Presented by Fat Fruit

Image: by Sarah Ward

Exhibition

Matrimony — an exhibition by Josephine Mead

An exhibition considering queer matrimony, ritual & love

An installation by Naarm-based visual-artist, writer and curator Josephine Mead, accompanied by a sound-score by BJ Morriszonkle and Nero Friktschn Feuerherdt. 'Matrimony' considers love, marriage and ritual through queer, feminist perspectives. Includes a "conversation circle" on love for the local community.

Abbotsford Convent - Bishop's Parlour, Abbotsford

Exhibition: Sat 1-Sun 2 Feb 10am-5pm

Opening: Fri 31 Jan 6-8pm
Workshop: Sat 1 Feb 1pm

FREE

Presented by Abbotsford Convent

Image: by Josephine Mead

Exhibition

Melbourne Out Loud: Midsumma Edition

A celebration of going out, being seen and being yourself

Celebrate the evolution of queer culture in Melbourne with iconic, unseen and everyday photos of key moments for the LGBTQIA+ community from the lens of legendary photographer Rennie Ellis.

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

State Library Victoria, Melbourne

19 Jan-9 Feb

Mon-Sun 10am-6pm

FREE

⚠ Nudity | Mature themes | Loud or sudden noises

Presented by Midsumma Festival and State Library Victoria

Image: by Rennie Ellis

Exhibition

Midsumma and Australia Post Art Award

10th year of Australia's leading queer art prize

Finalists are selected from across the country to exhibit works in a showcase of outstanding queer, political, potent and personal art. Award winners share in a prize pool of \$7K and a paid artist residency with Bundoora Homestead Art Centre. Audiences can cast their vote for People's Choice Award.

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

No Vacancy Gallery, Melbourne CBD

28 Jan-1 Feb, 4-8 Feb

Tue-Fri 12-4pm | Sat 1-4pm

FREE

Presented by Midsumma Festival and Australia Post

Image: 2024 winner Rani Amvrazis 'extremismós'. Photo by Suzanne Balding

Exhibition

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: A Magical, Queer Group Show

"And I serve the Fairy Queen,
To dew her orbs upon the green"

Step into a realm of enchantment as we showcase a captivating collection of queer art inspired by mythology, folklore, fantasy and all things magical.

Artemisia Gallery & Event Space, Windsor

22-26 Jan, 29 Jan-2 Feb

Wed-Sun 11am-5pm | Opening: Fri 24 Jan 6-9pm | Relaxed: All FREE

Image: Painting by John Simmons (1873)

Exhibition

NGV Friday Nights x Midsumma: Yayoi Kusama

This summer, NGV celebrates Yayoi Kusama – one of the world's most recognised artists. From dancing pumpkins to immersive infinity rooms, Yayoi Kusama is one of the most comprehensive retrospectives of the artist ever presented globally. Experience the exhibition after-hours with DJs hand-picked by Midsumma for one-night only at NGV Friday Nights.

NGV International, Melbourne

7 Feb 4hrs

Fri 6pm | Auslan: available on request

Online price only: \$45 full | \$40 conc | \$37 NGV member | \$23 child

Presented by NGV with DJs curated by Midsumma

Image: Yayoi Kusama Love is Calling 2013. Collection of the artist © YAYOI KUSAMA

Exhibition

Nonlimerent // Monosexual: an Aromantic and Asexual History

A-spec identity across the ages

"Nonlimerent", coined by Dorothy Tennov in 1979, and "monosexual", by Karl Maria Kertbeny in 1868, are terms that have historically held similar meanings to "aromantic" and "asexual". This combined history exhibition and art show will explore the key forces, individuals and events that have shaped a-spec identity over time.

Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre - Joel Gallery, Altona

1-9 Feb

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm | Sat, Sun 11am-3pm | Opening: Sat 1 Feb 1pm

FREE

Image: by Luciella Scarlett

Exhibition

O UT at BSG

Celebrate the launch of 'O UT', BSG's Midsumma exhibition program featuring some of Australia's most exciting emerging and mid-career LGBTQIA+ artists. Showcasing an exciting lineup of solo exhibitions each with their own unique curatorial voice, as well as our annual group exhibition, 'O UT' represents the diverse experiences of our community for an all-welcoming affair.

Brunswick Street Gallery, Fitzroy

25-26 Jan, 28 Jan-2 Feb, 4-9 Feb

Tue-Sat 10am-5pm | Sun 11am-4pm | Opening: Sat 25 Jan 6-8pm

FREE

△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature

Presented by Brunswick Street Gallery

Exhibition

Opulentia

A colourful and uplifting abstract art exhibition exploring the limitless bounds and magnificence of identity

Come and immerse yourself in an art exhibition full of vibrant, abstract acrylic paintings which explore ideas around individual identity and self-acceptance. Filled with themes aimed at opening up conversations around healing and connection, this series of paintings embraces the wealth of limitless spirit within each individual.

Chapel Off Chapel - The Mezzanine, Prahran

20 Jan-9 Feb

Mon-Thu 10am-4pm | Fri-Sun 10am-8pm | Opening and Artist Talks: Thu 23 Jan 6-8:30pm

FREE

Presented by Sarah Jennifer

Image: by Sarah Jennifer

Public Art

Paul Yore

The Metro Tunnel Creative Program: Art at Scott Alley

Midsumma is proud to present Paul Yore as part of our ongoing partnership with The Metro Tunnel Creative Program. Head down to Scott Alley (off Flinders Lane) to see this iconic artist's work in Melbourne's laneways.

Scott Alley, Melbourne

19 Jan-9 Feb

Mon-Sun 24hrs

FREE

Presented by Midsumma Festival and The Metro Tunnel Creative Program

Image: by Paul Yore

Exhibition



Pleasure Garden

Avant - Gardening on canvas

New works exploring the exotic and the everyday, tactile vibrant works evoking the lushness of a garden in full bloom. Each piece plays with contrasts - the seen and the unseen, the mundane and the magical.

Artitude Studio, Melbourne

25-26 Jan, 1-2 Feb

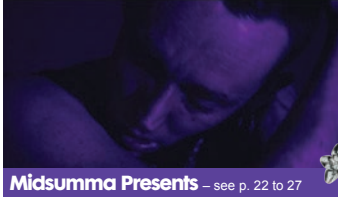
Sat, Sun 11am-4pm

FREE

Presented by Nigel Higgins

Image: by Erwin Lin

Exhibition



QRAVE: The Exhibition

"An agitation, scratching at the surface of queer histories"

"QRAVE: the exhibition" unsettles colonial and binary power structures, exposing fault lines in a poised, clear-eyed exploration of queer histories that populate the Birrarung and City of Yarra.

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Abbotsford Convent - The Store, Abbotsford

29 Jan-1 Feb, 4-8 Feb

Tue-Sat 12pm-8pm | FREE

Image: by Storm Bloom

△ Themes of a sexual nature | References to suicide and/or self-harm

Presented by Jessi Ryan, SISSY!, Abbotsford Convent & Midsumma Festival

Exhibition



Rauschenberg & Johns—Significant Others

Presented by National Gallery Touring Exhibition and Visions of Australia

Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns are considered two of the most significant artists of the twentieth century. Their individual artistic styles are the result of a private creative dialogue that began when they were young artists in a relationship.

Geelong Gallery, Geelong


19 Jan-9 Feb

Mon-Sun 10am-5pm

FREE

Image: Jasper Johns, Gemini G.E.L., 'Bent "Blue"; from Fragments - according to what', 1971, National Gallery of Australia, Kamberri/Canberra, purchased 1973 © Jasper Johns. ARS/Copyright Agency, 2024

Exhibition



Researchers of Justice Graphic Novel Launch

A queer comic book where superheroes are real... and they are all scientists!

Come and join us in this celebration of science and bad puns!

DT's Hotel, Richmond

19 Jan, 22-26 Jan, 29 Jan-2 Feb, 5-9 Feb

Sun 19 Jan 2-10pm | Wed 4-10pm | Thu 1pm-1am | Fri, Sat 4pm-1am | Sun 4pm-12am | Opening: Sat 18 Jan 4:30-6pm


FREE

△ Depictions of violence

Presented by Jimmy Twin

Image: by Jimmy Twin

Exhibition



Residency Exhibition - Talking with Pride

We proudly present the remarkable work of the Talking with Pride group, an initiative dedicated to empowering young people to express themselves and celebrate their unique identities through art.

Box Hill Community Arts Centre, Box Hill

20-24 Jan, 27-31 Jan, 3-7 Feb

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

FREE

Presented by Creative Whitehorse

Image: by Timothy Greaves

This exhibition is a testament to their creativity and resilience, offering a glimpse into the participants' powerful stories and perspectives.



N G V

Yayoi Kusama

KUSAMA

15 DEC 2024 – 21 APR 2025

PRESENTING PARTNER

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

MAJOR PARTNERS

TIMEPIECE PARTNER

LEARNING PARTNER

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF

MELBOURNE
EVERY BIT DIFFERENT



MACQUARIE



QANTAS



ROLEX



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE



Australian Government
International Exhibitions
Insurance Program



Installation view of Yayoi Kusama's *The Hope of the Polka Dots Buried in Infinity Will Eternally Cover the Universe* 2019 at Kusama's solo exhibition *Yayoi Kusama: All About Love Speaks Forever* at Fosun Foundation, Shanghai.
Collection of the artist ©YAYOI KUSAMA



Films

Midsumma Festival
19 Jan–9 Feb 2025



film



Bowery Theatre, St Albans

24 Jan 1hr 50m

Fri 6pm

FREE booking required

△ Mature themes

Presented by Brimbank City Council in collaboration with Snivure and Scented Storytelling

Image: Courtesy of Village Roadshow

LGBTQIA+ Scented Cinema - Hairspray (1988)

LGBTQIA+ story telling through scented cinema!

Dust off your dancing shoes and get ready for a brand new sensory and interactive screening of the John Waters 1988 cult classic, Hairspray.

This scented screening will leave your noses and eyes having the best time of your life!

film



Bowery Theatre, St Albans

7 Feb 1hr 30m

Fri 6pm

FREE booking required

△ Mature themes

Presented by Brimbank City Council in collaboration with Snivure and Scented Storytelling

Image: Supplied by Coconet.TV

LGBTQIA+ Scented Cinema - Inky Pinky Ponky (2023)

LGBTQIA+ storytelling through scented cinema

It's ball season, so dust off your best formal looks and get ready for a sensory and immersive screening of the brand new New Zealand and Tongan LGBTQIA+ film, Inky Pinky Ponky.

This scented screening will leave your noses and eyes having the best time of your life!

film



Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Abbotsford Convent - Sacred Heart Courtyard, Abbotsford

23-25 Jan 1hr

Thu-Sat 9pm

\$24.50 full | \$19.50 conc

△ Mature themes | Flashing imagery

Presented by Ari Angkasa, Abbotsford Convent and Midsumma Festival

Image: by Andrea Illés

Medium

The axis of power is shifting...

Ari Angkasa presents Medium, a live film set under the key light of the moon. Moving between performance lecture, sci-fi thriller, and musical eleganza extravaganza, Medium sees Angkasa perform as the lunar intermediary between stage and screen, unpacking the statecraft of cinema and its power to shape collective identity.

film



Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Cinema Nova, Carlton | Bunjil Place, Narre Warren | Fed Square - Big Screen, Melbourne

Bunjil Place: Fri 31 Jan 7-9pm | \$15 full

Nova: Fri 31 Jan-Sat 1 Feb 6:30pm, 8:30pm | \$26.50 full, \$22.50 conc

Fed Square: Sun 2 Feb 8-10pm | FREE

Presented by Midsumma Festival & Melbourne Queer Film Festival

MQFF Presents: Midsumma Movies

MQFF brings you a sizzling weekend of the newest and most fabulous queer cinema

Get ready for a sizzling summer weekend filled with the very best in queer cinema as the Melbourne Queer Film Festival proudly presents an exciting series of screenings across iconic venues. Featuring screenings at Cinema Nova in Carlton, Bunjil Place in Narre Warren, and a very special FREE screening at Federation Square in the heart of Melbourne.

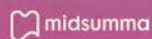
MELBOURNE QUEER FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS

MIDSUMMA MOVIES

31 JAN—02 FEB

MQFF.COM.AU

AKOE/AMFI: THE STORY OF A REVOLUTION (2023) DIR: IOSIF VARDAKIS AVANT-DRAG! (2024) DIR: FIL IEROPOULOS HIDDEN MASTER: THE LEGACY OF GEORGE PLATT LYNES (2023) DIR: SAM SHAHID
I'M NOT EVERYTHING I WANT TO BE (2024) DIR: KLÁRA TASOVSKÁ LIGHT LIGHT LIGHT (2023) DIR: INARI NIEMI PERFECT ENDINGS (2024) DIR: DANIEL RIBEIRO
SCARECROW IN A GARDEN OF CUCUMBERS (1972) DIR: ROBERT J. KAPLAN THE WIZ (1978) DIR: SIDNEY LUMET TO WONG FOO, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING! JULIE NEWMAR (1995) DIR: BEEBAN KIDRON
WOMAN OF... (2023) DIR: MAŁGORZATA SZUMOWSKA, MICHAŁ ENGLERT



VENUE PARTNERS:



Kids and Families

Midsumma Festival
19 Jan–9 Feb 2025



The Story Keepers © Darren Gill

Kids and Families



Queer Imaginings – see p. 18 to 21

ArtPlay, Melbourne CBD

30 Jan-2 Feb 45m

Thu-Sun 10:30am and 12:00pm
Auslan: 31 Jan 10:30am and 12:00pm

\$23 for 1 baby and up to 3 carers

Presented by Midsumma Festival and ArtPlay, produced by Performing Lines

Image: by Sarah Walker

An Uncertain Time

An immersive, sensory theatre performance designed specifically for babies aged 0-12 months and their carers

By Sarah Austin and Co.

An Uncertain Time uses song, sound, physical theatre and projection to take audiences on an exploration through ideas of love, loss, hope and uncertainty. It is a tactile, sensory and visual experience that will captivate babies and adults alike.

Kids and Families



Carlton Baths Community Centre, Carlton

1 Feb

Sat 4-8pm

\$11.50 full | \$5.70 conc

Presented by Carlton Baths Community Centre

Image: by Sana

Carlton Baths Pride Party 2025

Join us for live music by the pool and social activities for everyone!

In celebration of the Queer community and allies, Carlton Baths will host an afternoon of family-friendly fun including live music, giveaways and activities.

Come and enjoy performances from your favourite LGBTQIA+ artists, connect with local community organisations and engage in fun, activities throughout the centre.

Kids and Families



Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette, St Kilda

23 Jan, 25 Jan 1hr

Thu, Sat 11am

\$15 full | \$10 conc

Presented by Dean Arcuri

Image: by Joel Devereux

Frock Hudson's Storytime Sing-a-long

An interactive adventure for all ages!

It's choose your own adventure with the young people steering this story time ship. Frock's back with an interactive show for children, rainbow families and the young at heart. Take a sing-a-long journey into your imagination, building an adventure together. Don't wish upon a star when you can come along and be who you are!

Kids and Families



Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

State Library Victoria, Melbourne

27 Jan 1hr

Mon 1:30pm | Mon 3:30pm | Auslan: available on request

FREE booking required

Presented by Midsumma Festival and State Library Victoria, supported by Rainbow Families Switchboard and Rainbow Community Angels

Hugo's Rainbow Show

A musical, drag adventure exploring the science of the skies

What makes a rainbow? Join drag superstar Hugo Grrrl for Hugo's Rainbow Show: a musical, magical adventure exploring the science of the skies above.

Kids and Families

Rainbow Families Extravaganza

Dancing, dress ups and drag storytime for rainbow families!

Bring your babies, toddlers, and kids for a fabulous morning of colourful fun. A playful and inclusive space where kids under 12 (and parents) can let loose and enjoy themselves.

Come dressed in your favourite party outfit and see you on the dancefloor!

Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette, St Kilda

22 Jan

2hrs

Wed 11am

FREE booking required

Presented by Rainbow Families Switchboard and Victorian Pride Centre

Kids and Families

Rainbow Family Art Workshop

A family-friendly art workshop for all ages

Let's get creative! If you're eager to join other LGBTQIA+ families and have fun exploring art, this workshop is perfect for you.

The workshop will be delivered by a local LGBTQIA+ artist who excels at turning everyday objects into art and invites you to be curious and discover the awe inspiring nature of creativity.

Sunbury Library, Sunbury

1 Feb

3hrs

Sat 1pm

FREE booking required

Presented by Hume Libraries

Kids and Families

Rainbow Storytime

If you love a fabulous story, you've come to the right place!

State Library Victoria is adding rainbow flair to their popular Storytime, as special guest LGBTQIA+ storytellers Govind Pillai and Cerulean share their favourite tales in their own signature styles!

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

State Library Victoria, Melbourne

22 Jan, 29 Jan

30m

Wed 12:30pm | Auslan: Available on request

FREE booking required

Presented by Midsumma Festival and State Library Victoria, supported by Rainbow Families Switchboard and Rainbow Community Angels

Kids and Families

The Story Keepers

Are you ready to see the silliest, most musical, enchantingly queer fairytales?

The Story Keepers – and Esmerelda the Chicken – are coming to the Library this Midsumma to bring three forgotten fairytales to life.

Go on a journey with wise giants, brave animals and silly Vikings who are secretly . . . well, you'll have to discover that for yourself!

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

State Library Victoria, Melbourne

20 Jan, 25 Jan

1hr

Mon, Sat 1:30pm | Mon, Sat 3:30pm | Auslan: available on request

FREE booking required

Presented by Midsumma Festival and State Library Victoria, supported by Rainbow Families Switchboard and Rainbow Community Angels

Kids and Families

Toddler Social

Aunty Bear and ZaZa (from The Rainbow Tree) bring you Toddler Social, a curated, queer-friendly, westside get-together for toddlers and caregivers. One hour of creative play and activities that encourage interaction and self-expression with a soundtrack of Hip-Hop, Soul, Rock, Punk and Reggae, including some live music. A place where toddlers and their grown-ups can hang out with others in a relaxed and playful atmosphere.

Bluestone Church Arts Space, Footscray

7-8 Feb

1hr

Fri, Sat 10:30am | Best suited to ages 2-5 Older or younger siblings or friends are welcome | Auslan: 8 Feb 10:30am

\$10 per child | under 1's free

Presented by Fat Fruit

Image: by Sarah Ward

Midsumma Festival 19 Jan–9 Feb 2025 All Events Kids and Families

57



Midsumma Festival
19 Jan–9 Feb 2025



Night at the Museum Midsumma Youth Party 2024 © Leah Hulst

Youth



Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia

22–23 Jan

Wed, Thu 1:30–3pm | Auslan: on request

FREE | Presented by Midsumma Festival in partnership with NGV

Image: David McDiarmid Q, 1994 from the Rainbow aphorism series, 1994. National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Purchased, 1994 © David McDiarmid/Licensed by Copyright Agency, Australia

NGV Teens x Midsumma: Queer Dialogues

Teens, meet like-minded peers, jot down ideas and reflect on artworks in the NGV Collection that are connected to LGBTQIA+ experiences and histories in these social sessions with NGV curators and members of Melbourne's queer creative community.

These sessions are open to people aged 14 to 18 years. For details visit ngv.melbourne

Youth



Sunbury Library, Sunbury

3 Feb 1hr

Mon 6pm

FREE booking required

Presented by Hume Libraries

Rainbow Reads YA Book Club

A queer book club for teens and young adults

Come along to this safe and open space to discuss your latest queer read, and help the group pick which books to read throughout the year! In this inaugural meeting, you can help shape the diversity of the Hume Libraries LGBTQIA+ collection.

This is the first meeting of a new monthly book group.

Youth



Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Immigration Museum, Melbourne CBD

25 Jan

3hrs

Sat 6:30pm

FREE booking required

Presented by Midsumma Festival, Minus18 and Immigration Museum

Image: by Leah Hulst

Night at the Museum: Midsumma Youth Party

It's time for a free youth dance party with Minus18!

To celebrate Midsumma, Minus18 is throwing an epic pride party for LGBTQIA+ youth aged 12 to 19!

Expect live music, drag, competitions, snacks, activities, new pals and exclusive access to view the Immigration Museum exhibitions after dark.



**IMMIGRATION
MUSEUM**

JOY
**SEE IT
SHARE IT**

AN EXHIBITION OF COLOUR AND STORYTELLING

VISIT NOW

🔍 IMMIGRATION MUSEUM

**MUSEUMS
VICTORIA**

COLOUR PARTNER
TAUBMANS

CREATIVE VICTORIA



Community and Culture

Midsumma Festival
19 Jan–9 Feb 2025



Midsumma Pride March 2024 © Suzanne Balding

Faith



St Joseph's Parish South Yarra, South Yarra

7 Feb 1hr

Fri 8pm

FREE booking required

Presented by Acceptance Melbourne

Acceptance Melbourne; an LGBTIQ+ affirming mass for Catholics and friends

Yes, you CAN be both queer and Catholic

Acceptance Melbourne has been creating and claiming safe and fully affirming spaces in Melbourne for 50 years. We know that queer people are beloved by God. Join us for mass, followed by a cuppa and snacks.

Social



Edinburgh Gardens - Rotunda, Fitzroy North

25 Jan

Sat 12-3pm

\$15 full

Presented by Bi+ Pride Victoria

Image: by Duc Dau

Bi+ Pride Victoria: Picnic in the Park

Free smoothie with every ticket sold

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the park. Local DJ playing a mix of chill vibes and upbeat classics. Challenge your friends to a game of Finska, have a dance, relax on the grass and connect with new friends. Some toys will be provided for kids. This is a no alcohol / no smoking event. BYO food, drink and rugs. Wheelchair accessible (grass). Edinburgh Gardens - The Rotunda (note the new location!)

Day Out



Old Cheese Factory, Berwick

9 Feb

Sun 2-6pm

FREE booking required

Presented by Casey Cardinia Pride Inc.

Casey Rainbow Community Picnic

A fun-filled and relaxing day out celebrating our LGBTQIA+ community & allies in Melbourne's Southeast!

In partnership with Casey Cardinia Pride Inc., we bring you the Casey Rainbow Community Picnic which has something for everyone including live music, art & craft activities, and more. Bring your picnic goodies - food, blankets, family and friends - and join in with our performers onstage!

Social



St Kilda Town Hall

28 Jan

Tue 3-4pm

FREE

Presented by City of Port Phillip

Image: by City of Port Phillip

City of Port Phillip Flag Raising Ceremony

The flags will fly with pride in St Kilda

Join City of Port Phillip councillors, members from Council's Pride Network and the local LGBTQIA+ community to raise the inclusive rainbow and trans pride flags at St Kilda Town Hall. Hear from key local LGBTQIA+ and City of Port Phillip leaders, meet local Councillors and enjoy special performances to welcome Midsumma to St Kilda.

Social

Collingwood Underground Roller Disco

A roller disco, underground music, in an underground carpark

Set in the carpark of one of Collingwood's most iconic landmarks, the high rise towers is home to the CU Roller Disco. With skating, dancing and a games room on the programme for the day in addition to food and drink, it's an all-ages event you don't want to miss, featuring Le Soul and more.

Collingwood Underground, Collingwood

7-8 Feb

Fri 4-9pm (13-18 yrs) | \$10 all

Sat 3-11pm (all ages) | \$15 full, \$10 conc

⚠ Loud or sudden noises

Presented by CU Roller Disco

Image: by James McPherson

Arts

Fluid Beauty

Explore identity through makeup and styling in this empowering free workshop

People 18+ are invited to discover new dimensions of self-expression and celebrate the beauty of fluid identities. With professional guidance, create unique looks and capture them through stunning portraits and interviews. This workshop is a safe space for self-discovery, connection and understanding.

Woods Street Arts Space, Laverton

8 Feb

3hrs

Sat 11am

FREE booking required

Presented by Mish Winters and Stephanie Nguyen

Image: by Mish Winters

Market

Gay Stuff Market

Come get some Gay Stuff

Gay Stuff is back at Midsumma Festival for a 7th year!

Gay Stuff is prideful and celebrates everything queer with a fabulous line up of vendors. Featuring specialty goods from a collection of Melbourne's finest queer and allied artists, creatives and style makers.

What's on offer: fashion, accessories, plants, homewares, jewellery, art, crafts, zines, books, handmade goods and more!

Come get some Gay Stuff!

Victorian Pride Centre - The Forum, St Kilda

1 Feb

Sat 12-4pm

FREE

Presented by Gay Stuff

Image: by Luke David

Social

Lee's Café Launch

LGBTQIA+ social event

Join us for the official launch of Lee's Café, Glenroy Library's monthly LGBTQIA+ social event. Immerse yourself in a night of connection and community, as we introduce you to our exciting program. Hear from a special guest speaker and our monthly contributors - Busy Bees and Silent Book Club Melbourne. Enjoy refreshments and mingle with like-minded people as we celebrate our LGBTQIA+ community. Come and be a part of the welcoming space that is Lee's Café.

Glenroy Community Hub, Glenroy

4 Feb

1hr 45m

Tue 6pm

FREE booking required

Presented by Merri-bek Libraries

Social

Melanated in Melbourne: Live

Melanated in Melbourne chronicles the lives of two Black Americans living in Australia. Primarily engaging with LGBTQIA+ people of colour on the show, the podcast intentionally amplifies the voices of historically disenfranchised individuals with insight and humour. This live event will celebrate the launch of their third season, with the return of previous guests for a night of live music, drag performances and more.

Stay Gold, Brunswick

8 Feb

4hrs

Sat 7pm

\$25 full | \$20 conc | \$20 group (min 4) | \$15 First Nations

⚠ Strong language | Long periods of standing | Mature themes

Image: by Kyle Caldwell

Day Out

Midsumma Carnival

Get ready for Queer Melbourne's favourite day in the park!

Kick off 22 days of Midsumma with a free, family-friendly, all-day festival of fun. With three stages, tonnes of community stalls, and heaps of activities—including the iconic Dog Show—there's something for everyone. Dance into the warm summer evening with live entertainment, DJ sets, and sparkling energy. Don't miss out!

Major Event – see p.10-11

Alexandra Gardens, Melbourne CBD

19 Jan

Sun 11am-9pm

Auslan: Main and Picnic Stages

FREE

Presented by Midsumma Festival

Image: by Tom Noble

Day Out





Major Event

– see p.12-13

Fitzroy St and Catani Gardens, St Kilda

2 Feb

5hrs

Sun 11am

FREE

Presented by Midsumma Festival


Image: by Tan McCulloch


Midsumma Pride March

St Kilda's dazzling celebration of diversity and pride

Join us for Melbourne's iconic Midsumma Pride March, where everyone is invited to celebrate all things LGBTQIA+! Whether you're strutting down Fitzroy Street with friends and family or cheering from the sidelines, pride is the heart of the day. After the march, join us for the festivities in the beautiful Catani Gardens. Don't miss out!

Arts





Kelly Park, Werribee

1 Feb

4hrs

Sat 6pm

FREE

△ Strong language | Mature themes

Presented by Wyndham City Council

Image: by Artificial Studios

Park Lounge

Pride and Party at Park Lounge: A Celebration of Queer Culture

Join us for an unforgettable evening at Park Lounge, a vibrant community celebration of queer culture and expression. Experience a sparkling line-up of talented LGBTQIA+ artists and allies who will light up the stage. This joyful event welcomes everyone to come as they are and dance the night away in a safe and welcoming space.

Dancing is encouraged, and everyone is welcome!

Day Out





Aquanation, Ringwood

1 Feb

Sat 2-5pm

\$10 full | \$8.50 conc | \$8.50 child


Presented by Maroondah City Council


Poolside Pride

Poolside Pride is back for its third year!

Aquanation is rolling out the rainbow carpet. All LGBTQIA+ people of all ages, friends, family and allies are invited to this pride-filled pool party extravaganza! Featuring food trucks, live entertainment, community and market stalls, free fitness classes, as well as an exclusive outdoor chill space for event attendees!

Networking





Midsumma Presents

– see p. 22 to 27

Abbotsford Convent - Magdalen Laundry, Abbotsford

1 Feb

1hr

Sat 1pm | Auslan: on request

FREE booking required


Presented by Forest Collective, Abbotsford Convent and Midsumma Festival


Image: by Daniel Rabin

Queer Sound Exchange

Join us at Queer Sound Exchange, where queer musicians, composers, and sound artists come together for an afternoon of creativity, networking and connection. Hosted by Forest Collective at Abbotsford Convent, this event is about sparking conversations, sharing ideas, and celebrating the vibrant world of queer sound in Naarm-Melbourne. Let's come together to celebrate and create something unforgettable!

Faith





Victorian Quaker Centre, West Melbourne

1 Feb

1hr

Sat 2pm

FREE

Presented by Victorian Rainbow Friends

Image: Victoria Regional Meeting

Rainbow Quaker Meeting

Come and discover what Quakers do!

Who are the Religious Society of Friends a.k.a the Quakers? What do they do? Doesn't it have something to do with oats? Or are they Amish? Many LGBTQIA+ people find their spiritual home with us, some are just passing through. Come along and discover how we worship, what Quakers do, what its got to do with oats, and how we live our lives through peace, equality, and integrity.

Social





Whealers Hill Library, Wheelers Hill

23 Jan

2hrs

Thu 6pm

FREE booking required via phone (03) 9265 4877

Presented by Monash Public Library Service

Rainbow Trivia Night!

A special LGBTQIA+ trivia night for adults to celebrate Midsumma 2025

Delve into the past and present of Pride and answer questions relating to topics covering art, literature, culture, film and more! Special prizes for the winning team and a door raffle prize. Snacks and drinks provided. An event for the Rainbow community and their allies.

Register a team (max. 6 people) via Wheelers Hill Library, ph 9265 4877.

Market



Greensborough Walk, Greensborough

7 Feb
Fri 5-9pm
FREE

Presented by Visit Greensborough

Image: by Theresa Harrison

Sunset Pride Party

Celebrating our LGBTQIA+ community in Banyule!

The Sunset Pride Party transforms Greensborough Walk into a colourful celebration of queer pride! With Gay Stuff Markets, workshops by the Fast Fashun Art Collective, face painting, Disco DJs and live entertainment, this family-friendly event is the perfect way to soak up the summer vibes in Greensy. All are welcome!

Arts



Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette, St Kilda

8 Feb
Sat 10am-5pm
\$15 full \$10 conc

⚠ Mature themes

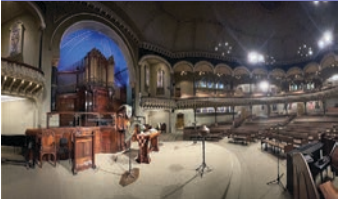
Image: by Louis Hansel

Trans Book Festival

Australia's first trans and gender diverse literary festival

The inaugural Trans Book Festival will showcase trans and gender diverse authors across so-called Australia, sharing their tales of joy, pain, hilarity and rage across fiction, memoir, poetry and more. Featuring Sam Elkin, Ernest Price, Yves Rees and many more to be announced. Books for sale on the day from Hares and Hyenas.

Faith



St Michael's Uniting Church, Melbourne CBD

9 Feb	1hr 15m
Sun 10am	
FREE	

Presented by St Michael's Uniting Church

Image: by Marcus Matthews

"A feather on the breath of God" - A Celebration of Queer Inspiration

St Michael's welcomes all to join their Sunday Gathering

St Michael's celebrates the long history of queer inspiration through spirituality and faith with their Midsumma Sunday Gathering. Led by St Michael's LGBTQIA+ minister, Rev Dr Margaret Mayman, with special musical guests. All are welcome to share in the joy of being inspired by the sacred.

Arts



Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Victorian Pride Centre - The Forum, St Kilda

26 Jan	1hr
Sun 2pm	
\$12 full \$10 conc	

Presented by Osborne and Fawcner
Publishing supported by Midsumma Festival

Image: by 'POLO' Osborne and Fawcner

The Pearl Prize 2025

A queer bloom in the Australian writing landscape

Come and celebrate the fifteen finalists who have been selected and published in The Pearl Prize 2025. Fill the room with pride as The Pearl Prize 2025 Writers Award is proudly announced at The Victorian Pride Centre. The publication featuring the works from the fifteen finalists will be available to purchase and be signed by these talents at Hares and Hyenas.

Day Out



Major Event – see p.14-15

Gertude Street and Smith Street, Fitzroy

9 Feb
Sun 12-9pm
Auslan: Main Stages
FREE

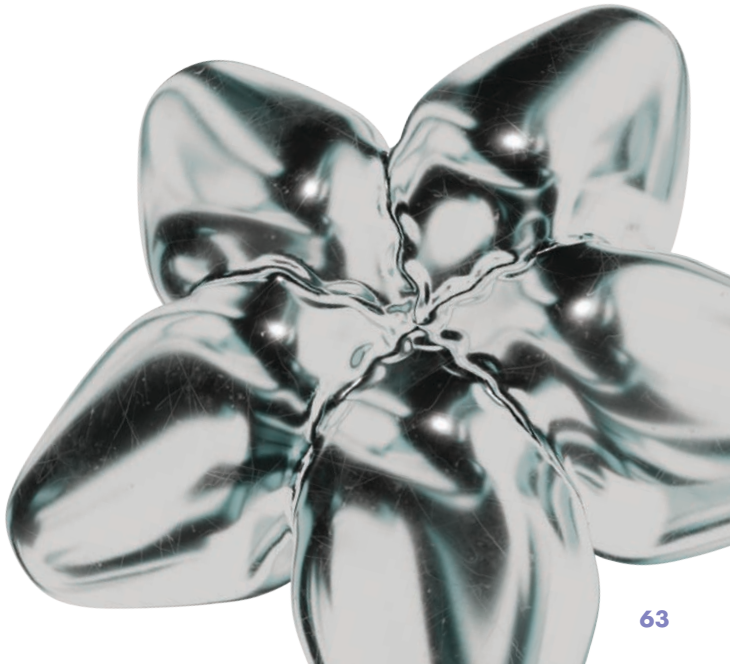
Presented by Midsumma in partnership with the Victorian State Government

Image: by Tom Noble

Victoria's Pride Street Party

Take over the streets with us!

Join us for the 4th edition of Victoria's Pride Street Party - a celebration of progress, love, and diversity! Experience a full day of LGBTQIA+ art, live music, performances, community and culture, with stalls showcasing local treasures. Open to all - families, friends, and allies - there's something for everyone, from morning to night.





Talks, Tours and Workshops

Midsumma Festival
19 Jan–9 Feb 2025



NGV x Midsumma Queer Stories - Courtesy NGV © Tobias Titz

Tours



Melbourne Polytechnic College Fairfield -
AIDS Memorial Garden, Fairfield

31 Jan 2hrs

Fri 12pm | Fri 4pm

FREE booking required

Presented by Thorne Harbour Health

Image: by Matto Lucas

AIDS Memorial Garden Tour

Remember Fairfield - From Hospital to Horticulture

Established by Victorian AIDS Council volunteers over 30 years ago, the AIDS Memorial Garden remains a treasured resource and place of quiet reflection. The Garden is located on the grounds of the old Fairfield Hospital which was responsible for the care of the majority of HIV/AIDS patients in Victoria. This walking tour provides a rare opportunity to have a guided tour by community members.

Tours



Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

Victorian Pride Centre - The Forum, St Kilda

1 Feb 1hr

Sat 3pm

FREE booking required

Presented by Midsumma Festival & Victorian Pride Centre

Image: by Max Hayward

Auslan Interpreted Tour of the Pride Centre

Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities are invited to join our Auslan-interpreted guided tour to learn about the Victorian Pride Centre's award-winning architecture, its resident organisations, bookable spaces, and events calendar while also having an opportunity to explore the Pride Gallery exhibition and the Hares & Hyenas bookshop.

Workshops



Queer Imaginings – see p. 18 to 21

Fed Square - The Edge, Melbourne CBD

1 Feb 1hr

Sat 10:30am | Sat 12:15pm

Auslan: 12:15pm

FREE booking required

Presented by Midsumma Festival, Fed Square and House of Muchness

Image: by Eden Muster

Midsumma Matters: A Minor Adjustment

A creative, participatory experience for families

We've created a test to check out your current levels of fun and play, messiness and grossness, adventure and risk-taking. Regularly considered qualities of childhood, we reckon they're necessary qualities for the best kind of humans no matter your age. Come along and see how you measure up: don't worry - you'll probably just need A Minor Adjustment.

Talks



Queer Imaginings – see p. 18 to 21

Fed Square - The Edge, Melbourne CBD

1 Feb 1hr 30m

Sat 2:30pm

FREE booking required

Presented by Midsumma Festival, Fed Square and House of Muchness

Midsumma Matters: A Not So Small Talk

Hosted by the teenagers of House of Muchness

Join the artists involved in Midsumma's Queer Imaginings program - but instead of speeches or panels, join us at chat circles hosted by teenagers armed with abundant bread baskets. Young people will ask the questions, and create playful systems of understanding and interpretation. Because discussion is better with food, and doubly better if you fully get it.

Tours

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia and NGV International, Melbourne

Sat 8 Feb | various times

Auslan: available on request

FREE

Presented by Midsumma Festival in partnership with NGV

Image: courtesy National Gallery of Victoria. Photographer: Tobias Titz

NGV x Midsumma: Queer Stories

Art is a powerful medium to talk about the world, to share diverse lived experiences and reflect on important issues. In 2025, Midsumma and NGV come together again to co-present a day of community-centred talks and tours drawing on historical and contemporary art and design in the NGV Collection, to explore a rich array of stories and experiences. For details visit ngv.melbourne

Talks

Victorian Pride Centre - Theatrette, St Kilda

4 Feb 3hrs

Tue 6pm

FREE booking required

⚠ Strong language | References to sexual violence

Presented by Thorne Harbour Health and The Victorian Pride Centre

No Pride in Racism

A community panel on sexualised racism in LGBTQIA+ communities

LGBTQIA+ community leaders share their thoughts and perspectives on sexualised racism in the community. From fighting stigmatising language on apps and online dating spaces, to responding to microaggressions, and fetishisation of racial identities.

This panel will share experiences of queer people of colour, culture, and faith. This event is open to people of all racial and cultural backgrounds.

Talks

Preston Library, Preston

6 Feb 1hr

Thu 7pm

FREE booking required

⚠ Mature themes

Presented by Darebin Libraries

Image: by Tizia May

Queer Becoming with Katia Ariel

A story of selfhood, desire, and of careful listening to an ungovernable heart

An in-conversation event with Katia Ariel, author of *The Swift Dark Tide*, and Melissa Cranenburgh, book reviewer, writer and editor, focusing on Katia's creative practice, her choice of the memoir genre and the interplay between queer becoming and the writing life.

"An open love letter to her own courage and desire." - 2024 Stella Prize Judges

Workshops

Abbotsford Convent - Mural Hall, Abbotsford

1 Feb 3hrs

Sat 6pm

\$60 full

⚠ Nudity | Mature themes

Presented by Holy Grail Plants

Image: by Alexander Schoeffel

Queer Life Drawing PARADISE

Create exotic homoerotic art with Eureka in this tutored life drawing class

Celebrate queer joy, enjoy a drink and nibbles, learn and make some fine art in this fully tutored life drawing class with male models in the halls of the Abbotsford Convent. Over a three hour period, participants will learn how to capture the naked innocence of the unclothed figure. You will be coached and supported to experience drawing from life.

Talks

Brunswick Library, Brunswick

6 Feb 1hr 30m

Thu 6pm

FREE

⚠ Long periods of standing

Presented by Merri-Bek Libraries

Image: by Merri-Bek Libraries

Queer Merri-Bek Audio Tour Launch

Learn about local LGBTQIA+ history

Despite having one of the highest populations of LGBTQIA+ identifying people in Victoria, there is a striking lack of documented and published local community history. Come and learn the untold LGBTQIA+ history of Merri-Bek on our audio tour, where we will visit some significant sites in Brunswick and end with a community picnic.

Talks

The Wheeler Centre - Performance Space, Melbourne

6 Feb 1hr

Thu 6pm

FREE

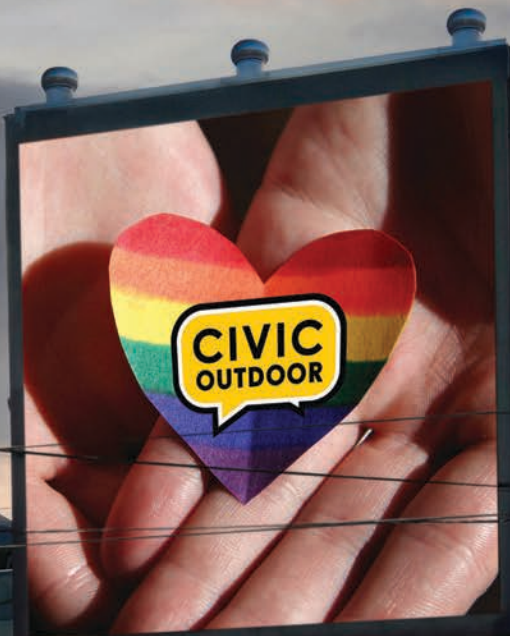
Presented by Osbourne and Fawcner

Image: POLO II, supplied Osbourne and Fawcner creative team

QUEERISM: The Future Is Now

IN THE AGE OF AI

The Wheeler Centre will open its doors for a panel discussion that will divulge with dialogue and intrigue. Come along to the climax of The Pearl Prize season 2025 and hear what we as Queers feel are the nuances between the created and us in the age of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. So... IS THE FUTURE NOW?



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Parties

Midsumma Festival
19 Jan–9 Feb 2025



© Renne Ellis

Party



Wet on Wellington, Collingwood

4 Feb

Tue 6:30pm-2am

\$35 full

△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature |
Smoke/haze

Presented by Melbourne Saunas & Wet on
Wellington

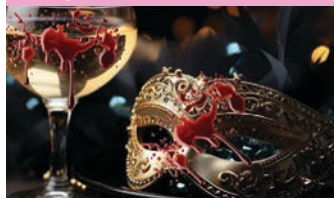
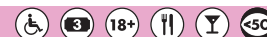
Bears Pool Party 2025

Furocious Bear Night - A Midsumma Special

Come join us for our Midsumma
Special 'Furocious' Bear Night!
Enjoy the 25m heated pool, dance
to the amazing beats of our sexy
DJs and play your way across a
multi-level labyrinth of play spaces.

It's going to be a grizzly time!

Party



Coburg RSL, Coburg

1 Feb

4hrs

Sat 7:30pm

\$55 full | \$52 conc

△ Strobe lights | Smoke/haze | Mature
themes

Presented by Event Producer: Andrew &
Host: Shiva La-Diva

Beyond Rainbows

The Masquerade Ball Murder

If wearing a mask wasn't mysterious
enough, then a murder should
bring more mystery to the evening!
You're invited to our Masquerade
Ball. While guests enjoy an included
glass of champagne on arrival and
a selection of finger food hors-
d'oeuvres waited through the
room of guests, tragedy suddenly
strikes and the ball room becomes
locked down. Follow a trail of
clues that will lead you closer to
unmasking the killer! Remember
your costume and mask could hide
your killer intentions!! Be Creative.

Party



Bunjil Place, Narre Warren

7 Feb

Fri 5-10pm

\$10 full | \$7 conc

Image: LVM

Glitter Groove

The south-east's summer queer party!

Glitter Groove returns after a
smashing debut in 2024, and it's
sparklier than ever! Join us for
the South-East's ultimate queer
party with music, food, drinks, and
more. We've partnered with Gay
Stuff Markets for some amazing
shopping, and local legend, Brenda
Bressed, will host a stellar lineup of
Melbourne's top drag performers.
With a DJ spinning tunes all night,
grab your friends, don your best
outfit, and dance the night away!

Party



Wet on Wellington, Collingwood

7 Feb

Fri 6:30-11pm

\$25 full

△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature |
Smoke/haze

Presented by Melbourne Saunas & Wet on
Wellington

Happy Hour @ Wet 2025

Happy Hour - Midsumma Special

Why not kick off the last weekend
of Midsumma with our Happy Hour!
Going from 6:30pm through till
11pm! Enjoy cocktail specials and
cheap beer, wine and spirits!

It's the best way to start the weekend off!

Party

18+

<50

Lady Like
MIDSUMMA
POOL PARTY

Wet on Wellington, Collingwood

5 Feb

Wed 7pm-2am

\$40 full

△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature | Smoke/haze

Presented by Melbourne Saunas & Wet on Wellington

Lady Like Pool Party 2025

Melbourne's BIGGEST femme event of the year!

Play and explore your sexual desires in a safe and non-judgmental environment in an environment full of feminine energy. Watch others play, join in the fun, have a spa or enjoy a cocktail at the bar... the night is yours!

Sorry gentlemen, no boys allowed. We welcome women and theybies of all sizes, ages and experiences.

Party

18+

<50

Midsumma Presents – see p. 22 to 27

State Library Victoria, Melbourne

6 Feb3hrs

Thu 7:30pm

\$25 full | \$20 conc & State Library Victoria paid members | \$15 First Nations

△ Mature themes

Presented by State Library Victoria & Midsumma Festival

Image: by Rennie Ellis

Library Up Late x Midsumma

Party like it's 1999. Or 1989. Or 1979.

Celebrate Melbourne's queer culture through the decades with Library Up Late x Midsumma and party like it's 1999. Or 1989. Or 1979. Music, food and a dazzlingly good time curated by the inimitable MzRizk.

'Library Up Late [...] was a one-of-a-kind experience' – Amnplify

Party

18+

<50

Victorian Pride Centre - Rooftop, St Kilda

25 Jan

Sat 3-10pm

\$40 full

Presented by MARY! and the Victorian Pride Centre

Image: by Gatekeeper-Keymaster

MARY! presents POOFTOP

There's something strangely gay in the neighbourhood

Get on top! Your favourite disco weirdo MARY! is back for another rooftop spectacular - and this year we'll be taking the swishy sights, sounds and sauce up to a whole new level.

Prizes for the best Sigourney. No entry for Zuul. (And if the weather is weird and it don't look good, we have a wet weather contingency).

Party

18+

75

Moon Dog Wild West, Footscray

23 Jan

Thu 7:30-11pm

FREE

Presented by Moon Dog Brewery

Moon Dog Hoedown

"Wild West Hoedown!"

Get ready for an unforgettable night at Moon Dog Wild West with Dolly Drag, live music and DJs all night. A good ol' fashion hoedown awaits!

Slip into your best chaps and saddle up for a wild ride on our mechanical bull, Jolene.

Party

18+

<50

Beans Bar, Melbourne

23 Jan3hrs 30m

Thu 7pm

\$15 full | \$10 conc

Presented by Thorne Harbour Health

Murder Mystery Party

A Night of Sapphic Seduction, Suspense and High Stakes!

Prepare for an unforgettable evening where fine wine flows, friendships flourish, and a wicked murder lurks in the shadows. At this Murder Mystery Party, the night is alive with intrigue, romance, and a thrilling game of whodunit.

Party

75

Fitzroy Swimming Pool, Fitzroy

8 Feb

Sat 12-5pm

FREE booking required

Presented by City of Yarra

Northside Pride Pool Party

It's the HOTTEST pool party of the season!

Dive in divas because this one is for all the FLINTAs and those who love them. Whether you're here to splash in the pool, dance to the beat, or just soak up the summer vibes, everyone is welcome to join this poolside party.


After Party

3

18+

<50

🌐



New Guernica, Melbourne

9 Feb

Sun 12pm-3am

\$85 full | \$65 conc | \$65 group (min 4)
\$20 First Nations

△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature | Strobe lights

Presented by Trough Events

Image: Art Directed by Nik Dimopoulos

NUTT: Vicky P After Party

Powered by Trough Events

TROUGH proudly presents NUTT, the Pride after-party you've been busting for. NUTT is a HOMO SEXUAL CLUB featuring DJs, Darkrooms and Dungeon @ New Guernica, in the heart of Midsumma's Vicky P closing party.

NUTT – Sex Dungeon: Midday-7pm (side entrance Langridge St)

NUTT – After Party: 8pm-3am (entrance Smith St)

Party


♿

18+

🍷

🍹

<50



Victorian Pride Centre - Rooftop, St Kilda

31 Jan

Fri 6:30-9:30pm

\$10 full

△ Long periods of standing | Mature themes

Presented by Chemist Warehouse

Image: by ANIMA-ID

Pride Rooftop Party Presented by Chemist Warehouse

Cocktails | Nibbles | Freebies | Drag | Brand Activations

Join us, along with some amazing brands, as we celebrate Midsumma season! Explore beauty and wellness activations, dance the night away and score lots of free products. We proudly celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community as Founding Major Partners of the Victorian Pride Centre.


Party

3

18+

<50

🌐



Melbourne River Cruises, Melbourne

8 Feb

4hrs

Sat 6pm

\$40 full

Presented by Dragged To

Image: by Dragged To

Pride Tide Boat Party

An All-Inclusive Party on the Waves for Buoys & Babes

Join us for the boat party that warmly welcomes everyone from the LGBTQIA+ community and our cherished allies. Get ready to dance from day to night to the electrifying beats of top DJs, be dazzled by live performances from fabulous drag queens and kings, and enjoy breathtaking views of Melbourne's skyline.

Party


18+

🍷

🍹

<50

🌐



Wet on Wellington, Collingwood

6 Feb

Thu 6:30pm-2am

\$40 full

△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature | Smoke/haze

Presented by Melbourne Saunas & Wet on Wellington

Queer AF Pool Party 2025

Wet's Midsumma Queer AF Special

It's going to be Queer AF at Wet for Midsumma - a special queer pool party! Join 100s of Melbourne's queers as you drink, dance and play your way across a multi-level venue. Enjoy the 25m heated pool, large spa, steam room and sauna!

We've got some very sexy DJs spinning tunes for you to dance to!

Party


♿

18+

🍷

🍹

75



Moon Dog World, Preston

23 Jan

2hrs

Thu 7:30pm

FREE

Presented by Moon Dog Brewery

Queer Trivia

Get ready for a night of fabulousness with our Queer Trivia at Moon Dog World! Compete for epic prizes while sipping on \$18 jugs of Fizzer or Old Mate.


Bring your mates down and book a table!

Party

18+

<50

🌐



Laundry Bar, Fitzroy

19 Jan

Sun 8pm-3am

\$65 full | \$50 conc | \$60 group (min 4) | \$20 First Nations

△ Nudity | Strobe lights | Mature themes

Presented by Trough Events

Image: Art Directed by Nik Dimopoulos

SCREW: CARNIVAL AFTER PARTY

The SeXXXy After Party Everyone Wants

TROUGH presents their first Midsumma Carnival After Party. Returning to the roots of clubbing with an exploratory experience of cruising. Where we lust for the light, submit to the penetrative dance beats and discover our deepest desires in the darkness. Two venues:

LAUNDRY - for dance & rave.

BAD DECISIONS - for the sex-yr-all cruising for.

Party

Social Butterflies

Make gender queer friends at DT's Hotel

Join the Social Butterflies team for an unforgettable evening of community empowerment at DT's Hotel in Richmond!

Experience a place where cis people are the minority and living your authentic self is celebrated! Feel the relief of being surrounded by like-minded people from Melbourne's bubbling community of trans people, queers, and cross-dressers, all gathered under one roof for a night of fun.

DT's Hotel, Richmond
24 Jan
Fri 7:30pm-1:30am
FREE
Image: by Aimee Yow

After Party

St Kilda Pride Afterparty at The Espy

St Kilda's iconic Pride March after party is back!

What better way to celebrate Pride '25 than at the annual Espy Pride March after party, featuring another iconic surprise staircase performance.

Grab the crew and head straight from the parade to the party!

Pride at The Espy awaits.

Hotel Esplanade, St Kilda
2 Feb
Sun 12pm-12am
FREE
△ Strong language | Smoke/haze

Party

Sunday Sizzle

Pride March After Party at the Victorian Pride Centre

Celebrate Midsumma Festival's Pride March with an epic after party on the stunning rooftop at the Victorian Pride Centre!

Live shows by Melbourne's most fabulous artistic icons, The Huxleys, and their glittery friends, queer bangers by DJs Callum & Ron, refreshing bevs plus our famous sausage sizzle.

Don't miss it!

Victorian Pride Centre - Rooftop, St Kilda
2 Feb
Sun 1-6pm
FREE
Presented by Victorian Pride Centre
Image: by Sam Copland

Party

Sundaylicious - The Precinct - 2025

Dance, Celebrate, Shine!

Enjoy the ultimate Long Weekend Sunday sesh with Sundaylicious at the iconic Precinct Hotel.

Picture this: the sun shining brightly over a stunning open-air venue, an unbeatable lineup of DJs spinning the hottest tracks, and a vibrant, inclusive crowd celebrating love and diversity. Whether you're dancing under the sun or enjoying the festive vibes, this is the LGBTQIA+ event you don't want to miss.

The Precinct Hotel, Cremorne
26 Jan
Sun 3pm-12am
\$30 full
Presented by Sundaylicious
Image: by Paige Walling

Party

THH Queer Pool Party

Thorne Harbour Health's Queer Pool Party is back!

Join in the fun as this Midsumma Festival highlight sees our communities take over Prahran Pool. Whether you want to get wet with Melbourne Surge Water Polo Club in some 'Bumpa Polo', catch a legendary drag performance, snag a sizzling sausage, or just pose poolside while you move to the DJ set - you won't want to miss out on the day! Don't delay as this event sells out every year!

Prahran Aquatic Centre, Prahran
25 Jan
Sat 12-4:30pm
\$20 full | \$15 conc
Presented by Thorne Harbour Health
Image: by Laura Du Ve

Party

TRIVIA OBSCURA

Queer Quiz Night with Pastor David Hunt and the naughty Nuns of Perpetual Indulgence

Join us for a night of ribald mayhem in the cloisters of the Abbotsford Convent with Mother Quiche Myass and old gold tooth, the art hunter himself Fr David Hunt! Get a team together for the most queerest, medieval and most esoteric brain-bending quiz night you've ever experienced.

Proudly supported by the Abbotsford Convent Foundation.

Abbotsford Convent - Mural Hall, Abbotsford
25 Jan
Sat 6pm
1hr
FREE bookings required | Contact: akschoeffel@gmail.com
△ Themes of a sexual nature | Mature themes
Presented by Holy Grail Plants

Party



Inflation Nightclub, Melbourne
25 Jan
Sat 9pm-7am
\$75 full | \$60 conc | \$65 group (min 4) | \$60 group (min 6) | \$20 First Nations
△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature | Strobe lights
Presented by Trough Events
Image: Art Directed by Nik Dimopoulos

TROUGH XX 20TH ANNIVERSARY 2005–2025

An Iconic Celebratory Event @ INFLATION

Nik Dimopoulos' boundary breaking photographic and video-art promos and under-represented queer dance music. TROUGH celebrates 20 YEARS of shaking up the sex-positive gay dance scene from its humble beginnings in the basement of INFLATION to Melbourne's most legendary men's cruise club CLUB80.

Party



Wet on Wellington, Collingwood
3 Feb
Mon 6:30pm-2am
\$35 full
△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature | Smoke/haze
Presented by Melbourne Saunas & Wet on Wellington

Under 30s Pool Party 2025

Under 30's Midsumma Special

Calling all boys under 30!!
Join us for our Midsumma Special 'Under 30's' Night! Enjoy the 25m heated pool, dance to the amazing beats of our sexy DJs and play your way across a multi level labyrinth of play spaces. ID is required for entry.

It's going to be HOT!
VCAT Exemption: #H112/2023

Party



Wet on Wellington, Collingwood
8 Feb
Sat 12-8pm
\$60 full
△ Nudity | Themes of a sexual nature | Smoke/haze
Presented by Melbourne Saunas & Wet on Wellington

Wet Pool Party 2025
Melbourne's HOTTEST Pool Party of the year!

Wet on Wellington is back this Midsumma with our BIGGEST, HOTTEST and SEXIEST boys pool party!
Join hundreds of Melbourne's men, male-identifying and presenting people!
Enjoy the 25m heated pool surrounded by sexy people! Have a drink or two and perhaps even a cocktail from our amazing mixologist!



star observer

Proud sponsor of the
Midsumma Festival

Australias Favourite Source of LGBTQI+ News and Entertainment since 1979

TROUGH EVENTS Presents...

SCREW

MIDSUMMA CARNIVAL — AFTER PARTY

SUN 19TH JAN

SCREW: THE SEX CLUB RAVE EVERYONE WANTS

8PM-3AM @ **LAUNDRY** 50 JOHNSTON ST FITZROY (ENTER FROM THE REAR)

TROUGH EVENTS Presents...

NUTT

VICTORIA'S PRIDE STREET — AFTER PARTY

SUN 9TH FEB 5PM-3AM

@ NEW GUERNICA — 64 SMITH ST COLLINGWOOD VICTORIA

TROUGH EVENTS Presents...



TROUGH XX

20TH ANIVERSARY 2005-2025

AN ICONIC CELEBRATORY EVENT — SATURDAY 25th JANUARY @ INFLATION 9pm-7am



Midsumma Festival
19 Jan–9 Feb 2025



Melbourne Chargers at Midsumma Carnival 2024 © Suzanne Balding

Sport



Hawthorn Station, Hawthorn

27 Jan 5hrs

Mon 10:30am

FREE booking required

△ Latecomer lockout | Long periods of standing

Presented by The NOMADS Outdoors Group Inc

Image: by Garry Oliver

Discover Inner Yarra Regeneration with The Nomads

Walking is great exercise!

The environs along the inner east and north of the Yarra River have undergone multiple regenerations since European settlement. This one-way walk from Hawthorn to Abbotsford, on unsealed and sealed paths, demonstrates past and current association to the river. BYO water bottle, snacks and lunch. Wear a hat, sunscreen and closed footwear. Registration essential.

Sport



Carlton Baths Community Centre, Carlton

9 Feb 1hr

Sun 10:30am

\$5 full

Image: by Glamourhead Sharks

Glamourhead Sharks "Give Swimming a Go" Day

Melbourne's Glamourhead Sharks swim club invites everyone from beginners to seasoned swimmers to 'Give Swimming a Go' this Midsumma Festival.

Tackle the dreaded butterfly or just do a few lazy laps with us.

Sport



Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre, Templestowe Lower

2 Feb

Sun 5-8pm

FREE booking required

Presented by Active Manningham

Image: by Manningham Council

PRIDE Night at Aquarena

Inclusive gym and swim night

Pride Night is an inclusive gym and swim night for the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies. It is about providing a safe and welcoming recreation space for the community to listen to music, have some fun in the pool and get fit.

This is a free celebration with a DJ, entertainment, fun activities, fitness classes and access to outdoor pool facilities at Aquarena.

Sport



Yarrambat Park Golf Course, Yarrambat

9 Feb 3hrs 30m

Sun 9am

\$30 full

Presented by Belgravia Leisure

Rainbow Golf Cup

Join us on Sunday 9 February for a fun and social game of golf

The Rainbow Golf Cup is a social golf day for LGBTQIA+ golfers and allies of all ages and abilities! Beginners are welcome, with equipment available upon request.

Event start time: 9.00am

Tee-off time: 9.30am, shotgun start

Format: Ambrose (9 holes)

Presentations: 12.00pm (refreshments provided)

HARM REDUCTION INFORMATION FOR YOU.

thorne
harbour
health*

* PARTY HARD * PLAY SAFE * TOUCHBASE * PARTY HARD * PLAY SAFE * TOUCHBASE *

* PARTY HARD * PLAY SAFE * TOUCHBASE * PARTY HARD * PLAY SAFE * TOUCHBASE *



PARTY HARD + PLAY SAFE TOUCHBASE



TOUCHBASE.ORG.AU

ALCOHOL & DRUG INFORMATION FOR LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITIES

Our People



Midsumma Staff

Karen Bryant she/her **Chief Executive & Creative Director**
Priscilla Jeffery she/her **Finance & Administration Manager**
Lisa Newman she/her **People Capacity Manager**
Thomas Hunt he/him **Partnerships Manager**
Timothée Nicol he/him **Head of Marketing & Communications**
Justine Morris she/her **Social Media & Content Coordinator**
Pieta Farrell she/her **(Acting) Program Manager**
Martin Broadley he/him **Programming Producer**
Michelle Wigg she/her **Ticketing & Presenter Services Manager**
Harriet Devlin she/her **Artist Development Manager**
Rachel Edward she/her **Artist & Producer Support**
Joshua Lynzaat he/him **Access Coordinator – Major Events**
Michael Ryan he/him **Head of Production & Operations**
Libby Lynch she/her **Volunteers Coordinator**
Arky Ryall she/her **Production Coordinator**
Jim Beattie he/they **Community Liaison Stalls Coordinator**
Flynn Smeaton he/him **Administration Officer**
Alan Drummond he/him **IT & Applications**

Victoria's Pride Staff

Bec Cooen she/her **Project & Program Manager**
Ashlee Hints she/her **Community Engagement Manager**
Nate Evers he/him **Production Manager**
Martin Broadley he/him **Programming Producer**
Claude Sarmiento he/him **Program Administrator**

Summer Work Placements

Stella Eaton she/her **Administration & Ticketing**
Elvis Zhu he/him **Marketing & Communications**
Emily Sun she/her **Marketing & Communications**
Keely Moloney she/her **Programming**
Shardia Goldie she/her **Production**
Ella Kerr she/her **Production**
Ash Giblin he/him **Victoria's Pride**

Midsumma Festival Board of Management

Judy Small AM she/her **Chair**
Michael Parry he/him **Deputy Chair**
Michael Fuller-Smith he/him **Treasurer**
Jane Smith AM she/her **Secretary**
Ordinary Members
Rohan Astley he/him
Rhys Cranney he/him
Enrico Burgio he/him
Geoffrey Renton he/him
Jennifer Elmer she/her
Mitchell Ajduk he/him

Our Valuable Patrons and Life Members

Diamond Level
Anonymous
Paul Gonzalez
Gold Level
Michael Parry & Brett Tuer
Kean Mac
Tim Smyth
Jason May
James Mitchell
Leigh Johns OAM
Tony Egan
Mark Matthews & Antony Jarvis
Henry Ruge-Rojas & David Owen
Silver Level
Jane Smith
Susanne Dahn
Brad Danaher
Gail Veal
David Sellin
Craig Amundsen & Jason Forde
Liz Austin
David Marantelli
Rainbow Level
Marcus Williams
Mark Meierjohann
Stephen Masterman
Enrico Burgio
Beau Webb and Rhys Cranney
David Johnston-Bell
Mitchell Ajduk Simon Haigh
Rohan Astley
Geoffrey Renton
Julie Peters
Garry Oliver
Carol Nichols
Matteo Marantelli
Nick Johnson
Helen Donnard
David Imber

Life Members

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Angela Bailey
Tim Bateson
Claire Beckwith
Dean Bryant
John Caldwell
Scott Campbell
Glyn Cryer
John Cummins
Sasha Cunningham
Michael Dalton
Kris Darmody
Alan Drummond
Jeff Dycer
Peter Edmonds
Sue Fletcher
Luke Gallagher
Brenton Geyer
Ian Gould
Jeffrey Grad
Nigel Higgins
Crusader Hillis
Leigh Johns
Geraldine Kirby
Matto Lucas
Lee Matthews
David Micallef
Letizia Mondello
David Owen
Kaye Sera
Ron Thiele
Rowland Thomson
Danny Vadasz
Tracey Wall
Will Walton
Lisa Watts
Roxy B. Wild



A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Amazing Volunteers!

Midsumma Festival wouldn't be possible without the sweat, effort, and dedication of our incredible volunteers, some of whom have been with us for all 37 years of the festival's existence. We extend our deepest gratitude to these remarkable individuals who bring our vision to life. Thank you for your passion and commitment to making Midsumma a vibrant celebration of diversity and inclusion!

Our Valued Partners



Principal Partners



Major Partners



Gold Partners



Silver Partners



Legal Partner



Program Partners



Access Partners



Media Partners



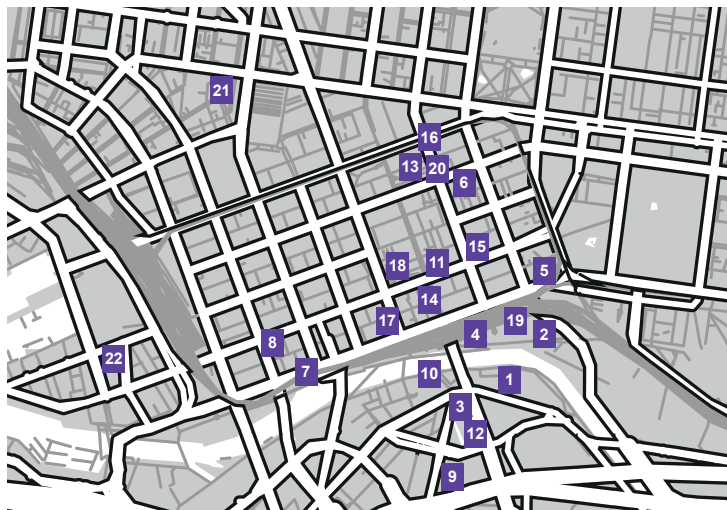
Venue Maps



CBD, Southbank and Inner North

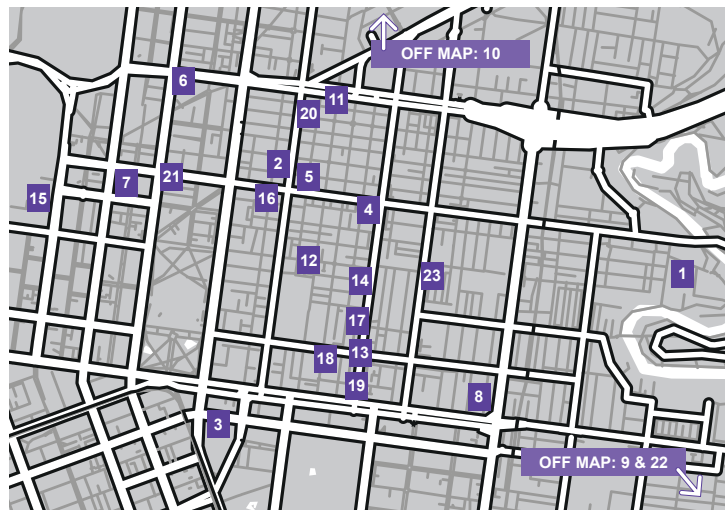
Complete venue maps for the 2025 Midsumma Festival grouped by region are available online at:

midsumma.org.au/info/venue-maps



CBD and Southbank Map

- 1. Alexandra Gardens**
St Kilda Rd, Melbourne CBD
- 2. ArtPlay**
Birrarung Marr, Russell Street extension, Melbourne CBD
- 3. Arts Centre Melbourne**
100 St Kilda Rd, Southbank
- 4. Fed Square**
Flinders St, Melbourne CBD
- 5. fortyfivedownstairs**
45 Flinders Ln, Melbourne CBD
- 6. Hofbräuhaus Melbourne**
18-28 Market Lane, Melbourne CBD
- 7. Immigration Museum**
400 Flinders St, Melbourne CBD
- 8. Inflation Nightclub**
60 King St, Melbourne CBD
- 9. Melbourne Recital Centre**
31 Sturt St, Southbank
- 10. Melbourne River Cruises**
Berth 2, Southbank Promenade, Melbourne
- 11. Melbourne Town Hall Corner**
206 Collins St, Melbourne CBD
- 12. NGV International**
180 St Kilda Rd, Southbank
- 13. No Vacancy Gallery**
QV Complex, 34-40 Jane Bell Ln, Melbourne CBD
- 14. Scott Alley**
Scott Alley, Melbourne CBD
- 15. St. Michael's Uniting Church**
126 Collins St, Melbourne CBD
- 16. State Library Victoria**
328 Swanston St, Melbourne CBD
- 17. Sub Club Melbourne**
Flinders Ct, Melbourne CBD
- 18. The Butterfly Club**
5 Carson Pl, Melbourne CBD
- 19. The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia**
Federation Square, Flinders St & Russell St
- 20. The Wheeler Centre**
176 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne CBD
- 21. Victorian Quaker Centre**
484 William St, West Melbourne
- 22. XYZ Photo Gallery**
312/757 Bourke St, Docklands



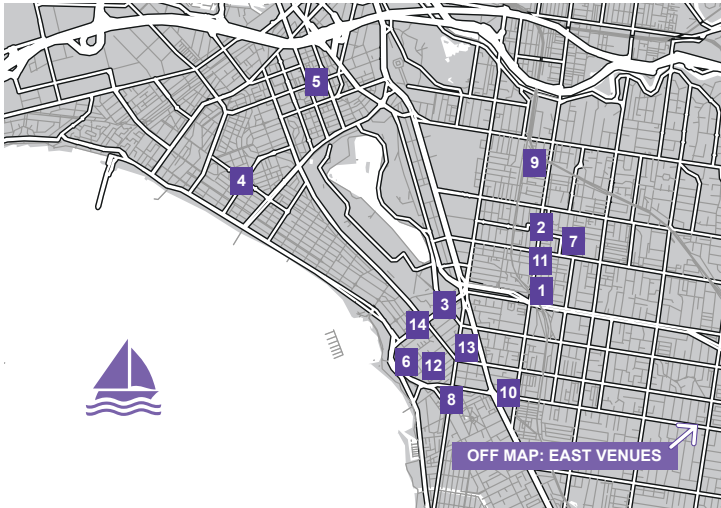
Inner North Map

- 1. Abbotsford Convent**
1 St Heliers St, Abbotsford
- 2. Artitude Studio**
83 Kerr St (door at end of the lane), Fitzroy
- 3. Bates Smart Gallery**
1 Nicholson St (enter via Albert St), East Melbourne
- 4. Beans Bar**
325 Smith St, Fitzroy
- 5. Brunswick St Gallery**
Level 1, 322 Brunswick St, Fitzroy
- 6. Carlton Baths Community Centre**
248 Rathdowne St, Carlton
- 7. Cinema Nova**
380 Lygon St, Level 1, Carlton
- 8. Collingwood Underground**
21-53 Hoddle St, Collingwood
- 9. OFF MAP: DT's Hotel**
164 Church St, Richmond
- 10. OFF MAP: Edinburgh Gardens**
Alfred Crescent, Fitzroy North
- 11. Fitzroy Swimming Pool**
160 Alexandra Parade, Fitzroy
- 12. Fitzroy Town Hall**
201 Napier St, Fitzroy
- 13. Gertrude St & Smith St, Fitzroy**
- 14. Grouse Melbourne**
171 Smith St, Fitzroy
- 15. Guild Theatre**
15 Monash Rd, The University of Melbourne, Parkville
- 16. Laundry Bar**
50 Johnston St, Fitzroy
- 17. New Guernica**
64 Smith St, Collingwood
- 18. Queerways Mural**
232 Gertrude St, Fitzroy
- 19. Smith + Gertrude Gallery**
73 Smith St, Fitzroy
- 20. SOL GALLERY**
420 Brunswick St, Fitzroy
- 21. The Motley Bauhaus**
118 Elgin St, Carlton
- 22. OFF MAP: The Prednol Hotel**
60 Swan St, Cremorne
- 23. Wet on Wellington**
162 Wellington St, Collingwood

South, East and West

Complete venue maps for the 2025 Midsumma Festival grouped by region are available online at:

midsumma.org.au/info/venue-maps

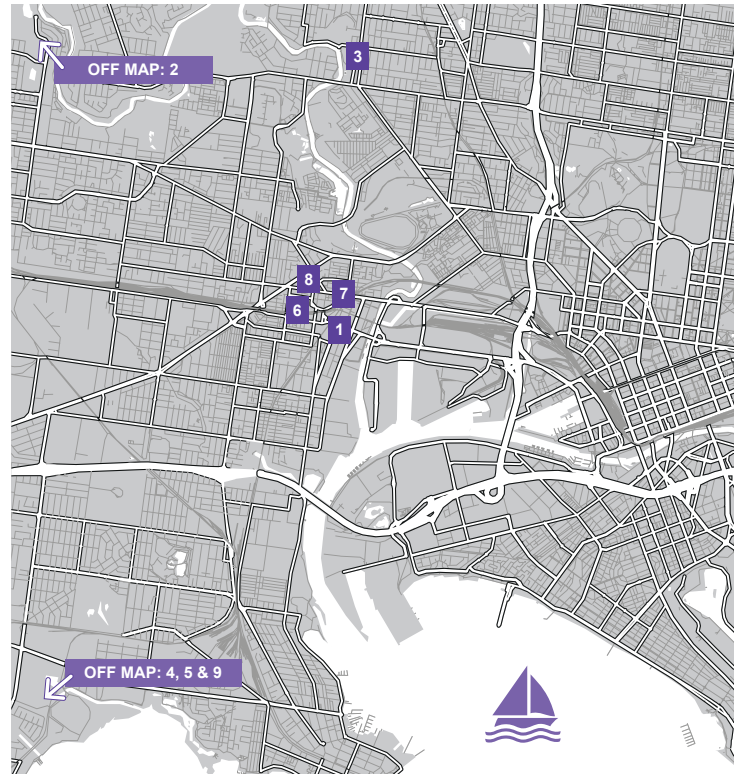


South Map

- 1. Artemisia Gallery & Event Space**
248 High St, Windsor
- 2. Chapel Off Chapel**
12 Little Chapel St, Prahran
- 3. Fitzroy St, St Kilda**
- 4. Gasworks Arts Park**
21 Graham St, Albert Park
- 5. Golden Gate Hotel**
238 Clarendon St, South Melbourne
- 6. Hotel Esplanade**
11 The Esplanade, St Kilda
- 7. Prahran Aquatic Centre**
41 Essex St, Prahran
- 8. Readings St Kilda**
112 Acland St, St Kilda
- 9. St Joseph's Parish**
30 Fitzgerald St, South Yarra
- 10. St Kilda Town Hall**
99A Carlisle St, St Kilda
- 11. The MC Showroom**
Level 1, 50 Clifton St, Prahran
- 12. Theatre Works**
14 Acland St, St Kilda
- 13. Theatre Works Explosives Factory**
67 Inkerman St, St Kilda
- 14. Victorian Pride Centre**
79-81 Fitzroy St, St Kilda

East Venues Off Map

- Aquanation**
Cnr Greenwood Av and Reilly St, Ringwood
- Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre**
139/153 Williamsons Rd, Templestowe Lower
- Box Hill Community Arts Centre**
470 Station St, Box Hill
- Eltham Library**
Panther Place, Eltham
- Greensborough Walk**
Greensborough Walk, Greensborough
- Hawthorn Station Car Park**
Burwood Rd & Evansdale Rd, Hawthorn
- Melbourne Polytechnic (Fairfield Campus)**
101 Yarra Bend Rd, Fairfield
- The Round**
397 Whitehorse Rd, Nunawading
- Yarrambat Park Golf Course**
649 Yan Yean Rd, Yarrambat



West Map

- 1. Bluestone Church**
8A Hyde St, Footscray
- 2. OFF MAP: Bowery Theatre**
St Albans Community Centre, 33 Princess St, St Albans
- 3. Incinerator Gallery**
180 Holmes Rd, Aberfeldie
- 4. OFF MAP: Kelly Park**
Cnr Cherry & Synnot St, Werribee
- 5. OFF MAP: Louis Joel Centre**
5 Sargood St, Altona
- 6. Mamma Chen's**
42A Albert St, Footscray
- 7. Moon Dog Wild West**
54 Hopkins St, Footscray
- 8. Pride Of Our Footscray**
Level 1, 86-88 Hopkins St, Footscray
- 9. OFF MAP: Wood Street Arts Space**
44 Woods St, Laverton

To access detailed information on all venues, including exact locations and available transport options, scan the QR below or visit

midsumma.org.au/info/venue-maps



A regional map is also available for Victoria's Pride Regional (see p. 16-17)



