

Welcome to Midsumma Festival 2018

John Caldwell

Midsumma Festival Chair

I am delighted to chair the Midsumma board for the third year in 2018.

As you will see, the 2018 program is an active demonstration of the results of a stellar 2017, under CEO Karen Bryant.

There's more for our youth and families; our Indigenous engagement is on the rise and our credibility in the market is clearly going places with even larger events at Arts Centre Melbourne and the inclusion of top commercial musicals.

An extra special thank you goes to our team and especially our generous volunteers who will contribute so much of their time to support the festival in 2018, including our valuable board and Life Members who are integral in upholding this amazing culture.

I would also like to extend a very big 'thank you' to our sponsors and supporters, who make the festival possible each year.

We are especially grateful to NAB, our principal partner, and are also excited to warmly welcome some great new partners to the festival for 2018. Happy Midsumma!

Martin Foley MP

Minister for Creative Industries and Minister for Equality

For three decades Midsumma has celebrated the creativity and resilience of LGBTI Victoria—with vigour and pride.

Since its inception in 1988, this annual event has grown in size, scope and stature to become Australia's premier LGBTI arts and cultural festival.

Midsumma has carved a strong identity and powerful voice as a champion of diversity, inclusion, creativity and equality. We see it from the moment the opening Carnival takes up residence in Alexandra Gardens, to the thousands who join Pride March in St Kilda, to the diversity of performances, activities and events in venues across Melbourne.

Midsumma is a time that Victoria reveals its rainbow heart. Equality is not negotiable in our state, and celebrations like Midsumma send a clear and powerful message of support and inclusion for all LGBTI Victorians.

The Victorian Government is a proud partner and supporter of Midsumma. See you there.

Robert Doyle AC

Lord Mayor Of Melbourne

The colour and joy of the Midsumma Festival is a summer highlight on the events calendar of the World's Most Liveable City.

This 22 day celebration of Melbourne's LGBTIQA community includes performance, film, sport and visual arts which will enliven our city and express our inclusive character.

We cherish our reputation as a welcoming and diverse city.

The City of Melbourne encourages equality and respect for everyone in the municipality and has proudly supported Midsumma for the past eight years.

During Midsumma, more than 100,000 people are expected to party at Carnival in Alexandra Gardens. Look out for T-Dance and all the events which bring people together.

I congratulate the organisers and wish you all an enjoyable Midsumma Festival 2018.

Rachel Slade

Executive General Manager, Deposits & Transaction Services and Executive Sponsor Pride@NAB

What a fantastic opportunity for us to come together to celebrate and promote diversity, equality and inclusion.

At NAB, we back the bold who move Australia forward. We are passionate about being responsible and inclusive and are proud to support our LGBTI colleagues and the community. We back our customers and our people, and we will continue to back communities through our community partnerships to ensure they feel supported.

Diversity and inclusion is central to NAB's enduring purpose and culture, and we are intensely proud of our diverse community partnerships. This is why NAB is proud to support Midsumma for the sixth year running. As Principal Partner, I'm delighted to welcome you and to be involved in the 31st Midsumma Festival celebrations.

Our Pride@NAB team are so energised for Midsumma 2018, ready to bring their passion and enthusiasm to this incredible community event. I would like to wish the organisers a successful Midsumma Festival and I look forward to sharing it with you, my family and friends. Happy Midsumma!

Karen Bryant

Chief Executive, Midsumma Festival

I am thrilled to present this program to you, with a multitude of experiences for you to immerse yourself in over the coming summer period. This is your call to action to come together, support and celebrate our showcase of diverse talents!

This year's program represents the results of so many conversations and meetings with queer communities, as well as late night chats over coffee, wine, meals, more wine. Lots of dreams, lots of hopes.

The coming together of so many wonderful people and ideas. Through nearly 170 events over

22 days we will celebrate our history, our present and our futures.

From diverse communities and diverse thinking arrives this degustation of visual, musical, physical, intellectual and theatrical events for and by communities who live with shared experiences around diverse gender and sexuality.

Thanks to everyone who has helped make this program a reality and especially to the artists and event producers whose passion and inspirational thoughts and ideas line page after page of this guide.

Block out your calendar 14 January to 4 February and dive in – after all who needs sleep?

I look forward to sharing it all with you this summer.

About

Midsumma Festival

Midsumma Festival is Victoria's premier LGBTQIA+ cultural festival, made for and by communities who live with shared experiences around diverse gender and sexuality.

We are a champion of LGBTQIA+ cultures, conversations and events. We are the intersection between generations, people, ideas, stories and experiences – a focal point for connections and belonging. We create inclusive and safe social spaces. We provide platforms for shared experience in a world which often under-represents us. We value diversity and we embrace difference. We increase our communities' profiles and amplify the stories that might otherwise not be seen, heard or felt.

Although the primary three-week festival is held in summer each year, Midsumma works year-round to provide artists, social-changers and culture-makers with support and tools to create, present and promote their work.

Midsumma Festival brings a diverse mix of artists, performers, communities and audiences together under a single umbrella for a celebration and innovative presentation of queer arts and culture.

Read on for our diverse festival program, made up of visual arts, theatre, spoken word, cabaret, film, live music, parties, sport, social events and public forums, featuring nearly 170 events in 2018 with involvement by over 500 culture-makers in over 100 different venues across Melbourne and wider Victoria to anticipated audiences of over 200,000.

Acknowledgement of Country

Midsumma acknowledges that Indigenous Australians are the first peoples of these lands. We pay our respects to all Indigenous Australians past and present, and we recognise their continuing spiritual and cultural connection to the land.

Midsumma takes place between High Summer and Late Summer according to the Wurundjeri calendar of seasons, on whose land much of this festival

is taking place.

Stay in Touch

Hunting for a bargain? Keep your eyes on our social media platforms and subscribe to our e-news for ticket discounts, giveaways and more.

Subscribe to eNews at
midsumma.org.au/enews

GOWEST

GOWEST is an initiative of Hobsons Bay City Council, western region council partners and Midsumma to promote and foster a diverse and inclusive community in western metropolitan Melbourne. Proudly presented by Hobsons Bay City Council and the western region Council partners, Brimbank City Council, Maribyrnong City Council, Melton City Council, Moonee Valley City Council and Wyndham City Council.

Disclaimer

Midsumma makes every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of printing, however, details are subject to change where necessary and without notice. Please check event listings at midsumma.org.au for up-to-date details. All rights remain with event producers, including moral rights. Midsumma Festival is an open access program and does not have direct control over many of the individual events, or changes made to these, within this program.

The Events

Midsumma Carnival

The most fabulous queer-day-out

Don't miss Melbourne's most famous family-friendly community day that kicks off summer's beloved three-week Midsumma Festival season.

Midsumma Carnival will serve-up a tasting plate of performances and personalities from the festival program – in one giant showcase – with something for everyone.

Check out sports displays, get pooch-smooched at the famous Dog Show, or test out your favourite songs in the Lipsync Limelight competition.

Food trucks, bars and stalls galore, all top-full of treats to keep you hydrated, fed and in the community spirit. There'll be an under 18s area, a rest zone, and Midsumma Carnival's first-ever tactile installation by Slow Art Collective in collaboration with Description Victoria – for those that want to feel the community vibe across all of their senses.

Venue: Alexandra Gardens St Kilda Rd Melbourne

Date: Sun 14 Jan

Time: Midsumma Carnival 11am – 6pm
T Dance 6 – 10pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Auslan interpreted | Family friendly | Food available | Bar | Tactile tour

Pride March

Celebrate You

Gather your friends and allies together as we take to St Kilda's Fitzroy Street, to rejoice in our diversity and achievements, at Victoria's annual queer march.

Mobilise against marginalisation with Midsumma Festival, in this march of celebration and solidarity, as we unfurl our flags, frock up and keep fighting.

In 1996, more than 11,000 people swelled onto the streets to rally in part against the infamous Tasty Nightclub raids. 23 years later, we're still marching stronger and prouder than ever.

Midsumma Pride March Awards, intended to encourage a bright presence from participants, and Post Pride celebrations at Catani Gardens will round off the day.

Venue: Fitzroy St, St Kilda
Post-Pride Celebrations, Catani Gardens St Kilda

Date: Sun 28 Jan

Time: 2pm march start
7pm post-Pride celebrations close

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair Access | Auslan interpreted | Family friendly | Food available | Bar

Participate: Participants in the March must register via midsumma.org.au by 4 Dec 2017

Midsumma Horizon

Evoking queer history at the most contemporary of art-parties

Travel to the past, celebrate the future and make history on the closing weekend of Midsumma Festival.

Full of performance and provocation, DJs, art and other displays, *Midsumma Horizon* will be presented at the iconic State Library Victoria.

Come dressed if you like as your most beloved queer figure from history. With prizes on offer for the best dressed amongst you, it's not a requirement of entry but it is a damned good way to make an entrance.

You'll have a chance to make history, with portraits of revellers taken throughout the night zipped-up, time-locked and archived for posterity.

With paying bars to whet your whistle, converse and cavort with our communities' culture-makers amongst the annals of knowledge at this splendid Melbourne venue.

Venue: State Library Victoria, 328 Swanston St, Melbourne

Date: Fri 2 Feb

Time: 9pm – 2am

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Auslan interpreted | Bar

Midsumma Presents

Midsumma Presents is where we get our hands dirty

This is Midsumma's new producing arm of the festival, where we collaborate with some of Victoria's most outstanding artists and cultural institutions. It's intersectional, it's vibrant and it brings people together.

You'll see a survey of queer contemporary art in the **Midsumma Australia Post Art Prize**, a radical decolonisation of sexuality and gender in Incinerator Gallery's **Black Magic**, a deep dive into queer history with **WE ARE HERE** at State Library Victoria, powerful snapshot of senior men and expunged crimes of same-sex intimacy in **Never a Crime** and the new frontier of queer arts practice with **QueerTech.io**.

Further along in this guide, check out a showcase of young talent with Minus18 at the **Midsumma Youth Spectacular**, the hottest new plays with Gasworks at **Playtime Staged Readings**, and two incredible Arts Centre Melbourne collaborations bringing you laughs with the **Midsumma Comedy Extravaganza** and a romping cabaret celebration of queer-and-trans- people-of-colour in **The Cocoa Butter Club: Midsumma Special** and a creative space for diverse families with **Midsumma at ArtPlay: Our Time to Shine!**

And don't miss the special series of talks events in the Midsumma Festival Bar at Bombini Buzz at Southbank – **Queers and Our Hidden Histories**, **Eat Me: Queers, Food and Intimacy**, and **Bent Lines: Designing a Queer City** with Open House Melbourne.

Black Magic

First Nations dialogues on sexuality

Black Magic features works by queer, trans, gender diverse and sistergirl/ brotherboy Indigenous artists exploring themes of shame and sex, morality and eroticism, Christianisation and embodied sovereignty. Each artist explores the impact of Christian white sensibility on sexual politics in Australia. Artists include Dianne Jones, Kent Monkman, Todd Fernando, Neika Lehman, Peter Waples-Crowe and Jeremy Anderson. *Black Magic* is

curated by Maddee Clark.

Venue: Incinerator Gallery, 180 Holmes Rd Moonee Ponds

Date: 20 Jan – 18 Feb

Opening: Fri 19 Jan 6 – 8pm

Exhibition: Tue – Sun 11am – 4pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access

Warnings: Adult content

Midsumma Australia Post Art Prize

Championing outstanding queer contemporary artists

Since its inauguration in 2016 the *Midsumma Australia Post Art Prize* has quickly established itself as an important award in the ecology of the arts. With finalists selected from across the country, the event is a survey of outstanding queer artists reflecting their potent personal and political perspectives on the world. This is a nation-wide non-acquisitive annual award open to early-career and established artists working in any medium. Have your say – vote for the People's Choice Award.

Venue: No Vacancy QV Gallery, 34 – 40 Jane Bell Lane, Melbourne

Date: Opening

24 Jan 6pm

Exhibition

25 Jan – 4 Feb

Artist talk: 1 Feb 5.30pm

Time: Thu – Sat 11am – 5pm

Sun midday – 5pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Auslan interpreted

Never a Crime

Protection, celebration and personal passage

This photographic exhibition of portraits by Lisa White (The Social Photographer) explores men's experiences of homosexual law reform, Victoria's expungement scheme and the apology from Premier Daniel Andrews. Produced in partnership with Alice's Garage, portrait subjects are captured alongside or wearing masks made to represent their experiences of the reforms. Crafted by the subjects, these masks are powerful symbols of protection, celebration and personal passage.

Venue: Abbotsford Convent St Heliers Street Gallery, 1 St Heliers St Abbotsford

Date: 22 Jan – 4 Feb

Opening: 21 Jan

Time: 5 – 8pm

Exhibition: Mon – Thu & Sat

8am – 4pm

Fri 8am – 8pm

Sun & public holidays midday – 4pm

Also as part of this exhibition: In conversation Anna Brown (Human Rights Law Centre)

Date: Sun 4 Feb

Time: 2pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar | Food

QueerTech.io

QueerTech.io = ART(URL, IRL)

Midsumma Festival takes the leap into the digital realm, co-presenting this extraordinary online exhibition. *QueerTech.io* and Midsumma have invited artists from around the world to come together digitally, physically and oh-so- queerly to contribute internet artworks to the ongoing #queertech conversation. Join a special ACMI ART + FILM screening of 2018 *QueerTech.io* work, and catch selected works IRL at RMIT's Spare Room and Lightscaapes galleries.

Online from 12 Jan <http://QueerTech.io>

Exhibition Venue: RMIT, Spare Room & RMIT Lightscaapes Screening Studio 1, ACMI

Screening Venue: Studio 1, ACMI

ACMI Screening

Date: **Fri 2 Feb**

Time: 6.30pm

Spare Room 31 Jan – 22 Mar Wed & Fri 10am – 5pm

Thu 10am – 8pm Sat midday – 4pm

Lightscaapes

Date: Mon – Fri

Time: 9am – 6pm

Tickets: FREE

ART + FILM: registration required

Access: Wheelchair access

WE ARE HERE

Cultural heritage, collection and creativity combine

Five outstanding contemporary visual artists bring to life actual or imagined queer histories, drawing on archival material from State Library Victoria and Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives. Curated by Angela Bailey and featuring Susan Maco Forrester, Peter Waples-Crowe, Briony Galligan, Peter Lambropoulos and Archie Barry in an exhibition supported by City of Melbourne Arts Grant Program.

Venue: State Library Victoria, Palmer Hall 328 Swanston St Melbourne

Date: 19 Jan – 1 Apr

Opening: Thu 18 Jan 6 – 8pm

Exhibition: Mon – Thu 10am – 9pm Fri – Sun 10am – 6pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar | Food

Artist Talk

Date: Sat 3 Feb

Time: 4:30 - 6pm

Access: Auslan interpretation | Audio described

Midsumma Hub Venues

For the 2018 Midsumma Festival, we are delighted to offer the following five Hub Venues. These venues provide a balanced selection of events to help enrich your Midsumma Festival experience.

Arts Centre Melbourne Hub

From the best of the Ireland's performance-party scene to an icon of screen and stage, Arts Centre Melbourne has assembled a 2018 line-up not to be missed. And this year they have teamed up with Midsumma Festival to co-produce two amazing events: one to send you into fits of laughter with the best of queer comedy and the other a celebration of queer people of colour.

Venue: Arts Centre Melbourne, 100 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Midsumma Festival's Official Bar Bombini Buzz

Midsumma Festival is taking over Arts Centre Melbourne's Bombini Buzz for the official festival bar. Join us on the river's edge beside Hamer Hall for a festival-long dynamic program of DJs, talks, exclusive guest artists and late-night queer shindigs. Imbibe special Midsumma cocktails, meet friends, or strut your stuff on the promenade out front, nearly every night of the festival.

Venue: Bombini Buzz Hamer Hall, Level 4, Southbank Promenade

John Barrowman in Concert

“Anything Goes” at a John Barrowman concert

Spend an intimate evening of songs, stories and laughter with the incomparable John Barrowman. Famous for his role on BBC’s *Doctor Who*, John’s character was so popular he was given his own spin-off, *Torchwood*. On stage, John has starred in many West End musicals and will dazzle with his boundless energy and incredible voice. Join this gay icon for a raucous repertoire of beloved classics (with a few surprises in between).

Venue: Arts Centre Melbourne Hamer Hall, 100 St Kilda Rd Melbourne

Date: 16 Jan

Time: 7.30pm

Duration: 2 hours

Tickets: \$135 Premium

\$99 A-Reserve

\$89 B-Reserve

\$79 C-Reserve

\$85 A-Reserve concession

\$78 B-Reserve concession

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar | Food available

Midsumma Comedy Extravaganza

Hosted by Joel Creasey

Arts Centre Melbourne and Midsumma Festival bring you the cream of the queer comedy crop this year, with a star-studded night of camp LOLs and butch hysterics. Your host for the evening will be Crown Prince of Comedy Joel Creasey, one of Australia’s most popular, acclaimed and charmingly controversial standup comedians. A self-described ‘fame whore’, Joel will introduce you to the A-list of the LGBTQIA+ world’s funniest standup performers.

Venue: Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio, 100 St Kilda Rd Melbourne

Date: 24 Jan

Time: 9pm

Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: \$35 Premium

\$30 A-Reserve

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Over 18 only | Food available | Bar | Auslan interpreted

RIOT

Arts Centre Melbourne presents THISISPOPBABY disorderly cocktail of party and politics for those who are ready to riot

Dance, drag, circus and comedy rolled into a curated by queers of colour. gut-punch of wild theatre, *RIOT* is a thrilling, uplifting and unforgettable night out. The winner of Best Production at Dublin Fringe Festival comes to Melbourne this summer, starring the Queen of Ireland Panti Bliss and an all-star Irish cast, with a surprise local performer each night.

Venue: Arts Centre Melbourne Fairfax Studio, 100 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Date: 31 Jan – 9 Feb

Wed 31 Jan – Fri 2 Feb 7.30pm

Sat 3 Feb 6.30pm & 9.15pm

Sun 4 Feb 5pm

Tue 6 Feb – Wed 7 Feb 7.30pm

Thu 8 Feb 9.15pm

Fri 9 Feb 6.30pm & 9.15pm

Duration: 95 mins

Tickets: \$89 Stage Seating

\$79 Premium

\$65 A-Reserve

\$30 Restricted view

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar | Food Available | Audio described

The Cocoa Butter Club: Midsumma Special

A special cabaret and performance event curated by queers of colour. The Cocoa Butter Club is a spirited soiree of unapologetic, oh-so-hot-right-now performers who are Indigenous and/or people of colour. Everyone is welcome to come revel in a variety night of stunning burlesque, performance art, dance, drag and more. What's the mission? To quench the thirsty performance scene with representation of 'the other' and to proudly provide a platform for lesser heard voices to challenge, inspire and entertain audiences across Australia.

Venue: Arts Centre Melbourne Fairfax Studio, 100 St Kilda Rd Melbourne

Date: 19 Jan

Time: 9.30pm

Duration: 2 hours

Tickets: \$35 Premium

\$25 A-Reserve

Access: Wheelchair access | Auslan interpreted | Over 18 only | Bar | Food available | Audio described

Gasworks Arts Park Hub

Gasworks Arts Park is your south side hub for Midsumma Festival and a summer destination for high quality theatre, provocative art and fun nights out with friends.

Venue: Gasworks Arts Park, 21 Graham St Albert Park

Beyond the Binary

Art history and digital art collide with artist J.Rosenbaum

This is an experimental mixed reality project by J. Rosenbaum, winner of the Midsumma Australia Post Art Prize 2017. Inspired by classical art and ancient archaeological artefacts, Rosenbaum uses augmented reality and machine learning to present works that move beyond the digital binary, beyond the gender binary to show that we aren't constrained by our programming.

Venue: Gasworks Arts Park Angela Roberts-Bird Gallery, 21 Graham St Albert Park

Date: 17 Jan – 4 Feb

Opening: 17 Jan

6 – 8pm

Exhibition: Daily

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair Access | Nudity

Larry and The Dame: Magnum Opus

In this epic double act (with herself), singer and comedienne Carita Farrer Spencer brings you her two alter-egos. Brace yourself for the theatrical cyclone and disgraceful lush that is The Dame. Then gird your loins as International sex symbol and showman extraordinaire Larry Paradiseo is born. These opposing forces of nature merge before your eyes to create a whole new level of masterpiece.

Venue: Gasworks Arts Park, 21 Graham St, Albert Park

Date: 7 – 20 Jan

Wed – Sat 9.30pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: \$30 full

\$26 conc

\$22 group (min 6)

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Bar

Love Box

The story of Betty Bobbitt and Mig Dann by artist Wen Shobbruck

Betty was an actor living and working in Melbourne, who played one of the first lesbians on Australian TV as *Prisoner* character, Judy Bryant. Mig was an editor living and working in New York. They met briefly in Sydney in the mid '80s and became friends. Then they met again and made a commitment to love and care for each other. *Love Box* is a visual biography of their journey together.

Venue: Gasworks Arts Park Foyer Gallery, 21 Graham St Albert Park

Date: 17 Jan – 4 Feb

Exhibition Daily 9.30am – 4.30pm

Opening 17 Jan, 6 – 8pm

Tickets: Free

Access: Wheelchair access

Oscar Wilde's De Profundis

Oscar Wilde's infamous letter, written in 1897 from Reading Gaol to his lover and betrayer, is a complex and contradictory meditation on the nature of suffering and forgiveness. *De Profundis* represents a man before his time. It is an intimate investigation of a world-class dramatist and shamed celebrity, concerning the injustice of political imprisonment and trial by the media.

Venue: Gasworks Arts Park 21 Graham St Albert Park

Date: 23 – 27 Jan, Tue – Sat

Time: 7.30pm

Duration: 75 mins

Tickets: \$35 full

\$30 concession

\$25 group (min 6)

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Over 18 only | Bar

Warnings: Adult content | Nudity

Playtime Staged Readings

Playtime Staged Readings, a Midsumma and Gasworks collaboration, aims to identify and develop new playwriting talent and get queer stories out there for mainstream theatre audiences to enjoy. Now is your chance to experience these fresh new 15-minute excerpts, meet the creators and have your say in selecting the favourite.

Venue: Gasworks Theatre, 21 Graham St Albert Park

Date: 17 Jan

Time: 7.30pm

Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: \$10

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Bar

Warning: Adult content

Queer QUIZMANIA

How well do you really know your gay trivia?

Three fabulous Friday nights of camp trivia questions will test your knowledge of pop-culture, TV shows, movies, theatre and everything gay. Bring your friends to play for marvelous prizes. Book a table, or take a chance to get hooked up with a team.

Venue: Gasworks Arts Park Studio Theatre, 21 Graham St Albert Park

Date: 19 Jan

26 Jan

2 Feb

Time: Fri 8.30pm

Duration 2 hours

Tickets: \$12 full

\$10 group (min 5)

\$25 premium (includes drinks package)

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Over 18 only | Bar

Warning: Adult content

Spectrum

Heteroflexible has a whole new meaning...

Circus is back this Midsumma Festival with an explosion of movement, colour and fun. *Spectrum* celebrates the melting pot of experiences and perspectives of the LGBTQIA+ community, from the sexually adventurous to the asexual and what lies between. Death defying acrobatics, stunning physicality and absurd clowning will push the limits and make you feel the rainbow.

Venue: Gasworks Arts Park 21 Graham St Albert Park

Date: 18 – 20 Jan

31 Jan – 3 Feb

Wed – Sat 7.30pm

Sat 3 Feb 2pm & 7.30pm

Tickets: \$32 full
\$26 concession
\$26 group (min 4)

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Bar

Warning: Mild Nudity

The Helendale Nude Footy Calendar

It's for the good of the town...

By popular demand, and after a sell-out season last year, the fellas are back. The Helendale Hornets Footy Club is in financial trouble and it looks like it's just gonna go under, unless someone comes up with one heck of an idea. Angus may just have one heck of an idea...

Venue: Gasworks Arts Park, 21 Graham St Albert Park

Date: 31 Jan – 3 Feb

Time: Wed – Sat 9pm

Sat 3.30pm

Duration: 130 mins

Tickets: \$30 full

\$25 concession

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

Warning: Adult content | Nudity

The Hare Hole Hub

Midsumma at the Hare Hole brings together a potent group of artists, performers and writer in 15 events spanning theatre, cabaret, burlesque, music, performance art, physical comedy, visual arts, forums and spoken word.

Venue: Hares & Hyenas, 63 Johnston St, Fitzroy

Goddess Grooves – Originals and Cabaret

Melbourne's premiere women's music event

Goddess Grooves celebrates and showcases local female musicians. This year – two nights: originals and cabaret.

Night One features Michelle Parsons, Michelle Chandler, Monique Kenny and Kaliopi Stavropoulos performing their original tunes.

Night Two features Bernadette Carrol, Freya Hanley, Ruth Katerelos and Niki Na Meadhra

performing songs made famous by Goddesses of song. Don't miss it!

Venue: Hare Hole, 63 Johnston St Fitzroy

Date: 30 – 31 Jan

Time: Tue – Wed 7.30pm

Duration: 150 mins

Tickets: \$25 full per night

\$20 concession per night

\$45 full both nights

\$35 concession both nights

\$20 group per night (min 8)

Leather Lungs: Son of a Preacher

Pray for hymn, or he'll prey on you

This daring deviant crosses with religion, fistfights with sexuality and discos with dildos. A master of falsetto and stiletto, he marries savage wit and alien vocal range to arouse you into a world of amusement and distraction. Be ready to resurrect your comfort zone. Warning: May contain traces of nuts, p(leather) and Dusty Springfield.

Venue: Hare Hole, 63 Johnston St Fitzroy

Date: 18 – 21 Jan

Thu – Sun 9pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: \$24 full

\$22 concession

\$22 group (min 6)

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

Warning: Adult content

Lemon Comedy Queer Showcase

A premier showcase of diverse voices in comedy

Lemon Comedy presents an all-queer, all-star showcase of Melbourne comedy's hottest talent. Lemon is the freshest monthly comedy night run out of a queer bookshop, with a mission to elevate diverse voices in comedy — and this special Midsumma showcase is set to be the queerest, sparkliest and funniest night yet.

Venue: Hare Hole (Hares & Hyenas) 63 Johnston St, Fitzroy

Date: 16 Jan

Time: Tue 8pm

Duration: 2 hours

Tickets: \$22 full
\$15 concession

Access: Wheelchair access

Warning: Adult content

Quippings: Not Normcore!

Quippings Disability Unleashed present bent, brilliant and bolshie comedy

Radical, untamed and definitely not normal. Nine performers take over the Hare Hole for one night only with rant, dance and song.

People with disabilities, beautiful freaks,

non-normative body activists and those with minds who think and see outside the confines of the expected will entertain, surprise and shock you.

Venue: Hare Hole (Hares & Hyenas) 63 Johnston St Fitzroy

Date: 27 Jan

Time: Sat 8pm

Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: \$22 full
\$15 concession

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Over 18 only | Bar

Warning: Adult content

Peter Allen Live in Inverted Commas

The man, the music, the magic

Peter Allen was the quintessential entertainer: women loved him; men loved him but they didn't quite understand why. Before there was Adele or Glee, it was Peter Allen singing songs of love that held that slightly camp place in people's hearts around the world, even when you didn't know he wrote them.

Venue: Hare Hole (Hares & Hyenas) 63 Johnston St Fitzroy

Date: 18 – 21 Jan

Thu – Sun

Time: 7pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: \$25 full
\$20 concession
\$20 group (min 6)

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

PO PO MO CO's Second Birthday Show

'It's our party and we'll Leigh Bowery if we want to...'

Fire up your hot glue gun because PO PO MO CO are throwing a party! A shameless power clash of comedy, fashion and performance art – for three nights only. Amazingly sick prizes for best audience costumes and a special guest each night. Get trashed with Melbourne's premier queer alternative comedy troupe PO PO MO CO.

Venue: Hare Hole (Hares & Hyenas) 63 Johnston St Fitzroy

Date: 1 – 3 Feb

Thu – Sat

Time: 7pm

Duration: 70 mins

Tickets: \$20 full

\$15 concession

\$10 group (min 5)

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

Warning: Adult content | Nudity

Queer Kids, Then and Now

Growing up LGBTQIA+: what has changed since the 1990s?

This interactive panel discussion features speakers from Minus18 and researchers (including Rob Cover, Daniel Marshall and Mary Lou Rasmussen) talking about how growing up LGBTQIA+ has changed over time in Australia. What was it like to be a queer young person growing up in the 1990s, and what is it like to be a queer young person growing up today?

Venue: Hare Hole (Hares & Hyenas) 63 Johnston St, Fitzroy

Date: 20 Jan

Time: Sat 4pm

Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: FREE

booking required

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

Rapid Fire

Twelve writers, six minutes each

Rapid Fire is the Hare Hole's longest running spoken word event and one of its most popular. Its recipe is simple: give twelve writers six minutes each to read, draw the order from a hat and ensure that merciless technicians are on hand to turn off the microphone if they go over time.

Venue: Hare Hole (Hares & Hyenas), 63 Johnston St, Fitzroy

Date: 22 Jan

Time: Mon 7.30pm

Duration: 2 hours

Tickets: \$17 full

\$12 concession

\$12 group (min 4)

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

Regan Lynch Does It In Public

Regan Lynch is young, dumb and full of comedy in this pageant of sexed-up idiocy. Describe by Aussie Theatre as "larger-than-life, high camp, high fidelity and even higher energy", by AbsoluteTheatre as "exceptionally good" and by his Dad as "not sh*t", Regan's ready to blow you (and your socks) off with an hour of punk guitar, ukulele, burlesque and anti-retrovirals.

Venue: Hare Hole (Hares & Hyenas) 63 Johnston St, Fitzroy

Date: 23 – 25 Jan

Time: Tue – Thu 9pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: \$20 full

\$15 concession

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

Warning: Adult content | Nudity

Scenes from the Scene

There's more to the scene than meets the eye...

For over three years Andy Miller has photo-documented the diverse faces and colourful moments of our scene – from the exhilarating highs to the crushing lows. Through a series of images, get a fresh perspective on Queer Melbourne – views that challenge preconceived stereotypes and focus on celebrating our diversity.

Venue: Hare Hole (Hares & Hyenas) 63 Johnston St Fitzroy

Date: 25 Jan – 4 Feb

Time: Mon – Wed 9am – 6.30pm
Thu – Fri 9am – 7pm
Sat 10am – 7pm
Sun 11.30am – 6.30pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

Some Strings Attached

A string of consciousness by Mikey J White

NSA? There's no such string! We all have strings attached. Strings connect us – to community, to culture, to identity, to each other. Each string tells a story. Each string defines us. Stringing together surreal theatre, music, puppetry, burlesque, performance art and comedy, Mikey J White (*Animal*, Midsumma Festival 2017) investigates the ties we form and our interconnectivity. How long is a piece of string?

Venue: Hare Hole (Hares & Hyenas) 63 Johnston St Fitzroy

Date: 1 – 3 Feb

Time: Thu – Sat 9pm

Tickets: \$23 full

\$17 concession

\$20 group (min 4)

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

Warnings:

Adult content

TAINT

An extra sweaty TAINT-tacular

Somewhere in the warm, wet liminal place between fleshy celebration and the dark unknown lies TAINT: a raw, intimate one- night stand of risk and reward. Hosted

by deviant and provocateur Six Inches Uncut and featuring a glittering hoard of Melbourne's sweatiest performance artists.

Venue: Hare Hole (Hares & Hyenas) 63 Johnston St Fitzroy

Date: 29 Jan

Time: Mon 7pm

Duration: 4 hours

Tickets: \$20 full

\$15 concession
\$15 group (min 4)
\$10 skint

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

Warning: Adult content

The Big Times

Celebrating ten years of outstanding spoken word performance showcases

With a theme of 'celebrations, milestones and events', The Big Times is told through the eyes of a diverse line-up of Melbourne's best queer performers. Expect funny, silly, sexy, serious, sad and sardonic stories. Stay tuned for the official line-up. These events often sell out, so book ahead.

Venue: Hare Hole (Hares & Hyenas) 63 Johnston St Fitzroy

Date: 17 Jan

Time: Wed 7.30pm

Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: \$25 full

\$18 concession

\$20 group (min 4)

\$60 VIP Patron (inc. reserved seating, personalised note and gift bag)

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

Warning: Adult content | Sex scenes

The Cabin

You'll have a "gay" old time in The Cabin!

After another failed relationship, grasping at straws and two tear-soaked romantic holiday tickets, David does what any sane, newly single person in a state of emotional turmoil doesn't do: decides to go on the holiday anyway, by himself. Alone in a cabin with only his Agatha Christie novels and Aldi groceries for company, David looks back at his life and has a good old laugh at it.

Venue: Hare Hole (Hares & Hyenas) 63 Johnston St Fitzroy

Date: 23 – 25 Jan

Time: Tue – Thu 7pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: \$17 full

\$12 concession

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

Adult content

Chapel Off Chapel Hub

Featuring new Australian Theatre, exhibitions, live music, comedy, musicals and so much more.

Chapel Off Chapel has been described by Australian theatre and stalwart Geoffrey Rush as 'an industrious hotbed (for the arts)'. Don't miss the smorgasbord of culture this Midsumma with events ranging from new Australian theatre, live music and comedy to visual arts and talks.

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel St, Prahran

Falsettos

The award-winning musical by William Finn

Falsettos follows a hilarious story about an unconventional, dysfunctional, yet very loving family in New York in the late 1970s, set against the early days of the AIDS epidemic. This is the story about Marvin (a gay man), his wife, his lover, his soon to be bar mitzvahed son, their psychiatrist and the lesbians next door.

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel 12 Little Chapel St Prahran

Date: 1 – 11 Feb

Time: Tue – Sat 7.30pm

Sat – Sun 1.30pm

Duration: 160 mins

Tickets: \$69 a-reserve full

\$59 a-reserve concession

\$59 b-reserve full

\$49 b-reserve concession

\$49 c-reserve

\$49 group (min 8)

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Bar

Mama Alto: Queerly Beloved

Mama's national tour of queer empowerment comes to Melbourne

Queerly Beloved, we are gathered here today in celebration of our divine love. Gender transcendent diva, jazz singer and cabaret artiste Mama Alto leads you over the rainbow to empowerment, empathy and ecstasy. Mama's national tour of fierce queer affirmation proudly comes out to Midsumma Festival: love is love is love.

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel St, Prahran

Date: 19 Jan

Time: Fri 7pm

Duration: 70 mins

Tickets: \$30 full

\$25 concession

\$25 group (min 6)

\$25 artist

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Auslan interpreted | Bar

Inside / Out

An Efavirenz Dream

Inside / Out, an installation produced by Sebastian Zagarella was developed in response to his own sero-conversion; and as a result of what Zagarella says is the continuing absence of dialogue on what it means to be HIV+.

First shown in Sydney in 2015, the installation has since been travelling, most recently invited to show alongside the QUILTS at the Sydney Powerhouse Museum as part of World AIDS Day in 2016.

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel Mezzanine, 12 Little Chapel St Prahran

Date: 17 Jan – 3 Feb

Time: Opening Wed 17 Jan 6.30 – 8.30pm

Exhibition daily (except 26 Jan)

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

Inside / Out: Roundtable Conversation

There is no longer shame in living with HIV

– is there?

The installation titled Inside / Out, produced by Sebastian Zagarella in 2015, in response to his own sero-conversion, was most recently invited to show alongside the Quilts at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum. This event is an accompanying forum to the exhibition. It will be an opportunity to speak with the artist and a panel of community advocates, health practitioners and educators who are all engaged intimately with the virus.

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel St, Prahran

Date: 20 Jan

Sat 2 – 4pm

Duration: 2 hours

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Bar

Spice Up Your Life

The Ultimate 90s Experience

An unstoppable pop concert packed with more than 20 smash hits from the 1990s. Pumped with nostalgia, laughs, and song and dance tributes, Spice Up Your Life is the ultimate 90s experience! Supported by a live band, this feel-good, fun and fresh concert will include your favourite music icons The Backstreet Boys, Britney Spears, Shania Twain, Kylie Minogue, The Spice Girls, and many more.

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel St, Prahran

Date: 20 Jan

Time: Sat 6.30pm & 8.30pm

Duration: 55 mins

Tickets: \$35

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Bar

Through the Night

Featuring the work of Caio Fernando Abreu

Ed Moreno is a poet, translator, and long-term HIV survivor who writes about how we negotiate the fractures HIV created in our universe. *Through the Night* is a spoken word performance which explores how we find our way through the darkest of nights. The dark holds many unusual, fragmented, and brilliant secrets. A hot midsummer night is no exception.

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel St, Prahran

Date: 29 Jan

Time: Mon 7pm

Duration: 60 mins

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Bar

Water Body

The raw power and seductive beauty of drenched aerial acrobats.

A portrait series capturing the visual effects of water on the body. Aerialists have an immense respect of the dangers involved working high above the ground, using their unique movement qualities to dance beautifully in the air. The shock of the cold water created a sense of reverence and surrender once fully immersed in the downpour.

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel St, Prahran

Date: 14 Jan – 4 Feb

Time: Daily midday – 5pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

We Were There

A verbatim theatre project: Australian stories by Australian women

This piece explores the lives and untold stories of the sisters, mothers, wives, friends, volunteers and medical professionals who cared for those living with HIV & AIDS in the 80s and 90s, and also those living with the virus today. With humour and heart, this project celebrates the efforts and sacrifices of these women and remembers those left behind.

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel St, Prahran

Date: 23 Jan – 4 Feb (excl. 26 Jan)

Preview 23 Jan

Time: Tue – Sat 8pm

Sat matinee 4pm

Sun 6pm

Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: \$49 full

\$39 concession

\$39 group (min 4)

\$39 preview

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Bar

Adult content

What a Drag! 2018: Diva's Edition

Madonna, Cher, Beyoncé, Boy George? Who is your favourite diva?

Now in its fourth year, *What a Drag!* is a celebration and showcase of the vibrant Melbourne drag scene. An annual fundraiser with a lot of glamour, talent and fun. The theme for 2018 is Diva's! Celebrate with local queens and celebrities bringing out their inner divas to raise funds for the Victorian AIDS Council.

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel St, Prahran

Date: 20 Jan

Time: Sat 9pm

Duration 2 hours

Tickets: FREE with donation

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Bar

La Mama Hub

Valued by artists and audiences alike, La Mama is treasured for supporting challenging new work. Past meets the present this Midsumma as La Mama presents works including new queer classical music; a twisted take on a Shakespearian favourite; and let's just see what Nonna is likely to dish up as she grapples with tradition in a fast changing world.

Venue 1: La Mama Theatre, 205 Faraday St, Carlton

Venue 2: La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond St, Carlton

Can't be Tamed

Let's get one thing straight(ish): this isn't a cabaret or f*cking sing-a-long. This anti-biography of the artist once known as Hannah Montana is a surreal unbecoming of age that starts with molly and ends deep in the Miley mindverse. A greened-out DnM on the nature of 'who the hell am I?' with Miley Cyrus as your spirit guide.

Venue: La Mama Theatre 205 Faraday St Carlton

Date: 24 – 28 Jan

Time: Wed 6.30pm Thu – Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration: 80 mins

Tickets: \$30 full
\$20 concession

Access: Bar

Warning: Adult content | Sex scenes

DRAGGED

The summer is getting hotter with this fiery new tragicomedy

In this wild new play, bruised relationships, unknowing identity and 24/7 partying collide... and leave a mess even Mum couldn't sweep drag queen, and her transformation from boy to man, and man to queen. Through drug- induced hallucinations we are tossed between past and present to watch the makings and destruction of a boy in battle.

Venue: La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond St Carlton

Date: 25 Jan – 4 Feb

Time: Wed 6.30pm Thu – Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Tickets: \$30 full
\$20 concession

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

Warning: Adult content | Sex scenes | Nudity

Homophonic!

New music by queer composers

Homophonic!, an evening of new classical music by queer composers. Celebrating Sapphic symphonists, homosexual harmonies, and the long and proud tradition of composers being as

gay as the day is long. It's all about bringing the disco ball to the concert hall.

Come along to hear some of Melbourne's most in-demand classical musicians play some outlandishly fabulous music.

Venue: La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond St Carlton

Date: 29 – 30 Jan

Time: Mon – Tue 7.30pm

Duration: 150 mins

Tickets: \$30 full

\$20 concession

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

La Nonna

Nonna's got something to say!

Hot like a bowl of Sicilian pasta, La Nonna is a brand new cabaret-cum-Italian restaurant extravaganza – messy, warming and full of gluten. Let Nonna impart her wisdom on you whether you want it or not. Join her as she grapples with tradition in a fast changing world and reflects on a life divided by two homes: she's both and neither Italian and Australian, she's just... Nonna!

Venue: La Mama Theatre, 205 Faraday St Carlton

Date: 31 Jan – 4 Feb

Time: Wed 6.30pm Thu – Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: \$30 full

\$20 concession

Access: Bar

Warning: Nudity

Lockpick Pornography

"We gladly feast on those who would subdue us." Addams Family credo

Lockpick Pornography is a genderqueer adventure story adapted from the novella of the same name; a darkly humorous exploration into queer political vigilantism and the way that aggression and anger can both galvanise and destroy us.

Venue: La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond St Carlton

Date: 17 – 21 Jan

Time: Wed 6.30pm Thu – Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: \$30 full

\$20 concession

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

#romeoandjuliet

Trashing Romeo and Juliet like a couple of toddlers hyped up on Push Pops

A hot new mangling of *Romeo and Juliet* by two of Melbourne's sharpest mischief makers, Kimberley Twiner and Lily Fish. Dive into the pants of two star-crossed tweenage clowns who learnt everything about courtship from gifs and everything about Shakespeare from Baz Luhrmann. Hilarious. Absurd. Camp. Will they? Won't they? Can they? Prepare to be catfished.

Venue: La Mama Theatre 205 Faraday St Carlton

Date: 17 – 21 Jan

Time: Wed 6.30pm Thu – Sat 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration: 50 mins

Tickets: \$30 full

\$20 concession

Access: Bar

Performance

AntigoneX

He loved himself. She loved her brother.

He wants to purify his genetic line. She can live with her nature. A tragedy all queered up with science, a Clone Chorus of Bondi Boys, and a leader in red budgy smugglers who'll stop at nothing to perfect his XYs. Throw in fake sun, beach balls, paddle pool, global warming and a cool clown called AntigoneX. Who needs catharsis in this heat?

Venue: Theatre Works 14 Acland Street St Kilda

Date: 30 Jan – 4 Feb

Time: Preview Tue 7.30pm

Season Wed – Sun 7.30pm

Sat 2.30pm

Duration: 75 mins

Tickets: \$35 full

\$25 concession

\$20 preview

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

Adult content

Nudity

Violence

Au Cause Célèbre

A tragically romantic melodrama

Emergent cabaret queen, Ms CeCe Rockefeller, recounts a first love that unfolds in the wake of her sister's disappearance. Follow a young Cecilia with stars in her eyes – destined for disgrace, heartbreak and devastation. This original text is woven through a pop repertoire including songs from Solange, ANOHNI and Lianne La Havas, with arrangements by Shanon D Whitelock.

Venue: Brunswick Mechanics Institute Cnr Sydney & Glenlyon Rd Brunswick

Date: 25 – 27 Jan

31 Jan – 3 Feb

Time: Wed – Sat 9pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: \$28 full

\$22 concession

\$22 group (min 4)

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

Warning: Adult content

Bent Bollywood

A moving invocation of diaspora, gender, transgression and filth

Bent Bollywood is a queer dance show that combines the technical rigour of classical Indian dance, the camp theatrics of Bollywood and everything that is weird and wonderful about queer performance art. Witness the treacherous imagination of the diaspora, the postcolonial rage of

the subaltern, and the exuberant lust of the queers who would have written a much better Kama Sutra if only they'd been asked.

Venue: Brunswick Mechanics Institute Cnr Sydney & Glenlyon Rd, Brunswick

Date: 25 – 27 Jan

31 Jan – 3 Feb

Time: Wed – Sat 7.30pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: \$30 full

\$22 concession

\$20 group (min 6)

Access: Wheelchair access

Over 18 only

Bar

Adult content

Boys Have Skin

Three of the most handsome guys you'd ever follow on Instagram

They're gay and arguably unhappy and may self-medicate with drugs and alcohol. They'll always have each other and that's enough and also expensive underwear is nice. They're witches, also. Like, the magic kind. Should've mentioned that sooner.

They're witches.

Venue: The Bluestone Church Arts Space 8A Hyde St Footscray

Date: 23 – 27 Jan

30 Jan – 3 Feb

Time: Tue – Sat 7pm

Duration: 130 mins

Tickets: \$25 full

\$20 concession

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

Warning: Adult content | Nudity

MQFF: Cinema Fiasco

Bad movies on the big screen with hilarious commentary

MQFF team up with Cinema Fiasco to present a cringeworthy camp classic with hilarious live commentary by comedians Geoff Wallis and Janet A. McLeod! The movie plays as per usual,

Geoff and Janet just chip in at salient points. Grab your popcorn and settle in for this raucous MQFF Fundraiser.

Venue: Cinema Nova 380 Lygon St Carlton

Date: 2 Feb

Time: Fri 7pm

Duration: 130 mins

Tickets: \$35

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Bar

Dolly Diamond's 15 Year Anniversary Gala

“Because I'm worth it!”

In 2018, Dolly Diamond celebrates 15 years of performing in Melbourne's world-famous LGBTQIA+ arts festival. And this year Dolly is delighted to join forces with the Melbourne Gay and Lesbian Chorus, Footscray-Yarraville City Band, the Melbourne Rainbow Band and some other very special guests for a celebration of song, laughter and Pride. These champions of music are working with Dolly to create a show that will inspire and celebrate us all.

Venue: Athenaeum Theatre 188 Collins St Melbourne

Date: 3 Feb

Time: Sat 3pm & 8pm

Duration: 2 hours, 20 mins

Tickets: \$49 Premium
\$39 A-Reserve

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

Denuded

A Domino Project presented by Phillip Adams BalletLab

Denuded is about breathing, the body and, most importantly, contact with the audience. Here, he examines the physicality of this subject in a solo transformation ritual. The visible becomes a site for investigating the invisible through the transformation of physicality guided by breath. Denuded opens up spaces to be filled with irrationality we all carry within us. Created and performed by Bruno Isaković (Croatia).

Venue: Temperance Hall 199 Napier St, South Melbourne

Date: 1 – 3 Feb

Time: Thu – Sat 8pm

Duration: 45 mins

Tickets: \$25 full

\$20 concession

\$22 group (min 6)

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

Warning: Nudity

Denuded – Workshop

A three-day workshop for dancers and performance-makers with Bruno Isaković (Croatia).

During the workshop participants immerse in deep study of their breath, physical tension and its effect on body alignment. The interconnected structure of breath and body tension/release permeates the body in each moment. When we are scared or nervous, when we are relaxed or sleeping, excited or sensual, the breathing reflects our state and defines the way we are in our bodies.

Venue: Temperance Hall 199 Napier St South Melbourne

Date: 29 – 31 Jan

Time: Mon – Wed 10am - 1pm

Duration: 3 hours per day

Tickets: \$55 full

\$45 concession

Workshop tickets for 3 days.

No single day tickets available.

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only

Warning: Nudity

DRAG A THON – Day Drag

A day of snags and drag with five hours of non-stop DRAG A THON

The 86 is proud to bring back non-stop drag for Midsumma Festival 2018. Following last year's massive Guinness World Record achievement with DRAG A THON, this year on the 26 January public holiday, join in for a 'Day of Drag' with a FREE BBQ from 3pm followed by an afternoon of 'Drag Open Stage' leading to the curtain-raising at 8pm for five hours of non-stop top drag.

Venue: The 86 Cabaret Bar, 185 Smith St, Fitzroy

Date: 26 Jan

Time: Fri 3pm – 1am

Tickets: FREE

Access: Adult content | Over 18 only | Bar | Food available

Ego Jacket

A rock cabaret odyssey

Ego Jacket: A persona that functions like a bulletproof vest. A disguise to conceal the truth. By the age of 25 Phillip had lost 60 kilos, come out, dealt with heartbreak and put on a show, so all his troubles are behind him now... right? Join Phillip Lee Curtis in this rock cabaret extravaganza that explores ego, anxiety and whether deep psychological scars ever really heal.

Venue: The MC Showroom L1/48 Clifton St, Prahran

Date: 31 Jan – 4 Feb

Time: Wed – Sun 9pm

Duration: 70 mins

Tickets: \$30 full

\$25 concession

\$25 group (min 6)

Access: Over 18 only | Bar

Forty Years of Kate Bush

Share the experience!

The ultimate Kate Bush dress-up mini-fest to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the global release of her first single Wuthering Heights. Dress to impress in your favourite Kate Bush look from the past 40 years; learn to Wuther en mass with the amazing Anna Go Go and be Wow'd by a stellar line up of musicians and performers paying tribute to the Queen Of Art Pop. Viva la Bush!

Venue: Edinburgh Gardens Cnr St Georges Rd & Alfred Cres, North Fitzroy

Date: 20 Jan

Time: Sat 4 – 9pm

Tickets: \$20 full

\$12 concession

\$15 group (min 3)

Access: Wheelchair access | Family friendly | Food available

Genesis Breyer P-Orridge with Edley ODowd

Legendary English singer-songwriter, musician, poet, performance and visual artist Genesis Breyer P-Orridge performs live on stage with Edley ODowd. The pair collide caustic electronics, percussion and voice in a performance exploring ideas of the self, identity and much more. Supported by Cat Hope.

Venue: The Substation 1 Market St, Newport

Date: Fri 2 Feb

Time: 8pm

Duration: 3 hours

Tickets: \$59

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

Warning: Adult content

Glitterfist: Libertine

Glamdrogyny. Desire. Resistance.

Summoned by the power of fierce femmes, gender rebels, trans-formers and beautiful queerdos, drag deity Glitterfist is on a mission to absolve shame and spread the gospel of pleasure, freedom and filth. Glitterfist, Jessica McKerlie and Six Inches Uncut will seduce you with a surreal drag- burlesque tale of exploration and fantasy. Arrive curious and you will leave converted...

Venue: The 86 Cabaret Bar 185 Smith St, Fitzroy

Date: 30 Jan – 3 Feb

Preview 30 Jan

Time: Tue – Sat 8pm

Duration 55 mins

Tickets: \$27.50 full

\$24 concession

\$25 group (min 5)

\$20 preview

Access: Over 18 only | Bar | Food available | Adult content

Warning: Nudity

Hir

A Taylor Mac play by Red Stitch Actors' Theatre

Max is a transgender teen living with mom Paige and father Arnold. When brother Isaac returns home from the marines, he finds war has broken out at home. Finally liberated from an oppressive marriage, Paige is set to dismantle the patriarchy and follow Max into a brave new post-gender world. But in this savagely funny work, annihilating the past doesn't always free you from it.

Venue: Red Stitch Actors Theatre, 2 Chapel St, St Kilda

Date: 30 Jan – 4 Mar

Time: Preview 30 Jan 8pm

Wed – Sat 8pm

Sun 6.30pm

Sat 24 Feb 3pm

Duration: 2 hours

Tickets: \$49 full

\$35 concession

\$25 group (min 10)

\$20 preview

Access: Adult content

HIVme

Drugs, mental health, sex and stigma

HIVme is a highly visual contemporary music and dance installation project detailing how HIV has impacted mental health and relationships of those affected. The work focuses on exploring the psychology behind individuals who have received a positive HIV diagnosis, specifically how stigma from the community is perceived and internally reflected upon. These are their stories.

Venue: The Positive Living Centre. 51 Commercial Rd South Yarra

Date: 22 – 23 Jan

26 – 28 Jan

Time: Mon – Tue, Fri – Sat 7pm

Sun 6pm

Duration: 45 mins

Tickets: \$25 full

\$22 concession

\$22 group (min 4)

\$5 VAC/PLC members

Access: Over 18 only | Adult content

IT TAKES TWO!

A hilarious night of fun and laughter

What happens when you fuse together comedy, cabaret and two ex-NZ drag artistes, now living in separate Australian cities?

Drag magic! Inspired by pop culture, film and television shows, music and fashion tastes, drag performers Polly Filla and Felicity Frockaccino poke fun at and pay homage to their icons in an hour of zany, fun and laugh out loud comedy.

Venue: The 86 Cabaret Bar 185 Smith St Fitzroy

Date: 18 – 20 Jan

Time: Thu – Sat 7.30pm

Duration: 55 mins

Tickets: \$28 full

\$25 concession

\$25 group (min 4)

Access: Adult content

KillJoy – Destroy the Fantasy

They are the KillJoys your ex-boyfriend warned you about, destroying unrealistic expectations one smile at a time. Enter an explosion of sequins, circus and irreverence backed up by an all-star live band. *KillJoy* dances with truth and fantasy, politics and reality, sexuality and secrets. Come join the evolution!

Venue: The Melba Spiegeltent, 35 Johnston St Collingwood

Date: 24, 25, 27 Jan 1 – 3 Feb

Time: Wed – Sat 8.30pm

Duration: 70 mins

Tickets: \$32 full

\$25 concession.

\$22 group (min 6)

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar | Assistive listening

Warning: Adult content

Life is a Cabaret

Glorious music from the age of decadence

3 shades black and Melbourne Recital Centre are mounting an expedition to the decadent age of cabaret; when fops were dandies, flappers were chanteuses, and the music was witty and very, very gay. Singer Georgie Darvidis, pianist Jacob Abela, and ringmaster Miranda Hill will guide you on a journey from Bernstein to Ma Rainey with a stopover in Chicago. Be warned, there may be sequins.

Venue: Melbourne Recital Centre, Cnr Southbank Blvd & Sturt St, Southbank

Date: 22 Jan

Time: Mon 6pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: \$30 full

\$25 concession

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Bar

Lucky: Songs by Kylie

First Madonna. Then Annie Lennox. Now, Helpmann Award-winner Michael Griffiths and writer/director Dean Bryant reunite to explore the songs, stories and locomotion of our very own impossible princess, Kylie Minogue. Backed by a four-piece band, Michael gives a five-star ride through all the songs you can't get out of your head. Put your hand on your heart and step back in time.

Venue: fortyfivedownstairs 45 Flinders Lane Melbourne

Date: 17 – 21 Jan

Time: Wed – Sat 7pm Sun 3.30pm

Duration: 70 mins

Tickets: \$49 full

\$42 concession

\$42 group (min 6)

Access: Bar

Moonlite

Pastor, bank robber, lecturer, soldier, bushranger, homosexual, outlaw

The true (ish) story of the greatest Australian legend you've never heard of. Performed in the iconic Grace Darling Hotel with a rollicking original soundtrack, Moonlite is a hilarious and moving new play exploring the tangled life and loves of the gay bushranger and mess of contradictions that was Captain Moonlite.

Venue: The Grace Darling Hotel 114 Smith St Collingwood

Date: 17 Jan – 4 Feb

Time: Wed 7.30pm Sun 4pm

Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: \$32 full

\$25 concession

\$20 group (min 4)

Access: Bar | Food available

Warning: Adult content | Violence

Michael and Phillip are Getting Married in the Morning

Saying 'I do' is the easy part. Making it to the altar is another story...

FRED the ALIEN Productions presents an original comedy of misunderstanding and manipulation. Set when marriage equality is a reality, Michael and Phillip are preparing to tie the knot... if only their family and friends would stop interfering and let them.

Venue: The Bluestone Church Arts Space 8A Hyde St Footscray

Date: 17 – 21 Jan

Time: Wed – Sun 7.30pm

Duration: 75 mins

Tickets: \$22 full

\$19 concession

\$19 group (min 4)

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only

Warning: Adult content | Drug use

Priscilla, Queen of the Desert – The Musical

Get ready to shake your groove thing as Priscilla, Queen of the Desert – The Musical rocks into Melbourne! This iconic hit musical has more glitter than ever, featuring a non-stop parade of dance-floor classics including *It's Raining Men*, *I Will Survive* and *Finally*, and many more for its 10th anniversary celebration tour.

Venue: Regent Theatre 191 Collins St Melbourne

Date: 21 Jan – 18 Mar

Time: Wed – Fri 7.30pm Sat 2pm & 7.30pm Sun 3pm

21 Jan 6pm

23 Jan 7pm

31 Jan 1pm & 7.30pm

Duration: 150 mins

Tickets: \$75 – \$155

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only

Queen Kong and the HOMOsapiens

Queen Kong and the HOMOsapiens are a Melbourne-based punk, performance art, queer rock band and the alter-ego of Yana Alana, Queen Kong is a mythological, immortal half-being – part rock and part ape – with the ability of metamorphosis and a heart of gold. Backed by rock band the HOMOsapiens: Bec Matthews, Cerise Howard, Gen Bernstein and Jo Franklin. Launching their new single *You Come From A DFO, I Come From A UFO* for Midsumma with support act Plaster of Paris. Join the revolution!

Venue: Northcote Social Club 301 High St Northcote

Date: Thu 1 Feb

Time: 8pm

Duration: 2 hours

Tickets: \$25 full

\$20 concession

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar | Food available

Small Cruelties

A breakup album ready to explode onto the Melbourne stage.

For three nights only, Will Hannagan aka Willing presents a theatrical telling of his yet to be

released sophomore EP. This is queer pop at its most ambitious, presented in full technicolour as a piece of abstracted performance art. It's Frank Ocean meets Amy Winehouse, set in the key of Rufus Wainwright.

Venue: fortyfivedownstairs 45 Flinders Lane Melbourne

Date: 18 – 20 Jan

Time: Thu – Sat 9pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: \$25

Access: Bar

Story Lounge with Glitterfist

It's storytime, but not as you remember it!

Story Lounge is a storytime for adults, with hand-picked stories and poems read aloud in a relaxed setting. Join us at City Library for a special Midsumma Story Lounge with glamdroygynous drag performer Glitterfist, who will share a range of stories from the heartfelt to the hilarious, and everything in between.

Venue: City Library Gallery 253 Flinders Lane Melbourne

Date: 24 Jan

Time: Wed 6pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: FREE

booking required

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only

Strangers in Between

By Tommy Murphy

Shane has fled his family and is seeking refuge in Kings Cross. Confused and naive, he struggles to reconcile himself with events from his past. But how can he move on when he can't even use laundry powder?

A contemporary Australian classic from the playwright of *Holding the Man* , this timely new production features Simon Burke and is directed by Daniel Lammin (*Master Class* and *Awakening*).

Venue: fortyfivedownstairs 45 Flinders Lane Melbourne

Date: 24 Jan – 11 Feb

Time: Tue – Wed 7.30pm Sun 5pm

Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: \$45 full

\$38 concession

\$38 group (min 6)

Access: Bar

Summer Treats!

A YUMMY production

Directed by James Welsby (from BRIEFS and GLORY BOX), and featuring Karen From Finance, James Andrews, Beni Lola, Hannie Helsden, and more, this tailor-made show for a special Midsumma season sees the cast of legendary drag cabaret YUMMY in a seasonal spin off of 60s surf rock and salacious sunburns.

Venue: The Melba Spiegeltent 35 Johnston St Collingwood

Date: 18 – 19 Jan

Time: Thu – Fri 7.30pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: \$25 full

\$20 concession

\$20 group (min 6)

Access: Wheelchair access

Warning: Nudity

The Duetaholics

Stuck in a sexless marriage and loving every minute of it!

Looking to cure your singleton blues? You need a one-on-one with entertainment's least-likely newlyweds Dean Arcuri and Miz Ima Starr. Join these improbable belters in the ultimate gay celebration of song. The Duetaholics share their entirely unpatented recipe for everlasting marital bliss. So go on, give love an almighty chance.

Venue: The MC Showroom L1/48 Clifton St Prahran

Date: 31 Jan – 3 Feb

Time: Wed – Sat 7.30pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: \$30 full
\$23 concession
\$25 group (min 6)

Access:Bar

The Glitter and Doom Salon

A live performance experience from The Bowery

Equal parts glamorous cabaret salon and debauched dive bar, *The Glitter and Doom Salon* is a live performance experience like no other. The salon features Australia's most enigmatic cabaret stars and vibrant vaudeville artists alongside a showcase of queer visual art works from Melbourne's west.

"Dark, dazzling... a formidable powerhouse." Herald Sun

Venue: The Bowery Theatre St Albans Community Centre Princess St St Albans

Date: 2 Feb
Time: Fri 7.30pm
Duration: 90 mins

Tickets:\$38 full
\$26 concession
\$20 group (min 6)

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Over 18 only | Bar | Food available
Warning: Adult content | Nudity

The Laugh Out Loud Big Gay Comedy Night

Back for a fabulous 10th year!

Laugh Out Loud (LOL) Comedy brings you the brightest and best in comedy from around Australia. Featuring the most loved LGBTQIA+ stars from radio, stage and screen, including Adam Richard, Sue Ann Post, Dolly Diamond and more in Melbourne's hottest new venue. This event often sells out – book early.

Venue: Vau d'vile 62 – 70 Johnston St Fitzroy

Date:14 Jan – 4 Feb
Time: Thu 8pm
Sun 6pm
Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: \$30 full
\$25 concession
\$24 group (min 6+)

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar | Food available

Warning: Adult content

The Greatest Love of All – The Whitney Houston Show

The critically-acclaimed live show honouring the talent, music and memory of Whitney Houston. Featuring the breathtaking vocals of Belinda Davids – winner of BBC's *Even Better Than the Real Thing* – with live band, dancers and state-of-the-art production creating an astounding and uplifting special concert event.

Venue: Athenaeum Theatre 188 Collins St Melbourne

Date: 11 – 27 Jan

Time: Thu – Sat 8pm

Tickets: \$79.90 Premium
\$69.90 A-Reserve full
\$59.90 A-Reserve concession

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Don't be late for this very important date...

Are you 12 to 25 years old living in Victoria? Want to meet other gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans and queer young people? Join in Mad Hatter's Tea Party, picnic, games and music. This alcohol-and-drug free event also welcomes friends and allies. Don't forget sunscreen for some fun in the sun!

Venue: Youth Resource Centre 86 Derrimut Rd Hoppers Crossing

Date: 27 Jan

Time: Sat midday – 3pm

Duration: 180 mins

Tickets: FREE

Midsumma Youth Spectacular

Celebrating our beautiful, sparkly, queer youth community

The Melba Spiegeltent will be taken over by youth performers. In a special collaboration between Midsumma Festival and Minus18 – the nation's largest queer youth organisation – presenting a night of music, circus, performance artists, interactive activities and a truckload of glitter. This is an all ages event so bring your pals/ fam/ pet unicorn! Let's throw on our most glittery get-up and come together – one night only!

Venue: The Melba Spiegeltent 35 Johnston St Collingwood

Date: 23 Jan

Time: Tue 7 – 9pm Doors open 6pm

Victoria Park Station pick-up 5.45pm Victoria Park Station drop-off 9pm

Tickets: \$10 presale

\$15 door sales

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening

Music on the Deck

Celebrate at the Newport Community Hub

Enjoy tunes from some of summer's hottest young artists at this all ages drug and alcohol free event. Have a go at jamming between sessions; show off your sensitive side with a poetry reading; or anything else that expresses who you are. There will be movie passes (and other great prizes) up for grabs, and keep cool with complimentary drinks and mouth-watering food.

Venue: Newport Community Hub 13 Mason St Newport

Date: 19 Jan

Time: Fri 4.45 – 6.15pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access

This is an all ages drug and alcohol free event.

Wonder Fest

An enchanting diverse TEA party!

Manningham YMCA Youth Services is presenting its first ever Midsumma Festival youth

event. With a very special guest, the event will feature a 'drag race' for young drag performers, live DJ, transgender clothes swap, food trucks, art exhibition and more!
Dress up theme: 'Alice in Wonderland.'

Venue: Manningham City Square Plaza 687 Doncaster Rd Doncaster

Date: 20 Jan

Time: Sat midday – 4pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Family friendly | Food available

Make a Day of It

Australia Day Picnic

A family friendly picnic at Mt Macedon

Take a drive this Australia Day and join the Melbourne Rainbow Band and the Melbourne Gay & Lesbian Chorus for their annual picnic. Stroll through fourteen acres of stunning private gardens at Forest Glade, Mt Macedon while the MGLC and MRB provide a musical touch and Motafrenz display some of their classic cars. As the gardens are private property no pets or BBQs are permitted.

Venue: Forest Glade Gardens Mt Macedon Rd Mt Macedon

Date: 26 Jan

Time: Fri 10am – 4pm

Tickets: \$10 at the gate

Access: Family friendly

Park Lounge

Deep West Pride Without Prejudice

What do big bogan ballads, beefy bears and Gypsy tunes have in common? Absolutely everything! Park Lounge is back for a hot, queer, deliciously gorgeous rendezvous at Kelly Park.

Featuring the fabulously frocked Constantina Bush, virtuosic divas and a stage simply dripping in 70s gems. Join the truly ravishing Retro Girls of PANDORAS fame, embrace all diversity and party with pride.

Venue: Kelly Park Centre Synnot St Werribee

Date: 3 Feb

Time: Sat 4 – 9pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening | Family friendly | Bar | Food available

QWere St Summer Vibes

A street party in Melbourne's north

QWere St Summer Vibes will bring the fun and colour of Midsumma to Montmorency in Melbourne's North. Featuring the best in soul, R&B, funk, folk and dance with Sex on Toast, Kylie Auldist, The Meltdown, Rosie Burgess Trio, little Wise and Voice Collective. DJ's Liz Millar, Andre Le Vogue, and Scarlett Minx. Celebrations include a comedy performance, alfresco dining along Were St, projections by Electric Light Brigade, a kids zone and a waterslide!

Venue: Were St Montmorency

Date: 3 Feb

Time: Sat 6pm – midnight

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Family friendly | Bar | Food available

Twilight Celebrations

The Newport Community Hub is throwing open the doors and everyone's invited!

Is it a music festival? Is it a barbecue? Is it a crafternoon? Newport Community Hub hopes it will be a little bit of everything. Go for an hour or for the whole afternoon.

KIDS *Rainbow Storytime* 4pm to 4.45pm

YOUTH *Music on the Deck* 4.45pm to 6.15pm

16+ *Everyone Has a Story* 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Venue: Newport Community Hub 13 Mason St Newport

Date: 19 Jan

Time: Fri 4 – 7.30pm

Tickets: FREE

booking required for some individual events

Access: Wheelchair access | Family friendly | Food available

Kids and Families

Midsumma at ArtPlay: Our Time to Shine!

A creative and artful play event for queer families and kids (2 to 5 years)

It's a place for imagination and collaboration using all sorts of inspiring materials for you to create artwork or build a play space together. Dance with the shadows, twinkle like a light, curl up and watch the stars whirl – anything is possible! For this special rainbow workshop Midsumma has joined forces with ArtPlay, a place where children can explore their creativity.

Venue: ArtPlay Birrarung Marr behind Federation Square, Melbourne

Date: 18 Jan

Time: Thu 10.30am

Duration: 2 hours

Tickets: FREE drop-in event booking recommended

Access: For age 2 to 5 years | Wheelchair access | Family friendly

Rainbow Storytime

All families are unique and special!

Join drag performers Rex Spandex and Jesse Dean for a very special storytime celebrating diverse families, celebrating identity, and embracing who you are. Rex and Jesse will be sharing their favourite rainbow books, singing songs and having a fabulous time.

As part of Hobson's Bay Twilight Celebrations

Venue: Newport Community Hub 13 Mason St Newport

Date: 19 Jan

Time: Fri 4 – 4.45pm

Duration: 45 mins

Tickets: FREE

booking required

Access: Wheelchair access | Family friendly

Visual Arts

A red wine cheers to the intimacies of industry

Feelings we experience in relation to our urban environment

The exhibition digs deep into the rich prevails, futurism in popular media fails to histories of human involvement with industrial environments in the West, acknowledging and bringing to the forefront marginalised histories. A romantic viewing of the industry and systems that go into constructing the city, Alisha Abate's sculptural practice concerns how the living body inhabits space and the reciprocal relationship of how and why working spaces are constructed.

Venue: Living Museum of the West's Bluestone Building Pipemakers Park Van Ness Avenue Maribyrnong

Date: 27 Jan – 11 Feb

Time: Opening

27 Jan 3 – 5pm

Exhibition

Sat – Sun midday – 5pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Audio described | Violence

Blak- Queer Futurism

Indigenous and QTIPOC contributions in popular media

We live in a world that is highly influenced by black and queer cultures. Although this prevails, futurism in popular media fails to reflect a near future where black or queer people are main protagonists, central to the revolution or progression of humanity, and the protection of our environment.

Venue: Blak Dot Gallery 33 Saxon St Brunswick

Date: 18 Jan – 4 Feb

Time: Opening

18 Jan

6.30 – 8.30pm

Exhibition

Thu – Sat midday – 5pm
Sun midday – 4pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access

CHINTZ

A state of ambiguous non-conformity

Transposed onto the articulate bodies of dancers, and parallel with Australia's burgeoning queer diversity, CHINTZ offers subjects equivocal in gender and motive. Maximilian and Tatjana Plitt's photographic collaboration explores notions of imprecise interpretation and value. Dancers Geoffrey Watson, Milo Hyde and James Andrews are caught within the images in a heightened domestic entanglement.

Venue: Seventh Gallery 155 Gertrude St Fitzroy

Date: 25 Jan – 7 Feb

Tue – Sat

Time: 11am – 5pm

Sun midday – 4pm

Tickets: FREE

Cry: Jessi Lewis

A visual collaboration between portraiture and performance

This is an exhibition that transgresses the roles of sexuality, whilst challenging the notions of masculinity. *“Stripped of armour to a transparent vulnerability. Individuals in private*

pain – shared in unexpected spaces. In a poetic silence, these emotions swell, filling up the space between you and I. With each tear we shed, a new layer does emerge. Here we remain, transfixed in a state of flux, translucent beings, waiting and wanting of more.” Jessi Lewis

Venue: Abbotsford Convent Courtyard 1 St Heliers St Abbotsford

Date: 19 Jan

Time: Fri 7 – 9pm

Duration: 2 hours

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar | Food available

Warning: Adult content

Exposed 2018

Jimmy Twin and Christiaan Moes expose themselves (or their art anyway)

Men on Men Art Competition 2017 winners Jimmy Twin and Christiaan Moes expose themselves this Midsumma Festival.

Exposed kicks off with the always-popular gender-inclusive Open Day where the community is invited to come and check it out. Artworks will be for sale unless otherwise noted.

Venue: The Laird 149 Gipps St Abbotsford

Date: 13 Jan – 3 Feb

Time: Mon – Sat 5pm – late

Sun 4pm – late

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

Warning: Adult content

CIS and Trans male only except Open Day

Loyalty Does Not End With Death

Genesis Breyer P-Orridge is the legendary English musician, poet, performance, and visual artist. P-Orridge's visual works have been exhibited in hundreds of exhibitions across the world over the past 46 years, recently culminating in retrospectives at the Andy Warhol Museum and the Rubin Museum of Art. Exhibition curated by Lawrence English.

"One of the art world's foremost shape-shifters" New York Times

Venue: The Substation 1 Market St, Newport

Date: 1 Feb – 10 Mar

Time: Opening

Thu 1 Feb 6pm

Exhibition

Tue – Sat 11am – 5pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access

Moving Marvels: Marc-O-Matic

Merging art and storytelling with mixed-reality technology

Queer artist Marc-O-Matic pushes creative boundaries merging art and storytelling with mixed-reality technology. Created by one of Australia's immersive media artists, the *Moving Marvels* exhibition showcases artworks that come to life, blurring boundaries between perception and experience and demonstrating different ways of interacting with traditional illustrative art through mixed-reality technology.

Venue: Artboy Gallery 99 Greville St Prahran

Date: 25 Jan – 3 Feb

Time: Daily 10am – 6pm

Tickets: FREE

Neon

An exhibition by Dave Behrens – db3

Visual artist Dave Behrens will showcase his latest works exploring the theme of identity through the use of vibrant colours and the colours of the rainbow, a symbol long used by the LGBTQIA+ community. Dave will be experimenting with fluorescent paint and light also to create a visual feast for the senses.

Venue: Artboy Gallery 99 Greville St Prahran

Date: 18 – 27 Jan

Opening 18 Jan

Time: 6 – 9pm

Exhibition Mon – Fri 10am – 6pm

Sat 10am – 5pm Sun 11am – 4pm

Tickets: FREE

One Weekend Only Ross Watson Limited Edition

Ross Watson's distinctive, highly detailed, realistic paintings are a celebration of the male form, both in its uniformed and natural glory. Celebrate with Ross' latest models, including singer Alfie Arcuri and see for yourself why he has earned a global fan base including Elton John, Ian McKellen and Stephen Fry.

Venue: Ross Watson Gallery 465 Nicholson St Carlton

Date: 20 – 21 Jan

Time: Sat – Sun 11am – 6pm

Tickets: FREE

Queer Tarot Cards

A multi-media exhibition

Queer Tarot Cards is a multi-media exhibition, telling stories of the queer community through Tarot. When rejected by traditional religion, the queer community has often turned to Tarot for guidance and or spiritual belonging. A Queer Tarot deck, for and by the Queer community, representing our gender and sexual identities; telling our stories through Tarot archetypes.

Venue: Well Aligned Studio 228 Lennox St Richmond

Date: 26 Jan – 4 Feb

Time: Fri – Sun 4 – 7pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Audio described

Warning: Nudity

Serving in Silence

Over 75 years of LGBTI military service in Australia

To commemorate 25 years since Australia lifted the ban on LGB military service, this exhibition charts the changing experiences of LGBTI servicemen and women since World War II.

It brings together photos, objects, documents and the life stories of current and former service personnel to explore the adversities, challenges and achievements of LGBTI Defence members.

Venue: City Library Gallery 253 Flinders Lane Melbourne

Date: 11 Jan – 3 Feb

Time: Mon – Thu 8am – 8pm

Fri 8am – 6pm

Sat 10am – 5pm

Sun midday – 5pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access

Shifting Elements and Camp Dogs: Kamahi Djordon King

A shift in focus towards multimedia

Originally from Katherine, Gurindji visual and performing artist Kamahi Djordon King has shifted his focus towards multimedia in this exhibition, showing the creation process of his painting as a film. Kamahi's artwork is inspired by nature. Kamahi has also begun to make sculpture, and this will be the first exhibition of his collection titled Tanha and the Camp Dogs, a homage to his late fur baby with her distinct colouring.

Venue: Wyndham Art Gallery

Date: 18 Jan – 18 Mar

Time: Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm

Sat – Sun 11am – 4pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access

Steve Sumpton: Through the Screen

A photographic exploration of identity and perception

In his debut solo exhibition photographer Steve Sumpton recreates moments from his life that have helped shape the way he identifies with the LGBTQIA+ community.

Manipulating visual cues to separate himself from these vivid, Crewdson-esque images, he invites you to connect with his work without restriction while bringing an awareness to the role perception plays on identity.

Venue: Mister Morris Gallery 20 Junction St Preston

Date: 19 Jan – 8 Feb

Time: Opening 18 Jan

6.30 – 8.30pm

Exhibition Thu – Sun midday – 5pm

Tickets: FREE

That's My Man: Nathan J Smith

“What does it mean to be a man?”

It's a tough question to answer, one that Nathan J. Smith just couldn't fathom on his own and

as such, turned to six of the most life changing and influential men he had ever met. What will a father, ex-boyfriend, lawyer, sponsor, counsellor and close friend reveal? Head to the exhibition and answer it for yourself.

Venue: GoGo Bar 125 Flinders Lane Melbourne

Date: 9 Jan – 5 Feb

Time: Mon – Thu 4pm – late

Fri – Sun 11am – late

Tickets: FREE

Access: Bar | Food available

The Art of Gemma Flack

An exhibition and zine-making workshop

Gemma has been making art for as long as she can remember. Her witty illustrations subvert expectations of femininity, as they find and form their own individual identities in the world. Meet the artist and create your very own zine at a free zine-making workshop.

Venue: Bargoonga Nganjin 182/186 St Georges Rd, Fitzroy North

Date: 14 Dec – 11 Feb

Time: Exhibition

Mon – Tue, Thu – Fri 10am – 6pm

Wed 10am – 8pm Sat 10am – 4pm Sun 2 – 5pm

Workshop

1 Feb 6 – 8pm

Tickets: Exhibition FREE

Workshop FREE booking required

Access: Wheelchair access

The Hairy Loft

Art with no comfort zones

Sircuit Bar presents a pop up exhibition, splashed on its walls by Melbourne artist known as The Hairy Loft, an artist for those who watch the world with fresh eyes and those that don't believe in comfort zones.

Venue: Sircuit Bar 103 Smith St Fitzroy

Date: 14 Jan – 4 Feb
Time: 14 Jan – 4 Feb

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar | Food Available
Warning: Adult content

The Sub-Committee

Consulting on queer culture since 2018

Setting up a temporary and very camp office at Kingston Arts Centre during their residency, The Sub-Committee, consisting of artists Arie Rain Glorie, Bridget Balodis and Jake Preval have taken it upon themselves to unearth the 'gaybourhood' within Moorabbin. A live-art public assembly will be held at the opening, followed by a gallery exhibition.

Venue: Kingston Arts Centre Cnr South Rd & Nepean Hwy Moorabbin

Date: 2 – 26 Feb

Time: Exhibition

Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm Sat midday – 5pm

Opening

Fri 2 Feb 6 – 8pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar | Food available

Trophy Wife Barbie

Sh*t just got real

Following the rapid growth of Trophy Wife Barbie on social media, conceptual artist Annelies Hofmeyr is having her first solo exhibition of mounted Barbie heads at Lord Coconut. With pieces made especially for Midsumma Festival, Hofmeyr's work sparks discussion on modern gender issues and roles.

Venue: Lord Coconut Lvl 5, Mitchell Hse 358 Lonsdale St Melbourne

Date: 16 Jan – 3 Feb

Time: Exhibition

Mon – Fri 11am – 6pm

Sat midday – 4pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access

Warning: Decapitation (of dolls)

Two Sides of the Same Coin

Celebrate diversity, art and drag in an intimate setting

Award winning photographer Anders McDonald has captured the two sides of the same coin – one of Melbourne’s drag queens, Ophelia Dick. Grab a coffee while you check out this highly visual treat.

Venue: Chelsini’s Cafe 3 Freshwater PI Melbourne

Date: 15 Jan – 5 Feb

Time: Mon - Sat 7am - 3.30pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Food available

Company of Men

An exhibition where men explore men

The *Company of Men* exhibition returns to showcase local, interstate and international queer artists that explore and challenge all things masc. The 2018 instalment of the exhibition will travel to the north at the new home of Tacit Galleries in Collingwood. Don’t miss this artistic feast set to tantalise your senses and delight your carnal urges.

Venue: Tacit Galleries 123a Gipps St Collingwood

Date: 18 – 28 Jan

Time: Opening

Thu 18 Jan

6.30 – 8.30pm

Exhibition

Daily 11am – 5pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

Warning: Nudity

Company of Men: Market Day

To complement the *Company of Men* exhibition, The Market Day features a range of local, interstate and international queer artists' works exploring and challenging all things masc. Come along to peruse or buy work that is sure to tantalise your senses and delight your carnal urges.

Venue: Tacit Galleries 123a Gipps St Collingwood

Date: 20 Jan

Time: Sat 11am – 5pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only

Warning: Nudity

F*cked

When was the last time you did it sober?

A forum exploring sexually adventurous men who engage in chemsex – hosted by Down An' Dirty. The forum explores themes of community, intimacy, risk-taking and how that links to our pleasure seeking behaviours as gay, bi, and queer men.

Venue: Tacit Galleries 123a Gipps St Collingwood

Date: 24 Jan

Time: Wed 6pm

Duration: 2 hours

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Food available

Warning: Adult content

If you can't say something nice about anybody, come sit next to me

Photographs by Ray Cook

This exhibition represents 30 years of reflection on shifting realities of queer life from stigma to legitimacy. Ray Cook is known for dark, ironic, allegorical photographs. Often bittersweet observations that use humour and pathos

Venue: Tacit Galleries 123a Gipps St Collingwood

Date: 18 – 28 Jan

Time: Opening

Wed 17 Jan

6.30 – 8.30p

Exhibition

Daily 11am – 5pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Nudity

Stuart Black: Passing Trucks

Works by Stuart Black from 1990 – 1993

The late Stuart Black's art is intrinsically linked to homosexuality and of a time when gay people were inventing themselves. *Passing Trucks* looks at his works created while living in his penthouse in St Kilda. Black noticed trucks filled with animal carcasses speeding toward the meat works. Not visible from the street, his "god's eye" view inspired what was to be his last major series.

Venue: Tacit Galleries 123a Gipps St Collingwood

Date: 18 – 28 Jan

Time: Opening

Wed 17 Jan

6.30 – 8.30pm

Exhibition

Daily 11am – 5pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Adult content

Carol

Based on Patricia Highsmith's novel *The Price of Salt*, *Carol* is about the burgeoning relationship between two very different women in 1950s New York. One, a girl in her 20s working in a department store who dreams of a more fulfilling life, and the other, a wife trapped in a loveless, moneyed marriage desperate to break free. Winner Best Actor – Rooney Mara – Cannes Film Festival 2015.

Venue: Richmond Library 415 Church St Richmond

Date: 20 Jan

Time: Sat 1.30 – 3.30pm

Duration: 2 hours

Tickets: FREE booking required

Access: Wheelchair access

Summer Cinema – Musicals

Who doesn't love a great musical?

Alex Theatre (formerly known as the iconic George Cinemas in St Kilda) returns to its roots for two weekends this Midsumma to present some of the best-loved musicals made for film. Using the latest laser technology and quality cinema sound, just sit back, relax and be thoroughly entertained whilst sipping a bevvy or two from the boutique bar.

Venue: Alex Theatre St Kilda Level 1, 135 Fitzroy St St Kilda

Date: Season 17 – 27 Jan

Time: Wed – Sat

Duration: See midsumma.org.au for individual sessions

Tickets: Per session

\$15 full

\$12 concession

\$12 group (min 6)

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar | Food available

Art Query

On the turbulence of making queer art

Hear firsthand from Jacob Boehme (YIRRAMBOI First Nations Arts Festival), musician Simona Castricum, Zvonimir Dobrović (Queer Zagreb and Queer New York) and producer Zakaria Shahrudin about their personal and professional experiences, spanning curatorial practice, performance art, academia, music, writing, festival directing and more. Presented as a special Midsumma edition of the Abbotsford Convent's Convent Conversations series and moderated by Midsumma Program Manager, Daniel Santangeli.

Venue: Abbotsford Convent Community & Linen Room, 1 St Heliers St, Abbotsford

Date: 31 Jan

Time: Wed 6.30pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: FREE booking required

Access: Wheelchair access | Auslan interpreted

Bent Lines: Designing a Queer City

What makes for a queer-friendly city?

Join Open House Melbourne and Midsumma Festival for an exploration of how the built city supports or isolates queer culture. How does Melbourne rank in supporting queer culture, creativity, communities and business? What role does urban design play in providing safe spaces? This two-part event will start with a walking tour of the city and conclude with a facilitated conversation about the city's built environment.

Venue: Arts Centre Melbourne – Bombini Buzz 100 St Kilda Rd Melbourne

Date: 17 Jan

Time: Wed 6pm

Duration: 120 mins

Tickets: FREE
booking required

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar | Food available

Eat Me: Queers, Food and Intimacy

Moth-styled storytelling meets MasterChef

Catch recipes from queer chefs, writers and personalities as they share their stories of intimacy and food. Enjoy a drink at the Midsumma Festival Bar, housed on the riverside at Bombini Buzz, while getting a glimpse into the glorious moments of life that start in the kitchen.

Venue: Arts Centre Melbourne – Bombini Buzz 100 St Kilda Rd Melbourne

Date: 1 Feb

Time: Thu 5.30pm

Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: FREE booking required

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar | Food available

First Nations Pride

Decolonising sex and gender in conversation

Join Midsumma and curator of *Black Magic* exhibition, Maddee Clark, in conversation with Laniyuk Garcon (featured 'Colouring the Rainbow' author) and *Black Magic* artists in a vital talks event unpacking the effects of colonisation on Indigenous bodies and sexualities. Responding to themes of resistance, stigmatisation and decolonisation present in *Black Magic*, this forward-focused discussion foregrounds First Nations' voices on the topic of First Nations' bodies.

Venue: Incinerator Gallery 180 Holmes Rd Moonee Ponds

Date: 20 Jan

Time: Sat 2pm

Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: FREE booking required

Access: Wheelchair access

Queers and Our Hidden Histories

It might not feel like it, but we've always been here

Join Midsumma for this intimate evening of storytelling featuring Angela Bailey, curator of Midsumma exhibition *WE ARE HERE*, and others as they recount tales from the margin of Melbourne's queer history. This Moth- style personal storytelling night captures extraordinary and intimate insights into the people that danced, fought and loved long before any of us were around to do the same.

Venue: Arts Centre Melbourne Bombini Buzz

Date: 24 Jan

Time: 24 Jan

Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: FREE booking required

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar | Food available

A Taste of Summer

Discover the taste of summer with Dan Murphy's

This discovery adventure is designed to tantalise your tastebuds with some of the best drinks for the summer season. Set in the original Dan Murphy's Cellar, opened over sixty years ago, guests will be surrounded by one of the most comprehensive collections of rare, hard-to-source wine, whiskey and Champagne, perfect to discover a new or old favourite.

Venue: Dan Murphy's Prahran Cellar 282 Chapel St Prahran

Date: 19 Jan

Time: Fri 6 – 8pm

Tickets: \$65

Access: Over 18 only

Everyone Has a Story

A panel of diverse writers share their stories

Hobsons Bay Libraries are gathering some of their favourite writers to chat about what goes on behind the scenes in creating the books they love. Join this riveting and compelling panel discussion, exploring and celebrating queer culture, experience and identity. Book sales and signing available and opportunities to talk books with local booksellers, librarians and other readers and writers.

Venue: Newport Community Hub 13 Mason St Newport

Date: 19 Jan

Time: Fri 6.30pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: FREE

booking required

Access: Wheelchair access

Generations of Queer

A conversation about cross-generational dialogue

This panel arose from conversations at queerspace about how we speak, or fail to speak, across the generations, and how we might understand each other better across our

differences or even *through* our differences. To explore these questions, queerspace have gathered a panel of queer activists, writers and clinicians, including Joan Nestle, Fury and Marie August for a discussion facilitated by Alexandra Frith.

Venue: Library at the Dock, 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade Docklands

Date: 3 Feb

Time: Sat 3.30pm

Duration: 180 mins, inc. post-panel refreshments and informal discussion

Tickets: FREE

booking required

Access: Wheelchair access

In Conversation with Jason Ball

Out in Frankston

Jason Ball, well known as the first openly gay Aussie Rules footballer, visits Frankston Library. He'll share his experiences coming out in the 'blokey-ness' of that sports code and how he has pushed for cultural change in the AFL. His public advocacy and challenging of homophobia led to his naming as 2017 Young Victorian of the Year and ambassador for beyondblue.

Venue: Frankston Library 60 Playne St Frankston

Date: 5 Feb

Time: Mon 6pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: FREE

booking required

Access: Wheelchair access

Multicultural Queer Australia: Then, Now, Future

Join an evening of discussion about the experiences of multicultural, multifaith LGBTQIA+ people. The starting point is the new groundbreaking book *Multicultural Queer Australia: Then, Now, Future*, with renowned contributors such as Faustina Agolley, Tony Ayres, Paul Capsis, Anton Enus, Sally Goldner, Jeremy Law, Alyena Mohummadally, Christos Tsiolkas, Mama Alto, Ayman Barbaresco, Tony Briffa, Lian Low, Omar Sakr and Nevo Zisin.

Venue: Fitzroy Town Hall Reading Room 201 Napier St Fitzroy

Date: 22 Jan
Time: Mon 7 – 8pm
Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: FREE booking required

Access: Wheelchair access | Ausland interpreted

Pride Power

Queer leadership from the ancient world to today

Dr Matthew Laing, lecturer in political leadership at Monash University, shares the secret stories, depraved dalliances and heroic histories of queer monarchs and politicians through the ages, from Alexander the Great's conquest of the known world, to Barbara Jordan's trailblazing career in American politics. Dr Laing will then tackle queer leadership in modern politics.

Venue: Library at the Dock 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade Docklands

Date: 21 Jan
Time: Sun 1.30pm
Duration: 2 hours

Tickets: \$17 full
\$12 concession

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening

Queer Reading Circle

Celebrate queer literature at this reading circle with Madison Kelly

Which books have supported you in accepting, validating and exploring your queer identity? Join Madison Kelly for *Queer Reading Circle*, open to anyone who identifies as queer and to anyone who supports and engages with queer literature. Bring a book, comic, dreaming story, poem, zine or screenplay to share; maybe even a friend who is an LGBTQIA+ writer!

Venue: Carlton Library 667 Rathdowne St Carlton North

Date: 30 Jan
Time: Tue 6 – 7.30pm
Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: FREE
booking required

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only

Queer Reads

Head to City Library to chat about your favourite LGBTQIA+ books!

The queer reading circle is back. Looking for your next queer read? Or just read something that you think is going to be the next Big Queer Read? Drop into City Library for a chat about what's new in queer books – the best of 2017, what you loved, what you didn't, what's coming in 2018, what you want to see next.

Venue: City Library Activities Space 253 Flinders Lane Melbourne

Date: 16 Jan

Time: Tue 6pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access

Transforming Family Connections: Making Peace with Your Parents

If family estrangement is part of your story, don't miss this special encore talk by Melbourne psychotherapist Carol-Ann Allen about the potential we each have to heal the painful legacy of family disconnection. Carol-Ann's inspiring talk last year, *Courageous Conversations*, re-energized many stuck relationships and was praised by audiences and peers alike.

Venue: Queen Victoria Women's Centre The Victoria Room 210 Lonsdale St Melbourne

Date: 31 Jan

Time: Wed 5.30pm

Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: FREE

booking required

Access: Wheelchair access

Transforming Family Connections: The 'They' Thing

Family interactions form the first map we have to make sense of who we are, and how we can expect to be received by the world. These maps are often corrupted by misinformation, fear and cis-hetero-centric notions of happiness. Through intra and inter-personal dialogues, *The*

'They' Thing depicts the impasses in many family-of-origin stories and narratives that often emerge when a person's existence resists familiar paradigms of gender.

Venue: Queen Victoria Women's Centre The Victoria Room 210 Lonsdale St Melbourne

Date: 31 Jan

Time: Wed 7.30pm

Duration: 2 hours

Tickets: FREE

booking required

Access: Wheelchair access

VAC Hypothetical

It's back for another Midsumma Festival. The VAC Hypothetical brings together comedians, doctors, politicians, activists, authors – and throws them into a fictional storyline. They'll tackle the big topics affecting our LGBTQIA+ communities with their keen insight, irreverent humour and razor-sharp wit.

Venue: Deakin Edge @ Fed Square Cnr Swanston & Flinders St Melbourne

Date: 16 Jan

Time: Tue 7pm

Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: FREE

booking required

Access: Wheelchair access

Adult content

NOMADS Marvellous Melbourne Walk

A walking exploration of Marvellous Melbourne's built heritage

This insightful urban walk is an opportunity to appreciate both houses and gardens from an era referred to as 'Marvellous Melbourne', from the 1880s onwards. Wander from Hawthorn to Fed Square via Burnley Gardens, Toorak and South Yarra. The Nomads is a gay-friendly outdoor and social group. BYO walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, water and food for lunch.

Venue: Meet at Hawthorn Station Cnr Evansdale Rd & Burwood Rd Hawthorn

Date: 27 Jan

Time: Sat 10.30am

Duration: 6 hours

Tickets: FREE

booking required

Access: Over 18 only

The Famous ALGA Queer History Walk: 40th Anniversary Edition

Explore queer history through the streets of Melbourne

Melbourne has a very queer history. Same- sex marriage in a church – in the nineteenth century! Camp cafes from the early twentieth century! Gay Lib demos in the 1970s! After four decades of preserving Australian LGBTQIA+ histories, the Archives is inviting you to come and help celebrate by taking queer history out of the archives and on to the streets of the CBD.

Venue: State Library Victoria, meet outside 328 Swanston St Melbourne

Date: 21 Jan

Time: Sun 11am

Duration: 3 hours

Tickets: \$20 full

\$10 concession

Parties, Clubs & Bars

ADAM

Melbourne's favourite nude bar for guys

Every Monday and Tuesday evening – and for a third Midsumma Festival – a diverse range of guys meet to play pool, enjoy some drinks and listen to great music... all in the buff! ADAM parties are known internationally, and are synonymous with Melbourne – discover for yourself what all the talk is about!

Venue: Sircuit Bar 103 Smith St, Fitzroy

Date: 15 Jan – 6 Feb

Time: Mon & Tue

6.30pm – midnight

Tickets: \$10 door sales only

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

Warning: Male-identifying only Nudity

ADAM Pool Party

The iconic ADAM pool party returns for its ninth year

The pool party at Melbourne's landmark Wet on Wellington sauna is a must for both locals and visitors during Midsumma Festival. This year ADAM is presenting the pool party in a sun-drenched carnival atmosphere. In addition to a raft of delicious guys there'll be performers on stage, cocktails and DJs. And of course it's your choice if you wear your choice if you wear your favourite swimmers – or nothing at all!

Venue: Wet On Wellington 162 Wellington St Collingwood

Date: 3 Feb

Time: Sat midday – 8pm

Duration:

Tickets: \$26

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar | Food available

Warning: Male-identifying only | Nudity

ALL SORTS

The sweetest and stickiest event on the calendar!

Come and play with ALL SORTS of fabulous people. Dance alongside chicko babies, maltesers, salty plumbs and milk bottles as ALL SORTS brings you a tasty blend of drag performance, cabaret, comedy, DJs and some of the most magnificent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers in town.

Venue: The Gasometer Hotel 484 Smith St Collingwood

Date: 25 Jan

Time: Thu 8pm – 3am

Tickets: \$20 full

\$15 concession

\$15 group (min 6)

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

Always & Forever

A party for queer babes of all persuasions

Inspired by the intoxicating fun and camp production of gay parties in Los Angeles, *Always & Forever* is the queer party of your dreams. Expect all the pleasure of red nails, pink hearts and glitter blended into a queer dance party where everyone's flamboyance is encouraged and supported. Head down to Smith St and follow the Two in the Pink party crowd down the pink glitter road!

Venue: Forester's Hall 64 Smith St Collingwood

Date: 2 Feb

Time: Fri 10pm – 4am

Tickets: \$20

Access: Over 18 only | Bar

Warning: Adult content

Blended Fruits

Melbourne's best LGBTQIA+ professional networking event

Join GLOBE at *Blended Fruits*, at one of their biggest networking events of the year. This year sees Blended Fruits in a new venue at no35 with breathtaking views from Sofitel Melbourne. Don't miss this great opportunity for professional and social networking.

Everyone is welcome for canapés, and drinks can be purchased at the bar.

Venue: No35, Sofitel on Collins, Level 35 Sofitel Melbourne 25 Collins St Melbourne

Date: 9 Jan

Time: Tue 6 – 9pm

Tickets: \$15 presale

\$20 door sales

FREE GLOBE and Corporate members

Access: Wheelchair access | Bar

CLOSET: After Dark

A Midsumma Carnival after party for homosexuals and those who love them

Melbourne's night for homosexuals and those who love them is throwing open the CLOSET

doors following Midsumma Carnival to throw the Northside's best after party. Clear your calendar, chuck a sickie or take a personal day on Monday because this special edition will not disappoint. Featuring the likes of Salvador Darling, Ruby Slippers, Renee Delay. Special guests and sexy surprises in store.

Venue: Lounge 1/243 Swanston St Melbourne

Date: 14 Jan

Time: Sun 9pm – 4am

Duration:

Tickets: \$17 presale

\$22 door sales

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

FRIYAY: Special Edition

Fun and inclusive party for queer north-side babes

A special Midsumma Festival FRIYAY edition presented by F@F and Francesca's Bar in Northcote. Think special guest DJs, BBQ, glittery goodness and more. And of course, the usual ping pong competition, drink specials and pizza available. Good times always guaranteed at Northcote's longest running queer party.

Venue: Francesca's Bar 222 High St Northcote

Date: 26 Jan

Time: Fri 5pm – 3am

Tickets: \$10 door sales only

Access: Over 18 only | Bar | Food available

Girls at Sea: Celebrating Five Years

Ahoy! Come aboard and celebrate...

Girls at Sea celebrates five years of boat parties and this year the team are pulling out all stops to make it bigger and better than ever. This year's party follows a gold theme, to help you sail in style.

Be welcomed aboard by an acoustic band followed by DJs playing late into the night. Join the meet-up prior and continue on to the exclusive after party, all included in the one ticket price.

Venue: Victoria Star Cruises Dock 9, Central Pier Victoria Harbour Docklands

Date: 20 Jan
Time: Boarding Sat 6.30pm
Departing 7pm
Return 11pm

Tickets: \$39

Access: Over 18 only | Bar | Food available

JIZZ

A Midsumma Carnival after party

JIZZ is an annual all-sexualities after party that is focused on good ol' wholesome party fun. JIZZ is taking over a luscious open-air location after Midsumma Carnival to bring you the best in Australian DJs and good party folk. Nü disco, house, techno and everything that'll put you in the mood to move like Grace Jones and shine like a mother f*cking diamond.

Venue: Geddes Lounge Geddes Lane Melbourne

Date: 14 Jan
Time: Sun 6pm – 6am

Tickets: \$35 full
\$30 concession
\$25 group (min 10)

Access: Over 18 only | Bar
Warning: Adult content

Klub Korporate

Join Karen From Finance and a giant hoard of her best and closest business colleagues as they take over the entire Brunswick Mechanics Institute with a post-apocalyptic office based occupational dance party.

Snap your pencils, unbutton that blazer and dive into this raging work break-up with all the furore you have to stick it to the man!

Venue: Brunswick Mechanics Institute Cnr Sydney & Glenlyon Rd Brunswick

Date: Sat 20 Jan
Time: 9pm – 2am

Tickets: \$19 pre sale
\$23 door sales

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Food available

Mooning 2018

Melbourne's premier Bare-arse Talent and Wet Jock competition

Mooning 2018, will see guys baring all. With the Talent and Wet Jock segments, the crowd are guaranteed an all-round view of contestants. Hosted by Dean Arcuri, *Mooning* is a fun, cheeky event. Throw in a half time comedy act with rapid-auction and this is a great night of entertainment for bugger-all money.

Venue: The Laird 149 Gipps St Abbotsford

Date: 26 Jan

Time: Fri 8pm

Duration: 180 mins

Tickets: \$17

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

Warning: Male-identifying only | Adult content

Miss Gay & Miss Transsexual Australia International 2018

Live Your Dreams

Australia's biggest international drag and transgender beauty pageant moves to St Kilda Town Hall with its 2018 theme, 'Live Your Dreams'. Unique, dazzling and entertaining, the ninth Miss Gay & Miss Transsexual Australia International beauty pageant extends beyond the glamour and spectacle of femme gender-expression and cisgender beauty to champion inclusion, diversity and equality for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Venue: St Kilda Town Hall 99A Carlisle St St Kilda VIC

Date: 27 Jan

Time: Sat 6pm

Duration: 4 hours

Tickets: \$40 premium seating
(\$45 premium door sales)
\$35 General Admission
(\$40 GA door sales)

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar | Food available

Nothing on...

a Masquerade Ball

A gala nudist event with a difference

NUDIES Revolution is a Melbourne based pop-up nudist group who aim to take nudity in unexplored directions. While masquerade balls usually mean glorious gowns and seductive suits, this won't require such extravagance. With shoes on your feet and a mask on your face, enjoy a lovely, social, care free and gender inclusive evening in the buff.

Venue: Chasers Nightclub 386 Chapel St South Yarra

Date: 13 Jan

Time: Sat 7pm – 12.30am

Tickets: \$22

Access: Over 18 only | Bar | Adult content

Warning: Nudity

Queer Pool Party

We owe those beaches nothing!

VAC invite you and all your crew to the queerest ending of Midsumma Festival 2018. Get wet 'n' wild and wrap up everyone's favourite time of year with sunshine, eye candy and a recovery 'sesh' before sliding on to the Railway Hotel for Happy Hour.

Venue: Prahran Pool 41 Essex St Prahran

Date: 4 Feb

Time: Sun midday – 4pm

Tickets: \$10

Access: Wheelchair access | Food available

Queer Speed Dating

A queer speed dating extravaganza

An evening of fun and interesting speedy dates with cute AF activities for anyone who identifies as queer. Come for new mates or hot dates, this event is designed for everyone. With two separate sessions (male-identifying and female-identifying) running simultaneously, you're welcome to join whichever one you feel works for you.

Venue: Handsome Her 206 Sydney Rd Brunswick

Date: 1 Feb

Time: Thu 7 – 11pm

Tickets: \$45

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar

STREAT's Secret Garden Party

Enjoy a sumptuous Summer evening in the garden of STREAT's 150 year old Collingwood manor where staff will sprinkle edible flowers in your cocktail at sunset, chefs will fashion your fabulous four course epicurean feast, bakers will delicately dust glitter on your 'glitter and green tea' chocolate éclairs.

All proceeds help fund rainbow youth through STREAT.

Venue: Cromwell STREAT Cafe 66 Cromwell St Collingwood

Date: 31 Jan

Time: Wed 6pm

Duration: 3 hours

Tickets: \$120

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar | Food available

LGBTI Elders Dance Club

By All The Queens Men

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex elders (65+) and their allies are invited to attend this social dance event, learn new dances, enjoy delicious catering and drinks, and interact with other LGBTI elders and allies. No dance experience needed. All welcome. This Midsumma Festival edition will include special guest performances.

Venue: Fitzroy Town Hall 201 Napier St Fitzroy

Date: 4 Feb

Time: Sun 2pm

Duration: 3 hours

Tickets: \$15 full

\$10 concession

All tickets include afternoon tea

Access: Wheelchair access | Food available

The Melbourne Drag Awards

Awards for Melbourne drag performers and associated professionals

The Melbourne Drag Awards have been established by Dragnation and Vau d'Vile to bring recognition to all of Melbourne and Victoria's drag queens, drag kings, faux queens, associated technicians, professionals and venues that work in this fabulous art form. Melbourne has a rich history of drag and Melbourne Drag Awards will highlight this amazing past.

Venue: Vau d'vile 62 – 70 Johnston St Fitzroy

Date: 29 Jan

Time: Mon 7pm

Tickets: \$120 full (showroom)

\$375–\$525 booths (awards on screen)

\$25 general admission (awards on screen)

Access: Wheelchair access | Over 18 only | Bar | Food available

Warning: Adult content

THICK 'N' JUICY:

Sunset Boat Party

Featuring International Superstar DJ Kitty Glitter

Join the THICK 'N' JUICY party family and all their cheeky friends as they set sail aboard the Victoria Star luxury cruise ship on Saturday (Australia Day Weekend) for a massive sunset boat party with an amazing lineup of high-profile DJs, including International Superstar DJ Kitty Glitter, and hundreds of sexy sailors!

Venue: Victoria Star Cruises Dock 9, Central Pier Victoria Harbour Docklands

Date: 27 Jan

Time: Boarding Sat 6pm

Departing 6.30pm

Return 10.30pm

Tickets: \$40 full

\$35 concession

\$35 group (min 10)

Access: Over 18 only | Bar | Food available

Markets

Gay Stuff Markets

Come get some Gay Stuff!

Gay Stuff Market is a collection of the finest creators, artisans and style makers from the queer community. Convening at Hares and Hyenas, it is a fun and community spirited event. Offering everything from fashion, art, plants, homewares, accessories, pleasure products, vintage and recycled pieces, books, tunes and more.

Venue: Hare Hole (Hares & Hyenas) 63 Johnston St Fitzroy

Date: 4 Feb

Time: Sun 2 – 8pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Family friendly | Bar | Food available

Night Market Pride

Celebrate Pride at the 20th anniversary edition of The Night Market

The Queen Victoria Market is a diverse community hub and this year The Night Market will be celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community with a special edition 'Pride' themed night, open to all. The free live entertainment will showcase upcoming festival acts across two main stages and an array of roaming entertainers. The event will host Melbourne's largest selection of global street food and a huge variety of specialty shopping stalls.

Venue: Queen Victoria Market Cnr Victoria St & Elizabeth St Melbourne

Date: 17 Jan

Time: Wed 5 – 10pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Family friendly | Bar | Food available

Faith

A Summer Mass

Celebrating full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people in the Church

It's ok to be a Christian and part of the LGBTQIA+ community. Each year this special Mass celebrates in a church that is a home for all LGBTQIA+ people – believer or fellow traveller – no checklist at the door. Saint Mark's is where an apology for the stigma the church had inflicted on the community was delivered in 2014 and where you can leave with your head held high.

Venue: St Mark's Anglican Church 250 George St Fitzroy

Date: 2 Feb

Time: Fri 7pm

Duration: 70 mins

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Family friendly | Food available

Pride Shabbat

Honouring the Jewish LGBTQIA+ community and its supporters

Join Temple Beth Israel for the fifth annual Pride Shabbat Service, which celebrates and honours the Jewish LGBTQIA+ community and its supporters. Everyone from all faiths and backgrounds are welcome to attend the service and show their solidarity with the Jewish LGBTQIA+ community

Venue: Temple Beth Israel 76 – 82 Alma Rd St Kilda

Date: 2 Feb

Time: Fri 6.15pm

Duration: 1 hour

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Assistive listening

St Michael's Worship Service

Experience an inclusive Sunday Service presented in one of the most progressive churches in Melbourne. Executive Minister Rev Ric Holland is dedicated to social justice and equality for all. As part of the special Midsumma Festival service, Rev. Holland is inviting same-sex couples to attend and have their relationships honoured. St Michael's is known for their inclusive congregation, accepting and welcoming people of all faiths, cultures and sexuality. Executive Minister Rev Holland is a designated spokesperson for the Equality Campaign; actively involved in the ongoing struggle for marriage equality in Australia. All are welcome.

Venue: St Michaels Uniting Church 120 Collins St Melbourne

Date: 4 Feb

Time: Sun 10am

Duration: 90 mins

Tickets: FREE

Sports

Motafrenz Magical Mystery Tour

A fun drive and picnic in the country

Join your Motafrenz for this great annual event. Try your best navigation, observation and problem solving skills in the most enjoyable way as you drive to a fabulous secret lunch spot. Pack a picnic lunch or pick up something along the way. Prizes for highest scores and wooden spooners. Bring: e-tag, sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, chair or rug. No guarantee that BBQs will be available at this time of year.

Venue: Starts at Como Park Alexandra Ave & Williams Rd South Yarra

Date: 21 Jan

Time: Sun 9.45am – 4pm

Tickets: \$22 car (inc. driver)
\$5 passenger

NOMADS Cycling by the Bay

Join The Nomads for a leisurely, scenic off-road Bayside ride

Melbourne boasts a treasure-chest of beautiful local vistas. The Nomads is a gay-friendly

outdoor and social group providing an opportunity for people to take part in or lead a range of outdoor activities. Join the group at Federation Square, ride to Port Melbourne for a coffee near Station Pier. Follow the Bay to Milano's Restaurant – overlooking Brighton Beach – for lunch (total distance 16 km). After lunch, return by train from Brighton Beach Station or cycle a further 19 km to Mordialloc Station.

Venue: Federation Square meet outside the Visitor Centre Cnr Swanston and Flinders St Melbourne

Date: 4 Feb

Time: Sun 10.30am

Duration: 6 hours

Tickets: FREE

booking required

Access: Over 18 only | Food available

Pride Run & Walk

Celebrate diversity at the 2018 Pride Run & Walk

Join Melbourne Frontrunners for the second year Pride Run & Walk in a healthy celebration of diversity around Melbourne's iconic Tan Track. Walk or run around the Tan in an inclusive event for all fitness levels. This event is both dog and child friendly as well as being a great way for keen runners to kick off the 2018 running calendar. Be out, be proud, be outdoors and be active with the Melbourne Frontrunners.

Venue: Tan Track Meet: Pillars of Wisdom, Alexandra Avenue

Date: 21 Jan

Time: Sun 8.30 – 10.30am

Duration: 2 hours

Tickets: \$20 full

\$15 concession

Access: Family friendly | Physical activity involved

Melbourne Glam Slam

A VicTennis special Midsumma Festival 2018 tournament

This year for the first time, VicTennis and the GLTA (Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance) will host their annual Glam Slam tournament at Melbourne Park on the beautiful clay courts of the National Tennis Centre within the Australian Open precinct. Australian and international

players will compete in the only LGBTQIA+ premier tournament held during a Grand Slam event anywhere in the world.

Venue: National Tennis Centre Clay Courts 100 Olympic Blvd Melbourne

Date: 19 – 21 Jan

Time: Fri 5 – 9pm

Sat 8am – 6pm

Sun 8am – 5pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access

NUDIES – NOMADS

Nude Hike and Swim

Enjoy the fun and freedom of hiking without your gear!

Walk through picturesque bushland beside the Yarra River in Warrandyte and spot a kangaroo or two. Enjoy a leisurely lunch by the river with a cool off swim, no togs required. Wear comfortable walking shoes and take along lunch, snacks, water and shorts for start and end of hike. Lots of tree cover, but bring sunscreen, hat and sunglasses.

Venue: Jumping Creek Reserve, 220 Jumping Creek Rd Wonga Park

Date: 20 Jan

Time: Sat 10.30am – 4:30pm

Tickets: FREE

booking required (book to get exact meeting point)

Access: Over 18 only

Warning: Nudity

Pride Football Victoria Cup 2018

Melbourne Rovers Soccer Club v Victoria Police Soccer Club

The Pride Football Victoria Cup brings together the Melbourne Rovers Soccer Club (Melbourne's LGBTQIA+ Soccer Team) and the Victoria Police Soccer Club to promote diversity and inclusion in the world game. This will be the second year the match will be played with both teams fielding a combined men and women's team. This is a rainbow family friendly and free event.

Venue: Ron Barassi Snr Park Docklands Dr Docklands

Date: 21 Jan
Time: Sun 10am

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access

The Australian Samesex Dancesport Championships 2018

A fabulous and exhilarating cabaret night with a difference!

Enjoy a night of hot-blooded Latin American, the glitzy style of Ballroom or the beauty and character of New Vogue, featuring the *Australian Samesex Dancesport Championships*. Cheer on the competitors, be entertained by some amazing floorshows or join us on the dance floor for a unique and colourful night of social dancing.

Venue: St Kilda Town Hall 99a Carlisle St, St Kilda

Date: 3 Feb
Time: Sat 6 – 11pm

Tickets: \$35 full
\$30 concession

Access: Wheelchair access | Family friendly | Bar | Food available

The Melbourne Pride Cup

Out on the Water – Dragon Boat Racing

Dragon Boat Victoria is gathering a troupe of corporate organisations and government departments to put together a Dragon Boat team of up to twenty LGBTQIA+ paddlers to compete in the inaugural Melbourne Pride Cup. A series of races will be held leading to the award.

Venue: Victoria Harbour 892 Collins St Docklands

Date: 4 Feb
Time: Sun 1 – 4pm

Tickets: FREE

Sports Festival by Team Melbourne

The ultimate LGBTQIA+ sporting 'come and try' experience

Supported by the Maribyrnong City Council, The Sports Festival by Team Melbourne is the best way to try as many sports as you like in the same place at the same time. The LGBTQIA+ community boasts a contingent of 20 sports and recreational groups that operate in a safe and inclusive environment and this is the perfect way to find one that suits you best. Then head to the club house for a mixer with all the clubs.

Venue: Footscray Park & Victoria University (Ballarat Road Campus) 40 Maribyrnong Blvd, Footscray

Date: 3 Feb

Time: Sat 9.30am – 5pm

Tickets: FREE

Access: Wheelchair access | Family friendly | Bar | Food available

Access

Wheelchair Access

Wheelchair access varies from venue to venue. To check a venue's wheelchair accessibility, look at the wheelchair access symbol alongside an event listing. Midsumma relies on accurate information provided by the venues that are part of the festival.

National Relay Services

If you are Deaf, hard of hearing or have difficulty speaking, 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.

Companion Card Holders

Companion Card holders qualify for a complimentary ticket for their companion. Please contact Midsumma Ticketing on 03 9296 6600 to book.

Accessible Events

Please see individual event listings or midsumma.org.au for further information about services such as Auslan interpretation, audio description and tactile tours.

Alternative Format Guides

Large print, plain text and screen reader versions of the program can be downloaded on the Midsumma website midsumma.org.au

Alternatively, call Midsumma on 03 9296 6600 and we can email or post them to you.

Tickets

Online

Purchase tickets quickly and easily via

midsumma.org.au

Tickets are available online until one hour before an event's start-time, unless otherwise specified.

Call Us

Our friendly ticketing team are available most weekdays from 11am to 4pm on

03 9296 6600 for enquiries and bookings. The office will be closed between Christmas and New Year but online bookings are available over this period.

At the Venue

Purchase tickets at the door of the venue from approximately one hour prior to the event.

Tickets are subject to availability. Contact the venue directly to confirm venue opening times. Some venues may be cash only.

Pop-Up Ticket Booth at Midsumma Carnival

Another reason to love Midsumma Carnival at Alexandra Gardens! Dance, celebrate and then grab your Midsumma tickets,

free of booking fees. Credit and debit card (no cash) transactions only.

Ticket Delivery

All tickets will be emailed to you directly. Save paper and show your Print@Home tickets on your smart-phone at the venue.

Discounts and Concessions

Concession Tickets

We accept a range of concession cards including seniors, full-time students and health care cards. You will be required to show proof of concession when entering the venue.

Group Bookings

Some events may offer a discount if you purchase tickets as a group! So grab your friends and colleagues and book together.

Babes-in-Arms

Children under two years old may be admitted to some events without a ticket, provided they sit on the lap of their parent or guardian. Excludes 18+ events.

Free Events

Many of our events are free of entry charge. However, some still require you to secure your

place by booking. No fees apply for ticketed free events. Entry to non-ticketed free events is subject to venue capacity and at the discretion of venue staff.

Terms and Conditions

A booking fee of \$3 is applied per transaction (not per ticket) for all online and phone bookings through Midsumma. Latecomers admitted at the discretion of the venue.

Refunds will only be given in accordance with the LPA guidelines and at the discretion of the Event Producer. Refunds will not

be issued for change of mind or missed performances. Exchanges may be possible for the same performance and will incur a fee. Midsumma takes no responsibility for tickets issued through third party ticketing agencies.

Privacy Policy

Midsumma takes your privacy very seriously. To view our Privacy Policy, visit midsumma.org.au

Our People

Chief Executive

Karen Bryant

Program Manager

Daniel Santangeli

Marketing & Strategic Partnerships Manager

Tania Owen

Production Manager

Tania Wilson

Ticketing Manager and Producer Services

Alexina Coad

Communications & Website

Alan Drummond

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Irene Swensen

Volunteers Coordinator

Evan Lawson

Brand & Program Guide Design

Sweet Creative

Website Interface Design

Grindstone Creative

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We have put together a list of events to highlight works within this program:

Events with a focus on queer people of colour and First Nations

Parties: ALL SORTS

Dance: Bent Bollywood

Visual Arts: Black Magic

Visual Arts: Blak-Queer Futurism

Talk: First Nations Pride

Talk: Multicultural Queer Australia: Then Now Future

Visual Arts: Shifting Elements and Camp Dogs: Kamahi Djordon King

Cabaret: The Cocoa Butter Club: Midsumma Special

More reading:

We asked writer Adolfo Aranjuez to give us his thoughts on what it means to be a queer person of colour, to complement a list of Midsumma events with a Queer-and-Trans-People-of-Colour and Queer First Nations focus.

In the Spotlight by Adolfo Aranjuez

When the lesbian African-American poet Audre Lorde said, 'Art is not living [but] the use of living,' in a 1982 interview, what she highlighted was the relationship between *real* and *represented*, daily life and depictions of it – in her case, as a queer woman and a person of colour.

Nowhere is this dynamic more pronounced than in the everyday travails of those who inhabit the margins. Because of the hand we've been dealt, the lives of queer people, people of colour and especially people at the intersections of these identities are characterised by performance and presentation: we can't just switch off.

We're compelled to play the right personas for the circumstances in which we find ourselves – palatable one moment, pushing

boundaries the next. We have to put on a brave face when struggling against bigotry and exclusion, when letting slide yet another bite

of microaggression. We're forced to learn to 'pass' depending on the company we keep, to pass *up* opportunities that are tinged with tokenism, to pass *over* political talk lest we be deemed too inflammatory and become tarnished with the 'bad minority' brush.

We queer people and people of colour often feel like we're never enough – as citizens, as creatives, as humans – while simultaneously feeling like we've *had* enough of being cast aside as errant, as deviant, as lesser and in need of catching up.

But art is a tool for empowerment – and on stage, on the page, on the canvas, we're able to put our powers of portrayal to good

use. Our lives may forever be under scrutiny from those who wish to sideline or subdue us, but a flipside of being no stranger to the spotlight is the ability to reclaim attention and seize

power back.

Throughout history, we've taken our alterity and adversity, and used it as fuel to create: from blues, jazz and disco, to vogue, drag and dancehall; rap and reggae, butoh and burlesque; and, closer to home, the creations of performers for *The Cocoa Butter Club* and of visual artist Peter Waples-Crowe, whose work appears in two Midsumma Festival exhibitions in 2018.

Otherness is the underground. Otherness is understanding how our difference can be weaponised to challenge prejudice and chip away at the structures that subjugate us. In life, we may – for now – occupy the peripheries, but art lets us activate our most badass selves and take centre stage.

Adolfo Aranjuez is the editor-in-chief of *Archer*, the world's most inclusive sexuality and gender magazine and one of our most recent Midsumma media partners. Adolfo also writes nonfiction and poetry, and appears at festivals and arts events to speak about race, queer and mental-health issues. Additionally, he is an emerging dancer and participant in our Midsumma Futures program.

A Focus on Transgender and Gender Non-Binary Identity

Events with a focus on transgender and gender non-binary identity

Dance: Bent Bollywood

Visual Arts: Beyond the Binary

Visual Arts: CHINTZ

Music: Genesis Breyer P-Orridge with Edley ODowd

Cabaret: Glitterfest:Libertine

Theatre: Hir

Theatre: Lockpick Pornography

Visual Arts: Loyalty Does Not End With Death

Cabaret: Mama Alto: Queerly Beloved

Pageant: Miss Gay & Miss Transsexual Australia International 2018

Talk: Transforming Family Connections: The 'They' Thing

Q&A with Genesis Breyer P-Orridge

Genesis P-Orridge is a non-binary musician, poet and performance artist based in New York City. Jess Jones is a journalist with Star Observer, based in Brisbane and has a background in medical writing. A trans man, Jess' special interests include gender as well as entertainment and travel.

We asked Jess to catch up with Genesis ahead of their upcoming appearance at Midsumma Festival, to complement a list of Midsumma events we have put together with a gender non-binary or transgender slant.

Jess: What does gender mean to you?

Genesis: I'm a pandrogyne, a positive androgyne. Trans is the symbol of the ultimate evolution of our species. It should be that we all can be whoever and whatever we want to be, and that is the ultimate expression of spiritual knowledge, the process of becoming.

Jess: What is being a non-binary or trans person in the US like?

Genesis: For me, I'm like a mythical creature, and I've got my protective bubble around me. The ones that are really at risk are all the young kids, the ones that are thrown out of home. There's been an uptick in the murder of trans women, and there's been a growth of ignorance.

Last year we went on a road trip to Tennessee in the South. While we were driving around, we would stop at gas stations, and every single one had a hand-written note on the toilet that said 'real women only in here'. That was before the election, and that was really scary.

Nobody, including me, realised how deep-rooted the prejudice and the racial hatred and the fake-Christian extremism really was under the surface down in the South still. I feel one of my responsibilities, having a voice, is to speak up and say what I think is wrong and why.

Jess: What do you see happening with LGBTQIA+ rights right now?

Genesis: Over here they're trying to roll the calendar back and pretend it's the 1950s again. It's very dangerous.

In times of darkness, the best strategy is to use the opposite of what they're using. If they're being angry and vicious and violent, we have to be kind and gentle and loving. Most of all we have to be compassionate. If we do that, we really can change it.

Jess: Are you looking forward to coming back to Australia?

Genesis: Oh yes. For people in Europe or the US, it's like saying you're going to go to Mars. Going to Australia is as unusual as going to another planet, and you've got to admit Australia is like another planet when you get there, with strange alien creatures and red soil and the oldest living civilisation on the planet. You've got a lot going for you, and we're happy to come back.

Genesis will be performing with Edley ODowd Fri 2 Feb and has an accompanying exhibition Loyalty Does Not End With Death from 1 Feb at Substation.

Events with a male identifying focus

Parties: ADAM

Parties: ADAM Pool Party

Theatre: Boys Have Skin

Visual Arts: Cry: Jessi Lewis

Visual Arts: Company of Men

Cabaret: Ego Jacket

Visual Arts: Exposed 2018

Parties: Mooning 2018

Visual Arts: Neon

Visual Arts: One Weekend Only: Ross Watson Limited Edition

Cabaret: Small Cruelties

Visual Arts: That's My Man: Nathan J Smith

Theatre: The Cabin

Visual Arts: The Hairy Loft

Theatre: The Helendale Nude Footy Calender

More reading:

Nic Holas Navigates Masculinity

We have put together a list of events to highlight just a few of the male-identifying works within this program. Nic Holas is a writer, HIV/queer activist, and co-founder of The Institute of Many (TIM). We asked Nic to give us his thoughts on male identity.

Maleness. It's a term that elicits a variety of responses, and in the (thankfully) increasingly intersectional LGBTQIA+ communities, some may think the days of men-only spaces/male-centric events are numbered.

It's a timely discussion, and one we need to be having. Rooted (pun intended) in a historical need for safe, confidential spaces for same-sex attracted men to fraternise, we now find ourselves part of a larger conversation on toxic masculinity, oppression policing, and identity politics.

When we are surrounded by, and dominated by, heterosexual, cosgendered examples of maleness at its worst, how do we as LGBTQIA+ communities respond? Our ongoing queering of masculinity is vital.

From masc-drag parties and exhibitions to resplendently camp cabarets that star song-and-dance confirmed bachelors, this year's Midsumma program features both celebrations and interrogation of maleness.

The time-honoured tradition of blokes waving their bums about is certainly queered by the

ever-popular Midsumma *Mooning* party. Splattered on gallery walls, exhibitions by and featuring (but not just for) male identifying people return, including the hyper-masc Company of Men, with its glossy photos printed on what may be pure testosterone. Meanwhile, onstage queer cabarets and performances remind us of the long, unbroken line of storytelling that has served to educate and entertain us for generations.

What is it all for though? Is there still room for the backs-to-the-wall boys club in the ever-changing world of queer identity? Benefitting as we do from our identifiable maleness, often brandishing bigger megaphones than our fellow queer siblings, we men have an honour-bound duty to take them with us as we all charge forward towards genuine equality. In the post-postal survey world, it be a marriage of the old and new that helps take us forward.

We still need to take a long, hard look at maleness.

Fortunately, queer men are quite good at coping an eyeful.

A Focus on Female-Identity

“They may implicitly see me As A Woman, just as I may see them for their most evident identity category.”

- *Helen Razer*

Events with a female-identifying focus

Film: Carol

Performance: Forty Years of Kate Bush

Parties: Girls at Sea: Celebrating Five Years

Music: Goddess Grooves - Originals and Cabaret

Cabaret: Killjoy - Destroy the Fantasy

Visual Arts: Love Box

Visual Arts: The Art of Gemma Flack

Musical Theatre: The Greatest Love of All - The Whitney Houston Show

Visual Arts: Trophy Wife Barbie

Performance: Queen Kong and the HOMOsapiens

More reading:

Razer Speaking ‘As A Woman’

We have put together a list of events to highlight female-identifying works within this

program. To complement the exercise, we asked Helen Razer to give us her thoughts on what it means to her to be female-identifying. It clearly wasn't a simple question. But neither is the subject of identity.

A while back, I was speaking to the highly regarded, deeply defiant Australian artist Richard Bell. A controversial Bell piece had just taken out a major prize for Aboriginal art, and so, like a predictable honky dimwit, I asked him in a media interview what it meant to be Aboriginal.

Richard, who for some reason still talks to me, said something like, "Do I have to be Aboriginal all the freaking time?" Which is just the sort of destabilising question he poses with his work. Identity does not define a person, even to themselves, in every instant. Even if the kind

of identity we ended up with is one that society urges us not to forget, we can perhaps un-remember that we are black, brown, disabled, queer or what-have-you.

I do not, for example, pay my bills As A Woman. Of course, my prescribed

back at feminist school. Honestly, I have a great deal of patience for such explanations of life As A Woman, and my first ever living-philosopher crush was on the still great, still corporeal Australian Liz Grosz.

Still. You know. I can't say I locate embodied traces of the feminine on myself while soaking rice. I even argue and I believe this identity thing just sometimes falls away. Not, perhaps, to the person with whom I am angrily conversing. They may implicitly see me As A Woman, just as I may see them for their most evident identity category. Not saying I am "above all that" or some such pure fib. I am just saying, as Bell reminded me to, that sometimes we forget the identities that demand to be donned by us, and can get a bit shitty if suddenly reminded.

And, you know. Just between you, me and the Empowering Joy of Being a Queer Woman workshop, I think it is okay, even healthy, to occasionally forget. Or, at the very least in feminist conversations, talking about something else but our Lived Female Experience for a change.

I propose, and not even As A Woman, that we all try out an identity non-awareness week every year. No art As A Woman, no memoir, no personal-is-political anecdotes remembering what it is to be a lady. Remembering, instead, that there is a fleeting power we hold to forget.

Helen Razer is a writer and was a broadcaster. She lives in Melbourne and has not reproduced.

Events with a focus on HIV

Musical Theatre: Falsettos

Performance: HIVme

Visual Arts: Inside/Out

Talks: Inside/Out: Roundtable Conversation

Theatre: Regan Lynch Does it in Public

Performance: Through the Night

Talks: VAC Hypothetical

Theatre: We Were There

More reading:

My First Ball

By Ed Moreno

Perhaps her first real partner was the cab.

—Katherine Mansfield, “Her First Ball”

Exactly when the ball began I would find it hard to say.

Perhaps my first real partner was the magazine I picked up which read G.R.I.D. Perhaps my first real partner was that article in which I recognised myself.

Perhaps my first real partners were all-of-those-men-covered-in-cutaneous-lesions.

Each of these men – the article read – had had thousands of sexual partners which translated into innumerable sex acts. The article broke these figures down.

Perhaps my first real partners were these figures: sex acts per week, per night, per hour. How many sex acts are occurring now? I jumped. I couldn't move.

Perhaps my first real partner was desire.

Perhaps I realised then that I wouldn't always resist my desire. Perhaps my first real partner was desire.

Exactly when the ball began I would find it hard to say.

The ball began in a booth in the Mission, video flicker urging us on The ball began with a kiss in the Castro, rainbow flag flapping

The ball began in the library, a trailer park, Brompton Cemetery under the trees

The ball began in October: I'd been expecting it, I didn't expect it. He called me over. Perhaps he was my first real partner. I don't remember his name.

The ball began with diagnosis: I remember bare branches, the oncoming winter.

Exactly when the ball began I would find it hard to say. At diagnosis, they gave me five years.

After diagnosis, the ball moved me to Miami, London, Sydney. Before diagnosis, the ball.

After diagnosis, the ball.

Perhaps my first real partner was Stephen. Perhaps my first real partner was Louis.

Perhaps my first real partner was Michael. Perhaps my first real partner was Jay.

Perhaps my first real partners have all gone.

Exactly when the ball began I would find it hard to say. Five years after diagnosis, ritonavir.

Perhaps my first real partner was ritonavir. Perhaps my first real partners have all gone.

Perhaps I will live forever.

Perhaps we'll all live forever.

Perhaps my first real partner was atipla. Perhaps my first real partner was truvada. Perhaps we'll all live forever. Exactly when the ball began I would find it hard to say. Perhaps my first real partner was desire.

Perhaps my first real partner is how come I'm still here? Perhaps my first real partner is love.

Perhaps my first real partner is maybe I'll wear gloves to the Perhaps my first real partner is probably I won't.

Perhaps my first real partner is we have always had this ball. Perhaps my first real partner is I will love you at this ball.

Perhaps my first real partner is I will fuck you at this ball. Perhaps my first real partner is this fuck should last forever.

First published in *HIV Here & Now*

A native of New Mexico, Ed lives in Melbourne where he works as a bookseller. He is currently translating Brazilian writer Caio Fernando Abreu's HIV-themed work into English for an Australian audience. We thought this poem by Ed would serve as an excellent introduction to a series of events in this program which touch on the topic of HIV. Ed is also doing a spoken word performance 'Through the Night' as part of Midsumma Festival 2018.