

Sydney Fringe Festival launches dynamic 2024 program with over 400 events set to take over Sydney

- New South Wales' largest independent arts festival will showcase 1,800 performers across four precincts and 12 festival hubs, including the festival-first Queer Hub -



Sydney Fringe Festival, has today unveiled an extraordinary 2024 program, featuring over **400 events** spanning theatre, music, comedy, dance, visual art, circus, and cabaret presented across Sydney from **1 - 30 September 2024**. Tickets are now on sale, with highlights including two headline shows by the triple Grammy award-winning **Soweto Gospel Choir**, an expanded takeover of **The Rocks** as part of the vibrant **Sydney Fringe Sideshow** and Fringe's first ever **Queer Hub** at **Qtopia Sydney**, amplifying the voices of LGBTQIA+ storytellers.

This year, Sydney Fringe Festival taps into the city's cultural landscape by creating four distinct precincts including the **Inner West Precinct**, **Central Precinct**, **Eastern Precinct**, and **Greater Sydney Precinct**. From vibrant urban centres to historic suburbs, each precinct offers a tailored experience that resonates with local narratives, fostering a deeper connection between festival-goers and the city's diverse communities.

CEO and Festival Director Kerri Glasscock said: *"Sydney Fringe Festival is back and better than ever with an incredible program platforming authentic stories, fresh talent, uplifting entertainment and boundary-pushing events. We're thrilled to be activating new parts of the city, driving connectivity and community in unusual and unused spaces, and taking advantage of Sydney's unique live performance venues such as Machine Hall and the launch of the festival-first Queer Hub at Qtopia Sydney. Joining a diverse mix of local and international acts taking over the city for the whole month of September, we are especially excited for audiences to experience the inspirational and life-affirming Soweto Gospel Choir across two headline shows."*

The **Spiegel tent Festival Garden** is back at the **Entertainment Quarter** within the **Eastern Precinct**, featuring a dynamic line-up of live performance, music, circus, drag and more. Headlining the iconic **Sydney Spiegel tent** throughout September is the smash hit **History of House**, an exhilarating trip through the history of dance music. A collaboration between ARIA-nominated **DJ Groove Terminator** and **Soweto Gospel Choir**, *History of House* is a dancefloor-exploding celebration of dance music through the decades.



Soweto Gospel Choir also brings their all-new concert **Hope**, featuring a rousing program of songs and anthems from the Freedom movement of Nelson Mandela's South Africa, back to the Civil Rights movement of Martin Luther King's 1950s America. Formed to celebrate the unique and inspirational power of African Gospel music, Soweto Gospel Choir draws on the best talent from the many churches in and around Soweto.

Darling Quarter at **Darling Harbour** becomes home to a newly expanded second Festival Garden. **The Village Green Festival Garden** features four full weeks of comedy, drag and circus programming including Melbourne-based punk comedy duo **Otto & Astrid**. During the first week of school holidays, the Garden will host the kids mini-festival **Fringe Kids**.

Activating the streets of Barangaroo in the **Central Precinct** are a number of collaborative events and performances including **Two Strangers Walk Into A Bar**, an immersive experience connecting two strangers through an audio guided tour. Conceived by Australian actor **Tilda Cobham-Hervey**, this intimate audio adventure invites participants to connect through playful and introspective exchanges and activities.

Presented by **Maker's Mark**, Sydney's newest live performance space and former substation **Machine Hall** will host a dynamic series of events titled *A Mark Of Good Taste*. Events include **Just Desserts**, a beautiful, intimate and personal evening of songs with future-soul superstar **Ngaiire**. For one-night-only, audiences will savour Ngaiire's signature neo-soul, gospel and pop, while enjoying a delicious dessert bar and Makers Mark cocktails surrounded by vibrant floral artistry by **ACID FLWRS**. Also at Machine Hall, **Voices from the Fringe** presents Sydney's hottest hip-hop voices over two electrifying nights of musical battles and performances. In collaboration with The Ethics Centre, and with soul-nourishing food from social enterprise Plate It Forward, **Feed Your Fire** is an evening of groundbreaking conversations diving deep into burning topics around what makes Sydney's cultural scene tick.

The dynamic **Sydney Fringe Sideshow** returns every **Tuesday to Sunday** throughout the festival, featuring a program of immersive and experiential shows performed in pop-up spaces throughout **The Rocks**. The intoxicating performative experience **When Night Comes** by **Broad Encounters** is set to take over **6-8 Atherden Street**, where audiences will encounter an alluring bacchanalian world in this bespoke, immersive performance that blends cocktails and theatre in an interactive show across multiple rooms. The ultimate pop-up musical theatre club **Lola's Piano Bar** transforms **Bay 43** into a sultry piano bar; and the **Multicultural Comedy Hub** at **37 George Street** shines a spotlight on a diverse array of comedic talents.

This year Sydney Fringe welcomes brand new festival hubs, including the **Queer Hub** at **Qtopia Sydney** presented by **QNews**. Amplifying the work of LGBTQIA+ storytellers with an exciting line-up of international and local artists, highlights include Melbourne cabaret star **Florian Wild**'s show **MONSTER**, featuring their signature blend of drag, debauchery, powerhouse vocals and quickfire standup; and **A Shark Ate My Penis: A History Of Boys Like Me**, a one-person musical comedy about the history of trans men presented by trans musician and actor **Laser Webber**.

The new **Off Broadway Hub** at **Turner Hall** at **TAFE, Ultimo** presents a diverse lineup of theatre, music and dance acts, including ***Definitely Not a Hungry Game: A Parody Musical*** inspired by *The Hunger Games* series and featuring 18 original songs. The much-loved **Cabaret Hub** finds a new home at **Kings Cross Hotel** with a month-long program, including ***Liv Queer***, a one-woman cabaret show celebrating identity and courage through a captivating mix of storytelling, song and dance; and ***ABBAolutely Abbey***, a nostalgic, heartfelt night with performer Abbey Paige Williams as she explores self-discovery and the pursuit of a vibrant life through the beloved music of ABBA.

Also new for 2024 is the **First Nations Hub** at **PACT Centre for Emerging Artists**. ***Klub Koori*** is bringing Aboriginal rock royalty **Coloured Stone** back to the stage on **Saturday 31 August** presented by Gadigal Information Service and Koori Radio; and visitors can explore local First Nations artisans and makers at the **Yalgali Markets** on **Saturday 31 August** along with cultural workshops and live music. Plus check out local Mob as they take to the mic to share their Fringiest song, dance, play, poem, story or comedy bit in 10 minutes or less for **Koori-oke Open Mic & Scratch Night** on **Friday 30 August**.

Bringing smash-hit shows from the international Fringe circuit, the **Touring Hub** makes its home at **New Theatre in Newtown**. After winning the hearts of audiences at Adelaide Fringe, the award-winning **Clockfire Theatre Co** showcases ***Plenty of Fish in the Sea***, a darkly humorous and physically adventurous contemporary fable about finding the perfect catch. Also featured is UK live art company **Sh!t Theatre's** award-winning riotous show ***Drink Rum with Expats*** and rising star of Australian dance, choreographer-director **Lewis Major's** show ***Triptych***.

Now in its second year, the **Dance Hub** returns to **Sydney Dance Company's** Neilson Studio, featuring debut contemporary dance work ***Love Arena*** by Sydney-based choreographers **Remy Rochester** and **Jasmin Luna**; and ***Move FM***, an eclectic assortment of contemporary dance by Sydney's most exciting emerging artists and makers.

Made in Sydney in the **Inner West Precinct**, presents an incredible program of locally made works by Sydney's most exciting independent theatre-makers and artists at **PACT**. Fresh from her Edinburgh Fringe debut, **Anna Dooley** is back with the acclaimed one-woman show ***ENDHOE***, an inspiring and hysterical story that uncovers her journey of living with endometriosis. Joining the program is ***Hillsong Boy***, a new production chronicling the weird and wonderful experiences of ex-Hillsonger **Scott Parker** during his twenty years with the megachurch; and ***Voices of Joan***, a radical retelling of the story of Joan of Arc through a tour de force solo performance by actor and theatre-maker **Janie Gibson**.

The pioneering **LIMITLESS** micro-festival returns to Sydney Fringe with a dedicated hub at **107 Redfern** from **10 - 21 September**, celebrating the work of d/Deaf artists and artists living with a disability while offering an inclusive and accessible space for everyone to enjoy. Highlights include ***Not Dead Yet!*** by **Crones in Cabaret**, a poignant and funny show that tackles the myths and realities of ageing through songs, sketches, poems and puppetry. The acclaimed ***Crips & Creeps Comedy*** is also back from **10 - 13 September**, an inclusive comedy night that celebrates comedians who are marginalised due to sexuality, race, gender or disability.

Joining the program includes the much-anticipated return of ***FEAST*** at **Hurstville Entertainment Centre** in the **Greater Sydney Precinct**, presented by Chinese-Australian writer, comedian and food enthusiast **Jennifer Wong**; and **Fringe**



Comedy takes over **The Factory Theatre** with an incredible lineup of local and international comedic talent.

Tickets are now on sale for all Sydney Fringe Festival events at <https://www.sydneynfringe.com/>

Ends

MEDIA CONTACTS: For further information and to request interviews for Sydney Fringe 2024 please contact Clare Callaghan, clare@articulatepr.com.au, 0450 223 485 or Isabel Wright, isabel@articulatepr.com.au, 0400 359 485.

For specific requests for *History of House* and *Hope*, please contact Aisling Brady, aisling@aecreativecomms.com.au, 0424 520 345.

IMAGE CAPTIONS (L to R): Ngaiire; History of House; Otto & Astrid

IMAGES available to download **HERE**

ABOUT SYDNEY FRINGE FESTIVAL: The Sydney Fringe Festival is the largest independent arts festival in NSW, representing thousands of artists across all art forms. It has built a reputation for nurturing and supporting emerging artists, presenting established artists in the development of new works, promoting small to medium-sized venues and activating public spaces. In addition to the presentation of art, this festival engages the local community of residents and supports small business and night-time economy. This festival aims to give a voice to those who produce work all year round and compete with main stage events for publicity, and large corporations for custom. This festival represents the cultural heart of the city and celebrates all things Sydney from local community groups to well-known touring artists. <https://www.sydneynfringe.com/>

The Sydney Fringe Festival is proudly supported by the NSW Government through its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW, City of Sydney and the Inner West Council.

Partners of Sydney Fringe Festival 2024

