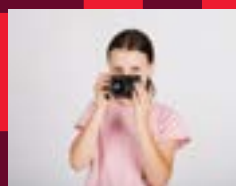


THE 2020 ROYAL SEASON



BOOK NOW
theatreroyal.com.au

The Theatre Royal's electrifying 2026 Season is ready to light up the stage.

Expect circus, theatre, comedy, music, family favourites, dance and timeless classics. Big shows. Big moments.

And this is just the beginning. We've got Staycation and The Hedberg Sounds adding even more to the mix soon.

Get ready for a year of creativity, connection, and live performance you won't forget. Don't miss a moment.

Respect

We acknowledge the Muwinina people of Nipaluna/Hobart, original custodians of this land, and pay respect to all Palawa/Pakana people of Lutruwita/Tasmania. Prior to each performance, you will hear an Acknowledgement of Country from Uncle Jim Everett, which is part of the Tunapri Kani initiative.



CIRCUS

Gravity & Other Myths **The Mirror**

5 - 7 Feb

Theatre Royal

Log off. Leap in. Contemporary circus soaring across the digital divide.

When we stare into our screens, what stares back? Is it a reflection, or something else? *The Mirror* uses contemporary circus, dance and acrobatics to examine the digital personas we present online and consume as entertainment.

When it feels like our attention is being pulled in too many directions at once, the body is one of the last places in which we can find our authentic selves. With extraordinary acrobatic skill, *Gravity & Other Myths (A Simple Space)* bridge the physical and digital worlds with contemporary feats of tumbling, aerial skill, balance and remarkable strength.

Accompanied by the electronic compositions and pop mash-ups of composer Ekrem Eli Phoenix, director Darcy Grant and the artists of *Gravity & Other Myths* set out on a playful, expressive search for the “true” self.

Creatives

Director | Darcy Grant

Associate Director | Jascha Boyce

Set & Lighting Designer | Matt Adey

Associate Designer | Lachlan Binns

Composer | Ekrem Eli Phoenix

Sound Design | Mik La Vage

Costume Designer | Renate Henschke

Ensemble | Hamish McCourty, Emily Gare, Ash Youren, Georgia Webb, Isabel Estrella, David Trappes, Skip Milne, Leanne Gingrass and Meg Drury

Duration

75 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 8+

Haze effect and loud music

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au



Performing Lines

M'ap Boulé

By Nancy Denis

13 Feb

Studio Theatre

An intoxicating fusion of ritual, rhythm and revolution.

Nancy Denis sets the stage ablaze in *M'ap Boulé* – Haitian Creole for “I’m on fire”. Told through re-enactments, original music and poetry, Denis guides the audience through stories of the Haitian revolution, growing up as a child of migrants and opens space to share in the power of self-acceptance.

Supported by musicians Victoria Falconer, Kween G and Mick Stuart, *M'ap Boulé* is a celebration of culture, connection, resistance and spirit. Denis’ gravitational stage presence and powerful songs – written with the late, great Carl St. Jacques – reveal the deep emotion tied to her inspiring and impassioned story of belonging.

Duration

90 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 16+

Discussions of mental health, adult themes and strong language

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au

TR+



COMEDY

MILKE Hot Department

14 Feb
Studio Theatre

Is sketch comedy hot? ...Yeah, yeah it is.

Pulling from a suitcase bursting with fake blood, wigs and absurdist comedy, *Hot Department* are heading out on an anniversary tour celebrating five years of their brilliant sketch comedy.

Through their hit web series, *Hot Department: Dark Web*, Honor Wolff and Patrick Duman-Silva have honed their appetite for ridiculous derangement, high-camp humour and satire that playfully skewers the Australian psyche.

Together they'll be pulling unpredictable comedy from their repertoire of seven live shows and 85 sketches. You'll be in for a night of manic physicality and queer chaos that has taken the pair from Ballarat to New York City.

WINNER Sydney Comedy Festival- Director's Choice Award, 2023

WINNER Melbourne WebFest - Best Australian Comedy Award, 2022

WINNER Sydney Web Fest - Best Comedy, 2022

WINNER Sydney Web Fest - Best Series, 2022

WINNER London Web Fest - Q2 Best Weird & Wonderful, 2022

★★★★

They walk, so a new breed of fast-paced and ultra-camp comedians can run.

TimeOut

Duration

90 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 15+

Nudity and sexual references

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au

TR+

COMEDY

Hey Dowling
**Scout Boxall:
God's Favourite**

20 Feb
Studio Theatre

Scout's about to meet their maker – whether they like it or not.

A bad night can feel like it lasts an eternity. When Scout Boxall gets stranded in a regional Victorian town without their medication for the first time in 12 years, they're forced to muster every bit of psychological strength to survive until sunrise. *God's Favourite* is a darkly-funny descent into the labyrinth of manic withdrawal.

Scout's maze takes them on a series of temporal twists and turns, from life in the Middle Ages to the deepest recess of online existence. On this substance-free bad trip they're forced to accept their own mediocrity and come face to face with God.

God's Favourite was an instant hit at Adelaide Fringe and Melbourne International Comedy Festival Fringe in 2025, where it invited audiences inside the brain of its creator, to take front row seats for their psyche's unravelling and recomposition.

Winner | Pinder Prize - Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2025

Nominated | Most Outstanding Show - Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2025

★★★★★

A sinfully good hour of comedy

TimeOut

Duration

60 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 15+

Strong language, sexual references, Mental Health themes, smoke and haze effects

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au

TR+

COMEDY



A Token Event

Zoë Coombs Marr: The Splash Zone

21 Feb

Studio Theatre

Strap in. Let's go. Zoë's feeling fun. Welcome to the Splash Zone.

Pop on your poncho for a full ball, pedal to the metal, embarrassingly silly display of going all in, pulling out the stops, leaping before looking and let's be honest here, just trying to make you laugh. Which is good for you, because it's a comedy show. Just dumb, splashy fun in the form of "stand up comedy", with jokes, stories and goofiness from your favourite chaos imp, Zoë Coombs Marr.

This show is about chats. About people, their mouths, and the stuff that comes out of them (or doesn't). Conversations, goss, speaking, clamming and shutting up, and getting your numerology done by an uber driver.

It's about the rich human tapestry that binds us all together via hopeful attempts at communication like the use of the phrase "rich human tapestry" in this blurb, which is meant to read as funny and not earnest and disgusting. But who knows. Discuss.

All of these words, concepts, and more, may be in this show, but don't overthink it - let's just see what happens, shall we?

★★★★★

Gloriously off-the-wall.

The Age, 2024

Duration

60 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 15+

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au



THE HEDBERG SOUNDS | MUSIC

The Tiger Lillies (UK): Serenade from the Sewer

21 Feb
Theatre Royal

Legendary post-punk, cult cabaret superstars.

The Tiger Lillies make their long-awaited return to Australia with a new concert celebrating the weird, macabre and those that society has abandoned.

Olivier award-winning and Grammy nominated, The Tiger Lillies have toured the world for over 35 years and released scores of critically-acclaimed albums. They have starred in many unforgettable theatre productions from their West End smash *Shockheaded Peter* to 2025's *A Macbeth Song* which ran for three months in Barcelona.

Armed with songs from their new album, *Serenade from the Sewer*, the band will share stories of those on the margins of society; and also perform fan favourites from their long and illustrious career.

With an international reputation for being one of the foremost avant-garde bands in the world, The Tiger Lillies never ceases to surprise, shock and entertain with their inimitable musical style, conjuring up the macabre magic of pre-war Berlin and fusing it with the savage edge of punk.

Performers

Martyn Jaques | Vocals, Accordion, Piano, Guitar

Adrian Stout | Double Bass, Musical Saw, Theremin, Vocals

Budi Buteno | Drums

Duration

90 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 16+

Adult themes and language

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au

John X Presents & Juliet

6 - 21 Mar
Theatre Royal

The most famous love story of all time...remixed.

Get ready for the larger than life musical *& Juliet*! The joyous jukebox musical featuring all your favourite pop anthems will be sure to make you roar with laughter and blow you away with its themes of empowerment and self-acceptance.

Created by the Emmy®-winning writer from *Schitt's Creek*, this hilarious new musical flips the script on one of the greatest love story ever told. *& Juliet* asks: what would happen next if Juliet didn't end it all over Romeo? Get whisked away on a fabulous journey as she ditches her famous ending for a fresh beginning and a second chance at life and love—her way.

With every twist of the tale, *& Juliet* reimagines iconic pop songs you know and love—in ways you'll never expect. Featuring *Since U Been Gone*,...*Baby One More Time*, *I Want It That Way*, *It's Gonna Be Me*, *It's My Life*, *That's The Way It Is*, and more. The only thing tragic is missing it.

For the first time ever in Tasmania, created by the same team that gave you Tasmania's record-breaking production of *The Rocky Horror Show*, don't miss the heart-warming *& Juliet*.

Duration

150 mins (including interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 8+

Sexual references

Mature themes including inuendo, some strong language and references to drinking alcohol

Smoke/haze effects

Loud noise

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Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra **Parisian Twilight**

21 Mar

Ian Potter Recital Hall

In the First World War, Debussy turned to chamber music, seeking clarity and restraint in the French tradition. His *Cello Sonata* (1915) draws on vivid, colourful Baroque models, while the *Violin Sonata* (1917), his final completed work, balances playfulness with poignant intensity.

A decade earlier, Ravel's *String Quartet in F major* (1903–04) revealed his mastery of tradition and innovation. With crystalline textures and rhythmic vitality, it divided critics at first but went on to become one of the century's defining chamber works.

Debussy Sonata for cello and piano
Debussy Sonata for violin and piano
Ravel String Quartet in F major

Jennifer Owen violin
Tobias Chisnall violin
Douglas Coghill viola
Jonathan Békés cello
Karen Smithies piano

Duration
60 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice
All ages

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au



THE HEDBERG SOUNDS | MUSIC

Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra **Cédric Tiberghien in Recital**

21 Mar

Ian Potter Recital Hall

The acclaimed French pianist, Cédric Tiberghien, is celebrated for versatility, adventurous programming, and dynamic collaborations. His international career spans major orchestras, chamber partners and innovative projects, including Beethoven cycles, Ravel recordings, and global recital tours.

This recital celebrates the brilliance of French piano music: Couperin's graceful dances and Rameau's colourful Baroque pieces interspersed with Ravel's sparkling *Le tombeau de Couperin* and Debussy's shimmering soundscapes. Julian Anderson's playful tribute to Rameau brings the story into today, showing how this tradition continues to inspire and evolve.

Featuring the solo piano works of Ravel, Couperin, Debussy, Rameau and Julian Anderson.

Duration

60 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

All ages

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatroyal.com.au



THE HEDBERG SOUNDS | MUSIC

Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra **The Art of Lightness**

22 Mar

Ian Potter Recital Hall

At the turn of the 20th century, French composers sought new colours and textures. Debussy's *Première rhapsodie* (1909–10) glows with atmosphere and virtuosity, while his *Sonata for flute, viola and harp* (1915) revives Baroque elegance with an unusual blend of instruments.

Ravel's *Introduction and Allegro* (1905), a showcase for the harp, sparkles with delicacy and rhythmic drive. His *Violin Sonata No 2* (1923–27) embraces jazz influences, blending French refinement with American rhythms in a strikingly modern, cosmopolitan voice.

Ravel *Violin Sonata No 2*

Debussy *Première rhapsodie for clarinet and piano*

Debussy *Sonata for flute, viola and harp*

Ravel *Introduction and Allegro*

Lily Bryant flute

Andrew Seymour clarinet

Yue-Hong Cha violin

Christopher Nicholas violin

Caleb Wright viola

Ivan James cello

Meriel Owen harp

Karen Smithies piano

Duration

60 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

All ages

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au



THEATRE | MADE IN TASMANIA

Tasmanian Theatre Company
and Mudlark Theatre

Things I Know To Be True

Written by Andrew Bovell

Directed by Ivano Del Pio

26 - 28 Mar

Theatre Royal

Every rose has its thorns.

The Prices are a typical Australian family. Bob and Fran have worked hard to raise their four kids with strong working class ethics even as their circumstances have improved. Honesty, hard work, respect and family values are the lessons handed down in the Price household. With the kids growing up, Bob should have more time to tend to his precious roses, but over the course of a year, a series of family revelations shakes the Price home to its foundations.

Tasmanian Theatre Company and Mudlark Theatre's *Things I Know To Be True* is a tender portrait of the fragility and strength of familial bonds. As Bob's garden changes with the seasons each Price faces personal upheaval. Buried truths emerge and identities are questioned as the family searches for the source of their love for one another.

The script from celebrated playwright Andrew Bovell (*Lantana*) has been given a new local lens by director Ivano Del Pio and an ensemble of Tasmania's finest actors. *Things I Know To Be True* finds a family at an intergenerational intersection where heartbreak and hope collide.

Duration

140 mins (including interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 15+

Strong language and sexual references

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au



DANCE

**Dancenorth Australia
Lighting The Dark**

**9 - 11 Apr
Studio Theatre**

A journey to the very centre of what it means to be human.

Lighting the Dark is a bold new work by Chris Dyke, a Kurna (Adelaide) based dancer and choreographer living with Down syndrome.

Chris, the embodiment of love itself, emanates compassion, transcending limitations and inviting us all into his radiant embrace. Yet, amidst his rich internal landscape of dreams and boundless imagination, the world often fails to see beyond the cover of the book – a book that if we dared to open it, would reveal radical inspiration, creative brilliance, hope and love.

With the mesmerising Dancenorth Ensemble by his side, Chris leads the way, transforming the stage into a portal where love and light illuminate the darkness. A masterpiece of collaboration and community, *Lighting the Dark* reminds us of the complexity of life's challenges.

Inspired by the iconic figures of Banksy, David Bowie and Freddie Mercury, Chris finds kinship in their revolutionary spirit, each serving as a reflection of his own vision.

Duration

60 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Contains strobe lighting, theatrical haze and loud/startling noise.

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au



Van Diemen's Band **Bizarrerie**

10 - 11 Apr

Ian Potter Recital Hall

Van Diemen's Band invites you to discover some of the weird and wonderful instruments of the Baroque.

Bizarrerie puts the spotlight on some of the rare and unusual instruments from the Band's collection.

Program highlights include Vivaldi's *Concerto for Lute and Viola d'Amore in D minor*, showcasing the haunting, bell-like tones of the six-stringed viola d'amore, while Fasch's *Concerto for Gallichon* gives this almost-forgotten instrument—a gut-strung hybrid that sits somewhere between a lute and a bass guitar—its moment in the spotlight. Also taking centre stage will be a brand-new piccolo violin crafted by Nipaluna luthier Douglas Coghill, along with a cornucopia of extraordinary instruments played by extraordinary musicians.

Whether you're a Baroque enthusiast or just curious about music history's more eccentric corners, *Bizarrerie* offers the chance to experience the Baroque era's spirit of innovation and experimentation—brought to life with VDB's signature blend of "performances of the highest calibre and an infectious enthusiastic stage presence" (Sydney Morning Herald).

Creative Team

Julia Fredersdorff | Artistic Director & Baroque violin

Karina Schmitz | viola d'amore

Simon Martyn-Ellis | gallichon, lute

Van Diemen's Band

Duration

70 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Family friendly

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au



THE HEDBERG SOUNDS | MUSIC

Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra **Brilliant Pairings**

11 Apr

Ian Potter Recital Hall

In the early 20th century, composers reshaped chamber music by blending tradition and innovation.

Prokofiev's *Sonata for two violins* (1932), written for a Paris festival, astonished with its clarity and restraint. Nadia Boulanger's *Two Pieces* (1911-14) reveal delicate lyricism, balancing Romantic warmth with French colour. Stravinsky's *Suite Italienne* (1932), drawn from *Pulcinella*, looks back to 18th-century themes with modern flair. And in contrast, Moszkowski's *Suite for two violins and piano* (1903) offers lush Romantic melodies and virtuosity, a final flourish before modernism's arrival.

Prokofiev *Sonata for two violins in C major, Op 56*

Boulanger *Two pieces for violin and piano*

Stravinsky *Suite Italienne for violin and piano*

Moszkowski *Suite for two violins and piano, Op 71*

Elinor Lea violin

Rohana O'Malley violin

Jennifer Marten-Smith piano

Duration

60 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

All ages

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THEATRE | COMEDY

Soft Tread in association with The
Maybe Pile

Trophy Boys

Written by Emmanuelle Mattana

Directed by Marni Mount

15 - 18 Apr

Studio Theatre

Boys being boys.

St Imperium College's all-boys team think they've got the Grand Finale of the Year 12 Interschool Debating Tournament in the bag. It's the most important night of the academic year and the private school lads believe they're about to intellectually own their sister school. The topic up for debate: "feminism has failed women."

But as the boys are locked in a class for their one-hour prep time, inflated egos, hormones and nascent masculinity create a pressure cooker environment, leading to a chaotic turn of events.

Played by a female and non-binary cast in drag, this uproarious satire exposes the insecurity, privilege, entitlement and misogyny that runs rife in Australia's private boys schools. With graduates over-represented amongst the nation's powerbrokers and politicians, the award-winning *Trophy Boys* makes the case for an urgent change to the way in which the Australian education system is serving its young men, women and non-binary students.

The US premiere production of *Trophy Boys*, was directed by Tony Award winner Danya Taymor and opened in June 2025 at the off-Broadway MCC Theatre in New York, where it enjoyed a twice-extended run.

★★★★★

The Age (2023)

★★★★★

Timeout Sydney

★★★★★

The Age (2024)

★★★★★

Timeout Melbourne

Duration

75 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 15+

Contains strong language, low level violence, homophobic and misogynistic slurs, sexually explicit content including references to sexual assault, harassment and underage sex, and discussions of image-based abuse

Flashing lights, amplified sound effects

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Cluster Arts **Swampesque**

16 Apr
Theatre Royal

A monstrous night of fairytale burlesque.

After taking Fringe festivals in Australia and Edinburgh by storm in 2024 and 2025, this ogre-inspired burlesque and drag parody arrives in Hobart for one night only. *Swampesque* is the award-winning, critically acclaimed, burlesque parody show from Far Far Away! This outrageously fun show offers its audience a smorgasbord of performance styles.

Prepare for a night filled with laughter, surprises, and a touch of the risqué. Don't be green with envy – grab your friends and secure your tickets now for this hilariously naughty night out. Whether you're a seasoned burlesque fan or new to the scene, *Swampesque* promises to leave you enchanted, entertained and begging for more.

★★★★★

Rarely have I been in a situation when a review is hard to write because it is such perfection.
GetTheChance.wales

Duration

75 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 18+

Strong language, sexual references and nudity

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au



DANCE | FIRST NATIONS

Gary Lang NT Dance Company **The Other Side Of Me** Produced by BlakDance

1 - 2 May
Studio Theatre

One mother's love, another's loss.

Between them a child grows into manhood but can never return home. *The Other Side of Me* by Gary Lang NT Dance Company, shares the tragedy of Stolen Generations through the true story of an Aboriginal man stranded between two families, continents and cultures – specifically the little-known experience of people adopted into families abroad.

Drawing on a collection of personal letters and poems, Larrakia man Gary Lang, led a cross-cultural collaboration with Northumbria University in the United Kingdom. With care and compassion, this exquisite work of contemporary dance poses questions about the relationship between country of origin, identity, adoption, the criminal justice system and psychological health.

Achingly intimate, the duet confronts the destruction wrought by monarchy and colony, that is still felt by First Nations peoples, but finds redemptive beauty as his spirit is sung home. The work concludes with a 15-minute in-conversation for audiences.

The story is based on real events. However, names, incidents and timelines have been changed for dramatic purposes. All characters depicted in the production are composites or fictitious. Any similarity to the original story, or of fictitious characters to an actual person, living or dead, is coincidental and unintentional.

Duration

60 mins (including a 15min Q&A)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 15+

Contains references to the Stolen Generation

Coarse language, smoke and haze, loud noise and total blackout

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audiences are advised that this show references people who have died

No alcohol permitted inside the theatre during this performance

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au



COMEDY | MUSICAL THEATRE | MADE IN
TASMANIA

The Old Nick Company **Uni Revue 2026**

8 - 23 May
Theatre Royal

Politics, parody, and a whole lot of pizzazz — the Uni Revue is back in 2026!

Uni Revue is back in 2026 and let's just say, Tasmania's political scene has given us plenty to work with. From Winter's Groundhog Day election calls to Rockliff's uncanny invincibility, and a Parliament bursting with independents (Independents Day, anyone?), this year's sketch musical comedy promises satire sharper than a budget cut.

Promising toe-tapping tunes, powerhouse vocals, and choreography that could outstep a backbencher, the Uni Revue delivers a night of riotous laughter and razor-sharp wit. Whether you're a seasoned voter or just here for the sass, this is your annual dose of democracy done dirty.

Rally your electorate (or at least your group chat) and lock in your tickets early – because when the Old Nick Company takes the stage, seats fill faster than a reshuffled cabinet. The 2026 Uni Revue is your chance to laugh, sing, and side-step the spin with a night of unapologetic parody and political pizzazz. Book now and be part of the satire storm... before the next leadership spill steals the spotlight!

Duration

130 mins (including interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for patrons aged 15+

Strong language, violence, nudity, sexual references, simulated sex scenes

Smoke and haze effects, strobe lighting, loud noise and total blackout

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au



THEATRE

Belvoir St Theatre

Lose To Win

Written by Mandela Mathia

Directed by Jessica Arthur

8 - 9 May

Studio Theatre

One young man's border-crossing, autobiographical odyssey, from South Sudan to the theatre's stage.

When war ravages everything you know, imagination becomes a tool of survival. *Lose to Win* is Mandela Mathia's autobiographical telling of his journey as a refugee from the Sudanese civil war, through Egypt and onto Australia.

Mathia's voyage is one of ingenuity and resilience. Two parents lost and a birth country fled; a new home, family and friends slowly established.

Lose to Win is about how with distance, support and the agency to create your own story, even seemingly insurmountable trauma can be a foundation for strength. It shows how joy can flourish when creativity is given the space, tools and peace to thrive.

Cast

Performer | Mandela Mathia

Musician | Yacou Mbaye

Duration

70 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 15+

Adult themes, references to death and violence

Strobe lighting, haze and loud sounds

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au



THEATRE

Red Stitch **The Doll Trilogy**

By Ray Lawler

28 - 31 May
Theatre Royal

Three iconic works of Australian theatre, performed back-to-back for the first time in 40 years.

Ray Lawler's *The Doll Trilogy* is a defining monument of 20th Century Australian theatre. The Melbourne actor and playwright pulls at the threads of the post-war Australian psyche. At a time of profound change, Lawler looked to life's most intimate moments as the place to define the outlines of our culture.

Lawler's works remain enduring for their deep humanity, with his characters personifying the friction that arises in a society transitioning from rural life to urban metropolises. For the first time since 1985, audiences will have the chance to experience Lawler's complete trilogy, in a marathon feat of theatre by Red Stitch – one that speaks to who we were, who we are, and how the past continues to shape us.

Purchase package or single tickets.

Duration

Kid Stakes | 2 hours 15 mins (including interval)

Other Times | 2 hours (including interval)

Summer of the 17th Doll | 2 hours 15 mins (including interval)

Patron Advice

The three shows are recommended for ages 12+

Kid Stakes | Sexism/misogyny, mild coarse language and alcohol use.

Other Times | Themes of grief and loss, mention of abortion, sexism/misogyny, themes of mental health issues, cultural insensitivity/racism and mild coarse language.

Summer of the 17th Doll | Themes of grief and loss and mild coarse language.

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au



THEATRE

Red Stitch
Kid Stakes - The Doll Trilogy
By Ray Lawler

28 - 30 May
Theatre Royal

The beginning of a 17-year odyssey.

Set in 1937, *Kid Stakes* is the chronological beginning of Lawler's trilogy, the start of a theatrical odyssey set on Lawler's home turf, in Depression-era Carlton. It's where we first meet Roo, Barney, Olive and Nancy, long before they realise how entwined their lives will become.

Roo and Barney are cane croppers from Queensland who spend their off-season back in Melbourne. They meet Olive and Nancy, two milliners and soon-to-be bartenders, with whom a young romance blossoms and Roo's first gift of a kewpie doll to Olive is made – the start of a 17-year tradition. Meanwhile, a young child next door, Bubba, watches on; as does Olive's wise, cantankerous mum, Emma.

Embodying the boldness and vitality of youth, *Kid Stakes* is a comedy with a big heart, capturing a moment of transition for both the characters and the society in which they live.

Duration

2 hours 15 mins (including interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 12+

Sexism/misogyny

Mild coarse language and alcohol use

For wheelchair, accessible seating and Companion Card bookings, please contact our box office on (03) 6146 3300 or boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au



THEATRE

**Red Stitch
Other Times - The Doll
Trilogy****By Ray Lawler**

**29 - 30 Mar
Theatre Royal**

World War II is over. Young men are returning home and everything has changed.

It's 1945, Roo and Barney are back in Melbourne, only this time, rather than the heat of cane plantations, it's the fury of the battlefield from which they return.

World War II has shaped Australia's sense of place in the world, forever changing the young men fighting in it and the women working and waiting back home.

When a German-Jewish refugee enters the picture, Australia's ongoing, complicated relationship to migration comes to the fore.

With middle-age upon them, the characters must grapple with adulthood, responsibility and a winter of discontent.

Duration

2hr (including interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 12+

Themes of grief and loss, mention of abortion, sexism/misogyny, themes of mental health issues, cultural insensitivity/racism and mild coarse language.

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THEATRE

Red Stitch

Summer Of The 17th Doll - The Doll Trilogy

By Ray Lawler

30 - 31 May

Theatre Royal

The emotional conclusion to an epic Australian classic.

It's 1953 and once again Roo and Barney are making their annual layover pilgrimage from the cane fields to Melbourne. For the past 16 years it has been a time of romance and sexual exploration, but times are changing for our characters while others resist the inevitable march of aging.

Nancy has married and so Olive decides to introduce Barney to a new date, Pearl, who inadvertently brings his insecurities to the fore. Roo has had a bad season in the cane fields and is forced to take a job in a paint factory. Now 22-years-old, Olive and Nancy's neighbour Bubba is a young woman herself; Olive isn't ready to settle down; and Olive's mum Emma holds the wisdom of seeing generations come of age.

A tension-filled summer is ripe for change. It's a season for reflection, acceptance and letting go.

Summer of the 17th Doll is Ray Lawler's masterpiece, a deeply compassionate work of theatrical realism. Its continued relevance is undeniable, owing to its ability to show a nation in flux at a pivotal time in its history; and the choices all people must eventually confront.

Duration

2 hours 15 mins (including interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 12+

Themes of grief and loss and mild coarse language.

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DANCE

Victorian State Ballet **Aladdin**

27 Jun
Theatre Royal

A magic lamp, a mystical genie, one young man and three wishes.

Aladdin is a Chinese tailor's son with big dreams and an even bigger heart. He's in love with a princess and won't let palace walls or royal titles get in the way of romance. When Aladdin enters a cave and encounters a mythical being and their dancing jewels, the young adventurer thinks he has found a way to rise above his lot in life – but an evil sorcerer has other ideas. Aladdin must use every ounce of determination, charm and daring to be with the woman he loves.

Staged in its classic setting in ancient Arabia, the Victorian State Ballet's *Aladdin* is a fantastical retelling for families, including lush sets, sumptuous costumes and vivid imagery to entertain young imaginations. Created by Michelle Cassar de Sierra and Martin Sierra, *Aladdin* also incorporates segments of the classic ballet *La Bayadere*, itself a tale of star-crossed love from ancient times.

Aladdin is beloved precisely because of its timelessness, set hundreds of years ago. It's a tale of living life to the fullest, embracing the unknown and a reminder that in order to love another, you first need to love yourself.

Duration

120 mins (including interval)

Patron Advice

Family friendly

Smoke/haze effects

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Windmill Production Company **Moss Piglet**

3 Jul

Theatre Royal

Tiny but mighty. Meet mother nature's microscopic miracles.

Step into a world where the tiniest creatures hold the biggest secrets. Found in virtually every environment on Earth – from your couch cushions to the deep sea – tardigrades are the ultimate endurance artists. These remarkable eight-legged creatures have the uncanny ability to survive the most extreme conditions, even the vacuum of space. Their incredible feats have earned these microscopic animals a cult following and the affectionate nickname “moss piglets.”

Moss Piglet takes young audiences on an unforgettable journey. They'll travel from a lava-filled volcano to the moon's shadowy craters, a science lab petri dish to an Arctic icy tundra. Using the physical wonders of puppetry, live video and green screen magic, you'll shrink down to experience hidden wonders teeming just beyond the edges of perception. The tardigrade's story is 600 million years in the making, an epic science tale told on the tiniest of scales.

Moss Piglet proves that even the smallest beings can possess the most extraordinary power.

Duration

45 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 5+

Contains theatrical haze, flashing lights and loud noises

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Australian Theatre for Young People
(ATYP)

Saplings

By Hannah Belanszky

13 - 15 Aug

Studio Theatre

Some seeds need support to grow.

What would you risk for a packet of Mi Goreng? Lachlan's out on bail from his youth detention centre but he's hungry, too. His life's about to change in less time than it takes to cook a packet of instant noodles.

Saplings tells the story of four vulnerable young people who come face to face with Australia's youth justice system. Yani just wants to have some fun at the Easter Show and Lachlan wants his noodles; Shanika misses her mum and Kai's feeling lost and isolated by the world he inhabits. Hilarious and heartbreaking, *Saplings* sees four talented young actors take on multiple roles in this poetic, personal, and unexpected production that will leave you asking who's really to blame

To create *Saplings*, playwright Hannah Belanszky (Yuwaalaray) and director Abbie-lee Lewis (Kalkadoon) met with young people in a series of workshops designed to give voice to those who have lived experience of the youth justice system. Soundtracked by original music from talented young artists, *Saplings* is raw, impassioned theatre. It asks how young people are meant to grow in a system that is designed to cut them down.

Duration

80 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 15+

Coarse language, smoke and haze effects and loud noise

References to First Nations peoples who are deceased

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THEATRE

Arts Centre Melbourne and
Hey Dowling

The Lark

By Daniel Keene

20 - 22 Aug

Theatre Royal

Noni Hazlehurst takes centre stage in a powerful, moving, one-woman meditation on life, death and change.

Noni Hazlehurst, beloved star of stage and screen, takes centre stage in this new work written by Daniel Keene and directed by Matt Scholten.

Rose Grey is saying her final goodbye to The Lark, a small inner-city pub in Melbourne. It's been closed for six months and will be demolished as the suburb gentrifies. But for Rose, now in her seventies, this derelict building is her whole life.

She's lived here since she was a child, finally taking over from her father as he grew old. Her memories, both bitter and sweet, bind her to The Lark. Trapped in the past, she fears that The Lark might hold her forever in suspension. Now she wants to escape from this cycle of endless return and wrench herself free.

Rose Grey | Noni Hazlehurst

★★★★★

Utterly compelling

Limelight

Duration

70 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 12+

Themes of Mortality

Haze and blackout

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Island to Island Studios **Islander**

27 Aug - 5 Sep
Studio Theatre

A mythic tale about staying connected at the edge of the world.

On a remote Scottish island, Eilidh, its youngest resident, feels torn between two worlds. The mainland holds the promise of opportunity, yet she knows the island traditions that shaped her life are at risk of disappearing. When a mysterious stranger washes ashore, the boundaries of Eilidh's island life expand in ways she never could have imagined.

Islander sees two performers playing multiple roles, using live vocal looping and layered recording technology to bring the island's community to life. Every voice and harmony is created live and in the moment, supported by a folk-inspired score.

As island and rural communities are shrinking, humans are drifting further from each other and their environments. *Islander* offers a modern fable about finding the strength to face the oncoming tide through connection, resilience and belonging.

Conceived by Amy Draper
Book by Stewart Melton
Music & Lyrics by Finn Anderson

Directed by Finn Carter and Jack Lark

Duration
85 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice
Recommended for ages 7+
Haze effects and total blackout

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THEATRE | OPERA

Opera Australia
Don Giovanni
By Mozart

28 - 29 Aug
Theatre Royal

Don Giovanni doesn't know it yet, but today will be his last.

Lothario, lover and libertine, Don Giovanni is led by desire above all else. He's the kind of guy who pursues a bride on their wedding day and breaks into women's bedrooms. He's also a murderer.

An opera in two acts, with music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and a libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte, *Don Giovanni* is a darkly comedic tale of seduction, suspicion and the brazen actions of a scoundrel.

Originally based on the Spanish legend of Don Juan and set in mid-17th century Seville, Opera Australia's new production shifts the debauchery to a sumptuous 1950s setting – a mid-century fable exploring the cost of refusing accountability.

The production is directed by Michael Gow (writer of the seminal Australian play *Away*) and features a cast of some of Opera Australia's finest singers, performing alongside a live chamber orchestra.

Creatives

Director | Michael Gow

Set & Costume Designer | Robert Kemp

Lighting Designer | Matthew Scott

Duration

120 mins (including interval)

Patron Advice

Strong language, violence and sexual references

Smoke / Haze effects

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FAMILIES

A Monkey Baa Theatre Company
and QPAC's Out of the Box
co-production

Where is the Green Sheep?

Based on the book by Mem Fox and
Judy Horacek.

1 Sep

Theatre Royal

Can you find the green sheep?

We know there's the up sheep and the down sheep, the band sheep and the clown sheep, the sun sheep and the rain sheep, but there's still one question on everybody's lips: where is the green sheep?

Mem Fox and Judy Horacek's illustrated children's book, *Where is the Green Sheep?*, has enchanted kids the world over. Now 20 years old, the book has become a right of passage for a generation of kids, selling over 2.5 million copies. For Monkey Baa's remarkable live staging, the Sydney-based company worked directly with Horacek, bringing her beloved illustrations to life using a mixture of live puppetry and on-screen animations.

Sheep come shooting out of cannons, whizz down slides and get up to all manner of hijinks as the audience tracks down the elusive green sheep. Using their impeccable timing and physicality, Monkey Baa's cast reintroduce parents and kids to the boisterous flock of sheep, a chance to experience Fox and Horacek's colour-filled world in a way they've never seen before.

Duration

45 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

All ages

Smoke and haze effects

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Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra **Intimate Grandeur**

5 Sep

Ian Potter Recital Hall

Strauss' String Sextet from Capriccio (1942) begins his opera with lush beauty and calm. Written during World War II, it looks back to earlier Romantic traditions, offering intimacy and refinement.

Brahms' String Sextet No 2 in G major (1864–65) shows the young composer expanding the possibilities of chamber music. Its warm melodies, rich six-part textures, and moments of daring harmony give the piece both intimacy and grandeur, revealing Brahms' growing confidence and his gift for lyrical, expressive writing.

R Strauss *String Sextet from Capriccio, Op 85*
Brahms *String Sextet No 2 in G major, Op 36*

Jennifer Owen violin
Lucy Carrig-Jones violin
Douglas Coghill viola
Susanna Low viola
Jonathan Békés cello
Stuart Thomson double bass

Duration
60 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice
All ages

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THEATRE

Bell Shakespeare

Macbeth

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Peter Evans

17 - 19 Sep

Theatre Royal

Shakespeare's most haunting thriller.***I feel now the future in the instant***

Act 1, Scene 5

Following a bloody battle, Macbeth and his comrade Banquo are met by three Weird Sisters who prophesy Macbeth will one day be king.

Unable to shake the thought, Macbeth tells his wife, Lady Macbeth. Driven by an insatiable hunger for power, posterity and certainty, they commit a murder and set in motion the unravelling of their sanity. With blood on their hands, they face the dire consequences of their despicable actions.

A terrifying portrayal of moral collapse, Peter Evans' *Macbeth*, with Anthony Taufa in the title role, will take you on an intense journey into the dark heart of humanity.

Duration

2 hours 20 mins (including interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 14+

Please be advised that Shakespeare's original play contains depictions of violence, murder, sexual references and suicide.

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THEATRE

re:group performance collective
POV

17 - 19 Sep
Studio Theatre

One child. One camera. One truth.

Bub is an 11-year-old with a camera and her family is in crisis. Obsessed with documentary filmmaking, she turns her lens on the breakdown of her parents' relationship, staging dramatised re-enactments to make sense of the chaos.

In each performance of *POV*, two adult actors – who have never seen the script before – join a young performer on stage. As Bub directs them to re-enact scenes from her personal life, the cast navigates tough questions about parenting, mental health and the way we communicate with kids. The story unfolds in real-time as they discover the answers alongside the audience; and Bub gets to the bottom of her mum's erratic behavior. While the two adults fear corrupting the innocence of their child, Bub is determined to learn the truth.

As re:group's next iteration in its series of live cinema experiences, following *Coil* (Mona Foma, 2022), *POV*, is an urgent, live documentary. It blurs the lines between personal history and performance to explore intergenerational connection and the agency of young people.

Mudlark Theatre will cast the state-wide tour of *POV* with incredible Tasmanian talent.

Duration

75 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 15+

Flashing lights

Discussions of mental illness, Bipolar Affective Disorder, and themes of suicide

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Bing/Santospirito
The Equinox Sound Baths

19 Sep
Ian Potter Recital Hall

Sound is restorative, a soothing balm to ease broken hearts, minds and souls. It can guide us through deep pain, loss and suffering to emerge reshaped. The right frequency can mend deep psychological rifts and envelope the listener in audio fields of warmth, care and connection.

Bing/Santospirito are Natalya Bing and Joshua Santospirito. *The Equinox Sound Baths* returns to the Theatre Royal for two more sound baths centred on concepts of grief and healing after selling out the performances in 2024. *Equinox* is the product of the pair meeting in 2022, where over a four-week residency they experimented with improvisational musical composition. As the pair coaxed new sonic pathways from their practice, they found their musical conversations returned to concepts of healing, grief and gentleness. The music became a safe space to care for fractured souls.

Over two sessions Bing/Santospirito will weave their healing aural cocoon from synthesisers, piano, cello, percussion and violin – a space for audiences to reflect, restore and relax. Listeners are welcome to sit, stand, move around the space, bring a cushion or a mat on which to sprawl.

Creative team

Natalya Bing | violin, cello, percussion.

Joshua Santospirito | piano, guitar, synthesisers, percussion, field recordings.

Duration

60 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

All ages

Loud noises

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DANCE | MADE IN TASMANIA

DRILL Performance Company Inc. **Deep Dark Tales**

24 - 26 Sep

Studio Theatre

Folklore, fantastical creatures, cautionary tales and philosophical fables.

Faced with a world seemingly paralysed by inaction, young dancers enter an immersive world mirroring our realities, populated by otherworldly creatures.

This fantastical environment gives young dancers the cover to explore their generation's most pressing issues. Each short vignette is an opportunity for the performers of *Deep Dark Tales* to explore climate grief, isolation, division and hope.

DRILL is Nipaluna/Hobart's youth dance company, with a mission to make work by and for young people. Every project nurtures their perspectives, opinions, artistic expression and agency to make real change, through movement and action.

Using allegory, the young cast hope to provoke problem solving and fresh approaches to the crises their generation may soon inherit.

Duration

60 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

Recommended for ages 9+

Total blackout, smoke and haze effects and loud noise

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THE HEDBERG SOUNDS | MUSIC

Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra **Dancing with the Wind**

26 Sep

Ian Potter Recital Hall

Joe Chindamo's *Trio Fantastique* (2022) sparkles with character, with its tango, waltz, and tarantella evoking Parisian nightlife while honouring France's woodwind tradition and nodding to Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*.

Poulenc's *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano* (1962), written for Benny Goodman in his final year, combines wit, elegance and late-style poignancy, shifting between musical brilliance and lyricism.

Mozart's *Quintet for Piano and Winds* (1784), for piano, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn marries symphonic breadth with conversational intimacy.

Chindamo *Trio Fantastique for oboe, bassoon and piano*

Poulenc *Sonata for clarinet and piano*

Mozart *Quintet for piano and winds in E flat major, K452*

Dinah Woods oboe

Eloise Fisher clarinet

Melissa Woodroffe bassoon

Claudia Leggett horn

Karen Smithies piano

Duration

60 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

All ages

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FAMILIES | FIRST NATIONS | MADE IN
TASMANIA | STAYCATION

Terrapin

Space Neighbours

By Nathan Maynard

8 - 10 Nov

Studio Theatre

They say you can't choose your neighbours, even in outer space.

Uranus is four times bigger than Earth but that's still not enough space for two neighbouring aliens. Sharing a fenceline and not much else, the two strange beings drive each other up the wall and into orbit. They love to hate and squabble at every opportunity. Don't even get them started on yucky cooking smells.

When the arrival of a new creature puts their arguments into perspective, the aliens must find a way to live as themselves, as well as side by side.

Written and directed by the acclaimed artist Nathan Maynard (Palawa) and designed by master creature maker Bryony Anderson, *Space Neighbours* is a funny, powerful exploration of home, no matter what planet you live on.

Duration

50 mins (no interval)

Patron Advice

All ages

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