Adelaide Festival

26 Feb – 14 Mar 2027

TEXT ONLY GUIDE

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that the land we gather, work and learn on is the traditional lands of the Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains. We recognise their ongoing connection to place as the world’s oldest continuous living culture and that this land has been a place of movement, music and storytelling for over 60,000 years. We take pride in honouring those traditions.

Peter Malinauskas MP
Premier of South Australia

Few events are as closely associated with Adelaide as the Adelaide Festival. For more than six decades, it has helped shape how our city is seen around the world, originating the vibrant events culture that defines South Australia as the Festival State and continuing to lead it today.

Each March, the Festival brings outstanding artists and audiences from across Australia and around the world to our state. It enriches our cultural life, fuels our imaginations and creates opportunities for our artists and creative industries. It also drives visitation and employment, strengthens our economy and helps make Adelaide an exciting and attractive place to live and work.

The South Australian Government is proud to support this iconic event and its enduring contribution to our state.

I congratulate the Adelaide Festival team on an exceptional 2027 program and invite South Australians and visitors from around the world to experience it.

Kyam Maher MLC
Deputy Premier and Minister for Arts

It is a great pleasure to serve as the Minister for Arts in a government with a proud commitment to supporting the Adelaide Festival as a world leading international arts event.

The 2027 Festival presents another program of remarkable scale and ambition, bringing together over 700 artists for 100+ performances, including 24 shows exclusive to Adelaide. Across theatre, dance, music, opera, visual art and literature, audiences will encounter acclaimed international artists alongside exceptional work from around Australia.

I am especially proud to see so many South Australian artists, companies, galleries and venues contributing to the program in so many ways. Their involvement reflects the depth of creative talent in our state and the Festival's vital role within our cultural sector.

I congratulate the entire Adelaide Festival Board and Staff on this outstanding program. I hope audiences from South Australia and beyond embrace all that the 2027 Festival has to offer, an opportunity to experience the best art being made in the world today.

Judy Potter
Chair, Adelaide Festival

Welcome to the 2027 Adelaide Festival. I am enormously proud to be Chair of Australia's international festival. Returning to the role, I am reminded that Adelaide Festival belongs to a remarkable community of people who believe in the power of art, and whose enthusiasm, generosity and commitment make it possible.

My deepest thanks go to Artistic Director Matthew Lutton OAM and Executive Director Julian Hobba, fellow board members and to the entire Adelaide Festival team, whose imagination, dedication and sheer hard work have brought this wonderful program to life.

I also warmly thank the South Australian Government, our partners, donors and volunteers for their invaluable support. And, of course, thank you to our audiences, who have embraced this Festival for more than 60 years with such curiosity and passion.
I am delighted to share the 2027 program with you and look forward to seeing you at the Festival.

Matthew Lutton OAM
Artistic Director

It has been an honour to curate the 2027 Adelaide Festival program – a festival that, for 17 days, brings extraordinary artistry and creativity from around the world to Adelaide.

The 2027 Festival program invites you to lean into your curiosity and leap into awe-inspiring theatre, opera, music, dance and visual art.

There is a wide breadth of experiences for you to explore, from opera and theatre directed by Romeo Castellucci and Barrie Kosky to a new wave of theatre directors hailing from Brazil, Greece and France. You'll encounter dance from the legendary Tao Dance Theater from Beijing and horror-inspired dance-theatre from Belgium. Philip Glass' magnificent minimalist music is celebrated by 10 pianists in the Festival Theatre, and two new otherworldly dance works by Australian choreographers have their world premieres. Early music from il Pomo d'Oro fills Adelaide Town Hall, the choral beauty of Latvian Voices lifts the roof of St Peter's Cathedral, and the remarkable local story of the Hindmarsh Bridge protests comes to life in *Kumarangk: Sisterhood*, under the stars at Yitpi Yartapuultiku.

The curation of the Festival doesn't commence with a single theme, but as artists are invited, thematic threads rapidly start to emerge. You will see threads about how we negotiate truth and lies, from truths that destroy to lies that are welcomed. Art that champions for and creates space to engage with the sacred and the spiritual. Plus, there is the thrill of the horror tale and the ghost story, raising the hair on the back of your neck before leading you towards experiences that can heal and transform.

Adelaide Festival 2027 is an invitation to revel in experiences you can't encounter every day. Welcome. Indulge your curiosity.

Bluebeard’s Castle

By Béla Bartók

Directed and Designed by Romeo Castellucci

Conducted by Lidiya Yankovskaya

Adelaide Symphony Orchestra

Romeo Castellucci’s breathtaking vision of Bartók’s operatic masterpiece.

Opera / Austria and Italy, Australian Premiere / Australian Exclusive

Béla Bartók’s monumental opera, Bluebeard’s Castle, arrives in Australia in a production by one of the world’s most visionary directors, Romeo Castellucci (Mozart’s *Requiem*, *Go Down Moses*).

This landmark 20th century opera follows Judith, newly married to Duke Bluebeard, as curiosity draws her deeper into his castle, where seven locked doors promise revelations both unsettling and wondrous. Performed on a water-filled stage illuminated by erupting fire, Castellucci reimagines this psychological thriller through Judith’s eyes, revealing a journey inward through chambers of memory and mystery.

Visually breathtaking and musically awe-inspiring, this unmissable production showcases a bold and daring operatic masterpiece.

"Castellucci... radical in vision and brilliantly seductive" The New York Times

"A chilling psychological masterpiece" The Boston Globe

"One of the great 20th century operas" The New York Times

26 Feb – 2 Mar
Festival Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre
1hr 10mins, no interval

Tickets
Adult $189 – $289, Friends $160 – $249,
Conc $152 – $199, Student $95 – $125, U40 $40*

Recommended for audiences 15+. Performed in Hungarian with English surtitles. Note: Contains adult themes and references to violence. Utilises strobe effect. Latecomers will not be admitted.

Oedipus

Theatre / United Kingdom and Australia
Australian Premiere Season

Created by Robert Icke / After Sophocles
Sydney Theatre Company & Adelaide Festival

One election night. One fatal secret. The truth will destroy them.

Two titans of Australian theatre, Richard Roxburgh and Heather Mitchell, unite for this unmissable Olivier and Tony Award-nominated adaptation by one of the most exciting talents in British theatre.

Director-writer Robert Icke (1984, The Doctor) has triumphed in the West End and on Broadway with his “electrifying” (New York Times) reimagining of the Oedipus myth as a contemporary political thriller. Now Adelaide Festival and Sydney Theatre Company bring this landmark theatrical event to Australia.

It’s election night, and the count has begun. Triumph looms for Oedipus (Roxburgh), a landslide imminent. His wife (Mitchell) has brought his nearest and dearest together for an evening that will transform this family forever. The family is close, the marriage strong and loving, but this tight-knit unit is about to be rocked to its core.

“A suspenseful and exhilarating political thriller that leaves your jaw on the floor” (USA Today), *Oedipus* will leave you breathless as it hurtles down the tracks like a runaway train.

“Riveting from beginning to end” The Guardian

“This Oedipus glints with a deadly sharpness” Time Out

“Magnificent and totally of the moment” The Washington Post

10 – 14 Mar
Festival Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre
2hrs, no interval

Tickets
Adult $119 – $189, Friends $101 – $160, Conc $95 – $135,
Student $60 – $85, U40 $40*

Recommended for audiences 16+. Note: Contains depictions of violence and incest. Utilises loud sound levels, gunshot sound effect and total blackout. Latecomers will not be admitted.

K.

A Talmudic Vaudeville inspired by Kafka’s The Trial

Based on Franz Kafka with music from Bach and Schumann to Yiddish vaudeville
Directed by Barrie Kosky
Musical Director Adam Benzwi
Berliner Ensemble

Theatre and Music, Germany | Australian Premiere and Australian Exclusive

Kafka’s classic nightmare reimagined with wit, chaos and spectacle.

“Someone must have been telling lies about Josef K., he knew he had done nothing wrong but, one morning, he was arrested”... So begins Franz Kafka’s The Trial; a darkly comic tale of one man’s blind tumble through authoritarian bureaucracy and absurd laws.

Festival favourite Barrie Kosky returns to Adelaide following his spectacular productions *Saul*, *The Magic Flute*, *The Golden Cockerel* and *The Threepenny Opera*. Fuelled by Kafka’s exploration of Yiddish theatre and his own Jewishness, Kosky creates a wildly inventive theatre spectacle filled with dance, slapstick, song and poignancy.

German star Kathrin Wehlisch shines as Josef K, delivering a mesmerising performance with the acclaimed actors of the Berliner Ensemble and troupe of musicians. This is
Kafka as you’ve never seen it with comedy and tragedy colliding in a uniquely Kosky vision.

“Kosky is one of the most brilliant, not to mention entertaining, directors working in
Europe today.” The New York Times

"You've never seen Kafka like this before... a stunning performance by actress Kathrin Wehlisch."
Berliner Morgenpost

4 – 7 Mar
Her Majesty’s Theatre
3hrs 10mins, incl. interval

Tickets
Adult $199 – $259, Friends $169 – $220,
Conc $159 – $183, Student $100 – $115, U40 $40*

Performed in German, Yiddish and Hebrew with English surtitles.
Note: Recommended for audiences 12+. Contains sexual references, blood and references to violence.

il Pomo d’Oro

Music, Italy

Australian Premiere and Australian Exclusive

Experience the splendour.

One of Europe’s most dynamic baroque ensembles, il Pomo d’Oro makes its Australian debut with a program featuring two extraordinary soloists, exclusively for Adelaide Festival. The prolific and multi-award-winning period-instrument ensemble will be joined by virtuosic cellist Giovanni Sollima and organist Cameron Carpenter for two dynamic programs during its Festival residency.

Named after the splendour-steeped opera by Antonio Cesti (‘the golden apple’), il Pomo d’Oro’s performances encompass all there is to love about baroque repertoire. After bringing Pygmalion Ensemble for its Australian debut in 2026, we are thrilled to introduce you to the virtuosic exuberance of il Pomo d’Oro.

Al Bunduqiyya – The Lost Concerto

Step inside the bustling world of 17th-century Venice, a cosmopolitan meeting place of trade, culture and music. As Vivaldi composes a new concerto for cello, sounds and influences from the Middle East and Asia flow through the city’s waterways and marketplaces.
In Al-Bunduqiyya (Venice in Arabic), il Pomo d’Oro and cellist Giovanni Sollima imagine how this concerto might have unfolded had Vivaldi lived to complete it. This is the lost concerto of Venice, reimagined and found anew.

1 – 2 Mar, Adelaide Town Hall
1hr 30mins, incl. interval

Tickets
Adult $109 – $129, Friends $93 – $110,
Conc $87 – $95, Student $55 – $60, U40 $40*

Bach Organ Concertos

When Cameron Carpenter sits down at the grand organ of Adelaide Town Hall, expect the whole city to lift off. The fantastical and flamboyant organist will unleash the great keyboard concertos of JS Bach, as well as a selection of Preludes and Fugues, as il Pomo d’Oro propels his performance to even grander realms.

4 – 5 Mar, Adelaide Town Hall
1hr 50mins, incl. interval

Tickets
Adult $109 – $129, Friends $93 – $110,
Conc $87 – $95, Student $55 – $60, U40 $40*

The Complete Philip Glass Piano Etudes

10 pianists. 20 compositions. 1 piano.

There are few composers that hold as extraordinary and unprecedented an influence as Philip Glass. His Piano Etudes distil a lifetime of transcendent music into 20 deeply personal self-portraits.

In one evening, 10 master pianists from around the world will perform Glass' etudes, each bringing their distinct interpretations to two pieces before handing over the keys to the next pianist. To hear any one of these musicians is a privilege, this concert brings you 10.

Across Australia, a performance of Glass' work is always an event. In Adelaide, it is a homecoming. Four decades ago, Adelaide Festival commissioned a bold new work from Glass, while in 2014, Adelaide hosted the world-first performance of his colossal Portrait Trilogy.

Celebrating Philip Glass' 90th birthday in 2027, expect history to be made once again as these mesmerising pianists transport you to another world of sound.

Featured Pianists:
Timo Andres
Anton Batagov
Janice Carissa
Aaron Diehl
Luke Howard
Andrea Lam
Lisa Moore
Maki Namekawa
Christian Sands
Sally Whitwell

5 Mar, 8pm Festival Theatre
2hrs 50mins, incl. interval

Adult $129 – $149, Friends $110 – $127,
Conc $103 – $112, Student $65 – $70, U40 $40*

Latvian Voices

Music / Latvia
Australian Premiere

Be transported to ‘the land that sings’ in these three awe-inspiring programs from Latvian Voices.

This world-renowned ensemble of ethereal singers blends Latvian folk songs with exquisite, modern a cappella arrangements. Imbued with the rich musical heritage of Latvia – home to a 2027 Cultural Capital of the World, Liepāja – these luminous performances showcase that most inventive and profound of instruments: the human voice.

Timeless

Experience the astonishing vocal artistry of Latvian Voices in this captivating a cappella program. From Baltic folk songs and original works to inventive reimaginings of well-known pop favourites, Timeless is a joyous celebration of song, showcasing the human voice at its most playful, expressive and virtuosic.

27 Feb, 1pm, Adelaide Town Hall
1hr 45mins, incl. interval

Adult $99 – $119, Friends $84 – $101,
Conc $79 – $87, Student $50 – $55, U40 $40*

Performed in Latvian, English, Estonian and Lithuanian. Texts and translations provided.

Sacred Chord

Oscillating between individual and collective voices, this transcendent a cappella performance reimagines Bach’s sacred choral works as a contemporary mass. Artistic director Laura Jēkabsone’s 6 Psalms for 6 Voices celebrates each singer’s distinctive voice within a rich sonic tapestry. Sacred Chord is a profound exploration of devotion, beauty and sound, moving between contemplation and radiant splendour.

28 Feb, 11am & 2:30pm UKARIA Cultural Centre, Mt Barker Summit
1hr 45mins, incl. interval

$99, Friends $84, Conc $79, Student $50,
U40 $40*

Performed in Latvian, Latin and English. Texts and translations provided.

Moon and Stars with Adelaide Chamber Singers

Latvian Voices and Adelaide Chamber Singers unite in a vibrant musical journey between Latvia and Australia in the celestial acoustics of St Peter’s Cathedral. Traversing the luminous choral worlds of Ēriks Ešenvalds, Laura Jēkabsone, Luke Byrne and Carl Crossin, this evocative program blends Latvian folk traditions with Australian soundscapes, culminating in the world premiere of a new work by Laura Jēkabsone, commissioned especially for this performance.

2 Mar, 7:30pm, St Peter’s Cathedral
1hr 15mins, no interval

$99, Friends $84, Conc $79, Student $50, U40 $40*
Performed in Latvian, Latin and English. Texts and translations provided.

The Brotherhood: CADELA FORÇA TRILOGY Chapter II

Theatre / Brazil & The Netherlands
Australian Premiere and Australian Exclusive
Created by Carolina Bianchi
Carolina Bianchi Y Cara de Cavalo

Theatre at its most dangerous and inspiring.

One of the most talked about artists in the world right now, Brazilian theatre-maker Carolina Bianchi's work is brutally eloquent and searingly intelligent.

Exposing the intersection of art, sex and power, The Brotherhood is Bianchi's second work in the CADELA FORÇA ('Bitch Strength') TRILOGY. A reckoning with the all-pervasive influence of the 'male genius' in theatre, and his untouchable guardians: the brotherhood.

After an interview with a heavyweight theatre director goes awry, seven men hijack Bianchi's show and her research. As the power of their brotherhood engulfs her stage, Bianchi lifts the curtain on its codes, origins and allure. From satire, sex and seances to 80s pop–blaring dance breakouts, revel in an adrenaline-soaked production that will leave you shot through with triumph as Bianchi's piercing performance obliterates everything you thought you knew about power.

"The Brotherhood is nothing short of staggering" Het TheaterFestival

"You will leave the theatre punching the air and utterly invigorated" Dublin Theatre Festival

13 – 14 Mar Her Majesty's Theatre
3hrs 40mins, incl. interval

Adult $99 – $119, Friends $84 – $101, Conc $79 – $95, Student $50 – $60, U40 $40*

Performed in Brazilian Portuguese and English with English surtitles.

Note: Recommended for audiences 18+. Latecomers will not be admitted. Certain scenes may offend sensibilities of spectators. Contains nudity, themes and depictions of violence and sexual violence, blood and gore, alcohol abuse, references to suicide and a depiction of vomit. Utilises loud sound levels, strobe lighting effects, theatrical smoke and haze.

Generously supported by Arts Club Curated donors.

Valentina

Theatre / France
Australian Premiere / Australian Exclusive
Written and Directed by Caroline Guiela Nguyen

Be propelled into a sublime fairytale.

One evening, on her way home from school, Valentina discovers a doctor's note on the table. Written in French to her Romanian mother who cannot understand it, she will need to translate, word for word. Standing before her, Valentina now holds an unbearable truth on the tip of her tongue, one capable of changing everything.

Valentina is a joyous contemporary fairy tale of the love between a mother and daughter, inspired by the children who carry the whole world in their throats and hearts for their parents.

Superstar writer and director Caroline Guiela Nguyen (Lacrima, Saïgon) brings this beautiful work exclusively to Adelaide Festival, featuring a remarkable cast of European performers and musicians. With great warmth, Nguyen writes about miracles, the courage of children and the complex truths we carry for those we love. *Valentina* is profoundly affecting theatre.

"A work of rare tenderness" Entrevue

"[one of] Europe's hottest theatre directors" The Guardian

25 – 28 Feb
Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide Festival Centre |
1hr 20mins, no interval

Adult $99 – $109, Friends $84 – $93, Conc $79 – $87, Student $50 – $55, U40 $40*

Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 73. *Limited availability.

Performed in French and Romanian with English surtitles.

Note: Latecomers will not be admitted. Recommended for audiences 10+.
Image credit: Jean Louis Fernandez

Taverna Miresia – Mario, Bella, Anastasia

Created by Mario Banushi

Kindness knows no bounds.

Mario takes a neon sign from his family's restaurant: Taverna Miresia, the Restaurant of Kindness. He places it on the stage, where its light can reach inside his memories and begin to illuminate the songs, dances and rituals of his Albanian heritage.

After the funeral of his larger-than-life father, Mario, now the only man left, follows the women in his family as they glance off ghosts and summon their own phantoms and fantasies. In an ecstatic series of tableaus, Mario unleashes their dreams, iridescent rage and soaring songs to create an unforgettable feast of beauty.

Recently awarded the Silver Lion Award at the Venice Biennale, Mario Banushi (*Goodbye, Lindita*) does not use words to tell his stories. His work is entirely visual – and it is rapidly defining the future of theatre across the world. Be enraptured by it.

"The new face of Greek theatre" The Guardian

★★★★★ "Verdict: Sublime! I don't want Banushi to explain the dream. I want to surrender to it." Disrupting Stages

3 – 6 Mar, Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide Festival Centre
1hr 10mins, no interval

Adult $99 – $109, Friends $84 – $93, Conc $79 – $87,
Student $50 – $55, U40 $40*

Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 73. *Limited availability.

Note: Contains nudity and depictions of violence. Utilises strobe effects, loud sound levels and theatrical haze. Latecomers not admitted.

13 & 14

Dance / China
Australian Premiere
TAO Dance Theater

Body equals dance, dance equals body.

Surrender to ecstatic rhythms in *13 & 14*, two otherworldly dance works from the Beijing-based TAO Dance Theater, led by choreographer Tao Ye.

In *13*, grey-cloaked dancers huddle into an elusive whole, striving for togetherness even as some dancers fall away (only to be heroically folded back inside the group). In *14*, the dancers, dressed in colourful kimonos, perform in stunning synchronicity with a degree of precision both astonishing and profound.

Tao Ye's choreography suspends the soul in a state of unison unlike anything you've ever experienced. He invites you to, for just a moment, share in one language, one ritual, one sacred act: the movement of the body.

"A heart-stopping moment of wonder and discovery." The Australian

"Sustained and mesmerically beautiful. Like a door into an alternate reality." The Age

26 – 28 Feb
Her Majesty's Theatre
1hr 10mins, incl. interval

Adult $99 – $119, Friends $84 – $101, Conc $79 – $87, Student $50 – $55, U40 $40*

Note: Latecomers not admitted.

DIPTYCH: The Missing Door and The Lost Room

Peeping Tom
Dance theatre / Belgium

Australian Premiere / Australian Exclusive

When fantasies become realities

Created by Belgian dance-theatre company Peeping Tom, *DIPTYCH* combines two of their most celebrated dance works into a single hair-raising experience. Enter the fractured dream worlds of two couples, one confined to a ship's cabin, the other a hotel room, where hidden fears take physical form. Co-creators Gabriela Carrizo and Franck Chartier's signature choreography pushes the ensemble of dancers' bodies to the absolute limit as they navigate shifting interiors that seem to move and conspire against them.

Reminiscent of Pina Bausch's surreal choreography,
David Lynch's hallucinogenic screen dreams, and set to spine-chilling music, this is an exhilarating fusion of dance, theatre, visual poetry and horror that will disturb and astound you.

"These are shows that refuse to be shaken off" The Guardian

"Highly original, powerful and visually all-consuming theatre" British Theatre Guide

11 – 14 Mar
Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide Festival Centre |
1hr 10mins, no interval

Adult $99 – $109, Friends $84 – $93,
Conc $79 – $87, Student $50 – $55, U40 $40*

Note: Recommended for audiences 14+. Contains nudity, strong language, sexual references, graphic and sexual violence. Utilises theatrical smoke, strobe effects and loud sound levels.

Ólafur Arnalds: Falling Apart Together

Music / Iceland

Icelandic composer and musician Ólafur Arnalds makes his Adelaide Festival debut with *Falling Apart Together,* his most daring live experience yet that blurs the boundaries between concert and shared music ritual.

Touring with a string quartet and percussionist,
Arnalds' signature fusion of neoclassical, ambient and contemporary electronics is a music experience that, in his words, "attempts to dismantle the distance between us, revealing the shared humanity that emerges when we allow ourselves to be exposed."

Following globally acclaimed tours for recent albums re:member and some kind of peace visiting iconic venues such as Sydney Opera House and Royal Albert Hall, Arnalds now brings this spellbinding blend of new material and past favourites to Adelaide for one night only.

"Some of the most beautiful music I've heard at the Tiny Desk." Bob Boilen, NPR Music

28 Feb, 7pm
Thebarton Theatre, Torrensville |
1hr 40mins, no interval

$119, U40 $40*

Note: Contains strong language. Utilises haze and strobe effects.

Tim Hecker

Music / Canada

A defining voice in experimental music.

Deep in the spaces between melody and noise, dissonance and song, Tim Hecker is drawing out sounds. The Canadian composer's pursuit of sound from seemingly other realms is incomparable in the world of ambient music. His latest national tour confirms his place as a creator of sonic worlds that amplify emotions and saturate the senses.

In the past two decades, Hecker has redefined the experimental music scene, vibrating the floorboards of Sydney Opera House and filling the industrial warehouse of Kraftwerk in Germany. Now, the man who popularised ambient music (he swears he didn't mean to) brings his latest album to Adelaide Festival. Surrender to its sound.

"the Canadian master painter of digital resonance" Berlin Atonal

"Veteran power-ambient iconoclast" Pitchfork

3 Mar, 8pm, Hindley Street Music Hall
2hrs

Support to be announced.

$89, U40 $40*

Transaction fees apply. *Limited availability.

Note: Utilises haze and loud sound levels.

Grace Cummings

Music / Australlia

Presents Bloodhorse!

A leap into the night.

Grace Cummings' music rolls through you like a storm. With a reputation for live performances that crackle with tension and release, Cummings is one of Australia's most singular musical voices, capable of shifting from intimate vulnerability to astonishing power in a single breath.

Her grand fourth album Bloodhorse! (2026) is a bold, lush and at times perversely provocative journey through confessionals, hopes and nightmares.
Songs that channel the full force of her extraordinary voice into journeys that that feel both deeply personal and profoundly cathartic.

Cummings' remarkable musical fervour has drawn comparisons to that of
Nico, John Cale and Nina Simone (The Guardian). Experience the thrill of an artist at the height of her powers and pushing at the edge of her own fearless songwriting.

"there's no chance of giving this music only half your attention… countless moments of brilliance" Clash Music

"[an] astonishing voice" The Guardian

8 Mar, 7:30pm Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide Festival Centre
1hr 10mins

$69, Friends $59, U40 $40*

Burnout Paradise

Theatre / Australia
Pony Cam

The longest running show in Adelaide.

Four performers mount four treadmills. What begins as a simple wager between performer and audience becomes a madcap attempt to complete a series of escalating tasks that push their bodies and minds to the limit.

Over 70 euphoric minutes, the members of Pony Cam collective undertake the four tasks every artist must complete every week: survival, admin, performance and leisure. From making a three-course meal to wildly submitting a grant application, their accelerating antics chart an unravelling revelation that the system we participate in is not designed for us.

After thrilling audiences on Broadway and in Europe, one of Australia's most playful theatre collectives bring their five-star pandemonium to Adelaide to create sheer bedlam.

★★★★★ "One of the most frenetically uproarious shows you will ever experience" Time Out

7 – 14 Mar, Space Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre
1hr 10mins, no interval

$69, Friends $59, Conc $55, Student $35, U40 $40*

Note: Contains strong language. Utilises haze and strobe effects.

Kumarangk: Sisterhood

World Premiere / Australian Exclusive

Theatre / First Nations

Country Arts SA

Cultural knowledge meets contemporary truth-telling under an open sky.

Written by Tracey Rigney (Ngarrindjeri / Wotjobaluk) and directed by Glenn Shea (Ngarrindjeri / Wathaurong), *Kumarangk: Sisterhood* brings together theatre and contemporary dance to tell two stories deeply connected across time, place and resistance.

Bear witness to the intimate story of the Ngarrindjeri mi:minis (women) who resisted the building of a bridge across sacred waters to Kumarangk (Hindmarsh Island) and a re-imagining of the Ngarrindjeri creation story of the Seven Sisters.

Performed outdoors on Kaurna Country, this is an unforgettable theatrical event presented by Country Arts SA that explores the collision of cultural ways and colonial power, while celebrating the stories that have always belonged to Kumarangk. Gather, reflect and honour beneath the open sky.

3 – 7 Mar, Yitpi Yartapuultiku, 1300 Old Port Road
1hr 30mins, no interval

$49, Friends $42, Conc $39, Nunga Tix $15, U30 $25, Student $25, Child* $20

Recommended for audiences 12+

Performed in English and Ngarrindjeri.

Note: Contains strong language. Utilises strobe effects and theatrical haze. Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islander people are advised that the production contains names and depictions of deceased Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

Eucalyptus

Opera / Australia

Composed by Jonathan Mills
Libretto by Meredith Oakes
After the novel by Murray Bail

Hundreds of species of eucalyptus. One impossible love story.

Based on Murray Bail's Miles Franklin Award–winning novel, *Eucalyptus* is the story of a widowed father, his beautiful daughter, and the competition to win her hand by naming the hundreds of species of eucalyptus in the woodland he has obsessively created.

Enter composer Jonathan Mills' ethereal world of bowed cymbals and vibraphones, timpani played with fingertips and the slide whistles of owls at night. With a spare and poetic libretto by Meredith Oakes, this concert performance of *Eucalyptus* summons the sounds of Australia's natural world to set the spirit free.

13 Mar, 7:30pm
Adelaide Town Hall |
2hrs 30mins, incl. interval

Adult $99 – $119, Friends $84 – $101, Conc $79 – $87, Student $50 – $55, U40 $40*

Galaxia

World Premiere
Dancenorth Australia

A celestial choreographic encounter.

As a vast canopy of stars spill from the stage into the theatre, surrender your certainty and find your place within a cosmos that refuses to hold still.

Galaxia is the latest production from Gurambilbarra (Townsville)-based contemporary dance company Dancenorth. Renowned for spellbinding fusions of dance, theatre, and technology that ask burning questions of the world, their sold-out 2024 production Wayfinder was a "masterclass on the imperative of connecting with an audience" (The Guardian). Both intimate and infinite, *Galaxia* is an awe-inspiring collision of spectacular design and mesmerising movement.

With a ceiling of interactive and all-encompassing stars designed by New York theatrical pioneer Andrew Schneider, be part of a collective experience of wonder in this world premiere commission.

24 Feb – 2 Mar, Space Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre
1hr, no interval

Preview
$79, Friends $67, Conc $64, Student $40, U40 $40*
Season
$89, Friends $76, Conc $72, Student $45, U40 $40*

Note: Utilises loud sound levels, immersive lighting effects and total black- out. Latecomers will not be admitted.

Ngulmiya

Featuring Pau Figueres

Music / Australia and Spain

Where Arnhem Land and Catalonia meet.

Iconic songman and ceremony leader Ngulmiya Nundhirribala is renowned for forging extraordinary musical collaborations from his home among the remote sand dunes of Numbulwar, Arnhem Land. In his latest album, Catalunya, he brings together the ancient song traditions of Arnhem Land and the passionate flamenco music of Catalonia, Spain.

At the heart of this captivating performance is the remarkable meeting of Ngulmiya's powerful vocals and the virtuosic artistry of flamenco guitarist Pau Figueres. Joined by Ngulmiya's son Nayurryurr Nundhirribala (vocals and lhambilgbilg), along with Francis Diatschenko (acoustic guitar) and Anthony Gray (bass ukulele), they weave stories of family, Country and culture into a rich and evocative musical dialogue that spans traditions and continents.

"Owner of a voice capable of making you leave your body" Mundo Sonoro

9 Mar, 7pm, Adelaide Town Hall
1hr, no interval

Adult $69 – $89, Friends $59 – $76, Conc $55 – $64, Student $35 – $40, U40 $40*

Performed in Wubuy, Makassarese, Bugis and Indonesian.

ShadowSide

Dance / Australia
World Premiere
Created by Larissa McGowan, Produced by Insite Arts

The hidden self is always in motion.

The inimitable Adelaide-based choreographer Larissa McGowan creates an explosive new work; pushing two of Australia's most remarkable dancers to the edge to unpack the many versions of The Self we construct to navigate the world.

Leaping from Carl Jung's concept of the "shadow", two bodies merge and separate, embodying both themselves and each other's shadows as reality begins to fracture. Where does the self end and the other begin? Can you ever truly separate yourself from the parts we keep hidden?

An adrenaline-fuelled dance work performed by Ben Hancock and Connor MacDonald, *ShadowSide* invites you to witness the parts of ourselves we project onto the world, the sides we hide, and the strange, dark territory in between.

"Bendy, twisty, kick-arse choreography" The Australian on McGowan

11 – 14 Mar, Odeon Theatre, Norwood
55mins, no interval

Preview: $49, Friends $42, Conc $39, Student $25, U40 $40*
Season: $59, Friends $50, Conc $47, Student $30, U40 $40*

Note: Contains strong language. Utilises loud sound levels, haze effects and flashing lights. Latecomers will not be admitted.

The Dark Matter of Usulal

Theatre / Australia

Created and performed by Margaret J Harvey
Presented by State Theatre Company South Australia
in association with Adelaide Festival

An ancient story from a space between worlds.

One of Australia's most enthralling actors, Margaret J Harvey, returns to the stage for the first time in over 10 years, with an intimate and visually arresting solo performance.

A mother is unravelling. As the life she knows begins to slip away, the voices of her ancestors call her towards something she cannot yet understand. Drawn into a vast realm shaped by the living cosmologies of Saibai Island, she embarks on a journey through memory and spirit, guided by the stories and knowledge of those who came before.

Combining performance, sound, movement and haunting digital imagery, The Dark Matter of Usulal is a powerful meditation on ancestry that asks what can you hold onto when the ground starts to shift.

"A highly visual theatrical experience in a genre that could be described as magical realism." Real Time

19 Feb – 6 Mar
Odeon Theatre, Norwood |
1hr 10mins, no interval

Preview / Weekday Matinee: $89, Friends $76, Conc $72, U30/Student $39
Season / Saturday Matinee: $99, Friends $84, Conc $80, U30/Student $39

Note: Contains themes of grief, pregnancy loss, medical trauma, family and environmental change. It also features low-frequency sound, immersive audiovisual effects and periods of darkness.

Giovanni Sollima

Australian Premiere / Australian Exclusive
Music / Italy

Original and electrifying.

Giovanni Sollima, a "super virtuoso of the cello, [who] has no fear" (Yo-Yo Ma), takes you on an epic journey through his own works and a kaleidoscope of musical worlds. From traditional Albanian tunes to JS Bach and Jimi Hendrix, Sollima weaves together centuries of musical tradition into one thrilling contemporary cello performance.

This is music of vivid imagination and unbridled energy from a visionary who has collaborated with the likes of Patti Smith, Yo-Yo Ma and Philip Glass, and performed all over the world – from Carnegie Hall, New York to Suntory Hall, Tokyo.

Expect an exhilarating experience where baroque meets folk and minimalism meets virtuosity.

4 Mar, 12:30pm, Elder Hall, Adelaide University
1hr 5mins, no interval
$49, Friends $42, Conc $39, Student $25, U40 $40

GLASSWORKS+

Anton Batagov
Australian Premiere / Australian Exclusive

A master plays a master.

When one of the world's greatest pianists plays pieces created by one of its greatest composers, the result is transcendent. An Adelaide Festival exclusive, experience a revelation of a performance as pianist Anton Batagov brings to life the famously layered works of Philip Glass.

Touring internationally together for almost a decade, Batagov has become one of Glass' closest collaborators. Now, for the composer's 90th birthday, Batagov has made a deeply personal selection of Glass' works to perform that have influenced and inspired his life. From *Einstein on the Beach* to *Koyaanisqatsi*, *Distant Figure* to music from *The Hours*, Batagov expands the very world of music to capture this giant of our time on piano.

6 Mar, 8pm, Elder Hall, Adelaide University
1hr 30mins, no interval
$69, Friends $59, Conc $55, Student $35, U40 $40

First Light

Ensemble Lumen

World Premiere

Music / Australia

Illuminating masterworks old and new.

Mozart's Clarinet Quintet rightly sits at the top of any list of audience favourites,adored for its sunny outlook and warm world of sound. Ensemble Lumen, comprising faculty artists from the Elder Conservatorium of Music & School of Performing Arts, showcases this masterpiece for you with artistry, imagination and distinctive musicianship.

Alongside Mozart's timeless work, hear the dazzling virtuosity of Ravel's *Tzigane* and the 2027 John Bishop Memorial Commission, a new work by Australian composer Alice Chance, who draws together ancient and contemporary sounds in striking and original ways.

1 Mar, 12:30pm Elder Hall, Adelaide University
1hr, no interval
$49, Friends $42, Conc $39, Student $25, U40 $40

The Rave and the Nightingale

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra + Australian String Quartet

A rare meeting of two of Australia's finest ensembles.

Making their Adelaide Festival debut, the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, under the inspired leadership of Sophie Rowell, joins the Australian String Quartet in a program rich with vivid musical exchange.

Elgar's exuberant *Introduction and Allegro for Strings* opens proceedings with its vibrant interplay between solo quartet and string orchestra. In the year marking the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's death, *Heiliger Dankgesang (Holy Song of Thanksgiving)*, drawn from one of Beethoven's profound late quartets, is a deeply personal meditation.

Adelaide composer Anne Cawrse revisits a previous John Bishop Memorial Commission, reimagining her work originally written for string quartet on a larger string orchestra canvas in Anon, from *A Room of Her Own*.

Finally, Matthew Hindson slips inside the delirious mind of Schubert in *The Rave and the Nightingale* as Schubert completes his final string quartet. As Schubert lay dying, what feverish dreams of music may have come to this master of melody had he lived in the twenty-first century?

3 Mar, 12:30pm
Elder Hall, Adelaide University
1hr, no interval

$49, Friends $42, Conc $39, Student $25, U40 $40

Marc Bouchkov and Aura Go

Schubert, Bach and Beethoven

Belgian violinist Marc Bouchkov shines brightly among the next generation of musicians. In honour of the bicentenary of Beethoven's death, Bouchkov unites with Australian pianist Aura Go for a performance that explores his influences and legacy. After the 1816 Sonatina in D by Franz Schubert, a devotee of Beethoven, we are invited into Bouchkov's exploration of JS Bach's transcendent Partita No. 2. A microcosmic symphony contained in one violinist's hands, the work unveils the harmonic genius that would later inspire Beethoven.

The concert culminates with Beethoven's incomparable *Kreutzer* Sonata. Pairing the violin and piano in a setting reminiscent of a violin concerto, Beethoven woos us with the timeless melodies and daring passion that have won over audiences for the past 200 years.

6-7 Mar, UKARIA Cultural Centre, Mount Barker Summit
2hrs, incl. interval
$85, Friends $80, Conc $80, U40

Angela Hewitt

Music / Canada
Scarlatti, Bach and Chopin

A bell-like tone, pristine technique and interpretative smarts are the hallmarks of Angela Hewitt's glittering career. Thirty years since she released her first recording of Bach's keyboard partitas, the Canadian pianist returns to Australia to perform the music that has won her devoted followers, international recording plaudits and the City of Leipzig Bach Medal.

Hewitt's program begins with four Scarlatti sonatas and concludes with three pieces from Chopin's mature oeuvre. Though born two centuries after Bach and Scarlatti, Chopin was a lifelong admirer of both composers. This great pianist follows the subtle threads of inspiration and influence through the keyboard music she is so well known for and knows so well.

13 – 14 Mar, UKARIA Cultural Centre, Mount Barker Summit
2hrs, incl. interval
$84, Friends $80, Conc $80, U40 $40

WOMADelaide

Music / Arts / Dance

Wherever you're from, wherever you're going, you'll find a place at WOMADelaide – The World's Festival.

WOMADelaide returns to Botanic Park/Tainmuntilla over the March long weekend to celebrate an incredible 35 years. Discover global legends and tomorrow's favourites in music, arts and dance from more than 30 countries across 8 stages, as well as roving theatre, artist workshops, The Planet Talks ecological discussions, Taste The World culinary experiences, KidZone and many more surprises between the trees.

WOMADelaide began as a daring experiment of the 1992 Adelaide Festival following an approach to WOMAD, the global arts festival founded in the UK in 1982 by award-winning musician Peter Gabriel. Today, WOMADelaide is an independent festival and annual tradition for people eager to take part in something bigger than themselves: a cultural gathering built on curiosity and connection.

5 – 8 Mar, Botanic Park / Tainmuntilla, Plane Tree Drive

AF Talks

Free artist talks throughout the Festival hosted by Tom Wright

AF Talks presents a series of interviews and pre-show talks with the artists and creatives that bring Adelaide Festival and our creative community to life. Gain behind-the-scenes insight into the 2027 program, learn more about a performance you're about to see, or dig deeper with some of the key creatives whose work you have just experienced.

Adelaide Festival has a long history of public sessions for reflection and debate; the inspiration, the preparation and the execution. Some of the most dynamic and cutting-edge minds in the world are passing through town – and some of them live here. *AF Talks* are a chance to hear the story behind the stories of Adelaide Festival.

For the schedule of all pre-show talks and artist interviews see adelaidefestival.com.au/AF-Talks

CODA

Festival Bar

Your free-entry Festival bar on the Plaza right next to the Festival Theatre.

Meet us at CODA before or after a show. It's a place to unwind, with beer or wine in hand, where ideas are exchanged and debated, and artists and arts-lovers mingle.

Food, drinks, DJs and all the Festival gossip is on offer. Check our website for full details.

26 FEB – 14 MAR | OPEN FROM 6PM

FESTIVAL PLAZA | FREE ENTRY

Closed Sun 7, Mon 8 and Tue 9 Mar. Visit adelaidefestival.com.au/coda for full CODA opening times and updates.

Adelaide Writers' Week

Australia's largest free literary festival brings celebrated and emerging writers from around the world to the heart of Adelaide for six days of inspiring conversations, debate and storytelling.

27 Feb – 4 Mar

Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden
+ The Drill Hall, Adelaide Town Hall, Bonython Hall, Banquet Room: Adelaide Festival Centre

Entry to the Garden is FREE. Please support us by donating daily through the QR codes and tap & go facilities in the gardens or on our website.

The full Writers' Week daily program will be revealed in early 2027

What does it mean to be human?

It is an age-old question, but one that feels especially urgent as we navigate extraordinary change. Technology is rapidly reshaping how we work, communicate and understand the world, while war, inequality, political division and an evolving climate crisis test our capacity for empathy and

collective action. At the same time, there are experiences that have always bound us: love and loss, hope and fear, wonder and joy, the desire to belong, and the need to make sense of our lives.

Writers from across Australia and the globe will gather in Adelaide to consider some of the forces shaping our world. They will examine power and its abuses, the state of democracy, the persistence of inequality and the ways class continues to determine opportunity. They will explore the lives of women, questions of faith and belonging, the legacy of history and our relationship with the natural world. And as artificial intelligence becomes increasingly embedded in our lives, they will consider what creativity might mean in an age of machines.

A writers' festival provides a precious opportunity to gather, listen and encounter ideas that may unsettle and surprise us. We may disagree. We may change our minds. We may leave with more questions than answers. That, too, is part of what it means to be human.

I invite you to join some of the world's most compelling writers for a week of conversation and community. See you in the garden!

- Rosemarie Milsom, Director

Discover some of the writers featured in the FREE 2027 program.

Behrouz Boochani, Li Cunxin, Trent Dalton, Sally Hayden, Kate Holden, Joshua Hortinela, Antoun Issa, Kris Kneen, Daniel Kraus, David Leser, Meg Mason, Thomas Mayo, Laura McPhee-Browne, Brendan James Murray, Omar Musa, Holly Ringland, S Shakthidharan, Ilka Tampke, Toby Walsh, Tasma Walton, Pip Williams

An Evening with Min Jin Lee

Celebrate the launch of Adelaide Writers' Week with a special event with acclaimed writer Min Jin Lee, who will discuss her highly anticipated new novel *American Hagwon*, the follow-up to her global bestseller *Pachinko*. Set against the backdrop of the 1997 Asian financial crisis, the novel centres on the Koh family as its members reckon with personal dreams and inherited duty. As the world shifts around them, profound questions emerge: What are we willing to sacrifice for the people we love? What does it mean to live a good life? With her characteristic compassion and insight, Lee examines what happens when the promise of a better life collides with the overwhelming pressure of expectation. Lee speaks to Michael Williams.

26 Feb, 7:30pm, Adelaide Town Hall
Adult $59 - $69, Friends $50 - $59, Conc $47 - $55, Student $40*, U40 $40*

Remembering Virginia

Virginia Giuffre's courage changed the conversation about power, abuse and justice. Her refusal to be silenced helped expose the vast network of devastating exploitation overseen by Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell and gave strength to abuse survivors around the world. In this special commemorative event, acclaimed US journalist Amy Wallace, who helped Virginia tell her story in the powerful memoir *Nobody's Girl*, joins Natasha Mitchell to reflect on her life, courage and

enduring legacy. Featuring readings by festival guests including Jane Caro, Fiona Dorman and Clare Wright, this powerful event honours Virginia's determination to be heard.

27 Feb, 7:30pm, Adelaide Town Hall
Adult $59 - $69, Friends $50 - $59, Conc $47 - $55, Student $40*, U40 $40*

The Australia Institute

Presenting Partner

The Australia Institute is delighted to be a part of Adelaide Writers' Week for another year. The Australia Institute is the nation's leading independent think-tank, whose high-impact research changes minds and creates more informed debate on the issues that matter. The Australia Institute is partnering with Writers' Week in 2027 to bring the big ideas and the bold thinking Australia needs for a more equitable, peaceful and sustainable future. Discussing climate, economics, democracy, international relations and more – Richard Denniss, Amy Remeikis and The Australia Institute team will bring the power of big thinking to present a series of provocative, brave, optimistic and unmissable discussions at Adelaide Writers' Week.

28 Feb, from 9am
West Stage, Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden
FREE

Breakfast with Papers

Begin your Writers' Week day with food for thought. Yes, that perennial favourite returns, setting loose your favourite authors, thinkers and commentators on the news of the day. Take your seat and dig into a hearty combination of world and local events and, quite possibly, a serving of spirited, early morning hilarity.

8am daily, West Stage, Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden
FREE

Youth Program

Secondary Schools Day

Secondary students and their educators are invited to gather in the garden for a lively day of ideas, stories and conversation with some of Australia's leading writers, thinkers and poets – Corey Tutt and Billy Griffiths, Georgina Chadderton, Daniel Principe, Andy Jackson and Dominic Guerrera with Olivia de Zilva, Rosalind Dixon and William Partlett, Hannah Kent and Margot McGovern.

26 Feb, 11am-2pm East and West Stages, Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden

Young Readers' Day

Make Young Readers' Day a highlight in your family calendar! Step into a world of imagination, curiosity and adventure with a spectacular all-Australian line-up featuring Sarah Jane Lightfoot, Deborah Frenkel and Danny Snell, Corey Tutt, Andy Griffiths and Bill Hope, and Kate and Jol Temple. Enjoy storytelling sessions, talks, arts and craft stations, dedicated bookshop and more.

28 Feb, 9:30am – 2pm
The Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground, FREE

I Can’t Tell You But I Will: Magda Szubanski

Magda Szubanski has long occupied a special place in Australian cultural life, making us laugh while bringing compassion and fierce intelligence to some of our most important public conversations. Her new memoir, *I Can’t Tell You But I Will*, provides a compelling account of a private struggle that profoundly affected her. As Szubanski stepped forward as an influential advocate for marriage equality, she was also caring for her beloved mother, Margaret, in the final years of her life. With characteristic candour and warmth,she reflects on the collision of public conviction and private grief.

28 Feb, 7:30pm
Adelaide Town Hall
Adult $49 – $59, Friends $42 – $50, Conc $39 – $47, Student $40*, U40 $40*

Art and Life: Dave Eggers

What does it mean to devote a life to art - and to another person? In Dave Eggers’ heartwarming new novel *Contrapposto*, he follows art world mavericks Cricket and Olympia across more than six decades of friendship. Warm, funny and expansive, *Contrapposto* explores the rewards of a creative life and the compromises of artistic success. Eggers speaks to award-winning writer Trent Dalton about the novel’s 20-year journey and shares his thoughts on making meaning in a world immersed in technology.

1 Mar, 7:30pm, Bonython Hall, Adelaide University

$59, Friends $50, Conc $47, Student $40*, U40 $40*

Inside Stories

In 2027, we’re expanding the program beyond the Pioneer Women’s Memorial Garden and into the Banquet Room at Adelaide Festival Centre. We’ve unlocked the doors for a brilliant line-up of authors, big ideas and intimate conversations. More sessions, more voices, more reasons to join us.

Even the Good Grisl Will Cry: Melissa Auf der Maur

Melissa Auf der Maur, former bassist for Hole and The Smashing Pumpkins, has lived a life shaped by creativity and reinvention. In her memoir Even the

Good Girls Will Cry, she takes us backstage during an era of significant cultural change, reflecting on friendship, fame, grief and being a young woman in a fiercely male-dominated world. Candid, searching and alive with the energy of the music that defined a generation, Auf der Maur speaks to Edwina Preston about finding her voice amid the noise.

1 Mar, 6pm, Banquet Room, Adelaide Festival Centre, $39

Egrets, While War: Tishani Doshi Performs

Acclaimed poet, novelist and dancer Tishani Doshi brings words and movement together in Egrets, While War, a mesmerising performance inspired by her new poetry collection. The poems navigate

the deep entanglements of environmental loss, ancestral memory, the slow transformations of ageing, and the devastation of war. Doshi explores what it means to inhabit a body in a world marked by beauty, violence and change. Combining poetry, dance, and film, Egrets, While War is an immersive meditation on our fragile world.

2 Mar, 3pm, Banquet Room, Adelaide Festival Centre, $39

A Midlife Reckoning: Myf Warhurst

When Myf Warhurst turned 50 she could no longer swallow her fury about inequality, entrenched gender expectations and the compromises women are expected to make to maintain the peace. Join the much-loved broadcaster and writer for a conversation about her book Middle Rage, a candid account of the challenges of midlife. With trademark warmth and humour, Warhurst asks what might happen if women stopped smoothing things over and started saying what they really think.

3 Mar, 6pm, Banquet Room, Adelaide Festival Centre, $34

Yesteryear: An Evening with Caro Claire Burke

Caro Claire Burke's *Yesteryear* has taken the publishing world by storm. Blending time travel, romance and sharp-eyed satire, her debut novel follows Natalie, a successful social media influencer who finds herself transported to 1855 long before hashtags and curated perfection. Exploring modern influencer culture and the rise of the "trad wife" movement, *Yesteryear* has divided opinion and dominated literary commentary. Burke speaks about the continuing influence of regressive ideals and how contemporary feminism is responding to renewed debates about women's rights.

2 Mar, 7:30pm, Bonython Hall, Adelaide University
$59, Friends $50, Conc $47, Student $40*, U40 $40*

Between the Lines: Randa Abdel-Fattah and Leïla Slimani

Randa Abdel-Fattah and Leïla Slimani are fearless writers whose work challenges assumptions about identity and power. Drawing on their very different histories, they explore what it means to live between worlds and to resist the limitations others would impose upon them. In this wide-ranging conversation with Jan Fran, Abdel-Fattah and Slimani reflect on the relationship between the personal and political, the freedoms afforded by fiction, and the responsibilities of the writer in turbulent times.

3 Mar, 7:30pm, Adelaide Town Hall
Adult $49 - $59, Friends $42 - $50, Conc $39 - $47, Student $40*, U40 $40*

It’s All Going Very Well...

Australian Premiere
Film / Australia

Directed by Tilda Cobham-Hervey

Everything is not going well. Audrey has left a relationship, her creative life has stalled, and she is carrying a recent loss. Her days are spent teaching art in an aged care home, where she forms an unlikely bond with resident Harold (*The Crown’s* Jonathan Pryce). The connection opens a space for hard-won clarity around grief, friendship, love and the work she has avoided.

In her directorial debut, Adelaide filmmaker Tilda Cobham-Hervey directs and stars in a film of offbeat warmth and finely judged control, where humour and hurt sit side by side.

13 Mar, 7pm, Capri Theatre, Goodwood
1hr 37mins, no interval
$74, Conc $64

Ticket includes pink carpet, premiere screening, Q&A with director and star Tilda Cobham-Hervey, plus after party, drinks, canapés and entertainment.

Artists’ Week

Visual Arts / Australia

26 Feb – 5 Mar

Artists’ Week returns to Adelaide Festival, bringing together leading artists, writers, curators and thinkers for a vibrant program of conversation and exchange. Drawing from the Festival’s visual arts program and the city’s diverse cultural institutions, Artists’ Week 2027 invites audiences to explore a dynamic calendar of free talks, exhibitions, openings and in-conversations.

Provocative, insightful and engaging, the program offers a unique opportunity to connect with some of the most compelling artistic and cultural voices in the visual arts. From contemporary practice and critical debate to creativity, community and culture, Artists’ Week is your window into the big ideas and conversations happening in art now, right here in Adelaide.

Visit the Artists’ Week webpage to explore the full program and plan your Festival experience.

Solitude

Khaled Sabsabi
Australian Premiere
Samstag Museum of Art

An exhibition two decades in the making, presenting seminal works by Khaled Sabsabi, Australia’s representative at the 2026 Venice Biennale. Spanning every gallery of the Samstag Museum of Art, it brings together new and previously unseen works by one of Australia’s most thoughtful artists.

Across moving image, paintings, drawings and installations, Sabsabi explores our societal sense of the collective while questioning ideologies and identity politics in an image-saturated age. Drawing on 35 years of work within communities and more than two decades of exhibiting internationally, his practice reflects moments of connection in the everyday, the philosophical and the spiritual.

Personal, timely and deeply human, Solitude invites reflection, interaction and a deeper understanding of the forces shaping our shared human experience.

26 Feb – 28 May
Samstag Museum of Art

FREE

Cockaigne: The Land of Plenty

Sam Leach
World Premiere

Presented by ILA | Immersive Light and Art

In the medieval fantasy land of *Cockaigne*, roast geese flew into open mouths and rivers ran with wine. It was a worker's dream of plenty without labour. *Cockaigne: The Land of Plenty* revisits that dream as the promise is renewed by the barons of Artificial Intelligence. Visitors stand between two screens: one displaying a vast AI-generated landscape that shifts between scarcity and excess, the other revealing how the algorithm renders them as data, measuring Collective Mood, Coherence Index and Solidarity.

The landscape is watching. The sensing system reads the crowd's collective behaviour and the world on the wall responds, but the rules are never explained. Why does paradise appear? As visions of plenty are offered, *Cockaigne* reflects a world shaped by invisible systems that monitor, score and influence us, without ever revealing the trade-offs.

25 Feb – 21 Mar, ILA | Immersive Light and Art 63 Light Square

$25, Conc $20

Tactile World: Dark Forest

World Premiere

Adelaide Contemporary Experimental (ACE)
Enter a fully touchable, multi-sensory tactile world developed by established, emerging, disabled and non- disabled South Australian artists, alongside blind and low vision communities. Formed from deep collaboration, this dark forest combines tactile textile surfaces, integrated olfactory navigation points, vibration, cold and heat, and a spatial soundscape. This is an entirely touchable experience, designed around the trailing movements used by blind and low-vision people to navigate and experience the world.

Artists featured include Antony Abbracciavento, Troy-Anthony Baylis, Boris Dann, Lottie Emma, Simone Kennedy, Shan Michaels and members of the Blind and Low Vision community.

26 Feb – 10 Apr
ACE Gallery, Lion Arts Centre, North Terrace

FREE

Floating Worlds: Prints from Osaka & Kyoto

Art Gallery of South Australia

Explore the pleasure, fashion and cultural life that flourished in Japan's Kamigata region during the Edo period (1603-1868). Created between c.1790 and c.1900, these traditional full colour woodblock prints, collectively known as *Kamigata ukiyo-e* or "pictures of the floating world", capture the vibrant culture of Osaka and Kyoto through depictions of kabuki actors, samurai warriors, beauties, the supernatural and landscapes.

Renowned for their craftsmanship, elegance and wit, the prints offered an escape from everyday life for the lower classes (chōnin) including artists, crafts people and merchants who spent their days attending to business and family, and their evenings gathered in theatres, cultural salons and pleasure quarters.

Featuring never-before-seen AGSA acquisitions alongside paintings, kimono and samurai armour, the exhibition reveals a world shaped by theatre, beauty, fashion and spectacle, offering a glimpse into Japan's celebrated "floating world" and the legendary stars of kabuki stage.

30 Jan – 18 Apr
Art Gallery of South Australia
$20, Conc $15, AGSA Member $13, Youth (12-17) $10, Under 12 Free, Family $40, Group 8+ $15

The Guildhouse Collections Project – 60 Year Archive

Nat Penney

World Premiere

Guildhouse possesses an irreplaceable record of South Australia's visual art, craft and design history and the activities, people, groups and organisations who have defined it.

To mark Guildhouse's 60th anniversary year, South Australian artist Nat Penney has been commissioned to engage with the collection, and in response, develop a new body of work for exhibition. Penney's practice combines processes from timber furniture making and metal fabrication with found and formed objects, to consider the sensory desires in things, looking for subconscious object impulses.

The Guildhouse Collections Project – 60 Year Archive offers an unparalleled insight into a beloved South Australian arts organisation, and the many thousands of artists who have contributed to the cultural vibrancy of our state.

19 Feb - 30 Jun, Adelaide Town Hall, FREE

Ned, Giambattista & a Few Dogs

Mark Thompson

BMGART

Influences as diverse as the Kelly Gang, eighteenth-century painter Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, Vivaldi's operas and the Australian bush prompt Mark Thompson's series of exuberant and richly layered works. Dogs, angels, magpies. Guys in drag.

The works borrow fragments of imagery and stories, using them as visual clues that invite recognition while generating new meaning. Historical figures, theatricality, fantasy and transformation sit alongside an unapologetic embrace of excess. Gold leaf, vivid colour and ornamental detail are recurring elements, balanced by an instinctive sense of when to stop and begin anew.

Informed by a career in theatre and opera design, Thompson draws freely from a wide range of sources. Appropriation, reinvention and imagination are central. Nothing is off limits.

4 Mar – 14 Mar
BMGART @ The Mezzanine, 55 Rundle Street, Kent Town
FREE

Within: dhuwi-bray ngaya / I have spirit

Juanita McLauchlan
JamFactory

JamFactory presents Gamilaraay/Gamilaroi artist Juanita McLauchlan's first exhibition in South Australia. Working with reclaimed blankets and natural fibres, she transforms textiles through bush dyeing, stitching, felting and quilting to create cloaks, blankets and immersive installations.

Her work reflects on cultural loss, family and belonging, tracing the ongoing impacts of colonisation while affirming the strength of connection to culture, community and Country. As a mother of five, she describes her practice as an act of cultural continuity, carrying knowledge forward and fostering pride in the next generation.

Here McLauchlan will create a large-scale installation of dyed and stitched blankets, silk and possum fur to form an enveloping environment that will wrap, protect and hold visitors to culture and to place.

12 Feb – 4 Apr, JamFactory, 19 Morphett Street
FREE

Bookings

Online adelaidefestival.com.au

Phone Adelaide Festival 1300 393 404 or Ticketek 131 246

THE FINE PRINT

Adelaide Festival events may be subject to venue, health, safety and security requirements. Patrons must follow any directions provided by Adelaide Festival staff, venue staff or relevant authorities.

For further information, please visit adelaidefestival.com.au/terms-and-conditions

Ticket Prices

Adelaide Festival reserves the right to amend ticket prices, seating arrangements and audience capacity, at any time and without notice.

Fees & Charges

Ticket prices are listed in Australian dollars and include all ticketing fees and charges. A transaction fee applies per transaction and will be added at checkout. Details of this fee will be provided prior to purchase.

Ticket Resale

Only purchase tickets online through links on the official Adelaide Festival website (adelaidefestival.com.au). Tickets purchased through unauthorised sellers, resale platforms or online marketplaces may be invalid, fraudulent or ineligible for entry. Unauthorised resale platforms may include but are not limited to, Viagogo, Ticketmaster Resale, The Ticket Merchant, StubHub, eBay, Facebook Marketplace and Gumtree. Adelaide Festival is not responsible for honouring, replacing or refunding tickets purchased in this way.

Refunds and Exchanges

Tickets are sold in line with Live Performance Australia guidelines (liveperformance.com.au). Patrons are not entitled to an exchange or refund due to change of mind or personal circumstances. Adelaide Festival will offer a refund if the performance is cancelled, rescheduled or significantly relocated. Friends are permitted to exchange tickets to another performance of the same event, subject to terms and conditions. Visit adelaidefestival.com.au/terms-and-conditions for more information.

Performance Restrictions

Latecomers may not be admitted. Please see individual event pages at adelaidefestival.com.au. The use of cameras, mobile phones and recording devices is strictly prohibited and will result in removal from the venue without refund.

Show Warnings

Adelaide Festival takes great effort to provide information to audiences regarding potentially sensitive subject matters and the use of special effects. Please be advised that at the time of publishing the guide, Adelaide Festival may not be aware of all specific show warnings. See website for the most up-to-date information. The information in this guide is correct at time of printing (Sept 2026).

For full terms and conditions of sale, please visit **adelaidefestival.com.au/terms-and-conditions**. Adelaide Festival is required to sell tickets through other authorised ticketing agents for events at certain venues. These ticketing agents may include Ticketek, Ticketmaster and Moshtix. Tickets purchased through these agents are subject to their own terms and conditions of sale, and patrons should review these before completing their purchase.