

ADELAIDE FESTIVAL

27 FEB - 15 MAR 2026

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Peter Malinauskas MP
Premier of South Australia

Welcome to the 2026 Adelaide Festival, a much-anticipated celebration that once again reaffirms its place as one of the world's most significant and captivating cultural events.

In a thrilling return to the large-scale concerts that are part of Adelaide Festival's legacy, international music icons Pulp will perform live – and free – at Elder Park on opening night.

Adelaide Festival – with Adelaide Writers' Week – delivers real and lasting benefits to our state. It fuels imagination, creativity and stimulates critical thinking.

It drives local employment and visitation to our city and regions, strengthening our economy and reinforcing our proud identity as the Festival State.

The State Government has been proud to deliver additional investment, in partnership with donors, to deliver major international drawcards to Adelaide Festival.

I congratulate the Adelaide Festival team on delivering an exceptional program and warmly invite all Australians, and visitors from around the globe, to join us in celebrating this iconic festival.



Andrea Michaels MP
Minister for Arts

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2026 Adelaide Festival, a celebration that once again brings people from around the globe to Adelaide for 17 days of extraordinary arts and cultural experiences.

The Malinauskas Government is proud to be an ongoing supporter of South Australia's premier festival, bringing our city alive with performances and events that inspire, challenge and entertain.

The Festival will light up Adelaide with the energy of theatre, dance and music from international luminaries and the finest creative talent from across Australia.

I warmly congratulate Matthew Lutton OAM on curating his first Adelaide Festival program, an ambitious and thought-provoking season that promises unforgettable moments for all who attend.

With a program that blends globally acclaimed artists with a rich showcase of homegrown talent, the 2026 Festival reaffirms Adelaide's proud reputation as Australia's International Festival.



Tracey Whiting AM
Chair, Adelaide Festival

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Adelaide Festival.

For over 60 years, Adelaide Festival has reflected the spirit of South Australia while reaching audiences around the world. In 2026, we proudly continue that legacy with a program of international scale and ambition.

Delivering a festival of this calibre takes extraordinary people and collective effort. My sincere thanks go to the dedicated festival staff, led by our new executive team – Matthew Lutton OAM, Artistic Director and Julian Hobba, Executive Director – for their dedication and passion.

We are also deeply grateful to the South Australian Government, our Principal Partners, generous donors, and, most importantly, to you, our audience. Your continued support allows us all to experience art that surprises, inspires and connects us.

I look forward to seeing you in March for what promises to be 17 unforgettable days.

We acknowledge that the land we gather, work and learn on is the traditional land of the Kurna Nation 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.



Image credit: Simon Schluter / The Age

It has been an honour to curate the 2026 Adelaide Festival program – a festival that, for 17 days, calls to attention extraordinary artistry and creativity happening around the world, in Australia, and in Adelaide. For over 60 years, the Adelaide Festival has been a beacon of what is possible at an international arts festival in Australia, and I am thrilled to lead the next chapter.

The 2026 Festival program invites you to lower your guard and throw yourself in to an ecstatic 17 days of exploration.

There is a breadth of experiences for you to gorge on, from massive free events like Pulp and Adelaide Writers' Week, to experimental Japanese rock at Hindley Street Music Hall. You'll encounter the work of theatre visionaries such as Robert Wilson, Isabelle Huppert, Thomas Ostermeier, Simon Stone and Peter Sellars; productions ranging from wordless visual theatre to an eight-hour literary marathon; the sublime and sacred music of Monteverdi in St Peter's Cathedral; one of the first operas

written in the 21st century performed by one of the greatest singers of the 21st century; queer First Nations stories; heroes of First Nations visual art; the new wave of choreographers from Australia and China; skaters from South Australian roller derby teams and the mighty players of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

The Festival does not seek to narrow to a specific theme, instead, it elevates Australian and international artists who push boundaries and embody virtuosity. Yet, if you ask me about the preoccupations you might witness, you will find narratives focused on the need for love, belonging and a sense of self; the brutal barriers – some strong, some crumbling – the world hurls at us and the determination for hope, eccentricity, humanity and art.

Welcome. Revel. Let's explore together.

Matthew Lutton OAM, Artistic Director

FESTIVAL BAR

Your 2026 destination bar tucked next to the heart of the Festival's creative chaos.

Meet us at **CODA** before or after a show. More than a place to unwind, **CODA** is a place where glasses are raised, ideas are exchanged and artists and arts-lovers mingle.

Delicious food and drinks and nightly DJs will be on offer in our bespoke designed outdoor space overlooking Elder Park. It's the scene within the scene and the perfect pre-show and nightcap for your Festival experience.

FRI 27 FEB – SUN 15 MAR | 5PM – LATE | FESTIVAL PLAZA | FREE ENTRY



CODA [noun] a concluding section of a musical, literary or dramatic work, often based on extensions or re-elaborations of thematic material previously heard.

Closed Tuesdays and Monday 9 March. Visit adelaidefestival.com.au/coda for updates.

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Pulp

FREE Opening Concert

Pulp, fronted by the legendary Jarvis Cocker, defined a generation with their sharp, ironic take on everyday life. Hits like *Common People* have become anthems of a new class consciousness and their energetic live shows blend theatrical spectacle with an infectious mix of glam rock, disco, new wave and British indie.

In a return to the massive opening night concerts that have long been a part of the Festival's DNA, we bring you Pulp, for free, in Elder Park. Fresh from their triumphant set on Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage in 2025, Pulp's highly anticipated return to Australia celebrates the release of the Mercury-nominated *More*, their first album in over 20 years. Expect a night of wit, energy and nostalgia from these "magnificently misshapen oddballs of British pop" (*The Guardian*).

Fri 27 Feb, 8:30pm | Gates open from 5pm

Elder Park |  

FREE

Note: Event proceeds rain or shine. In the case of severe weather, refer to our website at 3pm on the day of the performance for advice. Large crowds anticipated, capacity limits will apply. Catering on site. No BYO alcohol. See website for full details.

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Partners



The Advertiser
Sunday Mail
We're for you.

Principal Donor – Lang Family Foundation

Image credit: Tom Jackson

THEATRE / KOREA

The Cherry Orchard

Simon Stone / Anton Chekhov / LG Arts Center



Australian Premiere / Australian Exclusive

What happens when the matriarch of a powerful family refuses to let go of the past?

Director Simon Stone – acclaimed for his shattering reimagining of *Yerma* (Young Vic, 2016), *Medea* (International Theatre Amsterdam, 2021) and hit of the 2025 Festival, contemporary opera, *Innocence* – has become a master of transforming classic texts into blisteringly contemporary theatre.

Now, he returns to Adelaide Festival with a new take on *The Cherry Orchard*, transplanting Chekhov's Russian masterpiece into the high-stakes world of South Korean chaebols.

This is no museum piece: it's a fast-paced drama that ricochets between heartbreak and humour, asking whether a family on the brink will evolve or crumble.

A remarkable ensemble featuring the Emmy-nominated Haesoo Park (*Squid Game*) brings this electric vision of *The Cherry Orchard* to life.

Fri 27 Feb – Sun 1 Mar | 2hrs 25mins, incl. interval
Festival Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre | 

Adult from \$139, Friends from \$118,
Conc from \$112, U40* \$40, Student from \$70

Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68. *Limited availability.

Performed in Korean with English surtitles.

Note: Recommended for audiences 14+. Contains strong language, drug references, smoking on stage, sexual references and references to suicide.

The Cherry Orchard is generously supported by the Adelaide Festival Chairman's Circle and Principal Donor – Girsensohn Foundation.



Mary Said What She Said

Robert Wilson / Isabelle Huppert / Darryl Pinckney /
Ludovico Einaudi
Théâtre de la Ville-Paris

Australian Premiere / Australian Exclusive

Isabelle Huppert stars in one of Robert Wilson's final masterpieces.

One of the greatest stage and screen actors of our time, Isabelle Huppert delivers a spellbinding solo performance as Mary Queen of Scots. Directed and designed by the late Robert Wilson, a towering figure in avant-garde theatre, this production bears all the hallmarks of his creative genius.

Written by novelist Darryl Pinckney, with a score by celebrated composer Ludovico Einaudi, the work plunges us into the psyche of Mary Stuart – a woman involved in some of the most notorious plots of her time, and a woman exiled, isolated and misunderstood.

Rich in the symbolism and imagery that earned Robert Wilson the title of “the world's foremost vanguard theatre artist,” this work is unforgettable – a propulsive exploration of identity and power.

“A performance of rarified virtuosity...It is a marvel to behold.” *The New York Times*

“The Huppert-Wilson duo, undeniable perfection.” *Le Figaro*

Fri 6 Mar – Sun 8 Mar | 1hr 30mins, no interval
Festival Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre |  

Adult from \$119, Friends from \$101,
Conc from \$95, U40* \$40, Student* from \$40
Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68. *Limited availability.

Performed in French with English surtitles.

Note: Recommended for audiences 14+. Contains a sudden loud noise. Latecomers will not be admitted.

Generously supported by Margo Hill-Smith and Sam Hill-Smith

Image credit: Lucie Jansch





Image credit: Ruth Walz

OPERA / USA

Perle Noire: Meditations for Joséphine

**Peter Sellars / Julia Bullock / Tyshawn Sorey /
International Contemporary Ensemble**

Australian Premiere / Australian Exclusive

Experience the brilliance of soprano Julia Bullock in a work that shines a light on the life and legacy of Joséphine Baker – artist, activist and icon of resistance who left the racially segregated United States in the 1920s and rose to unprecedented global celebrity in the music halls of Paris and beyond.

Directed by lauded opera director (and former Adelaide Festival Artistic Director) Peter Sellars, this genre-defying performance blends opera, jazz, spirituals and the elegance and raunch of early 20th century French music hall into a powerfully emotional song cycle, with spoken interludes by the poet Claudia Rankine.

Baker's iconic songs are re-imagined by Tyshawn Sorey, the Pulitzer award-winning composer who fuses improvisational jazz and classical forms to create a work that reaches beyond the commercial limitations of Joséphine's professional lifetime, inviting her to live again in the full scope of her historical and contemporary meaning, heartbreak and glory.

Julia Bullock's performance reincarnates Joséphine Baker, inviting this extraordinary Black woman at last to claim and command the full range of her astonishing powers.

"One of the most important works of art yet to emerge from the era of Black Lives Matter"
New York Times

Sun 1 Mar – Wed 4 Mar | 1hr 50mins, no interval | Her Majesty's Theatre | 

Adult from \$119, Friends from \$101, Conc from \$95, U40* \$40, Student from \$60
Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68. *Limited availability.

Performed in English and French with English surtitles.

Note: Recommended for audiences 12+. Contains nudity, sexual references and references to racial violence and abuse. Latecomers will not be admitted.

Original production: Dutch National Opera, Amsterdam

Perle Noire is generously supported by the Adelaide Festival Opera Donor Circle.

Theatre of Dreams

Hofesh Shechter Company

Australian Premiere / Australian Exclusive

One of the most in demand choreographers in the world, Hofesh Shechter returns to Adelaide following the seismic impact of *Grand Finale* in 2019.

Twelve dancers move through portals of darkness and imagination, they tumble into a rabbit hole of evolving emotions and dreams. A hedonistic paradise where there is always more curtains, always more music, always more life.

Set to Hofesh Shechter's own trademark cinematic composition, *Theatre of Dreams* takes a plunge into the subconscious exposing the fears and desires that elate us.

Astonishingly beautiful. Constantly inventive. Utterly engaging.

"The dance dazzles, defined by razor-sharp gestures, a contagious energy and the irresistible beauty which characterises Shechter's work." *Le Figaro*

Fri 13 Mar – Sun 15 Mar | 1hr 30mins, no interval
Festival Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre | 

Adult from \$109, Friends from \$93, Conc from \$87,
U40* \$40, Student from \$55

Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68. *Limited availability.

Note: Recommended for audiences 13+. Contains intermittent loud music and nudity. Utilises theatrical haze and black out. Latecomers will not be admitted.

Image credit: Tom Visser

MUSIC & OPERA / FRANCE

Ensemble Pygmalion

Raphaël Pichon

Presenting Partner THE AUSTRALIAN*

Image credit: © Fred Mortagne

Australian Premiere / Australian Exclusive

In an Adelaide Festival exclusive, France's acclaimed Ensemble Pygmalion makes its long-awaited Australian debut. Now celebrating its 20th year, the choir and orchestra, led by visionary founder Raphaël Pichon, embark on a thrilling residency of three programs over six concerts. Critically renowned for their unmatched command of Baroque repertoire, Pygmalion performances are an extraordinary blend of energy and excellence.

"A revelation... Pygmalion is a thoroughbred amongst ensembles" *Opera Today*

Bach: Good Night World

Experience the emotional power of JS Bach's choral genius in this Adelaide Festival exclusive. Framed by music born of the Thirty Years' War, this program explores how composers sought beauty and consolation amid political and spiritual upheaval. It features what was perhaps Bach's first cantata, alongside his most ambitious and inspiring motet, in the hands of the finest Baroque performers of today.

Fri 27 Feb – Sat 28 Feb | 1hr 35mins, no interval | Adelaide Town Hall | 

Adult from \$119, Friends from \$101, Conc from \$95, U40* \$40, Student* from \$40
Transaction fees apply. *Limited availability.

Performed in German, translations provided.

Monteverdi's Vespers

Step into the splendour and pageantry of Venice's golden age at the dawn of Italian Baroque. For two extraordinary nights, Pygmalion conjures the majesty of Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610* – a work of astonishing grandeur and opulent sound. Sacred music tradition meets operatic drama in a spatialised performance of the *Vespers* within the soaring acoustic of St Peter's Cathedral.

Mon 2 Mar – Tue 3 Mar | 1hr 50mins, no interval | St Peter's Cathedral | 

Adult \$119, Friends \$101, Conc \$95, U40* \$40, Student* \$40
Transaction fees apply. *Limited availability.

Performed in Latin, translations provided.

Generously supported by Friends of South Australian Arts a sub-fund of Australian Communities Foundation (supported by Foundation SA).

Orfeo by Luigi Rossi

The myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, of love lost and death defied, has captivated imaginations for millennia. Italian composer Luigi Rossi was commissioned to write the first-ever opera for the French court while in exile in Paris, and the result, his *Orfeo*, is a poignant blend of tragedy and comedy, rich in Baroque invention. Lost for centuries, rediscover this forgotten masterpiece in this Australian premiere, brought to life with tenderness and passion in a concert staging.

Wed 4 Mar & Fri 6 Mar | 2hrs 40mins, incl. interval | Adelaide Town Hall | 

Adult from \$129, Friends from \$110, Conc from \$103, U40* \$40, Student* from \$40
Transaction fees apply. *Limited availability.

Performed in Italian with English surtitles.

Generously supported by the Adelaide Festival Opera Donor Circle.





THEATRE / GERMANY

History of Violence

Édouard Louis / Thomas Ostermeier / Schaubühne Berlin

Australian Premiere / Australian Exclusive

One of the world's most provocative and influential directors, Thomas Ostermeier (*Qui a tué mon père* [Who killed my father], 2024 and *Richard III*, 2017) returns to Adelaide Festival with a searing production of Édouard Louis' autobiographical novel.

At 4am in the Place de la République in Paris, while returning home from a Christmas dinner, Édouard meets Reda, a charming and seductive stranger in the street. They get talking, start to flirt and soon Édouard is taking him back to his apartment.

Through the fractured recall of Édouard, his sister, the police and doctors, *History of Violence* reconstructs this desire-filled encounter, turned violent.

A layered retelling that is both devastating and funny, *History of Violence* explores race, queerness and rage unbridled, until all that remains is a nuanced, closely guarded memory.

"Shocking and compelling... the performances are meticulous." *The Daily Beast*

Fri 27 Feb – Mon 2 Mar | 2hrs, no interval
Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide Festival Centre |



Adult from \$109, Friends from \$93, Conc from \$87, U40* \$40, Student from \$55

Transaction fees apply. *Limited availability.

Performed in German with English subtitles.

Note: Recommended for audiences 17+. Contains nudity, smoking on stage, sexual content and simulated sexual violence. Latecomers will not be admitted.

Principal Donor - Hill Warner Foundation

Coproduction with Théâtre de la Ville Paris, Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles and St. Ann's Warehouse Brooklyn. Supported by LOTTO-Stiftung Berlin.

Image credit: Arno Declair



Gatz

Elevator Repair Service

Australian Exclusive

One morning in the office of a mysterious small business, an employee finds a copy of *The Great Gatsby* in the clutter of his desk. He starts to read it out loud and can't stop. Before long, the entire novel is unfolding around him, word for word, as his coworkers get swept into the story.

Created by the acclaimed American theatre company Elevator Repair Service, this eight-hour theatrical feat (yes, there are breaks!) brings to life Fitzgerald's entire masterpiece including all his iconic characters, in the most unexpected setting.

Hailed as "astonishing" and "mesmerising", *Gatz* breathes fresh resonance into this classic in a theatrical and literary marathon like no other.

Don't miss your chance to witness the beloved *Gatz*, which has been wowing critics and filling theatres around the world since its triumphant premiere. This is landmark contemporary theatre by one of America's most daring companies.

"The most remarkable achievement in theatre not only of this year but also of this decade."

The New York Times

Fri 13 Mar – Sun 15 Mar | 8hrs 30mins, incl. two 20min intervals and a 90min dinner break
Her Majesty's Theatre | 
Refer to website for full schedule.

Adult from \$159, Friends from \$135,
Conc from \$127, U40* \$40, Student from \$80
Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68. *Limited availability.

Note: Contains strong language, smoking on stage, sexual references and depictions of violence.
Utilises a gun shot sound effect.

Image credit: Mark Barton

Works and Days

Toneelhuis | FC Bergman

Australian Premiere / Australian Exclusive

This remarkable theatrical event from Belgium's FC Bergman (*The Sheep Song*, 2023) unfolds like a living painting, its pastoral imagery evoking the rhythms and battles of nature and the arc of human progress.

Inspired by the ancient Greek poet Hesiod's original verse *Works and Days*, eight highly physical performers embody the rituals of toil, tradition and transformation, without a single word spoken.

FC Bergman plough up the stage itself, dismantling the very ground beneath them to exhume a future. A steam engine descends to become a fiery altar, and the new age of AI stalks the perimeter.

An array of breathtaking images to an ecstatic live music score, *Works and Days* is a physical poem that speaks to collective strength, the complexities of change and the uncontrollable force of nature.

★★★★★ "Remarkable" *The Herald UK*

Thu 5 Mar – Sun 8 Mar | 1hr 30mins, no interval
Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide Festival Centre |  

Adult from \$99, Friends from \$84, Conc from \$80,
U40* \$40, Student from \$50

Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68. *Limited availability.

Note: Contains nudity, smoking on stage, sexual references and depictions of violence and blood.

Generously supported by the Adelaide Festival Contemporary.

Image credit: Kurt Van de Elst





POV

re:group performance collective

A kid with a camera. Two adults. No rehearsal.

Bub is 11-years old and obsessed with documentary filmmaking. In the aftermath of her family breakdown, Bub turns to dramatised re-enactments to get to the truth.

Each night two new unrehearsed actors play the parents, while the tweenager Bub directs the action.

These brave (or foolhardy) performers discover the story on the night, negotiating disarming questions about parenting, agency, mental health and how we speak to children.

This experiment in onstage filmmaking from NSW based performance collective re:group is as playful as it is poignant. Can these two adults really answer the tough questions of a child?

"It's tremendous fun, exhilarating, and emotionally powerful" *The Guardian*

Wed 4 Mar – Sun 8 Mar | 1hr 10mins, no interval
Space Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre | 

Adult \$69, Friends \$59, Conc \$55, U40* \$40,
Student \$40

Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68. *Limited availability.

Note: Contains strong language, references to mental illness and themes of suicide. Utilises flashing lights and loud sound levels.

Image credit: Taylah Chapman

THEATRE / AUSTRALIA

Whitefella Yella Tree

Dylan Van Den Berg / Griffin Theatre Company

A powerful story of first love in a dangerous world.

Under a lemon tree in the early 19th century, two teenage boys – Ty of the River Mob and Neddy of the Mountain Mob – meet, sparking a fragile friendship that blossoms into a heady romance.

As the English loom and the land is poised to be declared 'Australia', their love unfolds against a backdrop of seismic change.

Written by acclaimed Palawa playwright Dylan Van Den Berg and directed by Declan Greene and Amy Sole, this Griffin Theatre Company production features Pertame and Tiwi actor Joseph Althouse alongside Barrd, Yamatji, Noongar, Bunuba and Ngadju actor Danny Howard.

A moving depiction of young queer love, *Whitefella Yella Tree* is "subtle, clever and straight to the heart" (*ArtsHub*).

Thu 12 Mar – Sun 15 Mar | 1hr 30mins, no interval
Space Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre | 

Adult \$69, Friends \$59, Conc \$55, U40* \$40, Student \$40
Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68. *Limited availability.

Note: Recommended for audiences 16+. Contains sexual references and depictions of violence. Utilises theatrical smoke and haze and loud sound levels.



Guy Simon and Callan Purcell from the original 2022 production. Image credit: Brett Boardman

THEATRE / AUSTRALIA

Mama Does Derby

Windmill Production Company / Clare Watson / Virginia Gay



World Premiere Season

Renowned for its original work for young audiences and families, Windmill brings us a hilarious and heartfelt mother-daughter tale that smashes up against the rough and radical world of roller derby. Real players. A live band. Take a seat, trackside.

At 16, Billie is stuck. The pressure of growing up and holding it all together is weighing on her. To make matters worse, she and her mum have moved to a regional town and need to make their own fun. It's always been just the two of them. Them against the world. Now, Mum's not responding to this 'being still' business. She's spiralling through her own rebellion, until she finds her freedom... in skates and sweaty elbow pads.

Co-created by Clare Watson and Virginia Gay, *Mama Does Derby* is a story for all ages about stacking it and getting back up.

Featuring athletes from Adelaide Roller Derby League, this is theatre that hits different.

"Windmill has built a reputation for artistically adventurous and emotionally complex shows for young and family audiences." *Sydney Morning Herald*

Fri 27 Feb – Sun 8 Mar | 1hr 30mins, no interval
Adelaide Entertainment Centre Theatre |

Preview

Adult \$49, Friends \$42, Conc \$35, U40* \$35,
Student \$35, Child* \$25, Family of 4 \$120

Season

Adult \$59, Friends \$50, Conc \$47, U40* \$40,
Student \$40, Child* \$30, Family of 4 \$160

Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68. *Limited availability.
*Ages 17 and under

Note: Recommended for audiences 12+. Contains strong language, references to violence, sexual content and mental health. Includes theatrical smoke, haze, strobe effects, live music and loud noise.

Presenting
Partner



Major
Festivals
Initiative



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia its principal arts investment and advisory body and the Major Festivals Initiative, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc., commissioned by Adelaide Festival, Brisbane Festival and Sydney Festival.

Image credit: Bri Hammond

A Concise Compendium of Wonder

Slingsby

World Premiere

Three new Australian stories, inspired by classic fairytales, intertwine to form an unforgettable triptych. Experience each story individually or immerse yourself in an epic journey through the complete compendium – all bound in one bespoke wooden building that continually evolves to reveal imaginative new worlds.

The Childhood of the World

By Jennifer Mills / Inspired by the Brothers Grimm's *Hansel and Gretel*

Siblings Ré and Crann are taken from their father under the guise of apprenticeships. But as they are carted away, they suspect a darker destiny. Their escape finds them lost in a forest that holds both danger and possibility. Only by learning to read the wisdom found in their natural surroundings will they survive a perilous journey home.

The Giant's Garden

By Ursula Dubosarsky / Inspired by Oscar Wilde's *The Selfish Giant*

While rowdy children climb in the branches of a huge tree, Ida tends her quiet corner of nature with her friend, Quill the snail. The children scatter when a giant claims the tree as their own, separating Ida from Quill. As perpetual winter sets in, the children are horrified to hear the giant preparing to destroy the tree. Amid the sorrow, one small, courageous voice may hold the power to change their fate.

The Tree of Light

By Ceridwen Dovey / Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Match Girl*

It is the last day of the year 3099. The leader of the Moonfolk – an elder at the age of 12 – asks you to pause your ceaseless survival work to join her in the giant, hollow trunk of the last remaining tree on the Moon. She invites you to do something unthinkable – something that your ancestors, the Earthkind, once had the luxury to do: listen to a story that might lead you on the long journey home.



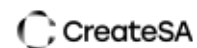
Image credit: Alex Frayne

Wed 18 Feb – Sun 15 Mar | 1hr, no interval (single show) / 6hrs 30mins total, incl. breaks (triptych cycle)
The Wandering Hall of Possibility, Plane Tree Lawn, Adelaide Botanic Garden

Single show tickets: Adult \$55, Friends \$52, Conc \$30, U30 \$35, Student \$30, Child \$30, Family of 4 \$166
Discounts apply for multiple show bookings. See website for details. Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68.

Recommended triptych order: *The Childhood of the World* / *The Giant's Garden* / *The Tree of Light*

Note: Recommended for audiences 8+. Utilises theatrical smoke and haze, loud sound, laser lights and strong scents. Latecomers will not be admitted.



Slingsby is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts funding and advisory body.

Supported by Slingsby's Commissioning Circle.

DANCE / AUSTRALIA

The Chronicles

Stephanie Lake Company

From the womb to the tomb.

Pulsing with energy and sensuality, Stephanie Lake's latest dance creation, *The Chronicles* explores the cycles of life and inevitability of change. Twelve of the country's top contemporary dancers meet a masterful electro-acoustic score by Robin Fox, which blends driving rhythms with the ethereal sounds of Young Adelaide Voices youth choir and baritone Oliver Mann singing live on stage.

The Chronicles begins with the tiniest embryonic movement, through to explosive, pulsating life-force, and back to the final quiet.

Stephanie Lake's choreography, and her signature blend of virtuosic dynamism, navigates these cycles with tenderness and power. From the company that brought us *Manifesto* (2022) and *MASS MOVEMENT* (2025), *The Chronicles* is their newest dance epic.

Thu 12 Mar – Sun 15 Mar | 1hr 10mins, no interval
Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide Festival Centre |   

Adult from \$79, Friends from \$67, Conc from \$64,
U40* \$40, Student from \$40

Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68. *Limited availability.

Note: Utilises theatrical haze, loud and dynamic soundtrack and flashing lights. Latecomers will not be admitted.



Image credit: Neil Bennett



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Major Festivals Initiative, managed by Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc., commissioned by RISING, Sydney Festival, Brisbane Festival and Adelaide Festival.

DANCE / CHINA

Re-shaping Identity

GuoGuoHuiHui

Australian Premiere / Australian Exclusive

Re-shaping Identity is the latest work by the dynamic Chinese dance duo GuoGuoHuiHui.

Five charismatic dancers from different ethnic backgrounds – including Tibetan, Yao, Uyghur and Han – strut on stage to share the traditional dances that have shaped their identities. But as a thumping electronic beat consumes the theatre, they collectively transform their traditional dances into contemporary expressions of liberation and living in the present.

The lives of these performers are transforming, as are the dances they carry within their bodies.

In this Australian premiere, experience artists who are at the forefront of the next wave of choreographic ideas shaping contemporary dance in China.

Sat 28 Feb – Mon 2 Mar | 1hr 10mins, no interval
Space Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre | 

Adult \$79, Friends \$67, Conc \$64, U40* \$40, Student \$40
Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68. *Limited availability.

Performed in Mandarin with English surtitles.

Image credit: Shenzhen Fringe Festival



DANCE / AUSTRALIA

Faraway

Australian Dance Theatre

World Premiere

Australian Dance Theatre has invited lauded choreographer Jenni Large to create a freaky fairy tale-infused fantasia in the world premiere of *Faraway*.

Revelling in physical extremes that have seen dancers wade through water atop eight-inch heels, Large is one of Australia's most daring and singular choreographic voices. In this sinuous new work, the darkness of our collective dreams unfurls around the audience as they enter a nostalgic delusion that is grim, glam, scintillating and sensual.

Creatures slither from a billowing terrain tempting us as they tear apart our need for escapism, story and solace, *Faraway* is a menacing reverie about the shadows we must all evade. A floral and fetishistic exorcism for the darkness that lurks around us.

In *Faraway*, the remarkable artists of Australian Dance Theatre will guide you through a fantastical journey of the familiar – taking you to a far-off place that's closer than you think.

Wed 25 Feb – Sun 1 Mar | 1hr, no interval
The Odeon, Norwood | 

Adult \$59, Friends \$50, Conc \$46, U40 \$36,
Student \$31, Mob \$26

Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68.

Note: Recommended for audiences 15+.
Contains nudity, sexual references and adult themes. Utilises theatrical smoke and haze, strobe effects and loud sound levels. Latecomers will not be admitted.

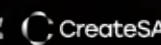


Image credit: Jonathan VDK

The Tiger Lillies

Serenade from the Sewer

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

Inspired by the seedy underbelly of London's Soho district in the 1980s, *Serenade from the Sewer* is a melancholic yet ironic reflection of life on the margins of society; a grotesquely beautiful tale framed by the band's signature fusion of chanson, dark cabaret and operatic punk.

Described by *The Guardian* as "a provocative mix of anarchic opera and gypsy street theatre," and by *The New York Times* as "one of the most unique and subversive acts in contemporary performance," expect songs from their brand-new album alongside favourites from The Tiger Lillies long and illustrious career.

Thu 5 Mar – Fri 6 Mar | 1hr 30mins, no interval
Her Majesty's Theatre | 

Adult from \$99, Friends from \$84, Conc from \$80,
U40* \$40, Student from \$50

Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68.*Limited availability.

Note: Recommended for audiences 16+.
Contains adult themes and strong language.

Image credit: Andrey Kezzyn



Tyshawn Sorey

Alone

Mon 2 Mar, 7:30pm | 1hr, no interval | Her Majesty's Theatre | 

Adult from \$89, Friends from \$76, Conc from \$72, U40* \$40, Student from \$45

Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68.*Limited availability.

Note: Latecomers will not be admitted.

Australian Premiere / Australian Exclusive

Tyshawn Sorey is a remarkable figure in contemporary music – an acclaimed composer and multi-instrumentalist and one of the most in-demand drummers amongst the titans of the jazz scene. Collaborating with icons like John Zorn, Bill Frisell, Joe Lovano and Vijay Iyer, Sorey stands at the vanguard of the contemporary classical world.

Winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Music for his composition *Adagio (For Wadada Leo Smith)*, Sorey's music draws from a wide range of musical idioms, crossing boundaries of genre, composition and improvisation. Appearing at Adelaide Festival as composer and musical director for *Perle Noire*, Sorey will perform in solo piano mode for a one-night-only performance at Her Majesty's Theatre. This is a rare moment of musical intimacy – an extraordinary artist, a piano, and the promise of a transcendent experience.

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC / VARIOUS

Tryp

Enter the broad church of progressive, contemporary music: an opening weekend program envisioned as a sacred triptych. Three locations, three movements in sound, three stations of passage. A procession of noise and light, invocation and communion, reflection and ecstatic release, for the curious and the daring.



Image credit: Boris & Merzbow

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Tryp I

**BORIS & MERZBOW
PRESENT DRONEVIL (JPN) /
TAKKAK TAKKAK (JPN & IDN) /
JANNAH QUILL X HOUSE
OF VNHOLY (AUS)**

Opening with a chthonic rumble, plunge headfirst into a monumental wall of sound at Hindley Street Music Hall. As darkness falls, the frayed edges of noise, metal and avant-audiovisual art will coalesce for an evening of ritual and sonic transgression, headlined by the seismic collision of two cult icons of Japanese noise and metal, Boris and Merzbow, in a world premiere Australian exclusive.

Fri 27 Feb, 8pm | 4hrs | Hindley Street Music Hall

\$79

Transaction fees apply.

Note: Contains theatrical smoke and haze, loud sound levels, strobing and high intensity lights.

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Image: DJ Haram. Credit: Wendy Timana

Tryp II

**DJ HARAM (USA) / SOVBLKPSSY (AUS) /
SKORPION KING X MR. JOHN (AUS)**

Descend into the murky depths for a kick-on of leftfield bass, diasporic rhythms and hyper-distorted club bangers. Led by iconoclasts from the global underground dance scene, expect an entrancing movement through eclectic samples, chaotic soundscapes and post-club euphoria. Hyperdub's 'anti format audio propagandist' DJ Haram takes the helm, alongside Ngarrindjeri DJ SOVBLKPSSY and local dubstep evangelists SKORPION KING x Mr. John. Dim the lights and succumb to the witching hours under the streets of Adelaide.

Fri 27 Feb, 10:30pm | 5hrs | Divide

\$39

Transaction fees apply.

Note: Contains strobe lighting, theatrical smoke and haze and loud sound levels.

Tryp III

**JAMES K (USA) / ALEKSI PERÄLÄ (FI) /
LYRA PRAMUK (USA) / DJ /RUPTURE (USA) /
MARYAM RAHMANI (IR) / D-GRADE (AUS) /
WILSON TANNER (AUS) / ROMI (AUS)**

Kaleidoscopic sounds to illuminate the summers' night. A new day invites us back to our earthly selves, completing Tryp with a restorative blend of deep listening, heavenly hymnals, IDM and mystic folksong on the banks of Karrawirra Parri. Drift through hazy afternoon ambience into the evening's ecstatic electronica; from the wine-soaked sounds of Wilson Tanner, to the idiosyncratic polyrhythms and cascading melodies of cult legend Aleksi Perälä, to James K's downtempo dream pop. A festival tonic for the thinkers, the dreamers and the groovers.

Sat 28 Feb, 3pm | 10hrs | Cloisters, Adelaide University, Victoria Drive, Adjacent Unibar

\$59

Transaction fees apply.

Note: Contains theatrical smoke and haze and loud sound levels.



Image: James K. Credit: Sam Clarke

El Niño: Nativity Reconsidered

Music John Adams / Libretto compilation Peter Sellars /
Musical selections Julia Bullock / Musical arrangement
Christian Reif



Australian Exclusive

The soaring oratorio *El Niño* by John Adams, one of the leading composers of his generation, had its Australian premiere at the 2002 Adelaide Festival in a landmark production directed by Peter Sellars.

El Niño: Nativity Reconsidered is a new chamber adaptation of this monumental work, devised by Grammy Award-winning singer Julia Bullock. Hailed as "intimate, affecting and quietly rich with activism" (*The New York Times*), this distilled rendering centres the maternal voice within what has historically been delivered as a patriarchal narrative.

Arranged by Christian Reif, with a cross-cultural libretto compiled by Peter Sellars, the voices of women and Latin American poets come to the fore, exploring the tension between new life and the reality of suffering and sacrifice.

Julia Bullock, Soprano
Margaret Plummer, Mezzo-Soprano
Austin Haynes, Countertenor
David Greco, Baritone

Adelaide Symphony Orchestra
Christian Reif, Conductor

Adelaide Chamber Singers
Christie Anderson, Artistic Director

Thu 12 Mar, 7:30pm | 1hr 5mins, no interval
Adelaide Town Hall | 

Adult from \$119, Friends from \$101,
Conc from \$95, U40* \$40, Student from \$60
Transaction fees apply. *Limited availability.

Performed in English and Spanish with English surtitles.

Note: Recommended for audiences 12+.
Contains references to violence. Latecomers will not be admitted.

Image credit: Maria Baranova

MUSIC / UK

Anthony Marwood



Australian Exclusive

Anthony Marwood has captivated audiences across the world with his "boundless energy, intellectual curiosity and creative wizardry" (*BBC Music Magazine*). His list of collaborators, from composer Thomas Adès to the Boston Symphony and London Philharmonic orchestras, speaks of his irresistible draw as an artist.

Marwood is no stranger to Adelaide and enjoys enduring partnerships with both the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and UKARIA. In this special artist-in-residence matinee series at Elder Hall, we have the rare opportunity to witness his craft as a chamber musician, concerto soloist and recitalist across three exquisite and enthralling days.

Mon 2 Mar – Wed 4 Mar | 1hr, no interval
Elder Hall, Adelaide University | 

Adult \$69, Friends \$59, Conc \$55,
U40* \$40, Student \$40

Transaction fees apply. Schools pricing – see page 68.
*Limited availability.

Shadow & Light with Adelaide Symphony Orchestra

Experience Anthony Marwood in full flight with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. The beloved *The Lark Ascending* by Ralph Vaughan Williams – one of Marwood's signature works – closes a performance that starts with Shostakovich's enthralling String Quartet No.2 arranged for strings. An elusive and enigmatic piece, it has at its heart a ghostly waltz, which gives way to an ending of heart-stopping virtuosity.

Mon 2 Mar, 12:30pm

Breath & Bow with Adelaide Symphony Orchestra

Anthony Marwood performs in intimate dialogue with a small ensemble from the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. Beethoven's Septet has been hugely popular from the moment it was written (so much so that the composer came to begrudge its existence). It represents the height of classical elegance, combined with the invention and wit of Beethoven in his prime. The concert begins with Henri Tomasi's *Fanfare liturgiques*, a curtain-raiser for brass and percussion.

Tue 3 Mar, 12:30pm

Marwood & Mustonen Anthony Marwood with Olli Mustonen

For the first time ever together, we are proud to present Anthony Marwood and Olli Mustonen in an exclusive duo performance that marks the culmination of their individual Adelaide Festival residencies. Though long-time admirers of one another's artistry, incredibly they have never shared the stage, until now. This final concert showcases their extraordinary talents as soloists before they come together for Shostakovich's mysterious Sonata for Violin and Piano.

Wed 4 Mar, 12:30pm

Image credit: Walter Van Dyck

The Beethoven Sonatas

Olli Mustonen

Australian Exclusive

Helsinki-born Olli Mustonen, revered as a leading pianist of this generation, lives an extraordinary triple life as pianist, conductor and composer and has wowed audiences from Wigmore to Carnegie Hall for decades.

In this Adelaide Festival exclusive, Mustonen draws on a lifelong connection with Beethoven's music to perform 13 of his sublime Piano Sonatas in an intimate, weekend-long cycle at UKARIA. Beethoven's Sonatas rank alongside Shakespeare's Sonnets or Bach's Cantatas as showcases of their creators' artistic genius and personal windows into their character. This is a rare opportunity to immerse yourself in Beethoven's brilliance in the hands of one of the most in-demand concert pianists of today.

Sat 28 Feb – Sun 1 Mar | UKARIA Cultural Centre, Mount Barker Summit | 

Adult \$89, Friends \$76, Conc \$72, U40* \$40, Student \$45

Transaction fees apply. *Limited availability.

Lunch at UKARIA: Bookings are essential for all meals, and must be pre-booked at ukaria.com. Lunch bookings close seven days before the date of the concert.

Appassionata

Mustonen's Beethoven cycle opens with the composer's very earliest sonatas, youthful works full of wit and invention. The concert closes with the famed *Appassionata*, a work of staggering technical demands written as Beethoven grappled with his hearing loss.

Sat 28 Feb, 11am | 1hr 50mins, incl. interval

Les Adieux

The second concert in Mustonen's Beethoven cycle centres on three consecutive sonatas written in a period of intense creativity, culminating in the famed *Les Adieux*, and preceded in the first half by two elegant early works.

Sat 28 Feb, 2:30pm | 1hr 40mins, incl. interval

Moonlight

The final concert features the beloved *Moonlight* sonata and the profound Op. 110 – Beethoven's penultimate sonata, written in ill health and filled with transcendent beauty.

Sun 1 Mar, 2:30pm | 1hr 40mins, incl. interval

Principal Donor - Ulrike Klein AO

Image credit: Outi Törmälä





MUSIC / ITALY & AUSTRALIA

Sergej Krylov with Konstantin Shamray

Sun 15 Mar, 2:30pm | 2hrs, incl. interval | UKARIA Cultural Centre, Mount Barker Summit |

Book tickets at ukaria.com Adult \$75, Friends \$70, Conc \$70, U40* \$40
Transaction fees apply. *Limited availability.

Lunch at UKARIA: Bookings are essential for all meals, and must be pre-booked at ukaria.com. Lunch bookings close seven days before the date of the concert.

Image credits: © Sergej Krylov / Laura Manariti

Pairing effortless lyricism with intense virtuosity, Italian-based violinist Sergej Krylov captures the brilliance of his instrument's extremities. Greatly influenced by cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, with whom he regularly shared a stage as a young violinist, Krylov's nuanced artistry has seen him perform with many of the world's great orchestras, as well as holding the role of Music Director of the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra.

Krylov is joined by Konstantin Shamray at UKARIA for a recital of exquisite French repertoire. Camille Saint-Saëns' *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso* and Ravel's *Tzigane* are bookended by two evergreen sonatas. Ravel's Violin Sonata No. 2 embodies the increasingly cosmopolitan milieu of France in the 1920s, while Franck's Violin Sonata in A, a wedding gift to Eugène Ysaÿe, promises to illuminate Krylov and Shamray's sensitivity and fire.

This concert is proudly presented by UKARIA.



MUSIC / AUSTRALIA

Alma's World

Alma Moodie Quartet with Konstantin Shamray & Robert Nairn

Sat 7 Mar, 2:30pm | 2hrs, incl. interval | UKARIA Cultural Centre, Mount Barker Summit |

Adult \$79, Friends \$67, Conc \$64, U40* \$40, Student \$40
Transaction fees apply. *Limited availability.

Lunch at UKARIA: Bookings are essential for all meals, and must be pre-booked at ukaria.com. Lunch bookings close seven days before the date of the concert.

Image credit: Jay Patel

Australian Exclusive

Alma Moodie, born in 1898 in regional Queensland, was one of the pre-eminent violin soloists in Europe during the early 20th century. Helping to bring this remarkable Australian virtuosa out of the historical shadow, the Alma Moodie Quartet shares the dedication to music, both popular and neglected, that their namesake championed.

Joined by pianist Konstantin Shamray and Robert Nairn on double bass, the Quartet presents a program exploring composers that she inspired and was influenced by – Reger, Stravinsky, Bartók and Brahms – alongside a work by living composer Olli Mustonen to celebrate Alma's dedication to contemporary music.

Principal Donor – Ulrike Klein AO

MUSIC

WOMADelaide

The World's Festival

One ticket to a world of discovery, WOMADelaide transforms Botanic Park / Tainmuntilla over four extraordinary days and glorious nights of music, arts and dance. Featuring more than 700 artists from over 30 countries, the 2026 lineup embraces everything from Balkans brass and Latin American cumbia to classical Indian ensembles and Japanese hip hop.

Around The Park, explore countless other worlds off stage through stunning performance installations, Taste the World cooking sessions, KidZone's fun activities for children, global cuisine, interactive artist workshops and in-depth conversations about the environment in The Planet Talks.

Since 1992, WOMADelaide has been a truly unique part of the Australian festival landscape, showcasing the best, the essential and the surprising. A joyous celebration of the power of culture and community, it is an unmissable weekend celebration for all ages.

For full line-up and bookings, visit womadelaide.com.au.

"WOMAD remains an experience that's as educational as it is spirit-enriching." *Double J*

Fri 6 Mar – Mon 9 Mar | Botanic Park / Tainmuntilla, Plane Tree Drive

4 Days \$475*, 3 Days \$ 450*, Fri \$180*, Sat or Sun or Mon \$240* Transaction fees apply.

*Festival Friends are entitled to concession-priced tickets. Concession and youth discount apply on all ticket types. Final Release ticket prices listed above. Purchase earlier to save on First or Final Release tickets. All children aged 3-12 years must be ticketed in advance. Each accompanying adult can obtain up to two complimentary children's tickets, provided they are booked within the same transaction as the accompanying adult ticket purchase. Additional children's tickets can be purchased for \$30 for a festival ticket or \$10 for a single day.

Produced and presented by the WOMADelaide Foundation. Managed by Arts Projects Australia and WOMAD Ltd. Presented in association with the Government of South Australia and the Hackett Foundation.

Image credit: Saige Prime



MUSIC / UK & AUSTRALIA

Brodsky Quartet with William Barton

Music history takes sonic form in this extraordinary pairing of master yidaki artist William Barton with the legendary Brodsky Quartet.

Tracing an arc through time and across cultures, this performance showcases a profound musical dialogue between traditions, where First Nations wisdom converses with the rich textures of European chamber music.

The program is a feast of storytelling; Andrew Ford's *Eden Ablaze* written during the bushfires of 2019 and Peter Sculthorpe's *Jabiru Dreaming* sit alongside Janáček's confessional *Intimate Letters*, selections from Purcell and Stravinsky, and Barton's own compositions.

Britain's Brodsky Quartet are phenomenal collaborators with a 50-year legacy and Barton is Australia's most celebrated yidaki virtuoso. Together this performance exquisitely evolves the idea of what a string quartet can become.

Sat 28 Feb, 7pm | 2hrs, incl. interval | Elder Hall, Adelaide University |

Adult \$89, Friends \$76, Conc \$72, U40* \$40, Student \$45

Transaction fees apply. *Limited availability.



Image credits: Keith Saunders / Sarah Cresswell

Yield Strength

2026 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art
Art Gallery of South Australia

World Premiere

Yield Strength reveals how materials, selfhood and society are tested – and transformed – under pressure. Twenty-four artists push their mediums to build visual complexity or contort them to convey the curious side of existence. The exhibition fosters intimacy through layered viewing experiences across the Art Gallery of South Australia, Samstag Museum of Art and Adelaide Botanic Garden.

The 2026 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art features new works by Robert Andrew, Nathan Beard, Lauren Burrow, Francis Carmody, Mark Maurangi Carrol, Milminyina Dhamarrandji, Matthew Teapot Djipurrjtjun, George Egerton-Warburton, Prudence Flint, Brian Fuata, d harding, Matthew Harris, Helen Johnson, Kirtika Kain, Jennifer Mathews, Archie Moore, Josina Pumani, Julie Nangala Robertson, Erika Scott, Joel Sherwood Spring, Charlie Sofo, John Spiteri, Isadora Vaughan and Emmaline Zanelli.

The Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art remains the pre-eminent and longest-standing survey of contemporary Australian art. As a vital component of Adelaide Festival since 1990, the 19th Adelaide Biennial builds on its reputation and commitment to supporting and celebrating innovative and ambitious visual art practices.

Fri 27 Feb – Mon 8 Jun | Art Gallery of South Australia,

Samstag Museum of Art and Adelaide Botanic Garden | 

See calendar for times.

FREE

Presented in association with the Adelaide Festival, with generous support received from the Art Gallery of South Australia Biennial Ambassadors Program and Principal Donor The Balnaves Foundation. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body and by the Visual Art, Craft and Design Framework, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.



Image: Brian Fuata, born Aotearoa New Zealand 1978, *Errantucation (mist opportunities)*, 2021 / Performance improvisations commissioned for 'The 10th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art' (APT10). QAGOMA, Brisbane, 2021. © the artist courtesy of artist and Sumer; photo: C Callistemon, QAGOMA





Image credit: Sandra Saunders, Ngarrindjeri/Boandik people, South Australia, born Millicent, South Australia 1947 Nature's Justice, 2025, Port Lincoln, South Australia oil on hardboard, 130x 75cm. Photography by Nat Rogers.



VISUAL ARTS / AUSTRALIA

Kumarangk

Temeika Campbell, Zemiah Campbell, Carly Tarkari Dodd, Tiarnie Edwards, Debra Rankine, Elizabeth Rankine, Sonya Rankine, Bessie Rigney, Stephanie Russell, Sandra Saunders, Betty Sumner, Margi Sumner and Ellen Trevorrow

Sat 21 Feb – Sat 4 Apr | Tue – Sat, 11am–4pm
ACE Gallery | | **FREE**

Note: This exhibition contains images of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and other Indigenous Peoples who have passed.

'Kumarangk' is supported by the South Australian government through Create SA; Country Arts SA; and Adelaide Contemporary Experimental (ACE). This project is presented and supported by Adelaide Festival with the assistance of Commissioning Program donors. This project is also presented as part of Tarnanthi. The publication is supported by the Gordon Darling Foundation.

World Premiere

Kumarangk is an intergenerational love letter for Ngarrindjeri women – an exhibition that explores the resistance to colonial destruction and the survival of culture.

The *Kumarangk* exhibition is headlined by a commission for artist and activist Sandra Saunders. Through a series of paintings and wireworks, Saunders retells the story and tribulations of the building of the bridge to Kumarangk – colonially known as Hindmarsh Island.

The exhibition features major new works by prominent Ngarrindjeri weavers Auntie Betty Sumner; Auntie Ellen Trevorrow, working with the multidisciplinary art collective Mardawi (Elizabeth Rankine, Margi Sumner, Temeika Campbell, Bessie Rigney, Zemiah Campbell, Debra Rankine and Stephanie Russell); Sonya Rankine; Carly Tarkari Dodd; and early career ceramicist Tiarnie Edwards.

VISUAL ARTS / AUSTRALIA

Manifest Destiny

**Alex Frayne
with Capital Waste
and Donnie Sloan**

Presented by ILA | Immersive Light and Art

Sat 28 Feb – Sun 15 Mar | ILA, 63 Light Square |
See calendar for opening hours.

All tickets \$30

For session times and tickets visit immersivelightandart.com.au
Schools ticket price \$20, for further information email schools@immersivelightandart.com.au

World Premiere

South Australian artists Alex Frayne and Capital Waste bring the streets, people and stories of America to life in a gallery exhibition and immersive experience that blends the physical and the digital. Alex Frayne's photographs have captured the world's dualities and life's starkly contrasting threads of joy and sorrow.

Now, he has turned his lens on America in an epic photographic study interrogating the West, Deep South and Bible Belt of a nation in crisis. In *Manifest Destiny*, Frayne's large-scale 2D analogue photographs explore American culture accompanied and transformed as moving images by renowned video artist and cinematographer Capital Waste.

Completing the experience is an ambient soundtrack by artist Donnie Sloan (USA) of the famed hit-making electro-pop group *Empire of the Sun*. The work will span the 100sqm of LED screens in ILA's immersive studio.

WW ADELAIDE WRITERS' WEEK

28 FEB – 5 MAR

KAURNA COUNTRY

Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden •
The Drill Hall • Adelaide Town Hall •
Bonython Hall • Her Majesty's Theatre

Entry to the Garden is **FREE**
Donations are encouraged.

KEEP AWW FREE. Please support
Australia's only free literary festival by
donating daily through the **QR codes** and
tap & go facilities in the gardens, on our
website or in our **2026 brochure**.

**The full FREE Writers' Week daily
program will be revealed in early 2026.**

JUST SOME OF THE WRITERS JOINING US FOR AWW 2026

Randa Abdel-Fattah • Christiane Amanpour
• Evelyn Araluen • Jacinda Ardern • Robbie
Arnott • Joe Aston • Shokoofeh Azar • Maxine
Beneba Clarke • Matt Bevan • Ariel Bogle •
James Bradley • Mark Brandi • Bryan Brown
• Natasha Brown • Tina Brown • Nick Bryant •
Katherine Bucknell • Jane Caro • Bob Carr •
Rachel Cockerell • Jonathan Coe • Adam
Courtenay • Annabel Crabb • Paul Daley •
Blanche d'Alpuget • Trent Dalton • Najwan
Darwish • Michelle de Kretser • Brigid Delaney
• Richard Denniss • Andrew Denton • Frank
Dikötter • Ian Dunt • Mariana Enriquez • Percival
Everett • Hannah Ferguson • Sarah Ferguson •
Richard Fidler • Cordelia Fine • Peter FitzSimons
• Chris Flynn • Jonathan Freedland • Helen
Garner • M Gessen • Adam Gopnik • Madeleine
Gray • A.C. Grayling • Peter Greste • Sam Guthrie
• Kate Halfpenny • Chris Hammer • Jane Harper
• Virginia Haussegger • Tracey Lee Holmes •
Chloe Hooper • Andy Jackson • Molly Jong-Fast
• Toni Jordan • Sarah Kanowski • Hannah Kent •
Jackie Kent • Julian Kingma • Sarah Krasnostein
• Laila Lalami • Vincenzo Latronico • Bri Lee •
Carol Lefevre • Cheng Lei • Jill Lepore • Natasha
Lester • Kathy Lette • Michael Lewis • Emily
Lighezzolo • Melissa Lucashenko • Emily Maitlis
• Jacqueline Maley • David Marr • Angie Faye
Martin • Mark Mazower • Eoin McNamee • Hilary
McPhee • Louise Milligan • Jennifer Mills • Drusilla
Modjeska • Lucy Nelson • Roisin O'Donnell • Sonia
Orchard • Nikos Papastergiadis • Rachel Perkins •
Georgia Rose Phillips • Helen Pitt • Amy Remeikis
• Henry Reynolds • Lance Richardson • Derek
Rielly • Heather Rose • Nicolas Rothwell • Hallie
Rubenhold • Micaela Sahhar • Toby Schmitz •
Greg Sheridan • David Speers • Heather Taylor
Johnson • Madeleine Thien • Martin Thomas
• Jennifer Trevelyan • Helen Trinca • Vanessa
Turnbull-Roberts • Yanis Varoufakis • Michael
Veitch • Francesca Wade • Tasma Walton •
Chelsea Watego • Marian Wilkinson • Cameron
Wilson • Simon Winchester • Claire Wright •
Susan Wyndham • Grace Yee • Nell Zink



Image credit: Eddie Jim

The Republic of Reading

Curating a celebration of reading and writing has been my privilege since 2023. I am often asked how the theme of AWW is established. In truth, creating a theme that captures the zeitgeist and represents a hugely diverse range of writers, subject matter and genres is an imprecise science. One ends up groping for generalities, for ideas so broad as to suit all comers.

The advent of AI and a plethora of filters now customise and limit our access to views that only accord with our own. Yet while we live with the illusion that we have agency, that we are the authors of our own stories, how much agency do we really have as hapless citizens? At a time when audiences are more divided than ever, what we can do, collectively and individually, is look to experts, to those who think deeply. Their creative imaginations can alert us to new ways of contemplating ourselves, our relationships and the world we inhabit.

So many books are published in Australia every year that the choices for AWW are exciting and bewildering in equal measure. We endeavour to offer you, our always generous, open-minded and open-hearted audience, the opportunity to encounter much-loved literary luminaries. But the books they write take time – it can be years between masterpieces. However, one of the many joys of a free festival set in glorious gardens is the chance to meet new writers.

Many years ago, I went to an event with the Canadian writer Carol Shields who, much to my embarrassment, I had not read. The discussion of her then new novel *The Stone Diaries* was enchanting and led me straight to the book tent and the purchase of her entire back catalogue. It was a chance encounter that enriched me immeasurably.

The emerging writers joining us have passed the rigorous process of persuading sceptical and selective publishers to support them. They tell us they like to come to AWW because it's an opportunity to connect with their audiences, or indeed to find an audience – it's a chance to talk about their work, to share their process, the challenges of the craft.

So I want to encourage you to be curious, to sample unfamiliar writers, debut novelists, experts on subjects on which you are inexperienced! Listen to the writers you do not know as well as securing a hard-won seat at the sessions overflowing because Helen Garner or Rachel Perkins or Trent Dalton or David Marr are on stage.

Welcome to the Republic of Reading.

Louise Adler AM, Director



The AWW Great Debate

The nation's finest wits, wordsmiths and pun-meisters gather for Writers' Week's annual Great Debate. This year, captains **Annabel Crabb** and **David Marr** have assembled two terrifyingly clever teams, which include **Kathy Lette**, **Ian Dunt**, **Toby Schmitz** and **Amy Remeikis**, to argue their take on: "You can never be too rich." John Wells will endeavour to maintain order.

Her Majesty's Theatre | Fri 27 Feb, 7:30pm | 1hr 15mins | Adult from \$49, Friends from \$42, Conc from \$39, U40 \$40, Student from \$39

Transaction fees apply.

Presented in partnership with Sydney Writers' Festival

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL



Poetry Day on the Green

Join us at the North Stage for a day of conversations, readings and inspiration from leading contemporary poets as they explore the world in ways that only poetry can. We'll be hearing about land, history, myth, the body, and survival both personal and political. From scorching words against injustice through to the quietly lyrical and meditative and experiments in language searching for new ways to express the human condition, we'll hear what poetry has to offer in these challenging times.

Curated by Mike Ladd.

North Stage, Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden | Sat 28 Feb, from 10:45am | FREE



Jill Lepore Talks with Nick Bryant

Jill Lepore's day job is as a professor of American history at Harvard University, and she's also a staff writer for *The New Yorker*. When Trump won the 2016 election, Lepore had a ringside seat among his campaign managers: "No-one said a word about the US or its government or the common good. Sitting in that room, watching, was like being a pig at a butcher's convention. There was much talk about the latest technology in knives and the best and tastiest cuts of meat but no-one pretended to bear any love for the pig." Has the butchers' convention reconvened? **Nick Bryant** finds out.

The Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground | Sat 28 Feb, 12pm | 1hr | \$44

Transaction fees apply.

Note: Jill Lepore will join via live stream from The United States.



Michael Lewis Talks with Joe Aston

Michael Lewis has been described as "a moralist who has dedicated his career to an exploration of pragmatism". *Moneyball*, *The Big Short* and *Going Infinite* are just some of his bestselling books, about winning at baseball, the barbarians at the financial gate, and Mr Cryptocurrency himself, Sam Bankman-Fried. Lewis speaks to **Joe Aston** about his latest project, *Who Is Government?*, which couldn't be more timely as President Trump dismantles America's long-cherished idea of itself as a democracy.

The Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground | Sat 28 Feb, 2:30pm | 1hr | \$44

Transaction fees apply.

Note: Michael Lewis will join via live stream from The United States.



Mushrooms, Money, Murder and Marriage

Helen Garner, **Chloe Hooper** and **Sarah Krasnostein** joined the media scrum at the Latrobe Valley Law Courts in Morwell, stayed overnight in the town, and spent countless hours in fervent conversation about their impressions inside the courtroom – an odyssey that resulted in *The Mushroom Tapes*. In league with the co-host of ABC's *Conversations*, **Richard Fidler**, the three renowned writers explore the gap between the certainties of law and the messiness of reality, their own ambivalence about the true crime genre, and all that remains unknowable about Erin Patterson.

Adelaide Town Hall | Sat 28 Feb, 7:30pm | 1hr | Adult from \$49, Friends from \$42, Conc from \$39, U40 \$40, Student from \$39

Transaction fees apply.



Young Readers' Day

Step into a world of imagination, curiosity, and adventure this Young Readers' Day – a celebration designed to spark a love of reading in children. Enjoy a fantastic all-Australian line-up featuring interactive storytelling and creative play with Story Trove and Nature Play SA.

Whether your child dreams of faraway lands or loves diving into tales close to home, Young Readers' Day is the perfect place to turn pages.

Torrens Tent, Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden | Sun 1 Mar, 9:30am – 3pm | FREE

Secondary Schools Day

Calling all teachers! Bring your class to Secondary Schools Day!

Students will hear from some of Australia's most inspiring authors, poets, and literary voices – all dedicated to encouraging a new generation of passionate readers and writers.

Sessions are available for secondary schools only, years 7-12.

East and West Stages, Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden | Fri 27 Feb, 11am – 2pm | See page 69 for ticket pricing and booking information

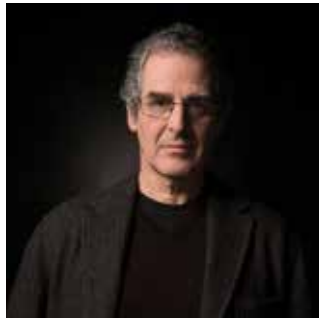


The Australia Institute

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 2026 to bring the big ideas and bold thinking that are needed to create a braver Australia for all. Discussing climate, economics, 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 for another year.

West Stage, Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden | Sun 1 Mar from 9:30am | FREE



What Do We Mean When We Talk about Antisemitism?

Routinely described as an "ancient hatred", the term 'antisemitism' was coined in late-19th-century Europe when assimilating Jews were deemed a threat to ethno-nationalism. Renowned 20th-century historian **Mark Mazower** argues that in the aftermath of October 7, "no-one wanted to be called an antisemite, and yet if you believed the pundits, antisemites were everywhere, and it sounded like Manhattan was Berlin on the eve of Kristallnacht". He explains why the term antisemitism has become a weapon. A conversation with **Jonathan Freedland** moderated by Radio National's presenter of *God Forbid*, **James Carleton**.

The Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground | Sun 1 Mar, 12pm | 1hr | \$44

Transaction fees apply.

Note: Mark Mazower will join via live stream from The United States.



Tina Brown Talks with Sarah Ferguson

A "transatlantic media diva" is how **Tina Brown** describes herself, but it doesn't adequately sum up this remarkable woman. Brown, the author of *The Diana Chronicles*, *The Vanity Fair Diaries* and *The Palace Papers*, has also spent four decades at the helm of many highly influential publications, including *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *Tatler* and *The Daily Beast* website. The diva will explain to **Sarah Ferguson** why the media matters and why keeping a diary is a good idea.

Adelaide Town Hall | Sun 1 Mar, 12pm | 1hr | Adult from \$49, Friends from \$42, Conc from \$39, U40 \$40, Student from \$39

Transaction fees apply.

Note: Tina Brown will join via live stream from The United States.



The Internet Is Responsible for Everything That Has Gone Wrong

Join **Sarah Kanowski**, **Richard Fidler** and a gaggle of gifted writers as they do their very best to destroy the internet. In the 1990s, the internet was going to introduce a golden age of freedom and democracy. It would pull down autocracies, empower creative people and beam light into the darkness of corrupt institutions. Instead, the internet has destroyed much of journalism, enthroned populist demagogues, and throttled the livelihoods of musicians and writers. It's brought about a self-service world where everyone must be their own travel agent and accountant, and where Zoom has made it impossible to dodge meetings. For this, and for so many other sins, The Internet Must Die.

Adelaide Town Hall | Sun 1 Mar, 3:30pm | 1hr | \$44

Transaction fees apply.



Did You Sleep Well in Your Warm Bed Last Night?

Nesting is the bestselling debut novel by Irish writer **Roisín O'Donnell**. In the endnote to the novel, O'Donnell reminds us that 4000 Irish children sleep in emergency accommodation every night – in Australia, over 30,000 women and children were homeless last year. O'Donnell shares with **Rachel Doyle** SC the process of writing about coercive control and penniless women with children and nowhere to sleep.

The Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground | Sun 1 Mar, 5pm | 1hr | \$44

Transaction fees apply.

Note: Roisín O'Donnell will join via live stream from Ireland



Christiane Amanpour Talks with Sarah Ferguson

CNN's chief international anchor, **Christiane Amanpour**, is one of the world's most famous and awarded broadcasters and frontline reporters. Her mantra is that journalism must be truthful, not neutral. There has not been a leader of importance over recent decades that Amanpour has not interviewed, from the Dalai Lama to Hillary Clinton, Ratko Mladić, Mohammad Khatami and Angela Merkel. She somehow finds time to present *The Ex Files* podcast with ex-husband James Rubin. Join her in conversation with 7.30's **Sarah Ferguson**.

Adelaide Town Hall | Sun 1 Mar, 7:30pm | 1hr | Adult from \$49, Friends from \$42, Conc from \$39, U40 \$40, Student from \$39

Transaction fees apply.

Note: Christiane Amanpour will join via live stream from England.



Mob Club

It's no secret that Blakfellas can tell a story, we've been doing so for over 60,000 years, but it's only now that the Australian literature scene is finally catching up. This special line up is not just a celebration of First Nations literature and books, but also a powerful strong representation of First Nations women, who are unwavering in their pursuit to be heard, to contribute to the wider conversation. Through the mediums of essay, fiction and memoir, these incredible First Nations writers will provoke deep thought and challenge your understanding of Blackness. This is an invitation to join a succession of First Nations panels, back to back, uninterrupted.

Curated by Dominic Guerrera.

North Stage, Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden | Mon 2 Mar, from 10:45am | FREE



Insiders with David Speers

For nearly 25 years, *Insiders* has been unmissable television for political tragics and anyone else wanting to stay up to date with what's going down in parliament. Host **David Speers** and a panel of Australia's sharpest journalistic minds return to Adelaide Writers' Week to dissect the latest political developments and the agenda-setting Speers interview of the week. They will be joined by **Mike Bowers**, who will present a unique live version of *Talking Pictures*.

West Stage, Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden | Mon 3 Mar, 6:30pm | 1hr 30mins | FREE



Why Words Matter

M Gessen, one of the world's most influential intellectuals and a convicted criminal in absentia according to Vladimir Putin, reflects on the uses and abuses of language in Kyiv, Mar-a-Lago and Gaza. Marshall McLuhan in the 1960s coined the phrase "the medium is the message". In conversation with **Tony Jones**, M Gessen explores how Trump, Putin, and Netanyahu have exploited the proliferation of platforms, ignored the evidence and played with the polity's susceptibility to fear.

Adelaide Town Hall | Mon 2 Mar, 7:30pm | 1hr | Adult from \$49, Friends from \$42, Conc from \$39, U40 \$30, Student from \$25

Transaction fees apply.



Jacinda Ardern Talks with Sarah Ferguson

Who can forget the authenticity of the moment when New Zealand's 40th prime minister hugged a traumatised witness to the Christchurch massacre? In that instant, **Rt. Hon. Dame Jacinda Ardern** became a symbol of a different kind of leadership – empathetic, and genuine. She describes herself as conscientious, anxious, never confident she was good enough for the job she accepted out of a "grinding sense of responsibility". Even her resignation in 2023 was surprisingly honest: she just didn't have "enough in the tank" to fight another election. A conversation about women and power.

Bonython Hall, Adelaide University | Tue 3 Mar, 6pm | 1hr | Adult \$59, Friends \$50, Conc \$47, U40 \$40, Student \$40

Transaction fees apply.



A Sweaty Prince, a Public Broadcaster and the Price of Truth

Who can forget the moment Prince Andrew broke into a sweat while being interviewed by **Emily Maitlis**? As one critic observed, "Don't confuse Emily Maitlis with Andrew Neil. He grills, she incinerates." Maitlis the prince slayer is an internationally renowned journalist and co-presenter of *The News Agents* podcast, and author of *Airhead: The Imperfect Art of Making News*. She joins the ABC's *If You're Listening* podcast host **Matt Bevan** to explain why journalism is such a fraught business these days.

Bonython Hall, Adelaide University | Wed 4 Mar, 7:30pm | 1hr | Adult \$59, Friends \$50, Conc \$47, U40 \$40, Student \$40

Transaction fees apply.



A Living National Treasure: Trent Dalton

Join us to celebrate the remarkable career of **Trent Dalton**, one of Australia's most beloved chroniclers of our time. In conversation with **Julia Baird**, Trent explores the experience of becoming a bestselling writer, from his semi-autobiographical first novel *Boy Swallows Universe* to his latest, *Gravity Let Me Go*.

Adelaide Town Hall | Thu 5 Mar, 7:30pm | 1hr | Adult from \$59, Friends from \$50, Conc from \$47, U40 \$40, Student \$40

Transaction fees apply.



The AWW Book Club

Join us for the inaugural Writers' Week Book Club, hosted by ABC broadcaster and *The Book Show* producer **Sarah L'Estrange** daily from 5pm to 6pm. Each afternoon you'll enjoy intimate conversations with brilliant writers, with exclusive access to the AWW Green Room and the 'support' of good wine and cheese. There will be a limit of 20 participants each day to ensure everyone has a chance to contribute. Book now so you don't miss out.

Sat 28 Feb: Kathy Lette
Sun 1 Mar: Rachel Perkins and Henry Reynolds with David Marr
Mon 2 Mar: Robbie Arnott
Tue 3 Mar: Heather Rose
Wed 4 Mar: Chris Hammer
Thu 5 Mar: Amy Remeikis

AWW Green Room, Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden | Sat 28 Feb to Thu 5 Mar, 5pm daily | 1hr | \$100

Transaction fees apply.



The Morning After The Night Before

Get the inside scoop on what's good – and what's even better – in the Adelaide Festival program. Join **Tom Wright** in conversation with Writers' Week alumni as they review the shows they saw yesterday, ones you can still catch today. Bring your diary, a pencil and eraser as you might want to rearrange your schedule.

North Stage, Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden | Sat 28 Feb – Thu 5 Mar, 9:30am daily | FREE



Breakfast with Papers

Begin your Writers' Week day with food for thought. Yes, that perennial favourite 'Breakfast with Papers' 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. The ABC's **Jonathan Green** and Guardian Australia's **Tory Shepherd** will be your hosts.

West Stage, Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden | Sat 28 Feb – Thu 5 Mar, 8am daily | FREE

Presenting Partner **The Advertiser**
Sunday Mail
We're for you



AF Talks

Hosted by Tom Wright

Want to dig a bit deeper? Intrigued to hear from the people who made the work you have seen? Keen to get yourself ready for what you're about to see? Just interested in the conversation that a great festival generates?

Adelaide Festival has a long history, not just of art, but of public sessions where everything's mulled over and discussed – 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, and some reflections on the fascinating ways the shows, exhibitions and events speak to each other.

FREE

Visit adelaidefestival.com.au for the full AF Talks schedule

Youth & Education

Experiencing world class performances and exhibitions provides students and teachers a conduit for sharing creative conversations and engaging in critical debates on big ideas and global issues as well as motivating their creative practice. This allows them to develop as active and interrogative theatre-goers and cultural critics, all stimulated by the exciting works in the program.

Thanks to the generous philanthropic support of the Nunn Dimos Foundation and the Foscett Foundation, the commitment to discounted prices for students will continue for 2026 along with the delivery of Teacher Guides for selected performances.

\$20 per student / \$15 per student for Equity (Category 1 - 4 DfE & CE schools). Student ticket price for Gatz is \$40

Transaction fees apply.



SHOW	GRADE	PAGE
Theatre		
The Cherry Orchard	Yr 11 – 12	6
Mary Said What She Said *	Yr 10 – 12	8
Works and Days *	Yr 10 – 12	20
Gatz	Yr 12	18
POV *	Yr 9 – 12	22
Whitefella Yella Tree *	Yr 11 – 12	24
Mama Does Derby	Yr 7 – 12	26
A Concise Compendium of Wonder	Yr 4 – 12	28
Dance		
Theatre of Dreams	Yr 9 – 12	12
The Chronicles	Yr 9 – 12	30
Faraway	Yr 9 – 12	34
Re-shaping Identity*	Yr 9 – 12	32
Music		
Perle Noire	Yr 11 – 12	10
The Tiger Lillies	Yr 12	36
Tyshawn Sorey: Alone	Yr 11 – 12	38
Anthony Marwood	Yr 9–12	46

TEACHER GUIDES

Shows marked with an * will include teacher guides with curriculum links (ACARA / SACE / IB) and will be available for download from the Adelaide Festival website at the end of January.

The following shows have teacher guides available via the producing companies:

Australian Dance Theatre's **Faraway**
adrianne@adt.org.au

Slingsby's **A Concise Compendium of Wonder**
education@slingsby.net.au

Windmill's **Mama Does Derby**
sarah.pledge@windmill.org.au

Special Events

LITERACY

Adelaide Writers' Week Secondary Schools Day (see page 61)

Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden
schoolbookings@adelaidefestival.com.au

\$15 per student / \$12 per student for Equity (Category 1-4 DfE & CE schools)
\$12.50 per student / \$10 per student Equity (Category 1-4 DfE & CE schools) for multiple sessions

VISUAL ART

Yield Strength: The 2026 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art

Art Gallery of South Australia
agsa.sa.gov/education/resources-educators
education@artgallery.sa.com.au
FREE. Bookings required

Kumarangk

ACE Gallery
admin@adegallery.art
FREE. Bookings required

Manifest Destiny

ILA (Immersive Light & Art)
schools@immersivelightandart.com.au
\$20, bookings required

Funded Opportunities

FESTIVAL CONNECT

This covers the cost of transport to a Festival performance for Category 1-4 DfE and CE schools.

In addition, there will be a limited number of \$5 tickets across a selection of Festival events for socio-economically disadvantaged schools.

The James and Diana Ramsay Foundation and Adelaide Festival benefactors generously support these inclusive equity programs.

For expressions of interest to be considered for either the transport or \$5 ticket funding opportunity, contact Julie Orchard:
jorchard@adelaidefestival.com.au

MASTERCLASSES FOR TERTIARY STUDENTS / PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS

Thanks to the generous support of the Helpmann Academy, we can deliver a program of masterclasses and hands-on workshops for professional dancers, actors, musicians and tertiary students of dance, theatre and music with world-class artists from the Festival program.

Full schedule available from January on the Adelaide Festival website and the Helpmann Academy website:
helpmannacademy.com.au/masterclasses

Youth & Education Program Partners



Masterclasses for tertiary students / professional artists are delivered with thanks to the Helpmann Academy.

Access

At Adelaide Festival, we believe everyone has the right to have access to quality arts and entertainment.

For the dates and times of Auslan interpreted, audio described, relaxed performances and sensory tours, please visit adelaidefestival.com.au or download our Access Guide.

The Adelaide Festival Access Guide, including detailed accessibility information, access prices and more, is available at adelaidefestival.com.au/access

The 2026 Festival program is also available in the following formats:

- **Online at adelaidefestival.com.au**
- **Via the 'Accessibility' button on the Adelaide Festival website. This widget has a range of features that can be customised to different accessibility profiles.**
- **Via audio versions of every event (on request)**

To request the Access Guide, any of these additional program types, further information on our access performances or for any queries, please email access@adelaidefestival.com.au or call +61 8 8216 4444

National Relay Service

Contact us through the NRS on 133 677 then +61 8 8216 4444 or via relayservice.com.au



Accessibility Symbols

The following symbols in the guide and on the website indicate the accessibility of each event.

	Wheelchair access
	Assistive Listening
	Auslan Interpreted
	Audio Description
	Touch Tour
	Relaxed Performance
	Quiet Space
	Sensory Pack Available
	Assistance Animals Welcome
	High Sensory
	Low Sensory
	Partly surtitled or includes dialogue, background music and/or sounds
	Fully surtitled or minimal dialogue. Some background music and/or sounds
	No music or dialogue

Companion Card

Adelaide Festival is a proud member of the Companion Card initiative which enables eligible patrons who require attendant care support to participate in Adelaide Festival shows without incurring the cost of a second ticket for their companion.



Open House

From world-class theatre to thrilling dance, incredible music and unmissable opera, Adelaide Festival is committed to being equitable and inclusive. We believe that engaging with the arts can have a deep and meaningful impact on people's lives.

Our Open House program supports individuals and charitable organisations to experience the arts at Adelaide Festival and aims to make these experiences more accessible to everyone.

Tix For Next To Nix

Adelaide Festival is offering limited tickets across a selection of Festival events at just \$5 each to not-for-profit organisations, charities and patrons who have a current Pension Card or Health Care Card. (Please note: the Commonwealth Senior Health and Seniors cards are ineligible).

For more information or to register interest in Tix For Next To Nix, please visit adelaidefestival.com.au/open-house

Pay What You Can

Are you a low-income earner? If you have a current Health Care Card, Pension Card or full-time student card, you can access Pay What You Can tickets to a selection of Adelaide Festival shows. (Please note: the Commonwealth Senior Health and Seniors cards are ineligible). Tickets are available one hour before the performances. Dates and times will be confirmed on the Festival website from Fri 23 Jan.

Embracing sustainable practices in the arts

Adelaide Festival has a proud history of pioneering sustainability initiatives, including being the first Australian festival to achieve certified carbon neutrality. To create a positive collective impact, we invite you – our valued audience – to help us to reduce the Festival's ecological footprint. Here are some easy strategies:

- **Guide reuse:** After using this guide, please recycle it, repurpose it as wrapping or share it as a gift.
- **Eco-commute:** Opt to walk, bike, take public transport or coordinate transportation with other attendees.
- **Waste wise:** Use the venue's three-bin system for proper waste disposal.
- **Reusable essentials:** Pack a reusable tote bag, napkin and cutlery. This eliminates the need for single-use items and reduces waste.
- **Mindful consumption:** Minimise food waste by sharing or taking leftovers back home.
- **Leave no trace:** Keep the Festival sites clean by picking up after yourself. Dispose of rubbish and recyclables properly, even when not near designated bins.
- **Spread the word:** Share your commitment to sustainability on social media using #AdlFest and encourage friends to adopt ecofriendly practices at Adelaide Festival and in their daily lives.

Our Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge our community of generous donors who support our vision for Adelaide Festival and Adelaide Writers' Week. We thank all listed below who have committed early support for our 2026 Festival, as well as the many donors who have donated gifts of under \$500. Without you, we would not be as bold and brave, or as adventurous in our programming and delivery of each Festival – year after year. Thank you.

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Dion Stansbury
Thelma Taliangis
Jude Tolley
Anne Trengove & Peter Kovac
Tom Turnbull
Ruth Vagnarelli
Tracey Whiting AM & Michael Whiting
Philippa Wilson
Eli Zaikos-Ridley & Simon Ridley
Anonymous (9)

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We'd love your support! To donate, visit: adelaidefestival.com.au/support/donate

To discuss options for giving, please contact **Hannah Bone, Head of Philanthropy** on **(08) 8216 4478** or philanthropy@adelaidefestival.com.au

Correct at time of print. For updates, please visit adelaidefestival.com.au/support/our-supporters

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James Dodd,
Cold Chisel Lane, 2021.
Photo: Cath Leo.



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Baleen Moondjan, Adelaide Festival 2024. Image credit: NCET

Adelaide Festival excels thanks to a passionate community of donors who believe in the power of the arts to move, connect and inspire. Each year, their generosity helps bring to life a bold and breathtaking program – spanning every genre and featuring world-renowned artists, authors and creators from around the globe.

Philanthropy contributes over 10% of the Festival's annual income, making it essential to delivering a full program of unforgettable events. It also ensures the Festival remains accessible to all – supporting free public performances, equity initiatives, and opportunities for young people, including school-aged children, to experience the magic of the arts.

Foundation Adelaide Festival, a registered charity, raises vital funds to support the Festival's annual program and build an endowment that will safeguard its future for generations to come.

There are many meaningful ways to get involved:

- **Join a donor circle** and align your giving with your passion
- **Make a general donation** to support Adelaide Festival or Adelaide Writers' Week
- **Leave a legacy** by including Foundation Adelaide Festival in your will, helping to secure a vibrant future for artists and audiences alike

Every gift – large or small – helps make Adelaide Festival and Adelaide Writers' Week possible.

Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax-deductible.

Let's talk about giving.

Contact Hannah Bone, Head of Philanthropy, at **+61 (0) 8 8216 4478**
or **philanthropy@adelaidefestival.com.au**

Or donate now at: **adelaidefestival.com.au/support/donate**

Foundation Adelaide Festival Public Ancillary Fund is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under Subdivision 30-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. ABN 14 121 258 081

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To discuss how your organisation can partner with the Adelaide Festival, please contact our Business Development team on +61 (08) 8216 4444 or hello@adelaidefestival.com.au

Venues



- 1

Adelaide Contemporary Experimental (ACE)
Lion Arts Precinct, North Terrace
- 2

Adelaide Botanic Garden
Plane Tree Drive
- 3

ILA | Immersive Light and Art
63 Light Square
- 4

Adelaide Drill Hall
Torrens Parade Grounds
- 5

Adelaide Festival Centre
Festival Drive
 - Artspace
 - Dunstan Playhouse
 - Festival Theatre
 - Space Theatre
 - Festival Plaza
- 6

Adelaide Town Hall
128 King William Street
- 7

Art Gallery of South Australia
North Terrace
- 8

Bonython Hall
North Terrace
- 9

Botanic Park / Tainmuntilla
Plane Tree Drive
- 10

Cloisters
Adelaide University, Victoria Drive
Adjacent UniBar
- 11

Divide
149 Hindley Street
- 12

Elder Hall
North Terrace
- 13

Elder Park
King William Road
- 14

Her Majesty's Theatre
58 Grote Street
- 15

Hindley Street Music Hall
149 Hindley Street
- 16

Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden
King William Road
- 17

St Peter's Cathedral
27 King William Rd
- U

UPark Locations

Adelaide Festival would like to acknowledge the Kurna people and Peramangk people as the Traditional Owners of the land where our events are held, and we respect their continuing connection to Country.

OFF MAP VENUES

- Adelaide Entertainment Centre Theatre**
98 Port Road, Hindmarsh
- The Odeon**
57A Queen Street, Norwood
- UKARIA Cultural Centre**
119 Williams Road, Mount Barker Summit

Festival Planner

We put a lot of time into building the Adelaide Festival schedule to make sure you can make it to as many events as possible. You might notice that performance start times vary for many events, enabling you to fit more into your Festival season. This planner is your guide to the 2026 Adelaide Festival and we want you to see it all.

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Bookings

- Online**
Phone
- adelaidefestival.com.au
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Ticketek 131 246

FRIENDS

If you love to be first in line for the world's best theatre, dance, music, visual arts, literature and more, you'll love being a Friend of the Adelaide Festival. Exclusive benefits include 15% discount on adult ticket prices to select Adelaide Festival performances, phone booking service through Adelaide Festival (1300 393 404), access to the best seats in the house during the priority seating period, email updates with exclusive news, offers and giveaways all year round, and option to exchange tickets to another performance of the same event*.

A Friends membership costs \$195 and is valid until 30 June 2026. Visit adelaidefestival.com.au/friends to find out more.

*Terms and conditions apply.

ACCESS TICKETS

Please call 1300 393 404 to discuss access requirements at Adelaide Festival venues. Further information, including purchasing access tickets online, can be found at adelaidefestival.com.au/access

PAY WHAT YOU CAN

Pay What You Can tickets are made available for low income earners who cannot otherwise afford to attend a performance. See page 71 for more information.

DISCOUNTS AND PACKAGES

Concession

- Pensioner Concession Card holders
- Health Care Card holders (note the Commonwealth Senior Health and Seniors cards are ineligible)
- MEAA/Actors' Equity members

Proof of concession eligibility may be required upon entry to the venue.

U40 & Full-Time Students

Purchase discounted tickets to most Adelaide Festival events if you're a full-time student OR you're aged under 40. Tickets are limited. Proof of eligibility may be required upon entry to the venue.

School & Group Bookings

Book a group of 6+ and save 15% per ticket, booking directly online. For schools tickets and bookings, see page 68.

THE FINE PRINT

Adelaide Festival events may still be subject to changing COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. All attendees must be willing to comply with Government and venue-imposed health directives in place at the time of the event. For further information on COVID-19 conditions including our flexible ticketing policy, please visit adelaidefestival.com.au/about/terms-conditions

Ticket Prices

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

Fees & Charges

Ticket prices listed are inclusive of all ticketing fees and charges, however transaction fees will apply to most purchases. See website for details.

Ticket Resale

Only purchase tickets online through links on the official Adelaide Festival website (adelaidefestival.com.au). Tickets that are purchased through unauthorised resellers such as (but not limited to); Viagogo, Ticketmaster Resale, eBay, Gumtree and StubHub, may be fraudulent and entry to the venue is not guaranteed. Adelaide Festival is not responsible for honouring or refunding tickets purchased from unauthorised agents or resellers.

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 circumstance. 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/booking 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 (theatrical smoke, strobe lighting etc.). 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 (Oct 2025).

For full terms and conditions of sale, please visit adelaidefestival.com.au. Please note Adelaide Festival is required to sell tickets via other ticketing agents at certain venues, including but not limited to; Ticketek, Ticketmaster and Moshtix. Please note these ticketing agents may have separate terms and conditions of sale which patrons should familiarise themselves with before consenting to the purchase.

2026 Festival Planner

- THEATRE
- MUSIC
- DANCE
- VISUAL ART
- ADELAIDE WRITERS' WEEK
- FESTIVAL CLUB

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*Event season begins prior to Thu 26 Feb.
Visit website for full details.

The information in this planner is correct at time of printing (October 2025). Visit adelaidefestival.com.au for updates and further information.

		THU 26 FEB	FRI 27 FEB	SAT 28 FEB	SUN 1 MAR	MON 2 MAR	TUE 3 MAR	WED 4 MAR	THU 5 MAR	FRI 6 MAR	SAT 7 MAR	SUN 8 MAR	MON 9 MAR	TUE 10 MAR	WED 11 MAR	THU 12 MAR	FRI 13 MAR	SAT 14 MAR	SUN 15 MAR					
ADELAIDE FESTIVAL CENTRE	FESTIVAL THEATRE	THE CHERRY ORCHARD 6pm 7:30pm 2pm								MARY SAID WHAT SHE SAID 8pm 3pm & 8pm 2pm								THEATRE OF DREAMS 8pm 2pm						
	DUNSTAN PLAYHOUSE	HISTORY OF VIOLENCE 7pm 8pm 5pm 6:30pm								WORKS AND DAYS 7:30pm 5pm 3pm								THE CHRONICLES 8pm 7:30pm 2pm & 7:30pm 6pm						
	SPACE THEATRE	RE-SHAPING IDENTITY 6pm 11am & 7pm								POV 7pm 1pm & 7pm 7pm 6pm								WHITEFELLA YELLA TREE 7pm 11am & 7pm 5pm 1pm & 5:30pm						
	FESTIVAL PLAZA	FESTIVAL BAR: CODA 5pm – late																FESTIVAL BAR: CODA 5pm – late						
		FESTIVAL BAR: CODA 5pm – late																						
ADELAIDE FESTIVAL CENTRE	HER MAJESTY’S THEATRE	THE AWW GREAT DEBATE 7:30pm		PERLE NOIRE: MEDITATIONS FOR JOSÉPHINE 7:30pm	TYSHAWN SOREY: ALONE 7:30pm	PERLE NOIRE: MEDITATIONS FOR JOSÉPHINE 7:30pm	THE TIGER LILLIES: SERENADE FROM THE SEWER 8pm			GATZ 2pm														
	ELDER PARK	PULP 8:30pm Gates from 5pm																						
	UKARIA CULTURAL CENTRE			THE BEETHOVEN SONATAS Appassionata 11am Les Adieux 2:30pm		Moonlight 2:30pm						ALMA’S WORLD 2:30pm								SERGEJ KRYLOV WITH KONSTANTIN SHAMRAY 2:30pm				
	ST PETER’S CATHEDRAL	MONTEVERDI’S VESPERS 8pm																						
	ADELAIDE TOWN HALL				TINA BROWN TALKS WITH SARAH FERGUSON 12pm																			
				BACH: GOOD NIGHT WORLD 1pm	THE INTERNET IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING THAT HAS GONE WRONG 3:30pm																			
		BACH: GOOD NIGHT WORLD 7pm	MUSHROOMS, MONEY, MURDER AND MARRIAGE 7:30pm	CHRISTIANE AMANPOUR TALKS WITH SARAH FERGUSON 7:30pm	WHY WORDS MATTER 7:30pm		ORFEO BY LUIGI ROSSI 7pm	A LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE: TRENT DALTON 7:30pm	ORFEO BY LUIGI ROSSI 7pm						EL NIÑO: NATIVITY RECONSIDERED 7:30pm									
	ADELAIDE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE THEATRE	MAMA DOES DERBY 1pm & 7pm (Preview) 2pm (Preview) & 7pm 2pm & 5:30pm																						
	BONYTHON HALL						JACINDA ARDERN TALKS WITH SARAH FERGUSON 6pm	A SWEATY PRINCE, A PUBLIC BROADCASTER AND THE PRICE OF TRUTH 7:30pm																
	ELDER HALL			BRODSKY QUARTET WITH WILLIAM BARTON 7pm		SHADOW & LIGHT 12:30pm	BREATH & BOW 12:30pm	MARWOOD & MUSTONEN 12:30pm																
	HINDLEY STREET MUSIC HALL	TRYP I 8pm																						
	DIVIDE	TRYP II 10:30pm																						
	CLOISTERS – ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY	TRYP III 3pm																						
	THE ODEON	FARAWAY 7:30pm	11:30am & 6:30pm	7:30pm	12pm & 6pm																			
	ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN	*A CONCISE COMPENDIUM OF WONDER See website for times.																						
	BOTANIC PARK										WOMADELAIDE													
	PIONEER WOMEN’S MEMORIAL GARDEN	SECONDARY SCHOOLS DAY 11am – 2pm	BREAKFAST WITH PAPERS 8am ☀️ / THE AWW BOOK CLUB 5pm ADELAIDE WRITERS’ WEEK 9:30am – 6pm ☀️																					
	THE DRILL HALL – TORRENS PARADE GROUND			JILL LEPORE TALKS WITH NICK BRYANT 12pm	WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE TALK ABOUT ANTISEMITISM? 12pm																			
				MICHAEL LEWIS TALKS WITH JOE ASTON 2:30pm	DID YOU SLEEP WELL IN YOUR WARM BED LAST NIGHT? 5pm																			
	ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	2026 ADELAIDE BIENNIAL OF AUSTRALIAN ART 10am – 5pm ☀️																						
ILA IMMERSIVE LIGHT AND ART	MANIFEST DESTINY 11am – 8:30pm				11am-5pm				MANIFEST DESTINY 11am-5pm				11am – 8:30pm					MANIFEST DESTINY 11am-5pm			11am – 8:30pm		11am-5pm	
ADELAIDE CONTEMPORARY EXPERIMENTAL (ACE)	*KUMARANGK 11am – 4pm ☀️								KUMARANGK 11am – 4pm ☀️								KUMARANGK 11am – 4pm ☀️							

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