

Arts Centre Melbourne announces Midsumma Festival 2020 program



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, 21 NOVEMBER 2019 – [Arts Centre Melbourne](#) is thrilled to present a kaleidoscope of life-affirming performances and events as part of *Midsumma Festival 2020* in **January and February**. The diverse line-up will feature [The Rise and Fall of St. George](#), an electronic choral celebration of resilience and community, [Daddy](#), a delicious confection of dance and storytelling, [BOOBS](#), an inspiring tale of body autonomy and the [Midsumma Extravaganza](#), an ultra-glamorous gala returning for its third year. For the 2020 program Arts Centre Melbourne will also present two free events, [Escape Velocity](#), a vital film project made with transgender and gender non-conforming young people and a staged reading of [Flat-Earthers](#), an emerging musical comedy.

The 2020 season will be Arts Centre Melbourne’s seventh year presenting performances and events as part of the Midsumma Festival program.

“We are thrilled to present a series of diverse, honest and inspiring Australian works as part of the Midsumma Festival this year. These performances and one film project celebrate and sweat the multilayered lived experiences of LGBTQIA + people,” says **Arts Centre Melbourne Director of Programming Edwina Lunn**.

“Our Midsumma program is a carefully curated collection of voices and projects that both document queer history and explore new ideas.”

In [The Rise and Fall of St. George](#) (23 and 24 January) Australian music icon Paul Mac teams up with playwright Lachlan Philpott and director Kate Champion to tell a story of community solidarity and freedom through song and electronica. The work was inspired by a much-loved mural of George Michael in Sydney’s Inner West that was destroyed in a series of attacks the day after the YES result in the Marriage Equality campaign.

Award-winning cabaret artist, acclaimed musician and celebrated musical comedian Selina Jenkins tells the story of a life-changing decision in [BOOBS](#) (29 January – 1 February). Jenkins chose to have a voluntary double mastectomy, not as the result of illness but as a conscious decision about of her own body and self-image.

The all-star variety show of epic proportions [Midsumma Extravaganza](#) (1 February) will return to Arts Centre Melbourne for the third year with line-up like no other. Hosted by dazzling TV star Bob Downe and feel-good comedian Kirsty Webeck, they will be joined by Pangina Heals “The RuPaul of Thailand”, national stand-up superstar Tom Ballard,

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Melbourne cabaret icon Dolly Diamond and winner of the 2018 Adelaide Fringe Weekly Best Comedy Award Nath Valvo.

Wiradjuri artist Joel Bray use his trademark confection of conversation, dance and all-you-can-eat audience participation in his immersive work, [Daddy](#) (4 -8 February). Exploring themes such as connection to culture and a quest for love in the Grindr era, he probes one of the paradoxes of our age: when so much is on offer, why are we left so hungry? From the sugar-coated idyll of childhood reminiscence to the glazed excesses of queer adulthood, his story proves that a sweet tooth is a dangerous thing.

Within the 2020 Midsumma Festival season Arts Centre Melbourne will also present two works in The Channel, Arts Centre Melbourne's education hub.

St Martins in collaboration with Minus18 will present [Escape Velocity: We Are Who We Are](#) (8 February), a series of micro films produced by trans and gender non-conforming young people based in Melbourne. Presented in three phases over a year, Escape Velocity is a multi-disciplinary art project calling for society to build a collective momentum and become allies to trans and gender non-conforming young people.

The artists behind *Romeo is not the only Fruit* (Green Room Award Best Writing Nominee) and *Lou Wall's Drag Race*, (Melbourne Fringe Best Performance Nominee, Best Emerging Artist Winner) will give a staged reading of an excerpt of a brand new musical [Flat-Earthers: The Musical](#) (31 January). The work brings together the world's most iconic conspiracy theories in a brand new electropop musical comedy about how far we're willing to go in search of #truth.

Images can be found [here](#).

Midsumma at Arts Centre Melbourne

23 January – 8 February 2020

Bookings at artscentremelbourne.com.au or 1300 182 183

For more information about Arts Centre Melbourne visit artscentremelbourne.com.au or phone 1300 182 183. Become a fan of Arts Centre Melbourne on [facebook](#) or follow [@artscentremelb](#) on Instagram and Twitter.

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