

Pride Fest



QTOPIA
SYDNEY

1-30 June





Acknowledgement of Country

Qtopia Sydney warmly acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land, sea and waters on which we work, live and engage. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

We feel honoured to continue the rich history of storytelling that has been taking place on Country for generations.

30 days of **Pride**

A month of dazzling works and moving stories that celebrate the astounding talent of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Involving local, interstate and international artists, Pride Fest features the best of what our community has to offer. With a month full of cabaret, drag, theatre and more, whatever you're looking for this Pride season, there truly is a little something for everyone.

This June, start your nights with a pop of culture, indulging in the celebration of not just Queer stories, but also of the storytellers themselves.



Annie Boyle: Annie Are You Ok?

1 – 2 June | The Loading Dock

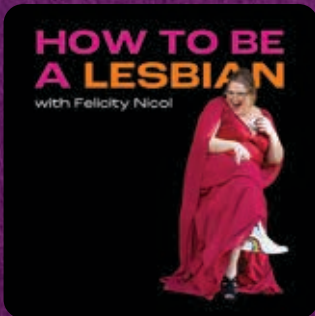
A one-woman show about grief, self-discovery, a cow named Madonna and Delta Goodrem. Condensed into a night out amidst the vibrant backdrop of Heaven, a gay club in London, the performance reminds that the impact of immense and painful loss can overwhelm us all at any time.



The Year I Watched My Mum Die

1 – 2 June | The Substation

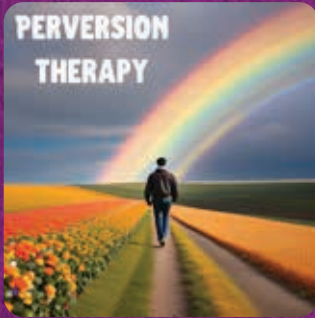
A hilarious and heartwarming story of a son giving up his life in London to come back to Australia to look after his dying mother. Written and performed by multi award winning LGBTQIA+ Cabaret Artist and Opera Singer Damien Noyce. It's cabaret, it's drag, it's a true story!



How to be a Lesbian

3 – 4 June | The Loading Dock

An armchair. A whiteboard. A lamp. Each night features different guests – each potentially containing the secrets of what it means to be “Lesbian”. How do they shop? Do they have facial hair? What do they eat? And of course – that age old question – how do they have sex? This is the professional development course you wish you had when you were young, dumb and thinking all Lesbians must have short hair.



Perversion Therapy

5 June | The Loading Dock

Embark on a candid journey with “Perversion Therapy”, Callum Sandercock’s cabaret confessional, where he bids farewell to the tumultuous world of gay dating. Set to the tune of songs you know and love from musical theatre, pop and more, you can expect uproarious laughter, tender tears, and jaw-dropping revelations as Callum lays bare the pitfalls of seeking love in all the wrong places.



Cherry

7 – 8 June | The Loading Dock

One fangirl’s love letter to her idol, Katy Perry! On a cloud of cotton candy, Cherry takes you on an intimate, bubblegum, pop journey from fangirl Sarah’s awkward teenager years, to discovering the power of Katy Perry’s music, to ultimately becoming a confident, bisexual woman, and on the way invites each one of us to embrace who we fully are.

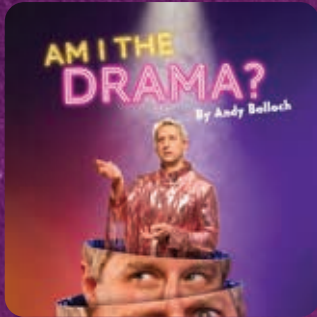


Burn it.

7 – 8 June | The Substation

Two queers. Camping. Post dramatic break-up. Do they engage in wholesome, healthy processing? Or drinking, denial and making fun of trauma?

“A show that is both incredibly uncomfortable at times and ridiculously funny” – Australian Stage



Am I the Drama?

9 – 10 June | The Loading Dock

Andy Balloch brings his multiple award winning, queer, absurd, solo sketch show to Qtopia Sydney for Pride Fest!

Journey through the mind & life of an unhinged homosexual, where you'll meet some truly borked characters, like: Clingy Nazis! Desperate real estate agents! Cassandra the Witch! ...and Harry from Love Island, who just wants to f*ck the pool jets. A wild ride that is "nothing short of a wonder" (Beat Magazine).



BIG DYKE ENERGY

11 – 13 June | The Loading Dock

Part stand-up, sketch show and exorcism, *BIG DYKE ENERGY* is a riotous journey about being your 'best queer self' in a culture intent on bringing out the worst in you.

Join acclaimed writer, performer and internet pest Hannah Malarski as she dives headfirst into the unique pressures faced by queer women. From the hilariously embarrassing tale of catfishing her ex to answering the burning question on everyone's mind: "how do Lesbians actually 'do it'?"



A Body at Work

12 – 14 June | The Loading Dock

Serial nudist, Frankie van Kan (aka Frankie Valentine) achieves the improbable task of exposing more of herself than ever before, in this deeply intimate piece of confessional theatre. Directed by Maude Davey, *A Body at Work* is the tale of a queer woman's sixteen years, and counting, in the sex industry.



NEPO BABY

14 – 15 June | The Loading Dock

She's (almost) a star in (almost) her own right. Join NEPO BABY as she finally takes her first steps into stardom out of her mother's shadow: it's *ALONE: CELEBRITY EDITION*. Is she prepared? No! Will she survive without constant validation? Also no! Will she descend into madness? Probably! NEPO BABY is a new play about the insular Australian media-entertainment landscape, our sense of cultural cringe, and the one thing that unites us all: mummy issues.



Personal Space

15 June | The Substation

Brigitta is like every woman in her mid-30s—perpetually tired, addicted to the high of a crisp Diet Coke, and shook that clothing she wore in 2003 is back in high rotation. Inspired by the Y2K renaissance, Brigitta has dusted off a distant relic: Her teenage diary. Join Brigitta as she takes audiences on a nostalgic trip through the pages of her personal space, blending dance, music, and drag into a heartfelt, somewhat cringe, electrifying, sapphic spectacle.

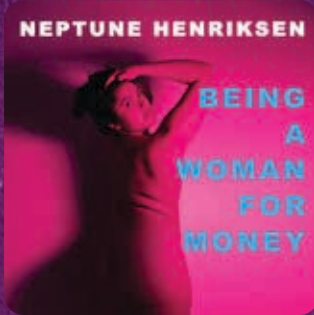


Adore Händel's Little Black Book

16 June | The Loading Dock

Adore Händel is the incorrigible pansexual, time travelling songbird and raconteur here to entertain us with an evening of uproarious laughter and enchanting music.

Adore is opening up their Little Black Book to share the scandalous tales of past lovers, partners and paramores aplenty. This comedic drag show weaves opera and musical theatre classics through comedic storytelling sure to delight.



Neptune Henriksen – Being A Woman For Money

17 – 18 June | The Loading Dock

Sex sells, but gender sells out. In their first solo comedy since 2016, the critically-acclaimed tour de force Neptune Henriksen delves into gender, capitalism, and desirability, through a queer lens. Being A Woman For Money pulls no punches, answering the questions you're too afraid to ask, and embracing being in on the joke.



Up Your Bum, No Babies (Remembering Stories from the Gay Ghetto)

18 – 22 June | The Substation

Close your eyes, and click your heels together three times. Part memoir, part performance poetry, part history lesson, this World Premiere from actor Matt Young will have you longing for the “bad old days” of gay life from the 90s til now. Come remember the stories of our collective gay experience.



The Fish Bowl

19 – 23 June | The Loading Dock

How does a person with Dementia experience the world? How can we better connect with people in the often challenging environment of aged care? The Fish Bowl is an award-winning theatre piece exploring themes of communication, ageing, and identity through the real-life stories of people living with Dementia in a South Australian memory unit. Winner of the 2022 BankSA Award for Best Theatre and Physical Theatre at the Adelaide Fringe.



The Whiffenpoofs

21 June | The Loading Dock

One of the oldest and most acclaimed A Capella groups in the world, The Whiffenpoofs, join Pride Fest for a special one night only performance. The Whiffs have performed at Lincoln Center, the White House and Carnegie Hall, and come to The Loading Dock Theatre as part of their Australian tour this June for a night of hits from across the decades, jazz standards and contemporary favourites. The Whiffenpoofs personify making the world a better, happier place by singing in the celebrated A Capella genre.



Personal Politics: Fifty Years of Queer Activism

22 June | The Loading Dock

Activists in the 1970s hoped that by asserting that the 'personal is political' they could address injustice and inequality. This conversation between the authors of *Personal Politics: Gender, Sexuality and the Making of Australian Citizenship* will explore the efficacy and historical consequences of this style of making politics. Come and hear a conversation between some of the leading historians of gender and sexuality in Australia about what we can learn by critically examining the history of LGBTIQ+ activism in Australia.



The Will to Be

25 – 29 June | The Substation

An award-winning solo show by Mark Salvestro, exploring forbidden love in 1960s Australia, laced with the words of Shakespeare. An exploration of Australia's queer history, societal shame, and a defiant cry to speak truth to power.



Fearless Voices – Fundraising Panel

24 June | The Loading Dock

The debut panel of Qtopia Sydney's monthly fundraising panels – the Fearless Voices series. Join us this month as we mark the anniversary of the First Mardi Gras with an insightful conversation with some of the Giants who have changed history.



DINK (Double Income No Kids)

25 – 26 June | The Loading Dock

The court date is set for the dissolution of Ben and George's relationship. They've already decided who gets the house, and separated their finances, now the real battle begins. Who gets to keep the pub quiz? Or the local café? Division of the emotional assets of their relationship will not be easy, as Ben and George put their experience as lawyers to the test in this extremely personal case.

A light hearted comedy about why we are all so damned lonely even when we are surrounded by people who love us.



The Mini Marilyn

27 – 30 June | The Loading Dock

With the cost of living crisis ever worsening, climate change melting the confines around us and the world feeling ever so dramatic, let us take a moment to be enchanted by the world of pink and sparkles! Together, Mini Marilyn and her audiences spend the evening toasting to the sisterhood during an enthusiastic Girls Night Out with her best friends, Brandy and Shandy. An all-female cabaret full of glitz and glamour that uplifts the female powerhouses of music.

Performance Calendar

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 Annie Boyle The Year I Watched My Mum Die | 2 Annie Boyle The Year I Watched My Mum Die |
| 3 How To Be A Lesbian | 4 How To Be A Lesbian | 5 Perversion Therapy | 6 Cherry | 7 Cherry Burn It | 8 Burn It | 9 Am I The Drama |
| 10 Am I The Drama | 11 Big Dyke Energy | 12 Big Dyke Energy A Body At Work | 13 Big Dyke Energy A Body At Work | 14 A Body At Work Nepo Baby | 15 Nepo Baby Personal Space | 16 Adore Händel's Little Black Book |
| 17 Being A Woman For Money | 18 Being A Woman For Money Up Your Bum, No Babies | 19 Up Your Bum, No Babies The Fish Bowl | 20 Up Your Bum, No Babies The Fish Bowl | 21 Up Your Bum, No Babies The Fish Bowl The Whiffenpoofs | 22 Up Your Bum, No Babies The Fish Bowl Personal Politics | 23 The Fish Bowl |
| 24 Fearless Voices | 25 DINK The Will To Be | 26 DINK The Will To Be | 27 The Will To Be The Mini Marilyn | 28 The Will To Be The Mini Marilyn | 29 The Will To Be The Mini Marilyn | 30 The Mini Marilyn |



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