



Sci fi on display

"Exciting lineup of Hollywood stars"

The latest in science fiction, anime, gaming and comics will all be at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on October 17 – 18 when the Armageddon Expo visits Australia for the third time.

The event is set to be the biggest science fiction and fantasy gathering in Australia, with the expo taking up 50 per cent more exhibition space than last year and attracting an exciting lineup of Hollywood stars, including Seth Green, Matthew Senreich and Tom Root (Robot Chicken), Michael Welch (Twilight) and Noah Gray-Cabey (Heroes).

Bill Geradts from the Armageddon Expo said this year's event is set to become the biggest ever staged in Australia.

"Last year's event was a massive success and as a result we have secured 50 per cent more space for the 2009 expo," Geradts said

"On top of this we have designed an all new website for the event which is set to include even more information on the stars and attractions at the expo.

"We're also in the process of securing a wide selection of stars to attend the event and each week the list of attending celebrities grows.

"We are continuing discussions with some

big science fiction stars to confirm their attendance in the coming weeks."

Geradts said it was a huge coup to secure the creators and stars of the Emmy-Award winning series Robot Chicken, that parodies pop culture using American stop motion.

The Armageddon Expo will also feature comic book artists, anime, special events, gaming and a range of special events and guests.

General Admission tickets are now available from Ticketmaster for \$20 per day.

For more information visit armageddonexpo.com.

Fringe talent hits Melbourne

"A sucker-punch right out of left field"

September time again and officially spring – the season for racing, hay fever, fashion and the Fringe (in no particular order).

Arguably one of the most important events in the city's arts calendar, this year's Melbourne Fringe Festival is bringing 3500 independent artists together for two weeks of theatre, circus, dance and more.

The festival launch was a chance for a sneak peek at some of the talent on offer this year (and not just an excuse to hit the bar before 11am, no matter what anyone tells you). One of the acts on display was *Dance Miniature*, an experimental, contemporary dance act. This project is choreographed and performed by 10 emerging dance talents and dabbles in a range of different dance forms.

The centrepiece of the festival will be the Fringe Hub which showcases 57 vastly different works at several venues. The lineup includes well-known comic Akmal Saleh with a new autobiographical show entitled *Akmal in It's Not My Fault*. Also on the bill is comic genius Justin Hazelwood aka The Bedroom Philosopher with his show *Songs from the 86 tram*. This is a must-see show and winner of the director's choice award at this year's Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

For something a little different the Hub is also hosting *Who is Priscilla Irving (not a rhetorical question)*, a free comic installation at the North Melbourne Town Hall starring *Good News Week's* Claire Hooper.

The Fringe is notorious for its off-the-wall productions and this year the festival is presiding over the city's very own Attack of the Clones. Sadly however, this doesn't include thousands of galactic soldiers cloned from one beefy Kiwi, and they're only

invading Melbourne, not the entire planet. Japanese artist Yasuko Kurono will be losing "cloned" copies of herself onto the streets as part of her seemingly narcissistic collaborative dance project *Take Off Your Skin (TOYS)*. Her dark-haired, blue-clad clones will be infesting public spaces on October 2 for dance and "abstraction". Beware!

One historically popular attraction returning to the festival for 2009 is *Fringe Furniture*, this year featuring a host a chrome creations under the theme *Silver*, which can be seen at the Arts House Meat Market in North Melbourne from September 24, entry is free.

And if you think all that is going to be a bit "different", the Fringe crew have mustered a host of other dance, cabaret and comedy that is bound to floor you with a sucker-punch right out of left field.

The Melbourne Fringe Festival runs from September 23 to October 11

melbournefringe.com.au

Timothy Pope

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