

# Great feast of arts

*“Extensive program of free and low cost performances”*

The Melbourne International Arts Festival has been released, offering an unparalleled feast of music, dance, theatre, opera, visual arts, multimedia and outdoor events from renowned and upcoming Australian and international companies and artists from October 8-23.

The Festival not only focuses on innovation and excellence but also accessibility and affordability, with an extensive program of free and low cost performances, installations and exhibitions.

Festival highlights this year include inspiring, large-scale operatic spectacle, *Tomorrow in a year*, featuring the groundbreaking music of electro-pop masters The Knife;

world renowned recording artists Sinead O'Connor, John Cale and Meshell Ndegeocello.

The free Foxtel Festival Opening (picture by Jan Versweyeld) is literally out of this world, as aerial choreography and a live rock show come together for some fast, furious, flying family fun in the Alexandra Gardens.

Festival opening night features two Australian premieres. *come, been and gone* is the bold new dance work from the world renowned Michael Clark Company featuring the music of the legendary David Bowie with Lou Reed, Iggy Pop and Brian Eno.

The Festival closes with a one-off spectacular finale, *Seven Songs to Leave Behind*, a unique concert featuring international music legends Sinead O'Connor, John Cale, Meshell Ndegeocello and Rickie Lee Jones, with award winning Indigenous artist Gurrumul Yunupingu and festival favourites Black Arm Band and Orchestra

Victoria at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

Tokyo-based multi-disciplinary artist Hiroaki Umeda can be seen in two of his recent installations for body, sound and light, *Adapting for Distortion* and *Haptic*.

Be tantalized by circus stars, sideshow queens, daredevils, aerialists and artistes in *Carnival of Mysteries*, a heady mix of unforgettable entertainment in the world premiere season from the world's pre-eminent purveyors of provocative variety, Finucane & Smith. Madeleine Flynn, Tim Humphrey & Jesse Stevens' epithet is a fascinating and enchanting mixed media sound installation created from the genetic materials of individuals and activated by the audience.

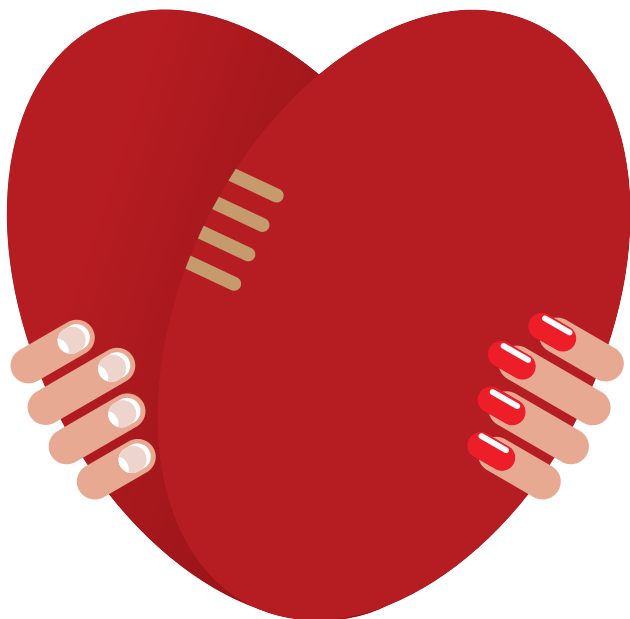
And Pop-Up Project seeks Melburnians to help create an exciting and surprising one-off event set to infiltrate the city.

[melbournefestival.com.au](http://melbournefestival.com.au)



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## **u**times

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