



DATE: 27 August 2018

BRISBANE'S ULTIMATE SUMMER-STARTER UNVEILS SIZZLING 2018 LINE-UP

Following a record-breaking 2017, **Brisbane Powerhouse's** adored **Wonderland Festival** returns for 11 salacious nights of revelry from 22 November.

Now in its fifth year, *Wonderland Festival* brings together talented performers for a unique carnival of comedy, burlesque, circus, music, magic and more.

Brisbane Powerhouse Artistic Director **Kris Stewart** said *Wonderland Festival 2018* will make the most of Brisbane's sultry summer nights, with a whole-of-venue takeover filled with weird and wonderful experiences handpicked to surprise and delight.

"This year is about enhancing the atmosphere we have created previously to deliver a sexy, silly and spectacular carnival takeover," Stewart said.

"Over the past four years, we've established a wonderful community that loves to come here and play each November.

"With over 25 shows over 11 nights, this year's *Wonderland Festival* will act as the city's downtown hub for nightly delights and promises bold spectacles and thrills around every corner."

The 2018 lineup sees several festival favourites return, including **Bombshell Burlesque**, whose titillating new show *Heatwave* is guaranteed to sizzle; the darkly seductive threesome from **Babushka** with a wickedly funny cabaret, *Happily Ever After*, and cabaret chanteuse **Mama Alto**, with a powerful tribute to jazz icon Billie Holiday.

A proven launchpad for new works, this year's festival features four world premieres, including guaranteed crowd-pleaser **Two Man Tarantino** – all eight films in one hilarious hour of comedy and chaos performed by Emily Vascotto and Stephen Hirst. Also premiering at *Wonderland* is a new work under construction by psycho-siren **Leah Shelton**, directed by renowned UK performance art provocateur Ursula Martinez, *Bitch on Heat*.

"*Wonderland Festival* represents everything Brisbane does so well – originality, creativity and hilarity" Stewart said.

"We want people to head on down to Brisbane Powerhouse and let loose for this end of year cavalcade of fearless physical feats, great storytelling, captivating live music and laugh-out-loud comedy. The Festival is united by a palpable sense of fearlessness and heart with guaranteed glamour and giggles."

Additional highlights include **The WonderWombs** – New Zealand's all-female circus renowned for eating binaries for breakfast; and award-winning mentalist and magician **Matt Tarrant** in *Honestly Dishonest*. Stretching their vocals will be some of Brisbane's best homegrown female singers in the ultimate romantic ode to city with *I Left My Heart in Highgate Hill*, and vaudeville vamp **Christa Hughes** will takes audiences on the journey from that elegant first sip of the Speakeasy Siren to the despair and pain of the Dive Bar Diva in *Beer Drinking Woman*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

ADAM BRUNES Co-Founder + Creative Partner / Aruga

MOBILE 61 421 233 609 **EMAIL** adam@aruga.com.au

CLAIRE BONNEY Marketing Communications Specialist / Aruga

MOBILE +61 432 713 421 **EMAIL** claire@aruga.com.au





Wonderland Festival is Brisbane Powerhouse’s most significant celebration of and single investment in local artists, with 100 per cent of net box office going directly to those creating and delivering the work.

“*Wonderland Festival* epitomises Brisbane Powerhouse’s commitment to emerging artists and new works, providing a low-risk, safe platform for artists to play, and audiences to take a gamble on something new,” Stewart said.

“It’s Brisbane Powerhouse’s fringe offering, a downtown escape into something a little different and risky. Come for a show, to hang with friends, or just come to enjoy the madness of the whole experience. Our doors are open to everyone; let the silly season begin!”

Wonderland Festival plays Thursday 22 November – Sunday 2 December at Brisbane Powerhouse.

Tickets on sale now at wonderlandbrisbane.com.au

Wonderland Festival is generously supported by 4ZZZ, Archie Rose, PropMill, Scenestr, TRYP, Valiant and the Brisbane Powerhouse Associates.

About Brisbane Powerhouse

Brisbane Powerhouse is Queensland’s home for contemporary culture; a magnificent power station of the 1920s reborn as an arts centre on the Brisbane River. With more than 1,250 performances and events each year, Brisbane Powerhouse is one of the busiest arts venues in the Asia-Pacific region, offering a year-round program of music, comedy, dance, film, visual arts, cabaret, circus, theatre and more. Brisbane Powerhouse is home to some of Queensland and Australia’s largest events, including Brisbane Comedy Festival, Australian Performing Arts Market, MELT: A Festival of Queer Arts and Culture, and *Wonderland Festival*.

For more information, visit brisbanepowerhouse.org

EVENT	<i>Wonderland Festival</i>
DATE	Thur 22 Nov – Sun 2 Dec 2018
VENUE	Brisbane Powerhouse
INFO	07 3358 8600 / wonderlandbrisbane.com.au
SOCIAL	@bris_powerhouse / #wonderland2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

ADAM BRUNES Co-Founder + Creative Partner / Aruga

MOBILE 61 421 233 609 **EMAIL** adam@aruga.com.au

CLAIRE BONNEY Marketing Communications Specialist / Aruga

MOBILE +61 432 713 421 **EMAIL** claire@aruga.com.au



- SEE WONDERLAND FESTIVAL PROGRAM SNAPSHOT OVER PAGE -

Wonderland Festival 2018

For extended information, including performance dates and times, visit wonderlandbrisbane.com.au

Bombshell Burlesque: Heatwave

Presented by Bombshell Burlesque in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

It's *Bombshell Burlesque: Heatwave!* Returning after consecutive sold out seasons at *Wonderland 2017* and *2016*, Bombshell Burlesque present a brand new show that is hot hot hot! With a focus on glamour and fun, this fast paced, cheeky show features stunning group routines with slick choreography, award winning soloists and a chanteuse MC as part of the action.

Two Man Tarantino

Presented by Christopher Wayne in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

Set in a video store, on the last night of video stores, one staff member and one customer have a crazy idea ... In one hilarious hour, the entire Quentin Tarantino filmography is re-enacted in the craziest and most creative ways - from *Reservoir Dogs* to *Hateful Eight*, and everything else in between. Written by the co-creator of the international comedy sensation *The Naked Magicians*, *Two Man Tarantino* promises to be an hilarious theatrical experience for movie fanatics and cinema newbies alike!

Matt Tarrant: Honestly Dishonest

Presented by MindBlown Productions in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

One of the most successful up-and-coming international magicians and mentalists, Matt Tarrant will read your mind, amaze you with world-class sleight of hand and have you questioning everything. *Honestly Dishonest* gives the audience access to the secret life of becoming a magician - and how tough it's becoming to fool new audiences. He's dishonest, but at least he's honest about it.

Banging on the Door

Presented by Roz Pappalardo in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

A ballsy, irreverent, tear-jerking, stupidly funny, Spumante flavoured, folk music/comedy romp through a story of modern fertility. No fancy sets, no tricks of the light, no costume changes – just Roz, her voice, her guitar, a trestle tables and a script.

I Left My Heart in Highgate Hill

Presented by The Collective in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

This is the ultimate romantic ode to Brisbane performed by some of our best home-grown female singers. Featuring a live band and Queensland's finest performers, including Jackie Marshall, Deb Suckling, Sue Ray, Charlotte Emily, Shelley Evans, Lucinda Shaw, Megan Cooper and Lauren Jackson.

Rumble

Presented by Joel Devereux in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

A gameshow like no other! Two fringe performers go head to head over three rounds of performance, antics and improvisation. Hosted by Tina Bikki and her sidekick Citrine Velvetine, and featuring some of Australia's best interstate performers including; Ruby Slippers [VIC], Clara Cupcakes [VIC], Art Simone

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

ADAM BRUNES Co-Founder + Creative Partner / Aruga

MOBILE 61 421 233 609 **EMAIL** adam@aruga.com.au

CLAIRE BONNEY Marketing Communications Specialist / Aruga

MOBILE +61 432 713 421 **EMAIL** claire@aruga.com.au





[VIC], Egson Ham [VIC], Rosie Rivette [NSW], and local favourites, Natasha St. James, Vollie LaVont, Kryptonite & Jacqueline Furey.

Fatale

Presented by Jacqueline Furey in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

Witness cunning stunts performed by a stunning... woman! Come on a noir adventure of old world glamour; both beautiful and bizarre. Brisbane burlesque queen and international sideshow showgirl Jacqueline Furey brings you her first ever full length show that posits – when being femme can be fatal, what's left to fear? Performing potentially life threatening acts with her signature elegance and sass, this wicked woman is not for the faint of heart - or stomach. You'll be tantalised and terrorised if you dare to peep the spectacle that is a fire eating, whip cracking, sword swallowing stripteaser... with a microphone!

Beer Drinking Woman

Presented by DTC Management in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

Vaudeville Vamp Christa Hughes (Machine Gun Fellatio, Circus Oz, Club Swizzle) takes audiences on the journey from that elegant first sip of the Speakeasy Siren to the despair and pain of the Dive Bar Diva in an hilarious take on the night of a booze-soaked lush. Accompanied by the talented jazz pianist Leonie Cohen, Christa performs her own compositions amongst a selection from Tom Waits, Memphis Slim, Cold Chisel, Frank Sinatra, The Tiger Lillies and a few surprises.

Lady Sings the Blues: Mama Alto Sings Billie Holiday

Presented by Mama Alto in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

The great Billie Holiday was a complex and captivating icon. Her voice and her songs were idiosyncratic, exquisite, and powerful. Her interpretations balanced joy and sorrow, pathos and intellect. In a stunning mosaic of story and song, acclaimed jazz singer, cabaret artiste and gender transcendent diva Mama Alto celebrates the triumph, sorrow, life and music of Lady Day. Mama Alto and pianist extraordinaire Miss Chief are delighted to bring their tribute to Billie Holiday to Brisbane Powerhouse.

Elixir

Presented by Head First Acrobats in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

Elixir is circus with a difference! Uninhibited by cliché or expectation, subversive and hilarious, the story follows three enthusiastic and acrobatic scientists who attempt to create the elixir of life. The mayhem that follows is a beautiful mix of incredible acrobatics and impeccable comic timing. The boys are here with their blend of breathtaking acrobatics, hilarious antics and sweaty muscles. Remember to breathe; this is brinkmanship at its best. You'll feel the heat, see the sweat and won't believe your eyes.

Notorious Strumpet and Dangerous Girl

Presented by Nicolas Clark Management in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

Julia Mullins was a thief, a prostitute and a drunk. Jess Love (The Candy Butchers, La Soiree, Circa) is a carnie, a queer and likes a drink. Get taken in by the self-supporting arms of this astounding Alcoholics Anonymous meeting where twisted storytelling and spectacular circus skills are shaken and stirred, with one part dark comedy, one part serenity and three parts hostility, hilarity and honesty. This award winning solo work, written and performed by Jess Love, is a strikingly truthful tale of one woman's voyage to connect with her convict past.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

ADAM BRUNES Co-Founder + Creative Partner / Aruga

MOBILE 61 421 233 609 **EMAIL** adam@aruga.com.au

CLAIRE BONNEY Marketing Communications Specialist / Aruga

MOBILE +61 432 713 421 **EMAIL** claire@aruga.com.au





The WonderWombs

Presented by The Dust Palace in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

This all-female circus pop open the male gaze like a bottle of cheap champagne – WonderWombs is a glance at intoxicating muscularity over toxic masculinity. The Dust Palace brings its signature hustle of risk, splendour, story, comedy and desire to this extraordinary performance experience. Dripping with autonomy, the WonderWombs are renovating circus and winking at your surprise. Eating binaries for breakfast and unfastening the buckles at gender's waistline, these performers don't need to hit the glass ceiling; they can lift it!

An Evening with Illusionist Josh Norbido

Presented by Mysterious Productions in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

Immerse yourself with illusionist Josh Norbido for an evening of astonishing close-up magic, baffling mind-reading and impossible moments. Josh has been fortunate to perform for VIP guests at events such as Chris Rock, Queen and even for Google... But most importantly his Mum says he's REALLY GOOD! Each show is limited to just 30 seats so that guests will experience the magic right in front of their eyes, in their hands and even in their mind!

Claire Healy: (Get A) Real Job

Presented by Hot Mess Productions in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

Claire Healy has never had a real job. With a resume that looks like a list of highly questionable life choices, Claire Healy's captivating new cabaret attempts to answer that endlessly awkward question: "What do you do?" Armed with a killer voice, keyboard and ukulele, Claire bares her soul over the sacrifices an artist makes in employment security, stability and consistency, in order to maintain space and time to devote to Art.

The Grass is Dead on the Other Side

Presented by Anisa Nandaula in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

Nationally recognised spoken word poet and performer makes her *Wonderland Festival* debut to take on politics, identity and social justice. *The Grass is Dead on the Other Side* is an apocalyptic world where zombies have taken over the world and no longer need to kill for brains. They spread ignorance to the masses and are led by vicious politicians and law makers intent on building their army of followers. The show weaves together storytelling and theatre to cover a range of issues.

Love Hurts

Presented by Kat Davidson and Emily Kristopher in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

They say 'love is pain', and with sex injuries on the rise, this has never been more accurate. Love and sex have been a source of torture long before the Internet gifted us with the ability to 'swipe right' on someone for an evening. Kat and Emily take stories of sex and romance gone wrong from the Internet, the audience and their own experience and weave them into one raucous hour of entertainment. Don't miss this whirlwind comedy of love, pain and sexual misadventures.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

ADAM BRUNES Co-Founder + Creative Partner / Aruga

MOBILE 61 421 233 609 **EMAIL** adam@aruga.com.au

CLAIRE BONNEY Marketing Communications Specialist / Aruga

MOBILE +61 432 713 421 **EMAIL** claire@aruga.com.au





Happily Ever After

Presented by Little Match Productions in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

These three unlikely princesses open the genie bottle with this darkly seductive and wickedly funny cabaret that will turn your favourite bedtime stories inside out. Babushka gives Rapunzel a sharp new haircut, puts Goldilocks in charge of the three bears and gives a whole new meaning to Puss in Boots! Combining off-the-wall banter, stunning voices and blind-siding arrangements, prepare to be tickled and pricked as you're led down the veritable forest path into a witch's pot of surprising melodies from The Turtles, Beyoncé, Rihanna and Lorde, to Kurt Vile, Kate Bush, Metallica and Sam the Sham.

Isaac Lomman: Hypnosis [LIVE]

Presented by Entranced Entertainment in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

Volunteers are hypnotised before your eyes and taken on an unforgettably hilarious journey into their imaginations. This show focuses on the power of the subject's mind. See the show or be the show in a performance that truly breaks the fourth wall with incredible results. Don't miss this truly amazing family friendly show; clean and fun for all to enjoy.

Bitch on Heat

Exclusive pre-season showing

Presented by Leah Shelton in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

A new work in creation by psycho-siren Leah Shelton, directed by renowned UK performance art provocateur Ursula Martinez. Be the first to experience this new show in its fresh, raw state. This decadent banquet of lethal lip-synch, dark comedy and anti-burlesque is a pop-fuelled critique of sexual politics in the age of implied consent. Welcome to the doghouse. Beware. This Bitch bites.

Love/Hate Actually

Presented by Act/React in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

It's played to packed houses in Brisbane and Melbourne and was nominated for Best Comedy at Perth Fringe World. Now, Love/Hate Actually returns to Wonderland Festival just in time for Christmas! Amy thinks the film Love Actually represents everything good about the human experience of love. Natalie believes it's unrealistic and manipulative crap. Part double act, part film lecture, part game show, this smash hit comedy showdown asks whether Love Actually is the ultimate rom-com... or ultimately terrible?

The Epicurean Shark

Presented by Sam Bowden in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

Unquestionably the greatest stand-up hour since Lenny Bruce died, The Epicurean Shark is a comedy show determined to get to the bottom of one big question; why are humans drawn to environments, people and substances that are intrinsically harmful, all in the search to feel good? Don't worry though, it's still full of jokes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

ADAM BRUNES Co-Founder + Creative Partner / Aruga

MOBILE 61 421 233 609 **EMAIL** adam@aruga.com.au

CLAIRE BONNEY Marketing Communications Specialist / Aruga

MOBILE +61 432 713 421 **EMAIL** claire@aruga.com.au





Larry's Odyssey

Presented by DTC Management in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

Immerse yourself in an hilarious experience normally reserved for budding actors with vocal coach to the stars, Larry Olive (Vashti Hughes). In this strangely life-affirming communal physical experience, the audience helps shape Larry's journey, ensuring no two shows are ever the same. A modern take on Homer's Odyssey, in an interactive and side-splittingly funny 'Hour of Power', Larry leads traditional vocal exercises and directs the class to create scenarios in his own personal story; an odyssey of epic proportions.

Invisible Things

Presented by Vulcana Women's Circus and Alex Mizzen in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse

A woman confined by a 3x3m transparent box wrestles with the unspoken and the unseen; the voice in her head, her identity and her darkness. She uncovers and dissolves her invisible things. Derived from a secret and silent conversation kept through 17 years of personal journals, this show begs the question; can we ever truly know another's internal world? Circus and dance theatre converge to shine a light on the insidious nature of invisible things.

A New World: intimate music from Final Fantasy

Presented by Century Entertainment and AWR Music Productions

The New World Players (USA) return to Australia for A New World: Intimate Music from Final Fantasy – celebrating 30+ years of the legendary Final Fantasy video game franchise. Following a sold-out run in 2016 and 2017, the ensemble returns with a freshly updated program of music from the critically-acclaimed soundtracks in an intimate, up-close-and-personal setting. Expect to hear favourite compositions and delightful surprises from throughout the entire Final Fantasy series, including music by Nobuo Uematsu, Hitoshi Sakimoto, Masashi Hamauzu, Naoshi Mizuta, Masayoshi Soken and Tetsuya Shibata.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

ADAM BRUNES Co-Founder + Creative Partner / Aruga

MOBILE 61 421 233 609 **EMAIL** adam@aruga.com.au

CLAIRE BONNEY Marketing Communications Specialist / Aruga

MOBILE +61 432 713 421 **EMAIL** claire@aruga.com.au

