



DATE: Wednesday 6 December 2017

Three venues will burst with laughter for Brisbane Comedy Festival's largest ever lineup in 2018

DATE	Friday 23 February - Sunday 25 March 2018
TIME	Various
VENUE	Brisbane Powerhouse, Brisbane City Hall, SunPAC
INFO	07 3358 8600 / brisbanecomedifestival.com

Brisbane will be plunged into hysterics from 23 February - 25 March when the city's largest ever lineup of the best Aussie and international acts lay comical siege to three venues – Brisbane Powerhouse, Brisbane City Hall and new venue SunPAC – as part of *Brisbane Comedy Festival 2018*.

The ninth instalment of Australia's fastest growing comedy festival will bring more than 70 stellar comedians to Brisbane. Leading the pack of international laughter masters are Jim Gaffigan, who will kick off his anticipated Australian and New Zealand tour with his Brisbane debut, Irishmen Jimeoin and Des Bishop, Canadian DeAnne Smith, Englishmen Stephen K Amos and Jeff Green, who will be celebrating 30 years on the comedy circuit with a special show. Also on the bill is beloved Kiwis Cal Wilson and Urzila Carlson, Scottish star Daniel Sloss and American Rich Hall, making his long-awaited return.

Brisbane-bound Aussie household names include Mel Buttle, Akmal, Fiona O'Loughlin, Wil Anderson, Celia Pacquola, Dave Hughes, Becky Lucas, Joel Creasey, Gen Fricker Lawrence Mooney, Matt Okine, Zoë Coombs Marr, Nazeem Hussain and Tom Gleeson.

The festival will kick off with non-stop giggles and gags at the *Brisbane Comedy Festival Gala* at Brisbane City Hall on Friday 23 February. The ever-popular variety extravaganza will feature Brisbane favourite Mel Buttle as host, alongside Matt Okine, Luke Heggie, Becky Lucas, Demi Lardner (making her Brisbane debut), and some special surprise guests.

Over four weeks, audiences can expect night-after-night of side-splitting fun, hilariously insightful observations of human nature and unbelievable situational anecdotes. *Brisbane Comedy Festival's* largest ever lineup will attempt to tackle life's mysteries such as – what the heck is "Cougar Juice"?, what frustrates a matador the most?, when's the best time to have a vasectomy?, who is Australia's new 'mo-ssiah'?, what are the tangible intricacies of feminist Latino 1970s art? – and everything in-between.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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The comedians will explore a variety of topics and themes – from David Smiedt’s very personal and humorous account of recovering from throat cancer in *Finding Chemo*, to Venezuelan migrant Ivan Aristeguieta performing *Matador* in his second language.

The 2018 festival will also see the Brisbane debut of musical comedy identical twins The Stevenson Experience, erotic novelist and gender-bending storyteller Rama Nicholas and Townsville-born stand-up newcomer Danielle Walker, as well as fresh faces from across the sunshine state slinging wicked one-liners in *Brisbane Comedy Festival’s* local showcase series *Live and Local*.

New to the festival in 2018 is *Queerstories*, an AUSLAN interpreted evening of LGBTIQI storytellers reinventing and disrupting conventional ideas about family, love and community. Created in Sydney, *Queerstories* will make its Brisbane debut to explain, with plenty of laughs, why there’s more to being queer than coming out and marriage equality.

Brisbane Comedy Festival will take the laughs beyond the realm of stand-up, with some of Australia’s most innovative and exciting new voices performing everything from crass takes of Aussie hip hop, to absurdist sketches and sharp-witted improvisation. Logie-nominated comic Heath Franklin will earn a new legion of worshippers with his larger-than-life ‘Chopper’ parody in *Bogan Jesus*, The Naked Magicians will arouse plenty of chuckles, while rising stars The Travelling Sisters and Brisburned are program gems for those looking for their sketch comedy fix.

Audiences seeking a catchy melody between riotous punchlines can look forward to charming musical comedy from the gifted Gillian Cosgriff, punchy Jude Perl and the 90’s sitcom inspired show *Yada Yada Yada*.

Late-night revellers can also catch some cheap-as-chips laughs at the adults only variety show *After Hours*, a popular festival fixture that promises a mix of local favourites and circuit stalwarts getting loose, trying new material and bringing back some old favourites.

Brisbane Powerhouse artistic director Kris Stewart said the 2018 *Brisbane Comedy Festival* offered an experience greater than just catching a world-class comedian, with the program featuring several free events such as *The Queensland Theatresports™*, *Convince Me!* and *Livespark* and *Knock Off* alongside the plethora of unmissable shows.

“As Australia’s fastest growing comedy festival we’re extremely proud to be hosting Brisbane’s largest lineup yet of local and international comical geniuses in 2018, offering non-stop laughs for everyone’s sense of humour and budget,” said Mr Stewart.

“The expanded, multi-venue *Brisbane Comedy Festival* means audiences can enjoy food, beverages and beats at Brisbane City Hall and Brisbane Powerhouse during the festivities, while two returning favourites, Akmal and Jimeoin will make their debut at SunPAC, the festival’s newest venue just 20 minutes south of the city.”

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Lord Mayor Graham Quirk said the *Brisbane Comedy Festival* was a favourite on the city's cultural events calendar.

"*Brisbane Comedy Festival* continues to grow in popularity every year with the best of Australian and international comedy showcased over a month," Councillor Quirk said.

"Brisbane is a vibrant New World City and events like the *Brisbane Comedy Festival* really showcase the fantastic lifestyle and leisure opportunities on offer in our city."

Pre-sale for *Brisbane Comedy Festival 2018* opens on Thursday 7 December, to register please visit brisbanecomedyfestival.com. General tickets go on sale on Monday 11 December.

-ENDS-

Brisbane Comedy Festival is presented by Brisbane Powerhouse with support from Brisbane City Council. Proudly partnered by HCF and Brisbane Times. Proudly supported by goa, JCDecaux, Nick Did This, Triple M and scenestr.

Please click [here](#) to access images.

Brisbane Comedy Festival social media

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [#briscomedyfest](#)

Full lineup of artists

Jim Gaffigan, Urzila Carlson, Stephen K Amos, Wil Anderson, Rich Hall, Matt Okine, Tom Gleeson, Fiona O'Loughlin, James Smith, Lawrence Mooney, Cal Wilson, Dave Hughes, Peter Helliard, Daniel Sloss, Celia Pacquola, Akmal, Jeff Green, Neel Kolhatkar, Jimeoin, Lehmo, Nick Cody, Joel Creasey, Mel Buttle, Sam Simmons, Nazeem Hussain, Pauly Fenech, Dave Thornton, Heath Franklin's Chopper, Dilruk Jayasinha, Harley Breen, Gen Fricker, Des Bishop, Zoë Coombs Marr, The Naked Magicians, DeAnne Smith, David Smiedt, Tommy Little, Luke Heggie, Rama Nicholas, Damien Power, Cam Knight, Becky Lucas, Shayne Hunter, Guy Montgomery, Alex Ward, Angus Gordon, Demi Lardner, Sam Taunton, Danielle Walker, Matt Stewart, The Stevenson Experience, Jacques Barrett, Tom Walker, Sam Campbell, The Travelling Sisters, Simon Taylor, Angella Dravid and Melanie Bracewell, Cameron James, Tim Hewitt, Gillian Cosgriff, Rose Callaghan, Jude Perl, Joe Shaffer, Ivan Aristeguieta, Dusty Rich, *Animated! An Improvised Musical Fairytale*, *Yada Yada Yada*, *Cool Story Bro*, *Brisburned*, *Queerstories*, *Convince Me!*, *Class Clowns*, *Live and Local*, *Queensland Theatresports*, *After Hours*, *Livespark*, *Knockoff*.

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