



## **MALTHOUSE IS ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET OF GIGGLES AS IT WELCOMES BACK THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL WITH A TSUNAMI OF LAUGHS, STAND-UP, THEATRE, MUSIC AND GENERAL ABSURDITY FOR 2024.**

A comedic spectacle is set to take centre stage at Malthouse as Melbourne International Comedy Festival returns with an impressive showcase of 261 performances across five theatres to deliver 22 glorious nights of unbridled entertainment. Malthouse is ready to welcome over 30,000 audience members for this year's Comedy Festival.

Running from 28 March to 21 April, Comedy Festival at Malthouse promises to be an even more uproarious experience for visitors, courtesy of the recent renovations that have taken the venue's ambience to brand new heights. The recently enhanced space now boasts upgraded indoor and outdoor facilities, guaranteeing a comedy extravaganza in a setting of unparalleled comfort and style.

Highlights include the already announced multi-award-winning, Australian comedian, singer and writer **Reuben Kaye**, UK stand-up luminary **Ed Byrne**, rock cabaret musician **Geraldine Quinn**

alongside a host of new additions including: 2023 Pinder Prize Winner **Hannah Camilleri**, Golden Gibbo Nominee **Con Coutis**, 2024 Moosehead recipient **Alex Hines**, Edinburgh Comedy Award Winner **Rose Matafeo** plus loads more.

Heading the lineup is the bold and politically active Australian comedian, singer, and writer **Reuben Kaye**, who brings his hysterical new show *APOCALIPSTIK* to the Malthouse stage—a scandalous saga that spans continents, generations, and the political spectrum of the 20th century.

*The Passion of Saint Nicholas* follows the comedic tale of **Geraldine Quinn** and her brother Nick, who, after a shared passion for music, took very different paths—one into musical comedy and the other to a 'normal job.'

**Adam McKenzie** presents his brand new show *Hacked*—a hilarious look identity theft, online security and why it's a really, really bad idea to even open your computer let alone interact with it.

**Hannah Camilleri's** *Lolly Bag* was nominated for Melbourne Comedy Festival's Most Outstanding Show in 2023, clinching the Pinder Prize and a ticket to Edinburgh Fringe. Following a sold out, debut in Scotland and topping it off with a season at London's Soho Theatre, *Lolly Bag* returns to Australia for an encore season.

For one night only, *Queerstories* will celebrate the LGBTQI+ community with humour and heart. Hosted by **Maeve Marsden** and some of the festival's best comedians, this story telling event will unveil tales of pride, prejudice, resilience and resistance offering a powerful glimpse into the diverse experiences of the queer community.

Comedy Festival at Malthouse runs **28 March – 21 April 2024**.

For more information and full program, visit: [malthousetheatre.com.au/comedy](http://malthousetheatre.com.au/comedy) for details. Tickets now on sale!

## COMEDY FESTIVAL AT MALTHOUSE 2024 PROGRAM



**REUBEN KAYE: APOCALIPSTIK**  
MERLYN THEATRE: 28 MAR – 21 APR

**Reuben Kaye** returns to the Malthouse with his brand-new show *APOCALIPSTIK*. Part eulogy, part elegy, part Eastern Bloc Dog Day Afternoon. This scandalous story of Reuben's scoundrel Uncle springboards into a cabaret that crosses continents, generations and the political spectrum of the 20th century.



**ED BYRNE: TRAGEDY PLUS TIME**  
MERLYN THEATRE: 28 MAR – 21 APR

From the quote attributed to Mark Twain, humour is defined as *Tragedy Plus Time*. Come and join Ed as he tests that formula by mining the most tragic event in his life for laughs.

## COMEDY FESTIVAL AT MALTHOUSE 2024 PROGRAM



### GERALDINE QUINN: THE PASSION OF SAINT NICHOLAS

THE TOWER: 28 MAR – 7 APR

Ever since the epoch-making 1991 St John's College, Dandenong Talent Quest, Geraldine and her brother Nick shared a passion for music—two competitive siblings with one teenage dream. But he got a 'normal job', and she went into musical comedy. Could things get any worse? Hell yes!



### HANNAH CAMILLERI: LOLLY BAG

BAGGING ROOM: 28 MAR – 7 APR

Starting its adventure at Adelaide Fringe in 2023, *Lolly Bag* earned acclaim at last year's Melbourne International Comedy Festival, nominated for Most Outstanding Show and clinching the Pinder Prize and a ticket to Edinburgh Fringe. Following a sold-out, debut in Scotland and topping it off with a season at London's Soho Theatre, **Hannah Camilleri** returns for an encore for only two weeks.



### ROSE MATAFEO: ON AND ON AND ON

BAGGING ROOM: 28 MAR – 7 APR

Edinburgh Comedy Award winner and creator of sitcom *Starstruck* (BBC/HBO) **Rose Matafeo** returns to Melbourne to perform an hour of new comedy and to see what you've all been up to (there will be no crowd work). As seen on *Taskmaster*, *Would I Lie to You*, *Big Fat Quiz of the Year*, *QI*, *Have I Got News for You*, *8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown*, *Conan*, *The Great British Bake Off* and *Horndog*, her comedy special for HBO Max.



### LAUREN EDWARDS: BRACE YOURSELF

PLAYBOX: 28 MAR – 7 APR

Comedian and self-proclaimed main character, **Lauren Edwards**, is throwing it back (brace)! Directed by **Claire Hooper**, *Brace Yourself* hilariously chronicles Edwards' journey from plucky Brisbane back brace girl to crazy candle lady and all the fleshy bits in between. Come along for the ride cos baby got back problems.

## COMEDY FESTIVAL AT MALTHOUSE 2024 PROGRAM



### **CON COUTIS: CON 2077** PLAYBOX: 28 MAR – 7 APR

In 2027, a meteor strikes and wipes out every comedian on earth. Every comedian—but one. Fifty years later, an arctic researcher discovers an ancient artform known as ‘the joke.’ In response, the Government decides to awaken the world’s last-known comedian from cryosleep—**Con Coutis**.



### **HOT DEPARTMENT** BECKETT THEATRE: 28 MAR – 21 APR

Edgy. Ground-breaking. Game changing. Rising Hollywood stars. These are all words we saw tattooed on a man sitting on the train eating raw meat. Anyway, we’ve got a new show. Fresh from their award-winning sold-out 2023 show, **Hot Department** are back with a full hour of high energy, cinematic, unhinged sketch comedy.



### **ADAM MCKENZIE: HACKED** PLAYBOX: 28 MAR – 21 APR

In September 2022, Adam was part of Australia’s largest ever cyber security disaster. In this brand new show, Adam dives deep into the Dark Web and finds out just how much of our identities they have stolen and how much of ourselves have we given away for free. *Hacked* is a hilarious look at identity theft, online security and why it’s a really, really bad idea to even open your computer let alone interact with it.



### **LITTLE SQUIRT** BAGGING ROOM: 28 MAR – 21 APR

*Little Squirt* is the award-winning comedy cabaret about the process of sperm donation, featuring all original songs by musical comedian, **Darby James**. After clicking a Facebook ad in Melbourne’s final lockdown, Darby sets sail across the seas of queer existential mayhem. He explores the absurdities of clinical procreation and considers his choices of potential future parenthood.

## COMEDY FESTIVAL AT MALTHOUSE 2024 PROGRAM



### SCOUT BOXALL: GOD'S FAVOURITE

THE TOWER: 28 MAR – 21 APR

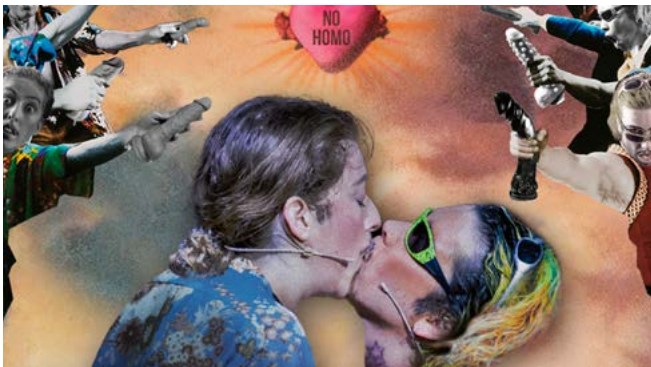
*God's Favourite* is a stand-up show in which **Scout Boxall** counts their many blessings, appreciates each of God's precious creatures and relishes being God's Favourite Comedian.



### QUEERSTORIES

MERLYN THEATRE: 30 MAR

Vulnerable and fierce, hilarious and heartbreaking, *Queerstories* celebrates the culture and creativity of the LGBTQI+ community one true story at a time. Join host **Maeve Marsden** and some of the festival's best comedians for this iconic storytelling event, each guest asked to share the story they want to tell, but are never asked to, unexpected tales of pride, prejudice, resilience and resistance.



### DAZZA AND KEIF REENACT THE ROMEO + JULIET MOVIE PLAYING ALL ROLES

THE TOWER: 9 – 14 APR

Naarm's sikkest b-boyz are back and ready to show off their sensitive sides. Following the success of their re-enactment of James Cameron's *Titanic*, best mates **Dazza and Keif** take on the greatest love story of all time, only without any of the boring chik stuff.



### ANNIE AND LENA HAVE A TALK SHOW

PLAYBOX: 9 – 21 APR

**Annie and Lena** invite you to a wild night of all the talk show hits: Celebrities (played by Annie and Lena), Musical Guests (also Annie and Lena), and, most likely, some classic Annie and Lena sketches (played by Annie and Lena). You think you've seen talk shows before, but not like this.

## COMEDY FESTIVAL AT MALTHOUSE 2024 PROGRAM



### **JEZ & JACE: LADS ON TOUR** BAGGING ROOM: 9 – 21 APR

Toxic masculinity never looked this hot. These lads need one more night on the town before a major life event takes them opposite ways. Will it make or break them? **Jez & Jace** is an improvised comedy from the hilarious duo **Ginge & Minge**. Join them as they figure out what it really means to love your bro. What happens when you put bros before hoes?



### **JEREMY SEGWAY: A LIFE OUT OF BALANCE** THE TOWER: 9 – 21 APR

The inspiring life story of **Jeremy Segway**. Inventor of the Segway. Performed entirely on Segways. A show dedicated to Mr Segway, the man who invented the Segway, all performed entirely on Segways. The incomparably ridiculous **Duncan Brothers** play his sons to tell this inspiring story of a man who set out to change the world and how we travel within it.



### **ALEX HINES: PUTTING ON A SHOW** BAGGING ROOM: 9 – 21 APR

Welcome to the camp, chaotic and absurd world of **Alex Hines**. The middle child from a broken home, she was always destined for greatness. Unfortunately, she never quite got there, but she is putting on a show. An unhinged comedy extravaganza combining stand-up, sketch and insanity.



### **LECLAIRE & LAYCOCK: FASHION 4 PASSION** PLAYBOX: 9 – 21 APR

With the likeability of Princess Diana, the hearts of Mother Theresa and the sweatshop chic of SHEIN; *Australia's Got Talent* rejects **Samantha LeClaire** and **Jennifer Laycock** unstitch the flaws and the breaking of laws in the fashion industry. Come see the ones that got away; the white privileged, underdogs of Australian television who have resorted to sketch comedy.

## COMEDY FESTIVAL AT MALTHOUSE 2024 PROGRAM



### **THE BEAKS: STICKYBEAK**

THE TOWER: 16 – 21 APR

Hilarious new comedy about the neighbours you know and love to hate. *Stickybeak* is an expertly observed, laugh-out-loud physical comedy set on a street all Melburnians will recognise. Feral toddlers, messy teens, exhausted parents, white collar snobs, nosey oldies, cats in heat, dogs on the loose, snails, magpies, rotten figs and everything in between.



### **ADRIAN BLISS: INSIDE EVERYONE**

BECKETT THEATRE: 16 – 21 APR

Adrian joins Comedy Festival at Malthouse after a successful season at Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2023. An atom travels to Earth on a quest for greatness, finding himself inside some of the most important people who have ever lived.