



MERRIGONGX

X = innovative X = independent X = in-development

2019

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Acclaimed Independent
Touring Works
(One From Overseas)

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Brand New
Works

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Showings

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Scratch Nights!

It's an unprecedented season of theatre, dance, writing, music and circus, as MERRIGONGX provides funding and support for independent artists looking to confront, question, query and break the norm. Most events are supported by a facilitated artist talk, to expand discussion around the artists' work and practice. For more information visit merrigong.com.au/merrigongx

Party Girl

By Lucy Heffernan

You'd be surprised how hard it is to be a good fairy.

Party Girl is a new Australian monologue about a young woman who works as a party fairy. When her life steadily implodes around her, **Party Girl** asks the question; how can you be a fairy and have no faith?

Both hilarious and disturbing, **Party Girl** is an exploration of a flawed female with desires that pull her in opposite directions, leading to destruction and chaos.

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A Lucy Heffernan and Steffanni Gardener production
Director Steffanni Gardener
Dramaturg Tim Maddock
Cast Lucy Heffernan

28 – 30 March

Thu 28, Fri 29, Sat 30, 7.30pm
Bob Peet Studio,
Illawarra Performing Arts Centre

Reserve Your Spot
merrigong.com.au/merrigongx

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Photo: Lucy Heffernan



Good Omens

Development Showing

Music & Lyrics by Vicki Larnach
Book by Jim Hare, Jay James-Moody & Vicki Larnach
Based on the novel by Terry Pratchett & Neil Gaiman

An apocalyptically atypical new musical based on the novel by Terry Pratchett & Neil Gaiman.

According to *The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch* (the world's only completely accurate book of prophecies, written in 1655), the world will end on a Saturday. Next Saturday, in fact. Just before dinner. The armies of good and evil are amassing, Atlantis is rising, fish are falling, and everything appears to be going according to Divine Plan. A fussy angel and a fast-living demon are not looking forward to the impending rapture. They team up to circumvent the end of days but there is one problem. Someone seems to have misplaced the Anti-Christ.

A SquabbaLogic Independent Music Theatre Inc production
Director Jay James-Moody
Cast includes: Lachlan O'Brien, Rowan Witt

3 - 4 May

Fri 3, 7.30pm, Sat 4, 1.30pm & 7.30pm
Bruce Gordon Theatre,
Illawarra Performing Arts Centre

Reserve Your Spot
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SQUABBA LOGIC
INDEPENDENT MUSIC THEATRE

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The Believers Are But Brothers

By Javaad Alipoor (UK). Supported by the British Council

An electronic maze of fantasists, meme culture, 4chan, the alt-right and ISIS.

In a time where old orders are collapsing: from the postcolonial nation states of the Middle East, to the EU and the American election, tech savvy and extremist groups rip up political certainties.

This multimedia, Fringe First award-winning performance envelops its audience in the digital realm, weaving us into the webs of resentment, violence and power networks that are eating away at the structures of the twentieth century. This bold one-man show explores the smoke and mirrors world of online extremism, anonymity and hate speech.

Co-Directors Javaad Alipoor and Kirsty Housley
Stage and Lighting Designer Ben Pacey
Sound Designer Simon McCorry
Producer Luke Emery
Video Designer Jack Offord
Projection Designer Limbic Cinema
Assistant Director Heather Knudtsen
Associate Director and Dramaturg Natalie Diddams
Dramaturg Chris Thorpe
Production Manager Louise Gregory
Cast Javaad Alipoor

As part of the performance, we ask audiences to join a WhatsApp group chat for the show. This is optional, but will enhance your experience.

16 - 18 May

Thu 16, Fri 17, Sat 18, 7.30pm
Bruce Gordon Theatre, Illawarra Performing Arts Centre

Reserve Your Spot
merrigong.com.au/merrigongx

Photo: Javaad Alipoor by The Other Richard

Elsie

By Alicia Battestini and Vestri Mendum

Meet Elsie, a gender-fluid twenty-something who can't leave her tiny apartment.

Open the door and free-fall into a world where fantasy and the joy of play are Elsie's way of making sense of it all. Created and performed by two artists from different generations of contemporary circus, each of whom have struggled with their own mental health, *Elsie* is a tender, hilarious exploration of what it is to live with overwhelming mental health challenges.

Using a language of highly skilled aerial performance and a gallery of mad characters, the performers romp through mental health, gender, and identity. Part David Bowie, part teenage girl, Elsie's world inside her grubby apartment is gorgeous and fragile.

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Cast Alicia Battestini and Vestri Mendum

30 May - 1 June

Thu 30, Fri 31, Sat 1, 7.30pm
Fri 31, 11am
Bruce Gordon Theatre,
Illawarra Performing Arts Centre

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Photo: Alicia Battestini

Australian Booty

By Candy Bowers

A sumptuous hour of stories, jokes, music and physical comedy...

Australian Booty is an entertaining mix of comedy, social commentary and of course, booty shaking! From the Afro-Aussie sisters behind international smash hit *Hot Brown Honey*, comes a more intimate yet fiercely powerful show about self-love.

This radical babe weighs in on the Australian identity, interracial dating, Aussie TV and the beauty myth.

Candy B is political, poetic and a little bit naughty in this riotous romp about her rump.

Set to a killer sound track created by the notorious Busty Beatz, *Australian Booty* will slam, shake and tickle you all the way to the dance floor.

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A Black Honey Company and Regional Arts
Victoria production

Director Candy Bowers and Nelly Thomas
Music Kim "Busty Beatz" Bowers
Cast Candy Bowers

22 - 24 August

Thu 22, Fri 23, Sat 24, 7.30pm
Fri 23, 11am
Bruce Gordon Theatre,
Illawarra Performing Arts Centre

Reserve Your Spot
merrigong.com.au/merrigongx

WARNING
Side effects may
include uncontrollable
booty shaking and
higher self-esteem.



*Black
Honey
Company*

Photo: Candy Bowers

In Transit

By Michael Pigott and Katja Handt

The airport transit lounge, a space where one is neither here nor there.

Transforming the Wollongong Town Hall into an international airport transit lounge, *In Transit* is a unique theatrical experience that explores how human beings move through the world. Audiences are invited into an environment that will amuse, transport and engage in a series of overlapping narratives that explore arrivals, departures and belonging. A space where the freedom of global movement for some sits uncomfortably next to the struggle of movement for others.

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A Flightpath Theatre production

Created by the company

Michael Pigott, Katja Handt, Daryl Wallis,
Danielle King, Ryuichi Fujimura and
Linda Luke

19 – 21 September

Thu 19, Fri 20, Sat 21, 7.30pm
Main Auditorium, Wollongong Town Hall

Reserve Your Spot

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flightpaththeatre

Photo: Flightpath Theatre

Trash Talk

Development Showing

By Strangeways Performance Ensemble

Inspired by the hyper reality of World Wrestling Entertainment, *Trash Talk* explores the dangerous impact of imagined realities when they become the tools of the powerful. Told from the unique perspectives of its performers, this new work takes a gladiatorial approach to truth-telling in an age of lies.

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A Strangeways Performance Ensemble production

Director Anne-Louise Rentell

Wrestling Consultant/Director Benny Coles

Support Worker Marion Maclean

Cast Malcolm Allison, Ethan Arnold,
Jordan Bowater, Ethan Green, Rachel Head,
Phillip Prentice, Christian Tagliaferro

Sat 5 Oct, 11am

Bruce Gordon Theatre,
Illawarra Performing Arts Centre

Reserve Your Spot

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Photo: Strangeways Performance Ensemble



Made From Scratch

A multi-artform performance night offering artists space and support to test new ideas in front of a live audience. Here, experimentation is key. Each event will showcase new works from local artists across performance, dance, visual art, film, stand-up, poetry, music, cabaret and circus.

Got an idea for an act?

Contact artistic@merrigong.com.au

Sat 9 Mar, 7pm

Sat 20 Jul, 7pm

Sat 14 Sep, 7pm

Sat 30 Nov, 7pm

The Music Lounge,
Wollongong Town Hall

Reserve Your Spot

merrigong.com.au/merrigongx

Photo: Caz Nowaczyk

Venues

Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, 32 Burelli Street, Wollongong

Wollongong Town Hall, Corner of Crown and Kembla Streets, Wollongong

Thank you

Merrigong Theatre Company's major funding partners



Merrigong Theatre Company manages IPAC & Wollongong Town Hall on behalf of its major funding partner, Wollongong City Council.



Australian Booty

Elsie

Trash Talk



Good Omens Development

The Believers Are But Brothers

The Russell Mills Foundation
Ideas.
Experiences.
Humanity.



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