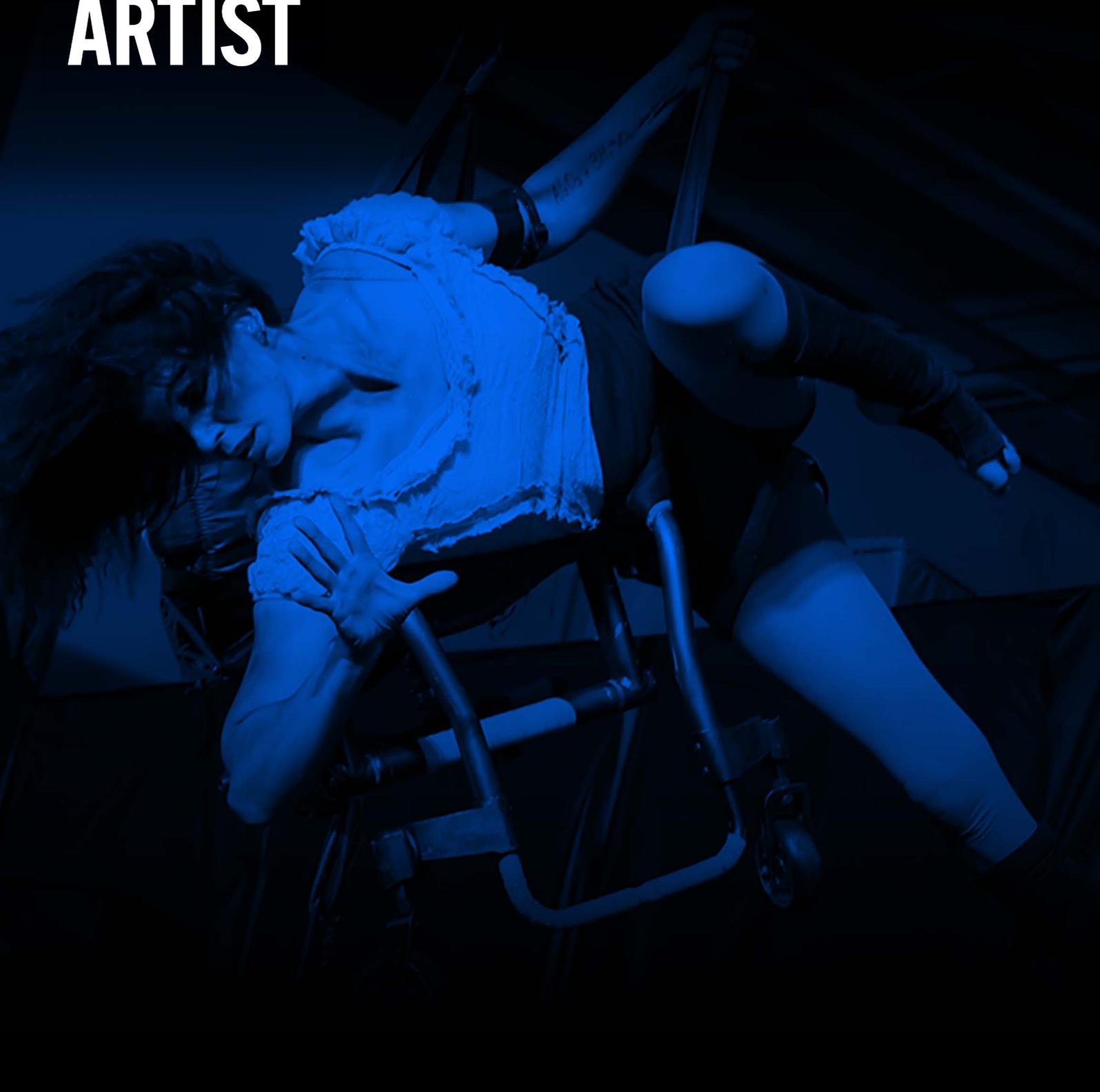


UNDER COVER ARTIST



UNDERCOVER ARTIST FESTIVAL PROGRAM 2021

Presented by:



Undercover Artist Festival is here to bend the rules, push artistic boundaries and entertain in a way you didn't know possible!

As Australia's premier performing arts and disability festival, Undercover Artist Festival is three incredible days of theatre, dance, comedy, circus, music, cabaret, poetry and more! Undercover Artist Festival is disability-led, headlining only artists with disability in the trailblazing, must-see event of 2021!

FROM THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR:



Years ago, Access Arts consulted artists with disability and determined that there was a real need for performing arts opportunities, where artists could showcase their work on the professional stage. In 2015, led by founding Festival Director Belinda Locke, Undercover Artist Festival was born.

The Festival returned to Queensland Theatre two years later in 2017 with gusto. Festival Director Harmonie Downes and the Access Arts team presented two days of performing arts work by artists with disability, and so the legacy continued.

Taking a short break to recalibrate, Undercover Artist Festival was due to return in 2020 – but like countless other events, COVID-19 postponed those plans. With the support and leadership of the Undercover Artist Steering Group paving the way, I stepped into the Festival Director role, with Hana Tow as Festival Producer. With our team we delivered the Undercover Artist Grants Program.

The Undercover Artist Grants Program saw eight performing arts projects supported and presented as work-in-progress showings at Undercover Artist: Online – our first foray into the virtual showcase world in December 2020.

We are so thrilled and grateful to present Undercover Artist Festival 2021, under the *Brisbane Festival* umbrella. We look forward to audiences being captivated by real stories and authentic voices on stage, in way they've never seen before.

We have a truly incredible line-up, made even more special with the programming of Access Arts Achievement Award winner, Lauren Watson, premiering her autobiographical show, *Nerve*. We also proudly present Undercover Artist Grants Program recipients Oliver Hetherington-Page with *The No Bang Theory* and Aspy Jones headlining the Closing Night Concert. It's a testament to arts programs supporting career development and capacity building for artists with disability in Queensland and beyond.

The impact of events like Undercover Artist Festival cannot be overstated. Our Festival is about bold, daring, iconic works by incomparable artists whose work deserves to be seen and heard by the world. For too long, disability arts has been packed away into a box. Undercover Artist Festival is the platform on which our legacy will last forever, showing that authentic representation is not only imperative but so much more possible than we think.

Thank you for supporting Undercover Artist Festival. In doing so, you are supporting art at its most meaningful. We're so glad to have you here.

Enjoy!
Madeleine Little
Festival Director

FESTIVAL TIMETABLE

QUEENSLAND THEATRE, 78 MONTAGUE ROAD, SOUTH BRISBANE

Date/Time	Show	Venue
THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER		
2.30pm - 4:00pm	Workshop: Dance with Ruby Donohoe	Bille Brown Theatre
7:00pm - 8:00pm	<i>The No Bang Theory</i> by Oliver Hetherington-Page	Bille Brown Theatre
8:30pm - 9:30pm	<i>Nerve</i> by Lauren Watson	Diane Cilento Studio
FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER		
9:00am - 10:30pm	Workshop: Auslan Dramaturgy of Shakespeare with Racheal Missingham	Diane Cilento Studio
4.30pm - 5.30pm	<i>Je Suis Toi (I am You)</i> by The Sunshine Troupe	Diane Cilento Studio
7:30pm - 8:30pm	<i>Happy-Go-Wrong</i> by Andi Snelling	Bille Brown Theatre
8:30pm - 9:30pm	<i>Comedy Club</i> hosted by Alistair Baldwin	Diane Cilento Studio
SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER		
10:00am - 11:00am	<i>Unapologetically You</i> by Screech Arts	Bille Brown Theatre
12:00pm - 1:00pm	<i>3 Worlds</i> by Access Arts Ensemble	Bille Brown Theatre
3:00pm - 4:00pm	<i>Brown Church</i> by Naavikaran	Diane Cilento Studio
5:00pm - 6:00pm	<i>Poetry & Prose</i> featuring Gayle Kennedy	Diane Cilento Studio
6:30pm - 7:30pm	<i>Swinging & Spinning</i> by The Crooners - Tim McCallum & Tony Dee	Bille Brown Theatre
8:00pm - 9:45pm	Closing Night Concert featuring Aspy Jones	Bille Brown Theatre
16 - 18 September	Disability Pride Wall	QT Foyer

CREATIVE TRACK



NERVE Lauren Watson

Through the complex tussle of truths and commodification of her identity, Lauren Watson asks 'do you have the nerve?' in a thrilling autobiographical aerial theatre show.

Where compelling contemporary circus acts and choreography meets high energy physical theatre, Watson explores the fears, triumphs and complexities of everyday living.

This bold new work uncovers trauma, grief, discrimination, and disability identity in this awe-inspiring world premiere that will keep you on the edge of your seat.



THE NO BANG THEORY Oliver Hetherington-Page

Oliver Hetherington-Page hates Sheldon Cooper. Perhaps he protests too much because why else would his first one-man cabaret be so obsessed with the lead character of *The Big Bang Theory*? Simple.

It's time to set the record straight – and what better way than with show tunes and stories? Oliver is an artist on the autism spectrum and he's fighting against stereotypes.

The No Bang Theory is a musical journey from dating disasters to diagnosis through #ActuallyAutistic eyes.



HAPPY-GO-WRONG Andi Snelling

Powerhouse performer Andi Snelling is in the fight of her life after a tick bite plunged her into dangerously ill health.

Little does she know, she is about to orchestrate her own rescue in this award-winning physical theatre odyssey that blends clowning, storytelling and roller skates.

The show's message of hope amidst uncertainty is even more relevant now than ever. With five awards, standing ovations and multiple sold-out seasons, this "highlight of the year" (*The Age*) is simply unmissable.



BROWN CHURCH Naavikaran

Brown Church is a theatrical spoken word and dance spectacle as served by Meanjin-based godexx Naavikaran. Come forth and be revered.

At this holy, gay altar we will witness the journeys of displacements, queer liberation and the euphoria of culture as explored through poetry, music and dance.

This work is prayer. It is a call for community. It is the future grounded in reality.



SWINGING & SPINNING The Crooners

The Crooners: Tim McCallum (*The Voice Australia*) & Tony Doevendans (*We Are The Superhumans UK*) perform all-time favourite swing and jazz classics from Sinatra to Bubl , Nat 'King' Cole to Bennett.

With their exuberant showmanship and unique crooning voices, The Crooners will have toes tapping and hearts melting. Come fly with them as they swing and spin the night away in an intimate soiree of song and prose.



CLOSING NIGHT CONCERT Aspy Jones

Dress up in your most fabulous outfit and join us at to celebrate the end of Undercover Artist Festival 2021. Let's go out with a bang!

Aspy Jones writes music from his unique perspective on life and the difficulties he's faced as he's learnt to live with autism and anxiety. His authentic and quirky blend of indie, pop, rock and roots will ensure the closing concert is one to remember!

Undercover Artist Festival is committed to accessibility and is proud to offer Auslan Interpretation, Audio Description and Captioning for all performances.



UNDER
COVER
ARTIST

CAREER

WORKSHOPS, PANEL CONVERSATIONS
AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

DANCE WITH RUBY DONOHOE

This workshop is for all dancers and performers who wish to reconnect with their bodies and explore movement in a safe, creative environment.

Led by facilitator Ruby Donohoe, participants are invited to free themselves from any expectation of what their body can do, and learn how to find the courage to follow their instincts on the stage.

AUSLAN DRAMATURGY OF SHAKESPEARE

Shakespeare's language has its own rhythm and structure. So does Auslan – we put its poetry, metaphor and comedy centre-stage. Performing Shakespeare in Auslan provides a natural story-telling and poetic imagery.

Translating the rich, pun-riddled text of Shakespeare into Auslan is not an easy feat. A collaborative workshop to unpack the language, concept and meaning when working with directorial vision. In creating an interpretive version with few dramaturgical tips, you will be able to perform a Shakespeare text.

DISABILITY-LED IN PRACTICE facilitated by Madeleine Little

Talking about disability-led art making process is one thing, but how do we do it and get it right? This conversation aims to turn disability-led theory into practice.

Facilitated by Undercover Artist Festival Director Madeleine Little, panel members include UK-based dancer Dan Daw, circus artist Racheal Missingham, Aotearoa/New Zealand-based interdisciplinary artist Pelenakeke Brown, and Artistic Associate at indelabilityarts Alexandra Ellen.

This session is co-programmed with Meeting Place and supported by the British Council as part of the UK/AU Season.

MEETING PLACE

In 2021, *Meeting Place* will be presented in conjunction with Undercover Artist Festival.

You are invited to discover the latest information and research affecting the arts and disability sector; engage in accessible workshops that develop practical skills to progress your arts practice and career; network with like-minded people and uncover potential collaborative opportunities; and celebrate Deaf and disabled artists and their contributions to the rich tapestry of Australian culture.

The disability-led forum is hosted annually by Arts Access Australia.
www.meetingplaceforum.org

COMMUNITY



JE SUIS TOI (I AM YOU) The Sunshine Troupe

Challenging the boundaries of the theatrical form, *Je Suis Toi*, brings three performing artists to the stage as they emerge from the confines of isolation to seek out re-connection with one another and beyond.

Subjected to the preconceptions that have historically bound artists with disability, they seek liberation and transformation, giving voice to their experience using music, the spoken word and dance as provocation for conversation and connection.



UNAPOLOGETICALLY YOU Screech Arts

In their first public performance since COVID lockdowns, three CPL Screech Arts groups have come together in collaboration to present *Unapologetically You*.

This self-devised performance explores the idea that connection and communication is the key in building a community where we all feel comfortable to truly be ourselves.



3 WORLDS Access Arts Ensemble

Ever wanted to see what an Access Arts workshop is like? Come along and experience the delight and intrigue of *3 Worlds*.

Observe the exploration of creativity as participants from the Theatre & Dance Ensemble play with movement and sound, the Rhythm Circle participants journey into diverse cultural soundscapes, and the Access Arts Singers celebrate much loved classic songs.



DISABILITY PRIDE WALL

What is disability pride? What does it mean to be proud of our disabled identity? Inspired by the Disability Pride Wall in Footscray, Melbourne and led by Larissa Macfarlane, artists and audience members with disability or who are d/Deaf are invited to contribute to the wall.

Bring your stories to life and witness the powerful moment culture and community meet.

FESTIVAL PARTNERS

This project is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

PROGRAM PARTNERS



ACCESSIBILITY PARTNERS



Opening Night wines,
provided by Cloverly Estate

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