

Midsumma Festival 2017: Auslan Interpreted Events

****Transcript of Video Promoting Auslan Interpreted Midsumma Festival Events****

Introduction:

Welcome to Midsumma Festival 2017.

Midsumma Festival is Victoria's premier queer arts and cultural Festival, for and by LGBTQIA+ communities.

Midsumma Festival takes place from 15 Jan to 5 Feb 2017. Melbourne and surrounding areas will be home to a spectacular program of over 130 events: including visual arts, performance, film, parties, sports, talks and social events. There are lots of great free and ticketed events for Deaf audiences to enjoy.

Visit midsumma.org.au/access/auslan to see a list of all interpreted events.

Midsumma is happy to answer any enquires. Email ticketing@midsumma.org.au or call using the National Relay Service and ask for 03 9415 9819.

Signature events:

This year's Festival is punctuated by three signature outdoor events. Each of these events are free and interpreted.

“Midsumma Carnival” opens the Festival on Sun 15 Jan. It is an all-day-and-night party-in-the-park at Melbourne's Alexandra Gardens.

“Midsumma Pride March” is Melbourne's iconic march of solidarity and celebration. It takes place in the second week of the Festival on Sun 29 Jan on Fitzroy St, St Kilda. **“Post-Pride Celebrations”** at Catani Gardens will be interpreted.

The final weekend explodes with **“Midsumma Horizon”** on Sat 4 Feb. It is a new-art party at Testing Grounds tucked away in Melbourne's CBD.

Events:

We have many Auslan interpreted performances, live music events, talks and exhibitions at Midsumma Festival.

The **“Midsumma Australia Post Art Prize”** is a nation-wide queer visual arts award held at Fort Delta. Exhibition features Deaf artist Selwyn Hoffmann. Both Opening Night on Fri 20 Jan and Artist Floor Talk on Thu 2 Feb are interpreted.

“I Hate Myself for Loving You” is comedian Lisa-Skye’s annual Midsumma spoken word event. See a selection of Melbourne’s best and most diverse Queer-IDing writers present succinct, engaging, funny, sexy, sad pieces. One night only: Wed 18 Jan 7pm at the Hare Hole.

Kerryn Fields and Little Wise are two songstresses who are joining forces to bring their whiskey-soaked folk and alt-country music to the iconic Northcote Social Club. Witness these incredible lyrics in this Auslan interpreted event. There is only one chance to see this event on Sat 21 Jan 2pm.

“Rainbow Rights and Advocacy” is centred on LGBTIQ rights for people with disability. This event runs all day including talks and a showcase around individual rights and the law. This event is held at AMES Australia on 27 Jan, 10am start.

“Quippings: Return to Our Roots Show” is part-cabaret and part-wordfest. Now in its sixth year, Quippings returns with the best of the raunchiest material by a cutting-edge spoken word and performance troupe of artists. Performers with disability and Deaf performers will deliver a passionate deluge via story/standup/song/dance/rant. This event is only on Wed 1 Feb, 8pm.

“The Sparrow Men” is a fully improvised performance by comedy duo Marcus Willis and Andy Balloch. This totally unique, never-to-be-repeated experience springs to life each night with a single suggestion from the audience. This event will be interpreted on Fri 3 Feb, 7.30pm.

“Ursula Martinez: Free Admission” is coming to Arts Centre Melbourne. Ursula Martinez is many things: an Olivier Award winner, a cult cabaret diva, a star of stages across the world... but above-all-else she is a provocateur. “Free Admission” sees her building a real brick wall between herself and the audience, while revealing her hopes, fears, frustrations, delights and disappointments. Auslan interpretation is available on Sat 4 Feb 3pm.

“Queer Family Portraits” is a family get-together with local LGBTQIA+ artists to think through what a Queer Family Portrait might look like. This event is an afternoon of short works, presentations and discussions at Arts House. It is curated by artists Lz Dunn and Karen Therese. This event is only on Sat 4 Feb, 2pm.

“Park Lounge” returns to Werribee, transforming Kelly Park into a boutique lounge experience. From colourful inflatable couches you can take in twilight music, avant-garde drag, circus and dance. This is a free event on Sat 4 Feb 4pm.

The Official Festival Bar will play host to three **Midsumma talks** events. Come to Arts Centre Melbourne’s The Barre on Saturday afternoons during the Festival for discussions by leading minds from trans and gender diverse, first nations and disability communities. These talks are free – go to midsumma.org.au for more details.

See you at Midsumma Festival!

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