



MEDIA RELEASE

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Tuesday 4 May 2021

GET READY FOR RIFFS, ROUTINES AND RUNNING GAGS WHEN **BRISBANE COMEDY FESTIVAL RETURNS IN 2021!**

Prepare to LOL in the aisles when **Brisbane Comedy Festival** returns with a star-studded line-up hitting the river city for three huge weeks of laughs and live gigs from **16 July to 8 August 2021**.

Warm up your winter with a packed program of sizzling highlights featuring homegrown heroes, repeat offenders and fan favourites playing three big Brisbane venues: Brisbane Powerhouse, The Tivoli and The Fortitude Music Hall.

Brisbane Comedy Festival Director **Phoebe Meredith** said the new winter dates had attracted a huge number of headline acts and household names, all champing at the bit after a COVID-impacted 2020.

"We're long overdue a little light relief after COVID-19 cut the laughs short in the final week of last year's Festival," Ms Meredith said.

"Australia's most talented comedians spent that time working on new material and if the reviews coming out of *Melbourne International Comedy Festival* are anything to go by we are all in for a real treat.

"Brisbane comedy fans are renowned for being rowdy, receptive and up-for-a-laugh so it's unsurprising to see so many big acts eager to hit our stages."

In time-honoured fashion, the *Brisbane Comedy Festival Opening Gala* kicks off the 24-day event on **16 July** with a spectacular line-up of comedians at The Fortitude Music Hall, hosted by **Tommy Little**.

Playing Brisbane Powerhouse is straight-talking YouTube star and lockdown legend **Nat's What I Reckon**, performing his new show *On Purpose* from **17-18 July**.

Australia's beloved comedic import, **Ross Noble**, launches his post-COVID *2021 Comeback Special* and brings his spontaneous stand-up and flights of fantasy to Brisbane Powerhouse from **27 July to 8 August**.

Also emerging from lockdown with fresh material is **Effie (Mary Coustas)** whose trademark honest wit punctuates her new show, *Better Out Than In* from **17-18 July**.

Brisbane Powerhouse trains the spotlight on a diverse schedule of acts including **Christian Hull** in his solo stand-up debut, seasoned entertainer **Paul McDermott**,

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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Mel Buttle, Kevin Kropinyeri, Jimeon, Cal Wilson, Aboriginal Allstars, Nikki Osbourne and Tom Ballard.

Brisbane comedy couple **Stav** and **Kat Davidson** present an encore season of *He Said, She Said* on 7-8 August with all-new fresh and funny life-in-lockdown material.

The leading arts performance venue also hosts the return of Festival favourites *Frocking Hilarious*, *Queerstories*, *Brisburned*, *This Is Your Trial* and *Knockoff* free comedy every Friday.

The Tivoli sets the table for the *Brisbane Comedy Festival Sunday Roast* on **July 25** then serves up a feast of guest acts including **Fiona O'Loughlin, Peter Helliard, Anne Edmonds & Lloyd Langford, Rosie Waterland, Dave Thornton** and **Geraldine Hickey**.

Karen from Finance (*RuPaul's Drag Race*) is heading *Out of Office* and bringing her high-camp one-woman show to the iconic Brisbane venue from **29-31 July**.

International sensations **The Naked Magicians** leave Las Vegas and return to play the Festival that kickstarted their careers in their *Home-Coming Tour* at The Tivoli from **5-7 August**.

Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said Brisbane residents and visitors would lap up three weeks of light-hearted laughter after a difficult year.

"Everyone will be looking forward to Brisbane's favourite funny festival, showcasing homegrown talent, household names, as well as three of Brisbane's incredible arts and live music venues," Cr Schrinner said.

"Festivals like this contribute to our vibrant and creative city, providing more to see, do, and smile about, while supporting our arts and events industry."

The average ticket price for the 2021 Brisbane Comedy Festival is \$35 and all performances are on sale from **Thursday 6 May 2021**.

Check out the full program and buy tickets at brisbanecomedymfestival.com.

Brisbane Comedy Festival is presented by Brisbane Powerhouse and proudly supported by festival partners Bambrick Media, Brisbane MINI Garage, goa, PixelFrame, scenestr, The Johnson, Triple M, Queensland Government via Tourism and Events Queensland, and creative partner Nick Did This.

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