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CELEBRATE THE START OF FRINGE-UARY

FRINGE WORLD Festival 2017 kicks off today with pleasures and delights for all.

The largest annual event in Westralia is a firm summer favourite for Perthians who flock to the Festival to escape the everyday and get together with their favourite people for good times every night.

Absolutely everyone is invited to celebrate the start of the month long festivities that is known as Fringe-uary, by enjoying some Fringe entertainment in the Spectacular opening weekend, from Friday 20 through Sunday 22 January.

Festival Director Amber Hasler said that FRINGE WORLD is when Perth transforms into a happy place where pleasurable times keep the Summer vibes going over 31 days.

“Fringe means something special to so many people and it’s a wonderful opportunity for the people of Perth to immerse in amazing Fringe entertainment over and over again and have a different and unique adventure every single time. The atmosphere is vibrant, welcoming and most of all happy”, Ms Hasler said.

The month-long Festival runs from until February 19 with a program that is brimming with over 700 events at more than 150 venues. FRINGE WORLD is recognised internationally as the third largest Fringe in the world and the 2017 program features events from around the globe and a big array of local talent.

This year, you can find your happy place in the centre of the FRINGE WORLD universe at **FRINGE Central at the Perth Cultural Centre**, take a short stroll to Perth’s favourite playground **The Pleasure Garden** and go luxe in the historic heart of Perth, with a brand new hub at the fabulous **Cathedral Square** precinct. Offering a veritable smorgasbord of free and ticketed entertainment, plenty of treats to satisfy any hunger and quench any thirst, Perth and surrounds will be bursting with FRINGE goodness.

FRINGE WORLD only rolls around once a year and when it does, it’s time for the whole family to celebrate! Over the spectacular opening weekend, The Pleasure Garden transforms into a children’s wonderland for **Little Pleasures** on Saturday and Sunday from 3.00pm to 5.00pm with a free and fun program to keep little kiddies entertained. Meanwhile FRINGE Central will be going off with **Silent Disco**, **buskers** and the **FRINGE WORLD Ferris Wheel!**

The family fun isn’t limited to the opening weekend though – the entire program is bursting with family friendly options for the kids with its most comprehensive program yet and there are plenty of free community events to round out the program.



Flocking to 2017's Festival are a slew of artists from around the world. Grotesque and gorgeous surreal showgirl and world-famous performer Betty Grumble (SA) is crossing the Nullabor to soak up Perth's FRINGE fabulousness for her show **Betty Grumble: Sex Clown Saves the World**, alongside Adelaide Fringe sell-out and 2016 Australian Survivor contestant **Matt Tarrant** (SA) who will read your mind and have you leave questioning everything. Asher Treleaven and Gypsy Wood (QLD) together are **Peter & Bambi Heaven**, the Gold Coast's most deluded dancing magicians and Courtney Act (QLD) takes you over the rainbow and down under in her new show: **The Girl from OZ!** For those who like things a little more daring, one of the world's greatest circus companies, Canada's Cirque Alfonse, delivers edge-of-your-seat entertainment in **BARBU**.

The home of FRINGE comedy, **The Gold Digger**, is back with even more side-splitting laughs, playing host to some of the country's best funny-people. Dave Callan (**A Little Less Conversation 3**), Amelia Ryan (**Late'n'Loose Amelia Ryan's Fringe Tease**) and Tessa Waters (**Fully Sik**) are just a taste of what you can expect to unearth.

Returning for another round of rapturous audiences are the world-wide smash hit cabaret shows **LIMBO** and **La Soirée**, joined for the first time by boogie wonderland **VELVET** the musical, starring Marcia Hines. Indigenous dance and YouTube sensations **Djuki Mala** will present their high energy fusion of traditional Indigenous culture, contemporary dance and storytelling.

No matter how many artists descend up on FRINGE from across the country and globe, Western Australian events and performers continue to be the heart and soul of FRINGE WORLD. The big offering of WA events includes the magical circus show **FEARLESS**, Aria and Helpmann award-winning star **iOTA in The Average Joe** as part of The Blue Room's Summer Nights program, 2016 FRINGE WORLD Award Winners **Dr Felicity Rickshaw's Celebrity Sex Party** and **FAG/STAG**.

Get to *your* happy place from today. There's something for everyone in this epic program of free and ticketed events and with the average ticket price only \$24, your wallet is guaranteed to be as happy as you are! The full program and tickets for all shows can be found at fringeworld.com.au. Get in quick as some shows will sell out fast.

FRINGE WORLD gratefully recognises the support of its partners including Community Partner Lotterywest along with Woodside, the Department of Culture and the Arts and the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority.

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