

Deadly Fringe Information Pack

Deadly Performing and Visual Arts Commissions 2021



About Deadly Fringe

Deadly Fringe is back! With four successful years of operation, the Deadly artist development program continues to expand as it seeks to support innovative performing and visual artworks by emerging Indigenous artists.

Deadly Fringe is designed to facilitate the growth, exploration and pathways for emerging and deadly voices in theatre / contemporary performance, visual art and festivals. There are three main arms to Deadly Fringe for 2021:

- Performing Arts Commissions
- Visual Arts Commissions
- Emerging Producer Placement

These key projects are underpinned by the broader Deadly Fringe program of artistic and cultural support, provided through mentorships, engagement with Elders, the coordination of First Nations Yarning Circles, community engagement initiatives (such as discount tickets for mob), and dedicated assistance from the two Deadly Fringe producers for all First Nations artists involved with Melbourne Fringe Festival.

What's our aim?

Heading into its fifth year, Deadly Fringe invites both emerging Artists and Emerging Festival Producers to create, develop and showcase new work and explore opportunities within the Arts industry. Along the way Melbourne Fringe will share skills and resources to help you present your event in the 2021 Melbourne Fringe Festival.

The **Performing Arts Commissions** will see two new projects selected for development and presentation in the 2021 Festival, with each selected participant **receiving \$10,000** in project funds to make it all happen!

Two **Visual Arts Commissions** will each receive an **honarium of \$2,000** as well as plenty of additional support from Fringe to cover gallery hire, exhibition staffing, an opening event and other curatorial and technical in-kind support to make each of the exhibitions happen!

What is this Information Pack all about?

To apply to be one of the Deadly Fringe Performing Arts Commissions or Visual Arts Commissions you should first read this Information Pack to decide if you want to apply. All applications are due by **11:59pm on Friday 18 October**.

All shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview about their project, to give us a chance to learn a bit more about you and your work. These will be held during the day, on the **week commencing Monday 26 October**.

Have a read of the full information in the rest of this Information Pack, but if you have any questions please get in touch!

You can email us, give us a call any time, or better yet, make a time to chat with us over Zoom:

- Email Tuuli and Danny by sending to deadly@melbournefringe.com.au and cc'ing in danny@melbournefringe.com.au (Tuuli works part time, so make sure you include Danny in the email!)
- Call the office on (03) 9660 9600 and ask for Tuuli or Danny
- Make a time to have a yarn: email, call or we'll sort out a Zoom time for you

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How to apply

Read all of the information in this document, including the information on following pages and if you decide to apply, visit <https://form.jotform.com/201757974536871> to start your application.

All applications are due by **11:59pm, Friday 18 October 2020.**

All interviews for shortlisted applicants will be on the **week commencing Monday 26 October 2020.**

To complete the online application, you will need to:

- Outline your early vision of the project you want to create
- Include biographies for yourself and any other artists in your team
- Explain your artist development goals and ambitions
- Attach supporting information like photos, sound or videos (but only if you want to!)

Is writing not your strong suit? We also accept video entries of up to 7 minutes, where you need to answer the same questions, but can do it as you instead of writing it down. Just follow the instructions in the online EOI form linked to above.

Frequently Asked Questions

Has Deadly Fringe been run before?

Yes, this will be the fifth year of the program! The program has previously and continues to support various contemporary visual and performance art commissions with wonderful success.

The three works that were part of Deadly Fringe last year (2019) were: Arkie Barton's *Kalkadoon*, Pierra Van Sparkes' *Current*, and Tahnee and Uncle Talgum Edwards' *Edwards Gammin Café*. Melbourne Fringe worked with SEVENTH Gallery, Bus Projects and The SUBSTATION in delivering these three visual arts exhibitions. Deadly Fringe also celebrated its first "Deadly Night" which replaced individual opening nights for each event and allowed the community to gather celebrate all the artists together. Deadly Fringe also included a workshop run by Hayley Millar-Baker called *Assemblage of Memories*, at Wood Street Art Space.

Meanwhile, in 2017 we saw *dis place*, a multi-artform one off event by collective dis mob held in Fitzroy's historic MAYSAR. Led by artist and curator Kate ten Buuren (Taungurung), the team behind this project went on to present *dis rupt* at Hamer Hall as part of Yirramboi Festival in May 2019.

Also in 2017 we saw *Biladurang*, a dance-theatre performance shown in a real hotel room at Sofitel in the city, where lead artist Joel Bray (Wiradjuri) performed an immersive and intimate dance work. It won the Best Performance award at Fringe that year, as well as the Arts House Evolution Award and the Regional Arts Victoria Market Ready Award and went on to be performed as part of Darwin Festival, Brisbane Festival, Sydney Festival and Dance Massive.

In 2018 we learned that physical boundaries of country are not to be found on maps, but within oneself, with Sermsah Bin Saad (Nyikina) presenting his dance-theatre performance *Liyan* which was nominated for best Dance & Physical Theatre that year.

We also celebrated the strength, resilience and beauty of Aboriginal women in 2018, with *Matriarch* by Sandy Greenwood (Gumbaynggirr, Dunghutti and Bundjalong). This show won the NSW Tour Ready Award, the SA Tour Ready Award, the Green Room Award for Best Performer and a Green Room Award nomination for Best Writer, and went on to perform seasons at Adelaide Fringe Festival, Sydney Fringe Festival, Yirramboi Festival, Queensland Performing Arts Centre and is preparing for a 2020 tour to New York City and Los Angeles.

Finally, also in 2018 there was the provocative, urgent and unflinching interrogation into the Australian

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justice system with ***Bighouse Dreaming*** by Declan Furber Gillick (Arrente), which won the Fringe Best Performance award, Best Emerging Indigenous Artist award, the Discovery Award supported by Melbourne International Arts Festival, the Green Room Award for Best Writer, the Green Room Award for Best Ensemble and was nominated for the Green Room Awards for Best Independent Production and Best Performer. It has since toured to Darwin Festival and Brisbane Festival.

What kind of work are will be selected for Deadly Fringe?

We welcome creative projects in the contemporary visual and performing arts across all forms, or style including storytelling, 2D/3D artwork, text-based theatre, devised performance, cabaret, physical theatre, circus, live art, and anything else you can think of – if it has a performance or exhibition outcome, we want to hear about it!

Who can apply to Deadly Fringe?

Deadly Fringe is for people who identify as **Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander** who reside in Melbourne and the neighbouring lands of the Kulin Nation. We particularly would love to hear from Boon Wurrung and/or Wurundjeri artists.

Deadly Fringe is also for people who identify as **emerging Artists**, which is often people who have less than 5 years of professional experience as artists, but you could be considered “emerging” and be very experienced, such as:

- You may be using Deadly Fringe to try something new, such as an Actor who now wants to be a Director or a Painter who wants to become a Storyteller.
- Deadly Fringe also encompasses the opportunity for leadership and initiative, you may be an experienced artist wanting to lead a new creative team/project that includes many emerging Artists.

You can apply as a **solo practitioner** or as **part of a group**.

If you're applying as a solo artist, we'd also like to know what kinds of expertise you think you will need to develop and present your new project. If you know specific people you might approach then tell us who, but you can also just let us know the roles that you would need to support you in your project development and we can help you find the right people.

If you are part of a group, you'll need to decide on a lead applicant to make the application on behalf of the team. During the application process you can include all your bios. Your whole team doesn't need to identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, but at the very least the lead applicant must be.

What support will the selected Deadly Fringe Artists receive?

Each participant will receive personalised support from the staff Melbourne Fringe through the Deadly Fringe Emerging Producers and the broader Melbourne Fringe Programs and Projects Team, as well as bespoke mentorship from a senior First Nations arts producer or artist. We will work with you to make a tailored plan based on the nature of your project and your stage of career.

You will also be guided in how best to participate in Melbourne Fringe's Artist Development Program including FAQs, Info Sessions, Masterclasses and First Nations Yarning Circles that are designed to support and equip artists with the tools and skills needed to excel in the Festival and beyond.

The Melbourne Fringe Artist Development series includes:

- **Rego FAQs** are group sessions that help artists register events in the Melbourne Fringe Festival;
- **Info Sessions** are group sessions that share skills needed to produce any independent arts event;
- **Masterclasses** are run in smaller group sessions that focus on business practice and project planning.

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- **Yarning Circles** are mob only sessions led by our First Nations staff and focus on cultural connections within the Festival context as well as identifying and working through questions that might arise throughout your project development.

Don't forget, each selected participant receives a commission from Deadly Fringe by participating in the program!

What is the Project Fee intended for?

- Pay fees for yourself and your creative team to find time to participate in the Artist Development Program sessions, as well as artist fees for development of your project
- Production requirement costs during the creative development and presentation of your project at the 2021 Melbourne Fringe Festival
- Paying for your venue (although Melbourne Fringe can help a little bit extra on occasion!)

What's my commitment if I get involved in Deadly Fringe?

As with all of our past participants, we want you to come out of the Deadly Fringe program as a better and more confident performance maker, ready to take on the arts world in a big way. To get to that end point, you must be able to attend some key development sessions throughout the program, including:

- Participating in the three Yarning Circles
- Joining us at least 7 out of the 11 FAQ and Info Sessions
- Getting involved in the mentorship program to develop and grow your practice

Once you're in the program we will work with you to create a tailored plan that will develop the skills you require for your project or to advance your career.

A bit about us

Melbourne Fringe is a celebration of cultural democracy and art for everyone. By embracing diversity and a spirit of independence, we create a unique space for artistic self-expression linked to the life of our great city. That's why Melbourne Fringe is the most adventurous, inclusive, all-encompassing multi-artform festival in Australia. Every year we feature thousands of artists from every discipline you can name (and a few others besides) performing 450+ events in over 160 venues to an audience of 350,000 people. We find ideas from the margins and shout them to the world. We love the weird and strange, the different and queer, the misfits and the freaks. We're here to challenge perceptions and shake up the hierarchy, to be brave and unafraid, to explore the boundaries of art and to change the way you see the world.

For more info please visit www.melbournefringe.com.au

In 2021 Deadly Fringe is proudly supported by



Australian Government
Indigenous Languages and Arts

the Aēsop Foundation

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Melbourne Fringe respectfully acknowledges the Boonwurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Eastern Kulin nation. We recognise that our interactive venues, performance spaces, theatres and offices are firmly enrooted into the soil of Australia's First Nations peoples, and with that we pay our respect to the custodians of this city; the Elders, past, present and future.