

Venue Hire Info:

Shows & Gigs about hiring Common Rooms

Fringe Common Rooms is more than just a venue for hire – it’s a home for vibrant and groundbreaking independent arts, music and events.

All year round Common Rooms carries the torch for Melbourne Fringe’s deep commitment to rebellion, inclusivity and creativity (and ripper dance floors, obvz).

From gigs and live music to comedy, spoken word, theatre, cabaret, parties and meet-ups – whatever you’re up to, this is fully accessible common ground for everyone. And for artists, it’s a chance to share your work in a bustling and historic building right in the heart of Melbourne – and cos we love artists, you get heaps of benefits!

Fringe Common Rooms at Trades Hall consists of two spaces:

Ballroom: a performance space & bar that holds up to 174 patrons standing or 114 seated theatre-style. Perfect for your event or performance (think comedy, cabaret, spoken word), dance party, book launch or film screening.

Lounge: a second, intimate saloon-style space that holds up to 76 people standing or 48 seated and is ideal for workshops, meetings and rehearsals.

Porque no los dos? For most events in the Ballroom, the Lounge can be used as a break-out area or backstage green room offering a combined total capacity of 250 at no extra cost.

Common Rooms holds a 3am licence on all days except Sunday (which is licenced until 11pm). We have a bar in the Ballroom that we can run during your event.

Across both spaces there are 8x cabaret tables, 6x high bar tables and stools and 120 theatre seats available to use.

HIRING COMMON ROOMS FOR YOUR SHOW/GIG

Reckon Common Rooms is the perfect place for your event? Fill out the [Expression of Interest form](#) on our website and tell us all about it. Our team meets regularly to assess proposals against the following criteria:

- **Suitability** – Events that fit the space technically and physically.
- **Community** – Works by independent artists that foster connection and celebrate our community, creating a social atmosphere.
- **Diversity** – We value work by and for people who identify as Trans and Gender Diverse, First Nations, Deaf, Disabled or Culturally or Linguistically Diverse.

- **Viability** – Experience of the team, knowledge of the market and capacity to find an audience.
- **Distinctiveness** – Unique events that explore new ideas in new ways, or that hold a distinctive place in Melbourne’s arts market.

HIRE MODELS

Door split: Where the artist and Melbourne Fringe share the box office income (70% to you, 30% to us). There is a minimum hire fee to ensure that the costs of opening the venue can be covered.

Minimum spend: Where there is a minimum spend on the bar that the event must meet, or the hirer pays the difference. This is to minimise outright costs for hirers while ensuring we can keep the venue financially sustainable.

Flat venue-hire: Where there’s a flat rate for the venue hire, plus labour costs. The rate will change depending on the day of the week, how long the hire period is for, and whether the bar is open.

Our Sales and Events Coordinator will work with you to find the best deal for your event.

TICKETING

As a rule, all tickets must be sold through Melbourne Fringe’s ticketing system. We’ll work with you to set your ticket prices and manage any special ticketing requirements. No matter the type of venue hire, all tickets attract a scaled inside charge per ticket sold to cover the cost of the ticketing system.

Ticket Price	Inside Fee
Less than \$10	\$1.50
\$10.00 - \$14.99	\$2.50
\$15.00 - \$24.99	\$3.50
\$25.00 - \$39.99	\$4.00
\$40.00 +	\$4.50

GST is not applicable to inside charges.

Please note Fringe Common Rooms is a licenced venue, and as such all minors on the premises must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Underage or youth events restricted to a particular age group (under 18 or under 25) may be permitted in certain circumstances where there is no bar service. If you are looking to host an underage or youth event get in touch with our team with plenty of advance notice.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Both spaces are fully kitted out for your show or gig (see full tech specs below) so we're 100% ready to help you realise your vision.

Our venue duty managers can cover the basics of powering on some party lights and background music. For anything more complex you will require a technician.

We have a team of expert venue technicians ready to bring your artistic vision to life!

If you want to arrange your own technician to operate your event, talk to us.

Costs for Melbourne Fringe venue technicians are as follows:

Base rate: \$45ph inc GST

More than 8 hours: \$80ph inc GST

Hours worked between 12am and 7am: \$80ph inc GST

Sundays and Public Holidays: \$80ph incl GST

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Fringe Common Rooms is committed to being a wholly inclusive and accessible venue. No more shunting people into out-of-the-way goods lifts – Trades Hall is entirely accessible, with a platform lift from the Lygon Street entrance and an internal lift right near the entrance to the venue.

Gender-neutral and accessible bathrooms are just down the hall. There's also a hearing loop and portable wheelchair lift to make the stage accessible. Let us know if there's anything else you need and we'll see how we can make it happen.

Melbourne Fringe has created a resource to help you make your show accessible to audiences.

Download our [Producers Guide to Access](#).

Download [Producers Guide to Access \(Plain Text version\)](#)

See Tech Specs next page.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email commonrooms@melbournefringe.com.au or call us on (03) 9660 9600.



FRINGE COMMON ROOMS 2021. PHOTOS BY DUNCAN JACOB.

BALLROOM



FRINGE COMMON ROOMS 2021. PHOTOS BY DUNCAN JACOB.

LOUNGE



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TECH SPECS

Common Rooms is kitted out to put on high-quality performance events, with state of the art technology for everything your heart desires. Both the Ballroom and the Lounge can be set to your technical needs using the list of equipment below. Talk to us when booking your event.

Lighting & AV Equipment

All our lights are LED, super energy efficient and are guaranteed to make you look fantastic.

#	Lighting Equipment	But what is it?
8x	Pluto 800 wash moving head (LED) 6 mounted on rear bar	Colours and movement!
2x	LED Fresnel 50 - Nitec	Wash and Fill
1x	Pharos Jnr - Compact LED Profile with integrated zoom (19-36 degree)	Spotlights with adjustable angles
1x	Zero88 FLX S48 Lighting desk (with touch screen)	A multi-channel lighting control desk
2x	Comet 6 Way Single Phase Dimmer Pluto 350 moving head spot (LED)	Large moving head spots on top of the bar. For all the colours and fancy room looks you could ever want.
1x	Epson EB-L615U 5k Laser Projector	If you need AV, we got you covered

Audio Equipment

We have a rockin' sound system to bring the house down, that will make everything from your comedy line-up show to your 14-piece brass band sound A+.

#	Audio Equipment	But what is it?
2x	d&b V10P 3-way passive point source loudspeaker	Top of the range loudspeakers, perfect for live music
2x	d&b B6 Sub (omni directional)	Boom boom, these are top of the range subwoofers
6x	dbTechnologies Opera 12 foldback speakers	Foldback speakers: 2 left on stage with options to add the other 4
1x	Allen & Heath SQ-5 19" 48 channel mixer 96KHz digital mixer	Audio console for making sound come out the speakers
1x	Full microphone pack	6 vocal mics, 4 multi-purpose mics, 4 instrument mics & all the bells and whistles
4x	BSS ARR-133 DIs	The thing you plug into your instruments (if you need)

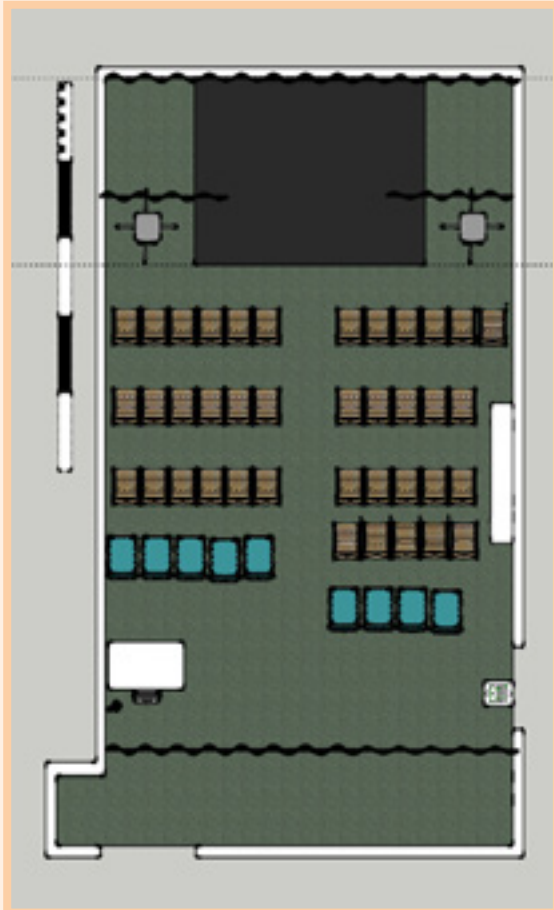
DJ Gear & Backline

Whether you're spinning tracks behind the decks or rocking out with a guitar, we've got the gear to make your gig great.

#	Audio Equipment	But what is it?
2x	Denon SC5000	Our top of the range DJ decks - people who know their stuff call these "a real paradigm shift in DJ technology"
2x	Pioneer CDJs	If the Denon's are a bit fancy for you, these are our classic CDJs
1x	Allen & Heath XOne:96	For your sick crossfades.
2x	Reloop RP8000 Direct Drive Turntables	For those wanting a more ~authentic~ vinyl experience
1x	Yamaha Tour Custom Fusion Shell Pack & Drum Mat	Badooom tish, the soundtrack to all your corny jokes
1x	Fender Mustang GT200 200W 2X12 Combo Amp	Plug your guitar in and shred 'til your heart's content
1x	Yamaha Upright Piano	Her name is Tina Tinkles

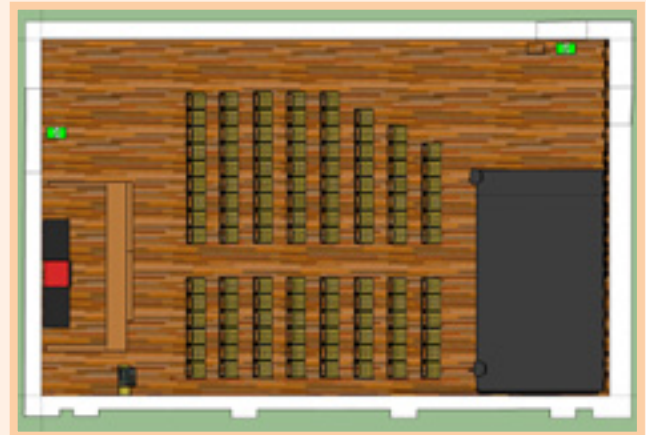
FLOOR PLANS

LOUNGE - 48 SEATS



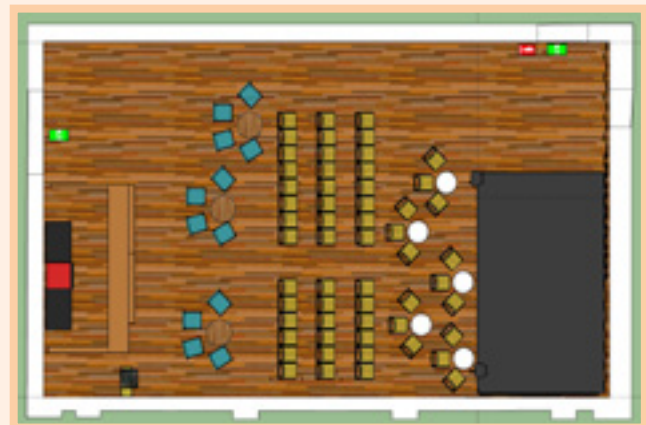
[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SIZE](#)

BALLROOM - 114 SEATS



[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SIZE](#)

BALLROOM - 66 SEATS



[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SIZE](#)



LEFT: CLUB KONG, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS 2022. PHOTO BY NICK ROBERTSON
RIGHT: BLUNDERLAND, FRINGE COMMON ROOMS 2021. PHOTO BY WILLIAM HAMILTON-COATES.