

THE DESERT BRARD



Presented by Hot Heads



MELBOURNE
FRINGE
FESTIVAL
OCT 2024

Low Sensory Performance Pack

The Desert Bard – Low Sensory Info Pack



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General Info

Show name: The Desert Bard

Show Dates: 16th – 19th of October, 9pm
20th October, 8pm

**Low sensory
show date:** 17th October 9pm

Duration: 55 mins

Location: The Square, Trades Hall, 54 Lygon St, Carlton VIC 3053

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What to Expect

This is a low sensory performance. Though we will be able to provide the majority of the resources necessary for a relaxed performance, certain resources, like an immediately close quiet room will not be available. Thus we are titling this as a low sensory performance, rather than an relaxed performance.

The below table should give a good outline of what to expect at the low sensory performance of The Desert Bard

Feature	What this Entails	Included	Additional Comments
Consultation with a member of the neurodivergent arts community	A member of the arts community who identifies as neurodivergent has been consulted to assess the work and provide feedback on any necessary changes for it to be considered a Low Sensory experience.	Yes	Tom Middleditch, a well versed access coordinator for arts festivals, has kindly come on board to support us.
Low sensory translation of the performance lighting	The lighting for the show is augmented to be a low sensory version of a standard showing.	Yes	
Low sensory translation of the performance Sound	The sound for the show is augmented to be a low sensory version of a standard showing.	Yes	
Addition of the house lights at a low level	The house lights are left on at an “airplane at night-time” level.	Yes	The exact level will be agreed upon by the creative team and consultant.
Open door policy	No lock out, people can come and go as they please.	Yes	
Walkaround policy	People can rock, stim, hum, pace, change seats, and come/go as they need/please.	Yes	

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Feature	What this Entails	Included	Additional Comments
Open phone policy	Audience can use support devices during the performance.	Yes	Recording is discouraged. Photos are okay.
Event facilitation by a member of the neurodivergent arts community	The performance day in question is overseen by an arts professional with lived experience of, and connection with, the neurodivergent community.	TBC	We will try and have Tom present to oversee the process, give a FOH staff a briefing, introduce the show to the audience, and be on hand to assist with any incidents related to sensory overwhelm.
Confirmed available Quiet Room	A quiet room is available for patrons to use at their discretion.	Partial	There will be a quiet room in Trades Hall for the duration of the Fringe. This will also be ours, however, the time it take to get there may be a hindrance to individuals who need it with short notice.
Extra FOH staff for the event day	1 extra staff should be included to help deliver this specific performance.	TBC	We are in talks with fringe about the possibility of this being arrange.
Capped tickets	75-85% of total seats available, to be agreed upon between the consultant and the creative team.	Yes	

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How to get there

PVT

The closest train station is Melbourne central.

Exit Melbourne central on La Trobe street. Take a right and walk up La Trobe Street, past the State Library Victoria on your right, to Russell Street. Take a left and cross directly across the large intersection, where Russell Street turns into Lygon Street. On your right, you will see Trades Hall. Cross the street to Trades Hall and walk slightly past to the building next door. When you reach 54 Lygon street, entre into the Foyer of what looks like an office building. The Front of House staff member will be waiting there.

Parking

There is a car park in the back of Trades Hall. You enter the car park of Lygon street. If the fold down parking bollard is down, you can also park from the Victoria Street entrance behind Trades Hall. This parking is free for those with accessibility needs.

The Venue

We are currently in talks with Melbourne Fringe about using their pre-existing photo-journey pack. This should be updated by 1/10/2024.

The Space

We are currently in talks with Melbourne Fringe about using their pre-existing photo pack of The Square space. This should be updated by 1/10/2024.

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Content Advice

Technical Advice

- Live music:** There will be a live guitarist in the space. This will be an electric acoustic guitar. The levels will be pre-agreed upon by the access coordinator and the creative team.
- Sound effects** There will be a ringing bell. Neither volume or pitch will be out with a normal range. Imagine a doorbell level of sound. There will be no other blaring or jarring sound effects.
- Lighting** There will be moments of ‘night time’. This will involve low lighting states and short periods of black out. However, the house lights for this session will always remain on. There will be no blinding lights.

Verbal Content Advice

- Text** There will be references to addiction, neglect, death, and child abuse.


Visual Content Advice

- Immersive theatre** There will be points in which the audience is encouraged to make the foley noise for the play. This will include individuals being given a crisp packet to crumple up to make the noise of a fire or a piece of cardboard, to tap their nails on to make rain sounds. No one will be forced to do anything they do not feel comfortable doing.
- There will be a point in which two audience members are asked to hold either end of a ladder for which one performer will leap over. Again, no one will be forced to do anything they do not feel comfortable doing. The performers can also rest the ladder on two chairs instead if they deem in the moment that its not appropriate for anyone in the audience to hold the ladder.
- Physical theatre** There is a point in which one performer will try and climb a ladder on stage and ‘fall off’. This will be a controlled and well rehearsed fall.

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The Performers

Actor Name + Headshot	Character + Costume Shot
Lily Kuenzler Head shot to be updated by 1/10/24	Sam Costume shot to be updated by 14/10/2024
Keir Aitken 	Boggins Costume shot to be updated by 14/10/2024
Danny McGilvery Head shot to be updated by 1/10/24	The Desert Bard Costume shot to be updated by 14/10/2024

Feedback

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