

SEYMOUR
2020 SEASON

THINK MORE | FEEL MORE

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SEYMOURCENTRE.COM
02 9351 7940

Seymour Centre is the performing arts centre of the University of Sydney.

We acknowledge the tradition of custodianship and law of the Country on which the University of Sydney campuses stand. We pay our respects to those who have cared and continue to care for Country.

SEYMOUR'S 2020 CURATED PROGRAM IS PACKED WITH BIG IDEAS, BRILLIANT PERFORMANCES AND BOLD NEW WAYS OF THINKING.

Our season includes three stellar Australian works: modern classic, *Wake in Fright*, fresh from a sold-out run at Melbourne's Malthouse Theatre; Champion Decent's *The Campaign*, a powerful exploration of Tasmania's gay rights movement; and Suzie Miller's *Prima Facie*, a gripping indictment of Australia's patriarchal justice system.

These local performances are joined by an exciting array of overseas work, including four Australian premieres: critically acclaimed English drama, *The Pass*; provocative new American plays, *Usual Girls* and *Appropriate*; and fantastically inventive American musical, *Preludes*. Plus we're proud to present a new adaptation of European realist classic, *Hedda Gabler*.

In February Mardi Gras returns with a wild line-up of music, comedy, acrobatics, cabaret and dance, once again transforming the Seymour into a bustling festival hub, and we're pleased to welcome back Sydney Writers' Festival and Sydney International Cabaret Festival, too. The acclaimed Metropolitan Orchestra also makes the Seymour its new home with four concerts in the Everest Theatre.

Join us in 2020.

Timothy Jones
Artistic Director



White Box Theatre and
Seymour Centre present

THE CAMPAIGN

By Campion Decent

★★★★ "Intimate and simultaneously joyful
and gut-wrenching theatre." ArtsHub

In 1988 more than one hundred arrests were made at Salamanca Market, when the Tasmanian Gay Law Reform Group defied a ban on a stall that featured petitions to decriminalise sexual activity between adult males in private.

The arrests lit the spark for a campaign to change the Tasmanian law, which was the most draconian in the Western world in terms of its penalty and, by the time of its repeal, the last of its kind in Australia.

From candid interviews with the people who were there, Campion Decent has fashioned a gripping account of Tasmania's decades-long gay law reform campaign.

Honest, raw and urgent, *The Campaign* won Best New Writing at the 2019 Tasmanian Theatre Awards, and chronicles a community's journey from opposition to acceptance, from hatred to embrace.

The Campaign was originally commissioned by Tasmanian Theatre Company.

DIRECTOR

Kim Hardwick

11 – 28 Feb
REGINALD THEATRE

Credit: Roger Lovell

Secret House and Seymour Centre present

HEDDA GABLER

By Henrik Ibsen

"One of Ibsen's greatest plays."
The Sydney Morning Herald

Fresh from their acclaimed independent productions of *Crime and Punishment* and *The Seagull*, Secret House debut another realist classic.

Bored by life and feeling trapped in a stifling marriage, Hedda Gabler, one of Ibsen's most famous and vivid anti-heroines, struggles to break free from social norms with tragic results.

For Hedda, the everyday is a negative force that affords her no meaning. Her intense sense of boredom quickly becomes aggression. Its ferocity shatters everything in its path, including Hedda herself.

One of the great classic female roles, *Hedda Gabler* places a complicated and controversial character at the centre of its story and raises important questions about mental health, conformity, manipulation, addiction and suicide.

DIRECTOR

Anthony Skuse

7 – 23 May
REGINALD THEATRE

Credit: Shan-Ree Tan

Fixed Foot Productions and Seymour Centre present

THE PASS

By John Donnelly

Fixed Foot Productions presents the Australian premiere of John Donnelly's critically acclaimed play, *The Pass*—a powerful, timely drama that asks: how much are you willing to lose in order to win?

Jason and Ade have been in the academy of a famous English football club since they were eight years old. It's the night before the game that will change their lives forever—their debut Champions League match.

Full of nervous energy, they skip, fight, joke, tease each other... until something passes between them. One moment that will reverberate through the next ten years of their lives—a decade of fame and failure, of secrets and lies—in the high-stakes world of professional sport where image is everything.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

DIRECTOR

Ed Wightman

PRODUCER

Becky Matthews

4 – 27 Jun

REGINALD THEATRE

*"Acerbically witty and
horribly gripping."*

THE INDEPENDENT

Outhouse Theatre Co and Seymour Centre present

APPROPRIATE

By Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

*"Subversively original... a remarkable and
devious play."* The New York Times

*"So I thought, since we can't do Europe this
summer, why don't the kids and I just do a little
Southern History road trip? We're going to
drive back home through Mississippi,
Louisiana—all those places—experience some
of Daddy's heritage."*

After the success of 2019's *Gloria*, Outhouse Theatre Co reunites with Branden Jacobs-Jenkins for his explosively hilarious take on the great American family drama.

The Lafayette family gather at their late father's home in Arkansas to bury the hatchet and prepare the former plantation for its Estate Sale. Until they make a discovery that changes everything.

Winner of the Obie Award for Best New American Play, this wickedly subversive tour de force is directed by Craig Baldwin (*John, The Flick*) and lays bare a dark and terrible history corroding the soul of a family—and a nation.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

DIRECTOR

Craig Baldwin

PRODUCER

Jeremy Waters

23 Jul – 8 Aug

REGINALD THEATRE

Credit: Emily Elise

Seymour Centre and
Malthouse Theatre present

WAKE IN FRIGHT

Adapted from Kenneth Cook's novel by
Declan Greene with Zahra Newman

★★★★ 1/2 "An utterly affecting
sensory ambush." Beat

John Grant is well-read, but an outback
misadventure strands him—cashless and
jobless—in a remote Aussie outpost,
Bundanyabba.

So he makes new 'mates': they're quick with a
drink, but with every scull a dark violence
lurches forward. Are these blokes fair dinkum,
or is there something more sinister at the heart
of this little town?

The entire world of *Wake in Fright* is conjured
in a one-person show accompanied by a sonic
assault from art-electronica band, friendships.
Under the direction of Declan Greene (*Blackie
Blackie Brown: The Traditional Owner of
Death*), Kenneth Cook's iconic work of
Australian Gothic horror is felt in the flesh.

Bring sunscreen, buy a beer and wear your ear
plugs. Once we pierce the Yabba's ocker
veneer, you better be ready for the explosive
brutality pent up inside.

CAST

Alexandria Steffensen

MUSIC AND COMPOSITION

friendships

SOUND DESIGNER

James Paul

LIGHTING AND PROJECTION DESIGNER

Verity Hampson

12 – 16 Aug

YORK THEATRE

Griffin Theatre Company and
Seymour Centre present

PRIMA FACIE

By Suzie Miller

★★★★★ "Urgent and
compelling." Time Out

Winner of the 2018 Griffin
Award, *Prima Facie* is an
indictment of the Australian
legal system's failure to
provide reliable pathways to
justice for women in sexual
assault or harassment cases.

Sheridan Harbridge stars as
Tessa—a criminal lawyer at
the top of her game who
knows the law permits
no room for emotion.

To win, you just need to
believe in the rules. And
Tessa loves to win, even when
defending clients accused of
sexual assault. But when she
finds herself on the other side
of the bar, Tessa is forced
into the shadows of doubt
she's so ruthlessly cast over
other women.

Turning Sydney's courts of law
into a different kind of stage,
Suzie Miller's (*Sunset Strip*,
Caress/Ache) gripping
one-woman show exposes the
shortcomings of a patriarchal
justice system where it's her
word against his.

Maybe we need a new
system.

DIRECTOR

Lee Lewis

DESIGNER

Renée Mulder

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Trent Suidgeest

COMPOSER AND SOUND

DESIGNER

Paul Charlier

STAGE MANAGER

Khym Scott

CAST

Sheridan Harbridge

2 – 12 Sep

REGINALD THEATRE

Credit: Ricky Gestro

Credit: Brett Boardman

Green Door Theatre Company and
Seymour Centre present

USUAL GIRLS

By Ming Peiffer

★★★★ "A primal scream of
a play." Time Out

On a school playground in
suburban Ohio, Kyeoung and
her friends get into an
argument with a boy. Rory
threatens to tell the teacher—
unless, of course, one of the
girls agrees to kiss him.

"Why do you even need a
kiss?" Kyeoung asks.
"Because that's what girls are
supposed to give boys," says
Rory. "That's why we even
play with them."

Told through a series of
vignettes spanning the 1980s
to present, *Usual Girls* is a
blisteringly honest account of
the transition from girlhood to
womanhood.

Battling both misogyny and
racism, Kyeoung must
navigate brutal terrain as she
grows up, and the persistent
self-loathing, the
preconceptions and prejudice,
are all too agonisingly
familiar.

Raw, refreshing and
profoundly relevant, *Usual
Girls* explores how women
are shaped and shamed by
men, and presents an incisive
challenge to the way we
perceive and co-opt female
sexuality.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

DIRECTOR

Courtney Stewart

CREATIVE PRODUCER

Leila Enright

ASSOCIATE CREATIVE PRODUCER

Bernadette Fam

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Margaret Thanos

15 – 31 Oct
REGINALD THEATRE



Credit: Robert Catto

Key Change Productions and Seymour Centre present

PRELUDES

By Dave Malloy

"Hypnotic and dazzling...
thrillingly unlike anything else
musical theatre has seen."
The Stage

From the creator of *Natasha,
Pierre & The Great Comet of
1812* and based on true
events, *Preludes* is a
breathtaking musical fantasia
set in the hypnotised mind of
Russian composer, Sergei
Rachmaninoff.

After the disastrous premiere
of his first symphony, the
young Rachmaninoff suffers
from writer's block. He begins
daily sessions with a
therapeutic hypnotist in an
effort to overcome depression
and return to composing.

Inspired by the music of
Rachmaninoff, triple Tony
Award nominee Dave
Malloy's rapturous score
features a hybrid of musical
styles, from classical and folk
to electronica and soaring
pop arias.

With a stellar Australian cast
and helmed by a high-octane
creative team, *Preludes* will
take you on an unforgettable,
head-tripping journey into the
psyche of the artist.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

MUSIC, LYRICS, BOOK AND ORCHESTRATIONS

Dave Malloy

DIRECTOR

Tyran Parke

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Brad Miller

CHOREOGRAPHER

Penny Martin

SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER

Dann Barber

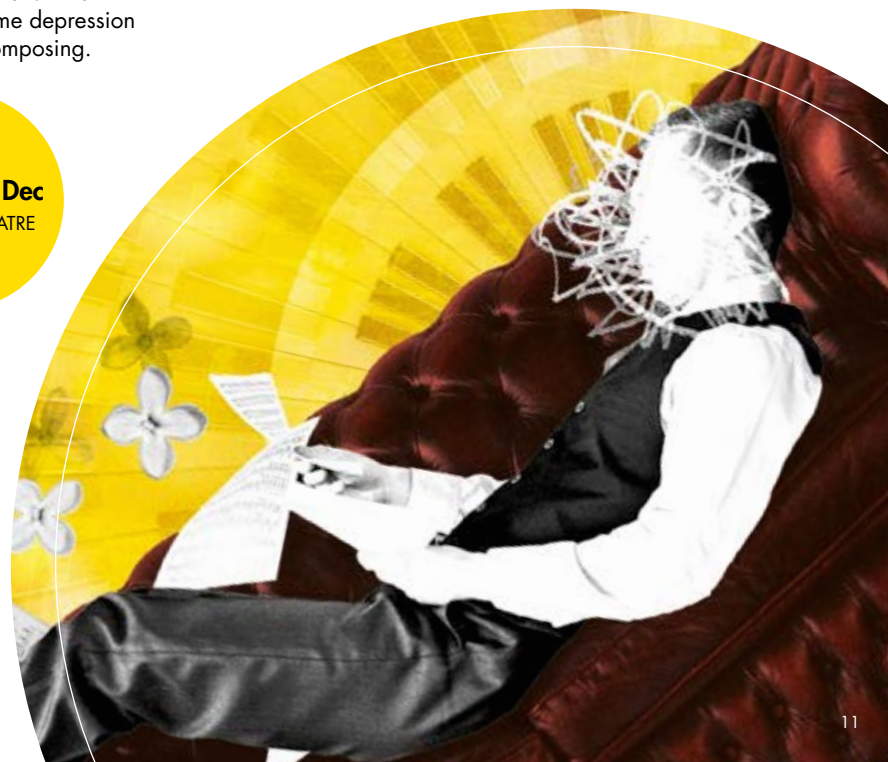
SOUND DESIGNER

Dean Lovell

PRODUCER

Brad Miller

13 Nov – 5 Dec
REGINALD THEATRE



INTRODUCING MULTIPACKS

You want more, so we're giving you more.
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time of purchase.

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MORE**

**CONNECT
MORE**

**SHARE
MORE**

**ENJOY
MORE**



15 – 28 Feb

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras
and Seymour Centre present

MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL HUB

Get ready to be entertained and inspired
as the Seymour transforms into the
Mardi Gras Festival Hub.

Celebrating our diverse communities, the 2020
Festival Hub will showcase a wild mix of queer
performance, theatre, music, dance, circus and
cabaret, plus thought-provoking talks and
workshops and a free, late-night club from
Thursday to Sunday each week of the Festival.

A hive of activity over 14 days and nights,
Mardi Gras Festival Hub is the place to
meet new and old friends with something for
everyone. Read on for our Hub highlights.

Casus Circus and Seymour Centre present

YOU & I

Award-winning fringe favourites Casus
Circus are back with their most daring
and intimate work, *You & I*. An
empowering hour of skill and identity,
You & I celebrates the loving
relationship between two circus artists
using high-level acrobatics, trapeze,
magic and dance. This unashamedly
authentic journey reveals a fresh
narrative where gay stories are not
consumed by tragedy but filled with
conviction, acceptance and joy.

DIRECTORS

Jesse Scott and Lachlan McAulay

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Rob Scott



22 – 23 Feb
EVEREST THEATRE



Credit: Katie Bennett

Seymour Centre presents

HUDSON & HALLS

Travel back to 1986 for a live taping of the
acclaimed New Zealand TV cooking show,
Hudson & Halls. Join the outrageously camp
and extremely alcoholic chefs, Peter Hudson
and David Halls, on the most important night
of their lives, as they battle with a working
kitchen and about 16 bottles of sherry to create
a flawless five-course meal (they hope).
Expect big laughs, rum-fuelled showdowns,
and some very questionable cooking.

WRITERS

Kip Chapman with Todd Emerson
and Sophie Roberts

CAST

Todd Emerson, Chris Parker
and Emily Barclay



Credit: Josh Griggs



18 – 19 Feb
EVEREST THEATRE

Milstead Performing Arts Company
and Seymour Centre present

SPICE NIGHT

Spice up your night with the camp,
cutting edge of global comedy.
Breaking the rules and queering the mic
from Mumbai to Manila, these out,
proud and hilarious performers are
furiously funny and hot, hot, hot. *Spice
Night* features Singaporean Youtube
star, Hirzi Zulkiflie, the Queen of
Malaysian Comedy, Joanne Kam,
India's only out gay stand-up, Navin
Noronha, and Australian-Filipino
shooting star, Margot Tanjutco.



21 Feb
EVEREST THEATRE



Credit: Barney Sullivan / seeingthings.com.au



19 - 23 Feb
YORK THEATRE

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras
in association with Fat Fruit present

FUCK FABULOUS

Serving neo-punk, anti-glamour realness, *Fuck Fabulous* is a queer, protest variety show! Your host, queer, fat, femme cabaret icon Yana Alana, brings together a fierce line-up of circus, drag, comedy and performance artists in this world premiere.

Credit: Alexis Desaulniers-Lea

Sydney Gay and Lesbian
Mardi Gras presents

HOT BROWN HONEY

By arrangement with Quiet Riot

An explosion of colour, culture and controversy, *Hot Brown Honey* turns up the heat with lashings of sass and a hot pinch of empowerment in this smash-hit, genre defying show that's taken the world by storm.

Credit: Chrissie Hall



25 - 28 Feb
EVEREST THEATRE

Sydney Gay and Lesbian
Mardi Gras presents

YUMMY UNLEASHED

Blending absurd and outrageous drag and burlesque with scintillating choreography, *YUMMY* has developed a world-wide cult following. Their latest wild offering sees the legendary, award-winning ensemble lead a wave of joyful, queer cabaret.

Credit: Joel Devereux



26 - 28 Feb
YORK THEATRE

Full Festival Hub line-up at seymourcentre.com

Seymour Centre presents

COURTYARD SESSIONS

A staple of Sydney's live music scene, *Courtyard Sessions* offers free gigs at dusk in the Seymour courtyard, with a diverse and energetic program that champions local artists both emerging and established.

Bigger than ever, the 2020 program opens with the very special 'Aussie Folk Collective' showcase featuring Hayden Calnin and Riley Pearce, plus a season of sets from acclaimed singer-songwriter, Mike Elrington, folk pop family band, Little Quirks, exciting queer artists like MEER, Gaia Rising and Wolfjay, and more.

Featuring an outdoor bar and vintage games, *Courtyard Sessions* is family and dog friendly, so bring a group and enjoy a relaxed summer evening of good food, cold drinks, and great live music.

Full line-up at seymourcentre.com

17 Jan - 13 Mar
SEYMOUR
COURTYARD



The Metropolitan Orchestra presents

THE METROPOLITAN ORCHESTRA CONCERTS

For the first time the Seymour is proud to partner with The Metropolitan Orchestra to deliver a year of vibrant, first-class musical experiences. Under the baton of Founding Artistic Director and Chief Conductor, Sarah-Grace Williams, The Metropolitan Orchestra will perform four concerts at the Seymour in 2020, with an exciting program featuring some of the greatest classical works with exceptional Australian soloists.

CLASSICAL DREAMTIME

7 March

Conductor

Sarah-Grace Williams

Didjeridu Soloist

Gumaroy Newman

RUSSIAN FESTIVAL

25 July

Conductor

Sarah-Grace Williams

TALES OF PASSION

26 September

Conductor

Sarah-Grace Williams

Double Bass Soloist

Kirsty McCahon

MUSICAL LANDSCAPES

12 December

Conductor

Sarah-Grace Williams

Guitar Soloist

Giuseppe Zangari

7 Mar – 12 Dec
EVEREST THEATRE



Credit: One Ski Digital

Sydney Writers' Festival presents

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL AT THE SEYMOUR

In May, Sydney Writers' Festival presents four full days of programming at the Seymour Centre.

The Festival brings together some of the world's most curious and compassionate, intelligent and argumentative writers—from local and international contemporary novelists, screenwriters, musicians and writers of cutting-edge nonfiction, to some of the world's leading public intellectuals, scientists and journalists. With the finest writing and storytelling at its core, the programming is driven by the ideas and issues that animate all types of literature.

At the Seymour Centre, previous festival guests include Geraldine Brooks, Annabel Crabb, Michael Chabon, Anna Funder, Elizabeth Gilbert, A.C. Grayling, Peter Greste, Alexander McCall Smith, Leigh Sales, Angela Saini, Tim Soutphommasane and Tara Westover.

The 2020 Sydney Writers' Festival program will be announced in March 2020.

30 Apr – 3 May



Credit: Jamie Williams

Sydney International Cabaret Festival presents

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL CABARET FESTIVAL

After a triumphant inaugural year, Sydney International Cabaret Festival is back! Once again the Seymour Centre will be transformed into a cabaret wonderland, with the Festival's signature venues returning for another bite at the cherry.

Expect a diverse program of Australian and international acts, carefully curated by Festival Director, Trevor Ashley. Artists to make you laugh, cry, and marvel at their incredible talent.

Don't miss the All-Star Gala, playing in Valhalla, the Festival's largest space, and the grand opening on 3 July, featuring a cavalcade of what's to come. Plus rub shoulders with local legends nightly at the Moët & Chandon Piano Bar, with live entertainment until the early hours.

The 2020 Sydney International Cabaret Festival program will be announced in April 2020.



3 - 12 Jul

Credit: John McRae

SEYMOUR PARTNERS

2020 SEYMOUR SEASON PARTNERS

The Campaign



Hedda Gabler



The Pass



Appropriate



Wake in Fright



Prima Facie



Usual Girls



Preludes



FESTIVAL PARTNERS



RESIDENT PARTNERS



SHAUN PARKER & COMPANY

MUSIC PARTNERS

Courtyard Sessions



YOUTH PARTNER

P•L•A•Y•W•A•V•E

MEDIA PARTNERS



ABOUT US

ADDRESS

Cnr City Rd & Cleveland St, Chippendale

BOOKINGS

Seymour Centre Box Office
seymourcentre.com
02 9351 7940

BOX OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm
Saturday 11am – 5pm
Open one hour prior to all performances.
Closed on public holidays.

TICKET INFORMATION

Visit our website for the full list of ticket prices for each performance.
Transaction fees apply to phone and online sales.

WARNINGS

Specific warnings for each production are listed on our website event pages and displayed in the theatre foyers. Every effort is made to ensure ticketholders are forewarned of confronting and triggering content including strong language, violence, nudity, haze and strobe lighting.

REFUNDS

Tickets cannot be refunded after purchase except as outlined in the Live Performance Australia Ticketing Code of Practice.

STAY CONNECTED

Join our mailing list to receive our monthly eNewsletter and special offers.



ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our Arts Education Program is carefully curated to align with the NSW curriculum, and in 2020 we are excited to present productions for school audiences from Stage 1 through to HSC level. We work closely with our resident companies and producers to provide accompanying resources that encourage student reflection, drive classroom conversation and support learning outcomes.

PLAYWAVE

We're proud to partner with Playwave to offer young people unprecedented access to a diverse range of quality arts experiences.

Every effort is made to ensure performance information is correct at the time of printing. Program details are subject to change without notice. For the latest information please visit seymourcentre.com

VISIT US

GETTING TO THE SEYMOUR IS EASY. HERE ARE OUR RECOMMENDATIONS.

CAR

The closest secure car park is on the corner of Cleveland St and Shepherd St. Limited free parking is available at the University of Sydney and in the surrounding streets.

BUS

A bus stop is located on City Rd directly outside the Seymour, with frequent services throughout the day.

TRAIN

The closest train stations are Redfern (10 minute walk) and Central (20 minute walk).

ACCESS

Access parking is located on Maze Cres within the University of Sydney, and there is lift access to all levels of the centre.

Wheelchair seating is available in all venues, and fully accessible toilets are located on the ground floor. Hearing loops are available in the Everest and York theatres.

The Seymour is a Companion Card affiliate. Cardholders must present their card when booking and attending a performance.

If you have access needs, please advise the Box Office when booking your tickets.

