

# HOTA WINTER SEASON



8 July- 22 August  
STEP INSIDE SOMETHING NEW

EXPERIENCE  
**GOLDCOAST.**

## Winter Season Program

*HOTA proudly acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are situated, the Kombumerri families of the Yugambeh Language Region. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise their continuing connections to the lands, waters and their extended communities throughout South East Queensland.*

We're thrilled to bring a new format for live performance to the Gold Coast in 2026, under the banner of the Winter Season. Creating an intimate and dynamic Black Box Theatre allows HOTA to present some of the most exciting work happening in theatre, comedy and contemporary performance in Australia right now. In my first year as Director of Creative Programming, I've curated a season of works that I hope will enthrall lovers of theatre, attract new audiences to genres of live performance they haven't experienced before, and present international touring works that bring fresh ideas and ways of making to the Gold Coast.

While our well-loved main-stage theatre is fabulous for musicals, dance works and full-scale productions, HOTA needs a new space to allow local and visiting companies to present work at the cutting edge – smaller in scale, but just as big on impact. The works in our first Winter Season represent some of my favourite makers and companies touring today. Thematically and formally the program is rich and diverse, but speak to timeless ideas: family, legacy, love, identity and the complexities of modern life – in all their beauty and confusion. The works are life-affirming, open-hearted, stylistically bold and theatrically compelling.

For those up for the full Winter Season adventure, there's enough here to keep you coming back week after week over the two coolest months of the year, leaving each time feeling warmer inside and brimming with the kind of joy that only live performance can leave you with. Also, mulled wine and fire pits – bring a friend, it's going to be a vibe!

*Felix Preval*

**FELIX PREVAL**

Director, Creative Programming

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	<b>8 JULY</b> THE LARK 7pm	<b>9</b> THE LARK 7pm	<b>10</b> THE LARK 7.30pm	<b>11</b> THE LARK 2pm* & 7.30pm	<b>12</b> THE LARK 3pm
	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> ONSTAGE DATING 7pm	<b>17</b> ONSTAGE DATING 7.30pm	<b>18</b> ONSTAGE DATING 2pm* & 7.30pm	<b>19</b>
	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> NIGHT NIGHT 7pm	<b>24</b> NIGHT NIGHT 7.30pm	<b>25</b> NIGHT NIGHT 2pm* & 7.30pm	<b>26</b> NIGHT NIGHT 3pm
	<b>29</b> AUTO-TUNE 7pm	<b>30</b> AUTO-TUNE 7pm	<b>31</b> AUTO-TUNE 7.30pm	<b>1 AUGUST</b> AUTO-TUNE 2pm* & 7.30pm	<b>2</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> LIFE, OH LIFE 7pm	<b>7</b> LIFE, OH LIFE 7.30pm	<b>8</b> LIFE, OH LIFE 2pm* & 7.30pm	<b>9</b> ENSEMBLE Q 2pm & 5pm
	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> TRUCK DRIVER 7pm	<b>14</b> TRUCK DRIVER 7.30pm	<b>15</b> TRUCK DRIVER 2pm* & 7.30pm	<b>16</b>
	<b>19</b> HEARTBREAK HOTEL 7pm	<b>20</b> HEARTBREAK HOTEL 7pm	<b>21</b> HEARTBREAK HOTEL 7.30pm	<b>22</b> HEARTBREAK HOTEL 2pm* & 7.30pm	<b>23</b>

\* Auslan Interpreted Performance

**See more and save.** Enjoy 15% off when you book 3+ shows in one transaction. Adult Prices Only



## THE LARK STARRING NONI HAZLEHURST

From the creators of the critically acclaimed *Mother* (★★★★★) comes *The Lark*.

Noni Hazlehurst, beloved star of stage and screen, takes centre stage in this new work written by Daniel Keene and directed by Matt Scholten.

Rose Grey is saying her final goodbye to The Lark, a small inner-city pub in Melbourne. It's been closed for six months and will be demolished as the suburb gentrifies. But for Rose, now in her seventies, this derelict building is her whole life.

She's lived here since she was a child, finally taking over from her father as he grew old. Her memories, both bitter and sweet, bind her to The Lark. Trapped in the past, she fears that The Lark might hold her forever in suspension. Now she wants to escape from this cycle of endless return and wrench herself free.

With rave reviews on its 2025 world premiere in Melbourne, you won't want to miss Noni Hazlehurst's breathtaking performance.

A powerful and moving meditation on life, death and change.

*Originally commissioned and produced by Arts Centre Melbourne and Hey Dowling.*

Wednesday 8th July	7pm
Thursday 9th July	7pm
Friday 10th July	7:30pm
Saturday 11th July	2pm* & 7:30pm
Sunday 12th July	3pm

*\*Auslan Interpreted Performance*



## ONSTAGE DATING BRON BATTEN

Bron Batten is going on first dates. Live onstage.

Watch from the safety of your seat or volunteer to be a part of the action as Bron takes modern romance to the next level - all in front of the audience! You could bear witness to the blossom of true love - or watch it crash and burn in front of your very eyes.

Developed whilst she was in residence in Paris, London and Lithuania, Bron went on over 60 online dates as part of her 'research', determined to get to the heart of the internet. This is the result.

Featuring a different person each night, this hilarious, award winning and sell-out show has toured all over Australia, New Zealand, the UK and Europe, thrilling audiences with its unique insight into the world of dating. In the age of Tinder and the online dating app, you can witness the thrill and heartbreak of modern dating up close and personal, as Bron facilitates, interrogates and gleefully destroys the rituals of contemporary romance.

"If only all awkward first dates were as funny as this" - *Sydney Morning Herald*

"Brave and glorious, sincere, unapologetically real, and hilarious... Onstage Dating is an absolutely superb show" - *Regional News NZ*

"Sexy, warm and fittingly awkward, the audience are putty in Bron Batten's hands and she handles us with care... Funny, clever and intimate - a must see" - ★★★★★ *Fringe Biscuit, UK*

Thursday 16th July	7pm
Friday 17th July	7:30pm
Saturday 18th July	2pm* & 7:30pm

*\*Auslan Interpreted Performance*



ADULT: \$59 CONCESSION: \$54 HOTA MEMBER \$52



ADULT: \$39 CONCESSION: \$34 HOTA MEMBER \$32



## NIGHT NIGHT

BY THE LAST GREAT HUNT

### A story of life, death and other dimensions.

Travel beyond the limits of our reality with a heartwarming theatrical film, crafted live on stage.

Pip is a downtrodden Antarctic scientist on a quest to discover the origin of life. Haunted by visions of an albino penguin, she stumbles upon a hidden plane of existence that challenges everything she thought she knew. As her world unravels, Pip must team up with a mysterious, glowing entity to reveal the threads that bind life, death and the universe.

From the multi-award-winning team behind *Lé Nør* [The Rain], *Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer and New Owner*, *Night Night* takes you on an extraordinary journey, blending puppets, animation, and DIY digital magic. Witness the onscreen story while experiencing the behind-the-scenes artistry in a cinematically playful, transcendent adventure.

"A Profound tale, told with modern tech whizz-bangery that inspires, makes us think and touches the heart." - ★★★★★ Arts Hub

Thursday 23rd July	7pm
Friday 24th July	7:30pm
Saturday 25th July	2pm* & 7:30pm
Sunday 26th July	3pm

\*Auslan Interpreted Performance



ADULT: \$39 CONCESSION: \$34 HOTA MEMBER \$32



## AUTO-TUNE

RE:GROUP PERFORMANCE COLLECTIVE

Described as an 'absolute must-see', this auto-tune rock opera is brought to you by re:group performance collective, the acclaimed team behind *Coil*, *UFO* and *POV*.

Set in Wagga Wagga in the early 2000s, *AUTO-TUNE* is a raucous work of "gig theatre" that follows Michael, a teenage Silverchair fan who discovers he has a strange superpower. The same way auto-tune technology perfects pitch, Michael finds he can time-travel, auto-tuning his life to rid it of dumb statements, awkward pauses and cringe jokes.

But when this music-mad weirdo makes the biggest mistake of his life, will his auto-tune superpower save him? Told through an audiovisual set of 17 banging songs and live video captions, this innovative and genre defying performance feels like discovering your new favourite band on the side-stage of a music festival.

In a pitch perfect world where algorithms seem to be the answer, *AUTO-TUNE* is a 55-minute romp into a messy, sweaty universe that proves otherwise. It is a regret-filled love letter to millennial culture - Nokia 3315s, teen drinking, Limp Bizkit and questionable decision-making - featuring eclectic and energetic songwriting and a compelling narrative about the value of mistakes.

"...a brilliantly inventive, totally engaging piece of theatre." - Theatre Red, Paul Gilchrist

"With *AUTO-TUNE* we have a reinvented form of musical theatre, gig-theatre. It's brilliant. I can't get enough of their work. re:group are easily the most creative and exciting theatre-makers I've seen in years. 5 STARS" - ★★★★★ Cultural Binge

Wednesday 29th July	7pm
Thursday 30th July	7pm
Friday 31st July	7:30pm
Saturday 1st August	2pm* & 7:30pm

\*Auslan Interpreted Performance



ADULT: \$39 CONCESSION: \$34 HOTA MEMBER \$32

CABARET



# LIFE, OH LIFE. GILLIAN COSGRIFF

Award-winning musical comedian Gillian Cosgriff is here to talk about life. Not just her life. Not just your life. Life as a concept. And time. As a concept. We're living in an age of relentless productivity, where every second should be optimised.

We're also outsourcing our questions to technology more than ever. But you know who has lived experience of being alive? Other people!

With original songs, existential questions, and the kind of clever, lyrical joy only Cosgriff can deliver, *Life, Oh Life* is musical comedy for anyone who's interested in life advice from people who have actually lived.

"An hour of hilarity." - ★★★★★ - *Time Out*, 2025

"This is hilarious stand-up at its absolute finely crafted best." - ★★★★★ ½ *ArtsHub*, 2025

"Joyous, funny, life-affirming." - ★★★★★ *Chortle*

Thursday 6th August	7pm
Friday 7th August	7:30pm
Saturday 8th August	2pm* & 7:30pm

\*Auslan Interpreted Performance

CLASSICAL MUSIC



# ENSEMBLE Q WITH ED LE BROCCQ

From Mozart to Leunig - a journey through words, whimsy and the power of music.

Sunday 9th August	2pm & 5pm
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Hailed by *Limelight* magazine as "Australia's top echelon of musicians,"

*Ensemble Q* Australia tours its Regional Touring Program with a vibrant mix of beloved classics and compelling new Australian works.

Featuring ABC Classic presenter and writer Ed Le Brocq, the program unveils a newly commissioned work by Anne Cawrse, inspired by le Brocq's deeply moving story *Sonam & the Silence*, a meditation on the transformative power of music. In a similar spirit, le Brocq gives voice to Michael Leunig's whimsical imagination in Calvin Bowman's *Curly Pyjama Letters*.

Bookending these new works are great pillars of the chamber repertoire - Puccini's hauntingly lyrical *Crisantemi*, Webern's deeply romantic *Langsammer Satz* and Mozart's much-loved *Clarinet Quintet*, featuring internationally renowned clarinetist Paul Dean.

Paul Dean: Clarinetist, Composer & Co-Artistic Director

Trish Dean: Cellist, CEO & Co-Artistic Director

Adam Chalabi: Violinist

Anne Horton: Violinist

Benjamin Roskams: Violinist

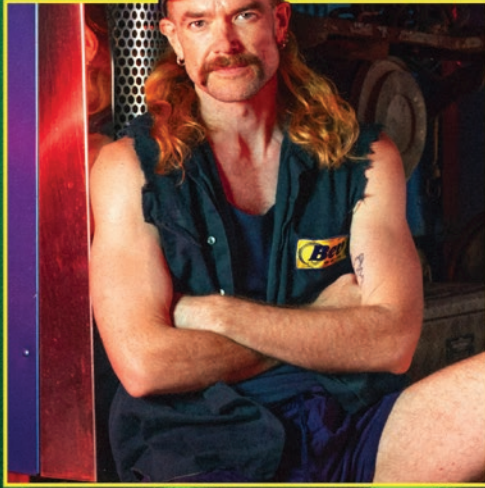
Ed le Brocq: Narrator



ADULT: \$39 CONCESSION: \$34 HOTA MEMBER \$32



ADULT: \$49 CONCESSION: \$44 HOTA MEMBER \$42



## TRUCK DRIVER

JONNY HAWKINS AND NELL RANNEY

Photograph by Joy M. Lai

**Bev's an old-school truckie who's seen Australia change through his windshield. He's got a million stories from a life on the road - some funny, some dark, all steeped in diesel and dust.**

The highway's not what it used to be, and Bev's struggling to shift gears. His tough exterior and controversial views hide a man grappling with a world that's leaving him behind.

*Truck Driver* invites you into the cab to share Bev's journey - both literal and figurative. It's a white-knuckle ride that veers between laughter and gut-punches, tall tales and hard truths.

From the team behind 'Maureen: Harbinger of Death' comes a diesel-soaked odyssey into the heart of a changing Australia. Nell Ranney and Jonny Hawkins' new play is a defiant, genre-bending mash-up of comedy, tragedy, and gritty realism.

This is life in the slow lane. It's not always pretty, but it's real. Strap in and listen up - Bev's got something to say. And you might just learn a thing or two.

"a dog whisperer, a bush mechanic, a highway philosopher and an occasional drag racer."

Thursday 13th August	7pm
Friday 14th August	7:30pm
Saturday 15th August	2pm* & 7:30pm

\*Auslan Interpreted Performance



## HEARTBREAK HOTEL

BY EBKM

***Heartbreak Hotel* offers a holistic and humorous exploration of how heartbreak affects our minds and bodies, in an exhilarating new performance blending vulnerable memoir, famous novels, and scientific texts.**

This one is for the young hearts, the old hearts, and the broken hearts.

*Heartbreak Hotel* invites audiences into a world of love, loss, and everything in between. Join Karin McCracken as she navigates the highs and lows of heartbreak, with Simon Leary embodying the ex-loves and best friends along the way. Packed with lo-fi covers of classic breakup songs, bad Tinder dates, and tentative fresh starts, this show is as funny as it is heartfelt.

Created by Eleanor Bishop and Karin McCracken, winners of the 2022 Bruce Mason Award, this work is generous, reflective, and full of wit. You'll want to cry. You'll want to laugh. And you'll leave reminded of the value of feeling deeply - the good, the bad, and the heartbreakingly beautiful.

"Honest, vulnerable, life-affirming. A must-see" - ★★★★★ Picnic Lightning London

"Seamlessly directed and performed...Heartbreak Hotel offers the balm of warmth and authenticity, using a melange of cabaret, stand-up, and the brisk intimacy of a theatrical two-hander, to transform the ineffable mess of life into art" -

- ★★★★★ The Age Melbourne

Wednesday 19th August	7pm
Thursday 20th August	7pm
Friday 21st August	7:30pm
Saturday 22nd August	2pm* & 7:30pm

\*Auslan Interpreted Performance



ADULT: \$39 CONCESSION: \$34 HOTA MEMBER \$32



ADULT: \$39 CONCESSION: \$34 HOTA MEMBER \$32

## Want the Full HOTA experience?

You're spoilt for choice with dining options! Enjoy a pre-show or post show dining experience at The Exhibitionist Bar or Palette Restaurant for the ultimate dinner and show combo.



### THE exhibitionist BAR

Chill on our rooftop bar with pre-show or post-show two course meal and curated cocktail.

**\$55pp**

Book your table with Ticket Purchase

**HOTA.COM.AU**



## PALETTE

Enjoy a delectable two course menu designed by our Executive Chef with a glass of wine/beer or soft drink at Palette Restaurant.

**\$85pp** \*Excludes Sundays



Book your table with Ticket Purchase

**HOTA.COM.AU**

# HOTA WINTER SEASON



THE LARK



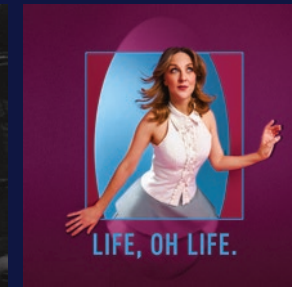
ONSTAGE DATING



NIGHT NIGHT



AUTO-TUNE



LIFE, OH LIFE.



ENSEMBLE Q



TRUCK DRIVER



HEARTBREAK HOTEL



Book Now

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Adult Prices Only

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Lu Yang, *Electromagnetic Brainology* 2017 (detail), five channel video installation (colour, sound), White Rabbit Collection, Sydney.  
陆扬, 电磁脑神教, 五频道录像装置 (彩色, 有声), 悉尼白兔美术馆。朱迪思·尼尔森经由澳大利亚政府文化赠与项目捐赠。



Book Now  
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Photo credit: *Night Night by The Last Great Hunt*