

# The Sydney Morning Herald

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HD Hot tickets for chilling out  
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## COVER STORY

It's the first day of winter but the cool attractions keep coming, from splendorous sounds and a comic-book genius to cosy hangouts and beachside ice skating. Here's the guide.

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## FESTIVALS

A collaboration between Sydney record label extraordinaire Modular and Carriageworks, the mini-festival Modulations features Los Angeles alt-rock adventurers Liars and English electronic-pop titans Pet Shop Boys blurring the line between art and music in separate shows. There will also be a

pop-up bar and grill from Porteno restaurant, which will join forces with LA label Wild Records for a day of rock'n'roll and classy food entitled Wild Porteno. June 6 (Liars), \$49.80; June 8 (Pet Shop Boys, June 6-7 **sold** out), \$135.60; June 9 (Wild Porteno), \$49.80; Carriageworks, Eveleigh, [ticketmaster.com.au](http://ticketmaster.com.au).

Tourists come from far and wide to visit Bondi Beach - admittedly not usually during winter, much less to ice-skate, but that makes Bondi Winter Magic even more special. You can skate on the rink outside Bondi Pavilion between 10am and 9pm, or hire it for yourself and 199 mates for \$3000. What's more, the beach is usually still inviting and spectacular, even in winter. June 27-July 13, Bondi, from \$10 for a 45-minute session (depending on the skater's age), [starsonice.com.au/cal-bondi.htm](http://starsonice.com.au/cal-bondi.htm).

True Believers, your time has come. Leading the comic-book heroes appearing at pop-culture extravaganza Supanova is the biggest living name in the Marvel field, Stan Lee. Joining the 91-year-old co-creator of The Avengers, Spider-Man, X-Men and more will be cult screen stars including Rose McGowan (Charmed, Planet Terror), the only Australian James Bond, George Lazenby, Laurie Holden from The Walking Dead and Napoleon Dynamite himself, Jon Heder. June 13-15, Sydney Showground, Olympic Park, day passes from \$27.50, [moshtix.com.au](http://moshtix.com.au).

George Palathingal

## MOVIES

Sydney Film Festival opens with an imaginative documentary on Nick Cave, 20,000 Days on Earth. Over 12 days, the festival screens a very promising range of films, including American director Richard Linklater's Boyhood, a sweeping drama about growing up that was shot over 12 years; the acclaimed **Chinese** film noir Black Coal, Thin Ice; the romantic Indian charmer The Lunchbox; and a Robert Altman retrospective that includes Nashville, **M**\*A\*S\*H and Short Cuts. The festival starts June 4.

Since Australian writer-director David Michod struck gold with Animal Kingdom, there has been keen interest in what he would do next. It has taken a while, but his post-apocalyptic thriller The Rover is headed for cinemas after debuting at Cannes Film Festival. Guy Pearce and Robert Pattinson head into

the outback to settle scores. Michod developed the story with Joel Edgerton, who also wrote and stars in another Australian film, the police thriller *Felony*. *The Rover* opens on June 12, *Felony* on August 28.

Remember the Irish romance *Once*? The musical won Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova an Oscar for the achingly beautiful *Falling Slowly* in 2008. Director John Carney is back with *Begin Again*, which is another heartfelt film about how music can change lives, and has won warm reviews overseas. It stars Keira Knightley as a British singer-songwriter and Mark Ruffalo as a jaded American music executive in New York. Opens August 7.

Garry Maddox

#### CELEB SPOTTING

If you're looking to spot a Hollywood star such as Gerard Butler frolicking in the waves, or a triple-A-lister such as Naomi Watts teaching her boys to surf - not to mention a ripped Hugh Jackman running up the sand - then Bondi Beach is the best vantage point. It's not just the flesh on display; Bondi's restaurants, from local cafes such as Speedos to Matt Moran's North Bondi Fish and Maurice Terzini's magnificent Bondi Icebergs, are not only fabulous dining experiences but regularly come served with celebrity eye candy.

The Intersection in Paddington is home to Australia's best fashion labels, with a walk of fame that includes Carla Zampatti, Scanlan and Theodore, Willow, Zimmerman and Ginger and Smart. When visiting stars arrive, it's often the first place their hire car will head. Paula Abdul, Pink, Katy Perry, Reese Witherspoon and Princess Mary are among the famous faces who have sunk a bucketload of cash (or credit) here. After you've handed your last pair of luxe heels to your assistant, you can grab a coffee at Jackies, home to models, stylists and musos.

With some of Sydney's most spectacular views of the harbour, the Opera Bar and Kitchen is the perfect place to sip cocktails at the water's edge, grab a quick pre-show pizza and pasta or enjoy Sydney rock oysters and watch the sun set over the Harbour Bridge while listening to live jazz. Though very touristy, this place is magical.

Jo Casamento

#### MUSIC

Kristin Hersh, former songwriter from Boston band Throwing Muses, was one of the first indie-rock chicks to emerge in the early '80s, when everyone else was fooling themselves that synth-pop was the future (OK, so it was, but it took a while). What makes Hersh so special is that her luminous vision and talent never waned. She performs an intimate gig with songs and readings. June 6, Factory Theatre.

It's a tragedy that Splendour in the Grass headliners Outkast aren't playing side shows, but the north Byron Bay festival is sending us plenty of musical treats. Top of our list are genre-busting New York pop star Kelis (at The Hi-Fi, Moore Park, July 23), cheeky English pop star Lily Allen (Hordern Pavilion, July 25), indie-pop trio London Grammar (Hordern, July 24) and Baltimore synth-pop act Future Islands (Oxford Art Factory, July 27).

So Adam Lambert isn't Freddie Mercury, but he's good enough to do justice to Queen's amazing back catalogue, from *We Are the Champions* to *We Will Rock You* and *Radio Gaga*. Those great songs deserve to be heard again live - it's been 29 years between tours, after all. August 26, Allphones Arena.

Peter Vincent

#### SO SYDNEY

Twenty years ago, Cabramatta was a no-go zone, riddled with crime, gangs, drugs and corruption, but the dealers have since moved on and the suburb has morphed into a glittering jewel of south-west Sydney. An incredible array of dining options and bustling shops are on offer, selling everything from exquisite fabrics and blinged-up fashions to beautiful bonsai and underwear with built-in buttock implants. For the hungry, the choices are endless, from street stalls to restaurants such as my favourite, Bau Truong on John Street, a family-run institution serving delicious banquets of lemongrass chicken, spicy quail and steaming bowls of pho. It's food fit for a king, but at prices commoners love.

Perched high above downtown Sydney, O Bar and Dining, atop the iconic Australia Square building, has one of the best watering holes in town, quietly spinning around in our city's best-loved revolving restaurant. The views are spectacular, and as the cocktails slide down, guests have been known to get a little giddy during their venture to the stationary bathrooms, only to discover on emerging that the bar

and their companions have moved, providing much entertainment for onlookers. The iconic space is perfect for showcasing our town.

It's not so much city views but the people views that are on offer at Harry's Cafe De Wheels in Woolloomooloo. A favourite with tourists, sailors, showgirls and spivs, Harry's is a fun place to grab a pie piled high with mushy peas. The fare is far from fine dining, but this is more about people-watching.

Andrew Hornery

## STAGE

The friendship forged between young Eora woman Patyegarang and English naval officer William Dawes is one of the few heartening stories to come from the period of first contact between Australia's indigenous people and the colonists. Informed and inspired by Dawes' notebooks, Bangarra Dance Theatre brings a remarkable sharing of knowledge to life in Patyegarang, its major new production of 2014. Sydney Opera House, June 13 to July 5, \$29-\$89, [sydneyoperahouse.com](http://sydneyoperahouse.com).

The role of Hedda Gabler is one of the greatest in theatre - one any actress would prize. Makes you wonder what the feeling out there in theatreland is now that Belvoir's resident director, Adena Jacobs, has cast a man - Ash Flanders - in the role in Hedda Gabler. It will be no drag act, however. Flanders' tragic heroines are brilliantly articulated creations. Belvoir, June 28 to August 3, \$35-\$68, [belvoir.com.au](http://belvoir.com.au).

The Sydney Theatre Company's new version of Macbeth, starring Hugo Weaving, invites its audience to peer into the cavernous darkness. Director Kip Williams (Under Milk Wood, Romeo and Juliet), in cahoots with designer Alice Babidge (The Maids), will turn Sydney Theatre back-to-front to present the audience, seated on the stage, with a new perspective on this brutal tale of betrayal and revenge. Sydney Theatre, Walsh Bay, July 21 to September 27. \$50-\$109, [sydneytheatre.com.au](http://sydneytheatre.com.au).

Elissa Blake

## BOOKSTORES

Sydney's branch of the old Japanese chain Books Kinokuniya is big, bright, well-organised and has more than 300,000 titles in English, Japanese, Chinese, French and German. Go no further if you are a fan of manga, graphic novels and international magazines. There's an in-store art gallery with changing exhibitions and a cafe. Open seven days, 10am-7pm (Thursday to 9pm, Sunday from 11am). Level 2, The Galleries, 500 George Street, city, [kinokuniya.com.au](http://kinokuniya.com.au).

Behind the quaint shopfront at Gleebooks is a serious independent bookshop with dedicated owners, smart staff and Sydney's best events calendar. This month's speakers include political diarist Bob Carr, poet Judith Beveridge and science-fiction author David M. Henley. On two crowded floors you'll find surprises in philosophy, politics, poetry, children's books, new and classic fiction, and DVDs. Open Sunday-Wednesday, 9am-7pm, Thursday-Saturday, 9am-9pm. 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe, [gleebooks.com.au](http://gleebooks.com.au).

Owned by a woman with a romantic sensibility, Gertrude & Alice Bookstore Cafe is a beachside cultural hub that oozes soul. Second-hand books line the walls, where I have found first-edition fiction and an enthralling history of surgery. Pretend you are Gertrude Stein as you read or write at the old tables or on a velvet couch, while sipping a Campos coffee or "Alice's famous chai". Open daily 7am-9pm. 46 Hall Street, Bondi, [gertrudeandalice.com.au](http://gertrudeandalice.com.au).

Susan Wyndham

## GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS

With a history spanning more than 600 years, no (or noh) is often referred to as "Japanese opera" for its mix of music and epic theatricality. An extensive display of costumes, masks and paintings associated with the form awaits at the exhibition Theatre of Dreams, Theatre of Play at the Art Gallery of NSW. June 14 to September 14, \$10, [artgallery.nsw.gov.au](http://artgallery.nsw.gov.au).

The eclectic oeuvre of French artist Annette Messager is examined in the exhibition motion / emotion at the MCA. The retrospective covers her career from the '70s to now, working across drawing, sculpture, embroidery and photography. Her large-scale kinetic installations are eye-catching and eerie. July 24 to October 26, MCA, free, [mca.com.au](http://mca.com.au).

The theme for this year's Sydney Design festival is Design Futures, so expect an in-depth exploration of how the pace of technology has influenced the discipline. Highlights include the fabrication-focused

FabLab, featuring 3D printers and laser cutters, and interactive light and architecture work Orkhestra. August 16-24, Powerhouse Museum, Ultimo, various prices, [sydneydesign.com.au](http://sydneydesign.com.au).

Nicole Elphick

## BINGO TO BANISHED

Actor loves Potts Point in winter

David Wenham's first job on the Sydney entertainment circuit was as a bingo caller at the Town Hall in Marrickville, where he grew up.

Since those auspicious beginnings, Wenham has become a fixture of screen and stage, and most recently has been spotted filming the BBC drama series *Banished in Manly*, playing Governor Arthur Phillip. '

Winter is one of the actor's favourite times in Sydney, and his neighbourhood of Potts Point. "Especially with all the leaves on the ground, and just running through and being silly and kicking up the leaves - it's fantastic," he says. "If the Sydney Swans are playing, I walk from my place through Darlinghurst, out to the SCG."

He goes to dance events more than theatre. "I have a huge love of dance, probably because I can't do it." When eating out, the 48-year-old's favourites include Potts Point spots Fratelli Paradiso, Fratelli Fresh and Fei Jai. He's also a fan of Porteno in Surry Hills for "the best brussels sprouts around".

The Theatre Bar at the End of the Wharf, in the Sydney Theatre **Company** complex in Walsh Bay, is a favourite. "It's a unique view of Sydney Harbour. It's a different perspective to what one imagines the picture-postcard of Sydney is."

Another regular is the cafe at the top of the MCA, one of the city's best views, "but don't tell too many people", he says. Oops.

Sarah Thomas

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