



Date

9 – 11 MAY 2025

Locations

VALLETTA CAMPUS

MAEWEST

WILD HONEY BEER HOUSE & BISTRO



L-Università ta' Malta  
School of Performing Arts

Department of  
Theatre Studies



# WELCOME!

Get ready to **feel, connect, and discover** the extraordinary in every performance!

*Pause & Play* is a festival where creativity takes centre stage!

Allow yourself to dive into the magic of the performing arts where artists let their imaginations run wild, and audiences get to explore, connect, and play in whatever way feels just right. From quiet reflections to moments of pure joy, we're here to celebrate how art brings us closer to ourselves and to each other.

This is a festival about celebrating **play and creativity**.

This is a festival to **pause and reflect, play and connect**.

# FRIDAY 9 MAY 2025

<b>18:30 to 19:00</b>	<i>I Promised I'd Tell You a Story but I'd Rather Play the Fool</i> (15+) by Alex Weenink	Round-Table Room
<b>19:30 to 20:30</b>	<i>Then and Now</i> by 1st-Year Theatre Studies Students	Valletta Campus Theatre
<b>21:00 to 21:30</b>	<i>When Good Enough is Enough</i> by Charlene Galea	Vault
<b>21:45 to 22:45</b>	<i>Werk It!</i> A Drag Rave (16+) with Kiki Valentine, Celeste Samodiva and Ben N. Syder	Wild Honey Beer House & Bistro

# SATURDAY 10 MAY 2025

10:30 to 11:30	Painting Workshop with Emily Salnitro and Elena Sciberras	Meeting Room 3
13:00 to 13:30	<i>When Good Enough is Enough</i> by Charlene Galea	Vault
13:30 to 14:00	Interactive Workshop with Charlene Galea	Vault
14:30 to 15:15	90 Sekonda (16+) by Ben Abela	Upstairs Walkway
15:15 to 15:45	Q&A on 90 SEKONDA	Upstairs Walkway
16:00 to 16:30	No Name. No Past (13+)	Meeting Room 4
17:00 to 17:30	<i>The Language of the Deaf &amp; Hooray, Our World is Ending</i> (18+) by D Shows	Round-Table Room

# SATURDAY 10 MAY 2025

18:00 to 18:30	Contact (16+) by Malcolm Micallef	Meeting Room 4
19:30 to 20:30	<i>Then and Now</i> by 1st-Year Theatre Studies Students	Valletta Campus Theatre
21:00 to 21:30	<i>The Pigs in a Parlour:</i> A PaR Performance with Sarah Fofana, Alice Bertolasi, Anna Issajeva and Giorgia Ionescu	Vault
21:45 to 22:45	<i>Amped Up: A Night of Music</i> with Starcrossed	MaeWest

## ART EXHIBITION

A public exhibition hosting the works  
of Lara Vella with *Baħar*,  
Emily Salnitro with *Pause & Reflect*  
and Elena Marie Sciberras with  
*Moments Between* is open to the general  
public from Friday 9 to Sunday 11 May 2025 in  
Meeting Room 3.

# SUNDAY 11 MAY 2025

<b>10:00 to 10:30</b>	<i>No Name. No Past</i> (13+)	Meeting Room 4
<b>10:30 to 11:00</b>	Discussion on <i>No Name. No Past</i>	Meeting Room 4
<b>13:00 to 13:30</b>	<i>The Language of the Deaf &amp; Hooray, Our World is Ending</i> (18+) by D Shows	Round-Table Room
<b>13:30 to 14:00</b>	Creating a Mini-Performance with D Shows	Round-Table Room
<b>14:30 to 15:00</b>	<i>The Pigs in a Parlour: A PaR Performance</i> with Sarah Fofana, Alice Bertolasi, Anna Issajeva and Giorgia Ionescu	Vault
<b>15:00 to 15:45</b>	<i>90 Sekonda</i> (16+) by Ben Abela	Upstairs Walkway

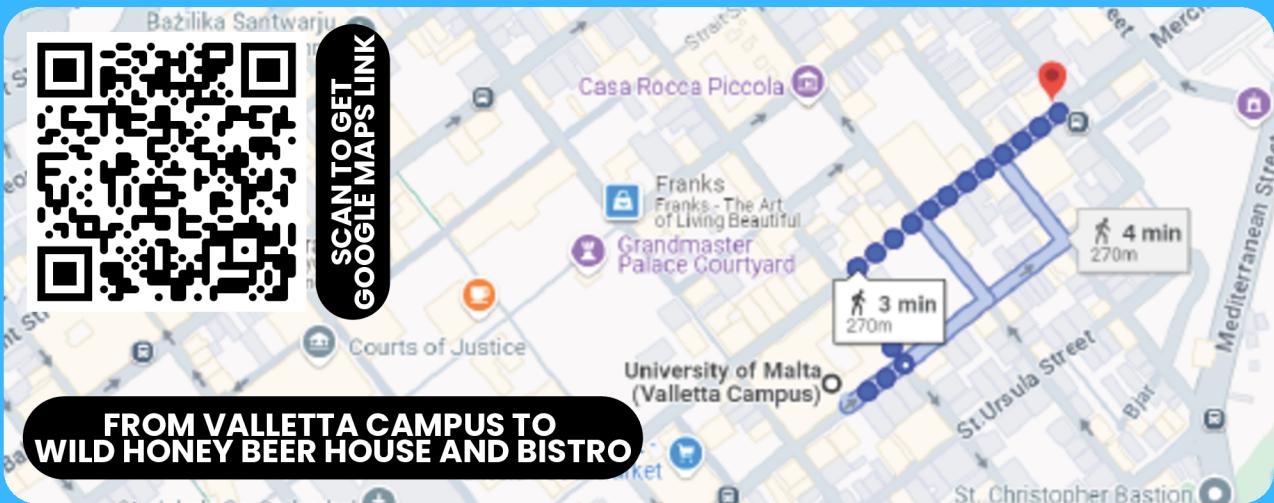
# SUNDAY 11 MAY 2025

16:00 to 16:30	Contact (16+) by Malcolm Micallef	Meeting Room 3
17:00 to 17:30	<i>I Promised I'd Tell You a Story but I'd Rather Play the Fool</i> (15+) by Alex Weenink	Round- Table Room
18:00 to 20:00	<i>Comedy Kingdom: The Laughing Stock</i> (16+) with Andrew John Sciberras, Crush Velvet, Daniel Diacono and Tim Borg hosting	MaeWest

## ART EXHIBITION

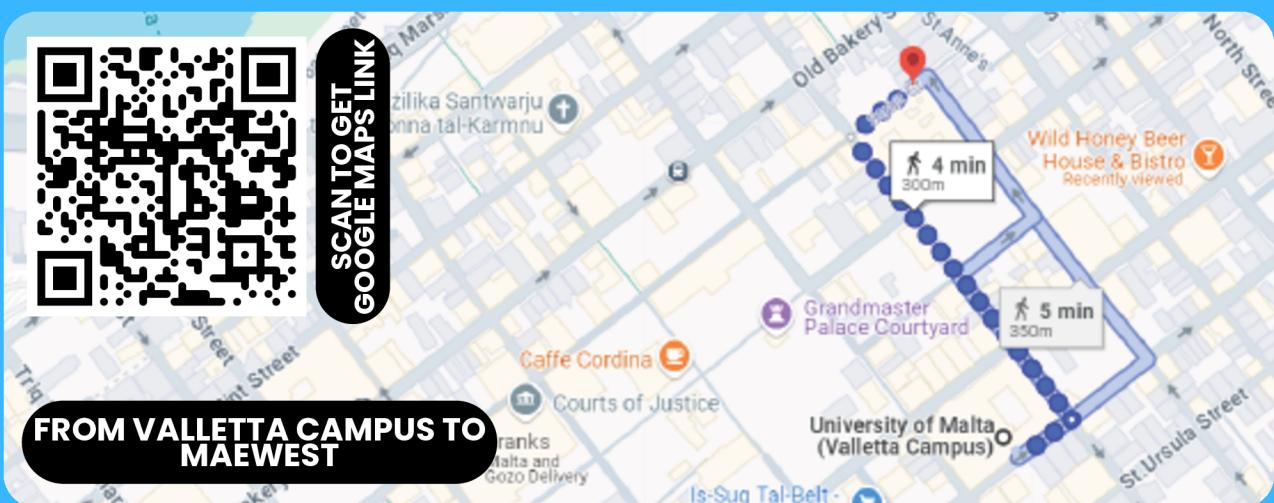
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# EXTERNAL PERFORMANCE DIRECTIONS



**FROM VALLETTA CAMPUS TO  
WILD HONEY BEER HOUSE AND BISTRO**

St. Paul's Street      Merchants' Street      Three Minute Walk



**FROM VALLETTA CAMPUS TO  
MAEWEST**

St. Paul's Street/Merchants' Street      St. Christopher's Street  
Four Minute Walk      Strait Street

## EXTERNAL PERFORMANCES

External performances take place outside the main festival hub at the University of Malta Valletta Campus.

# GETTING TO THE FESTIVAL

With sustainability in mind, we **strongly recommend** the use of public transport, getting a taxi or carpooling to get to our festival.

## BY BUS

Most buses in Malta travel to Valletta. For bus times and nearby stops, visit the [Malta Public Transport website](#) or download the [Tallinja app](#).

## BY FERRY

You can take the ferry from The Strand in Sliema to Valletta and then to the Three Cities (Vittoriosa, Senglea, and Cospicua). The service operates daily from early morning to late at night. For details and ferry times, visit the [Valletta Ferry Services website](#).

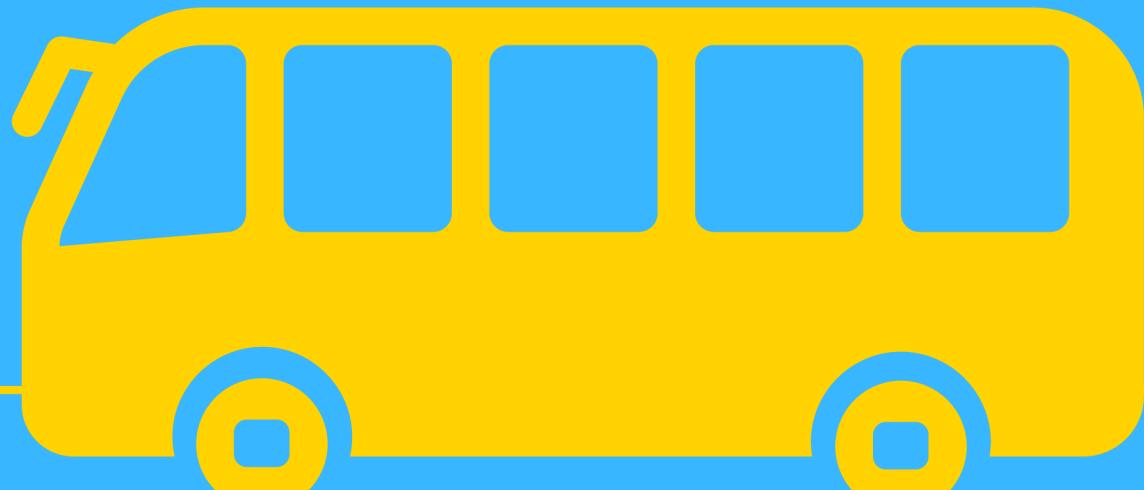
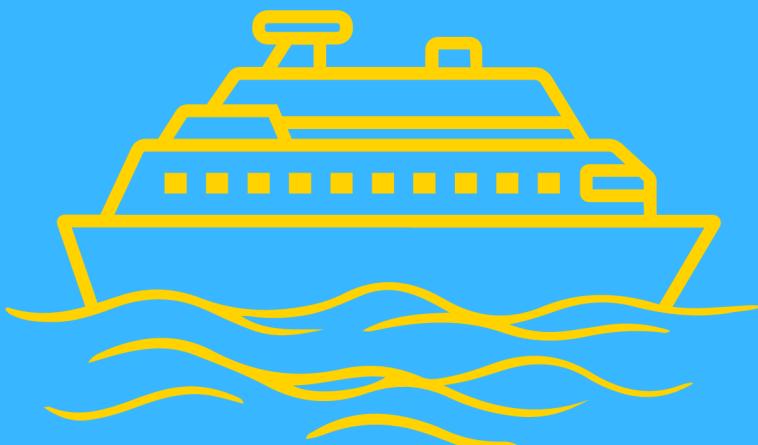
## BY TAXI

Taxis in Malta are easy to book through providers like Bolt, Uber, and eCabs, along with available white cabs. Pricing varies, so it's advisable to check their websites or download their apps for booking.

# GETTING TO THE FESTIVAL

## BY CAR

While we encourage more sustainable uses of getting to the festival, Valletta offers numerous parking spots (subject to a CVA charge) and a car park (MCP Car Park) can be located just outside of Valletta's main gates in Floriana. If you choose to park in the car park, Valletta Campus (and other external venues) is easily accessible by foot and should only take you 15 minutes to get there.



# FESTIVAL TEAM

Brendon, Monique, and Angelique, three final-year Bachelor in Theatre (Honours) students at the University of Malta, are the festival team behind *Pause & Play*.

As part of their final project, they aim to create a space for reflection and connection, celebrating creativity among people and young artists.



# FESTIVAL TEAM



**ANGELIQUE  
ATTARD**

From a very young age, Angelique has always been drawn to the performing arts, as she pursued tap dance and jazz for seven years. However, theatre and acting stole the spotlight and she decided to enrol herself for the Bachelor in Theatre (Honours) degree at the School of Performing Arts within the University of Malta. Since then, she's thrown herself into all sorts of productions, exploring new roles beyond acting — from stage management to light and sound design. Every experience has been a chance to learn, grow, and expand her skills both on and off the stage.

# FESTIVAL TEAM



**BRENDON  
THEARLE**

Brendon entered the world of theatre at the age of five and since then has performed in various productions such as; Gary in MADC's A Kick in the Baubles (2022), as Jeremy in Hassle Mejjet Theatre Collective's Popolazzjoni: 4 (2023), as Dame Widow Twankey in Teatru Manoel's Learning & Participation Programme: TOI TOI's The Great Little Panto Show (2023, 2024), and in MADC's The Coarse Acting Show (2025), among many others. He has also delved into the directorial seat with such projects as The Fourth Wall (2022) for MADC's One Act Play Festival and most recently; Nostrum (2023).

# FESTIVAL TEAM



**MONIQUE  
ALEXANDRA  
FALZON**

Monique Alexandra Falzon has always shown a great appreciation for theatre since she was a child. Her interest peaked in secondary school when she started getting involved in her school's musical productions, from playing Cinderella's Fairy Godmother in *Nugrufella*, to Mr. Warbucks in *Annie*. Monique fell in love with the atmosphere and sense of belonging that is brought on by being on stage and from then on, decided to pursue a career in theatre. She is currently in her final year studying for a Bachelor in Theatre Studies (Honors) at the School of Performing at the University of Malta, where she wishes to continue exploring different theatrical styles and learn more about what theatre is.

# FESTIVAL COLLABORATORS



# FESTIVAL COLLABORATORS



KIKI  
VALENTINE



CELESTE  
SAMODIVA



BEN N.  
SYDER



CRUSH  
VELVET



ANDREW JOHN  
SCIBERRAS



DANIEL  
DIACONO



TIM  
BORG



STARCROSSED

**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT  
OUR FESTIVAL COLLABORATORS?**



Please visit the festival's website  
to read more about them!

# EVENTS

## I PROMISED I'D TELL YOU A STORY BUT I'D RATHER PLAY THE FOOL

BY ALEX WEENINK



30 MINUTES

15+

MAY CONTAIN STRONG LANGUAGE

*I Promised I'd Tell You a Story but I'd Rather Play the Fool* is a hybrid performance-workshop by Alex Weenink; an interactive experiment exploring anxiety, playfulness, and storytelling. Through a combination of spoken word and collective creative activities, Alex will guide audience-participants through a personal journey of creativity and authenticity. This performance is an invitation to all to gather in circles, share stories, and play the fool.

## NO NAME. NO PAST

BY REBECCA GRECH  
WITH NICOLE ZAMMIT  
AND EDMILSON ZAMMIT

Three strangers jolt awake in a cold, unfamiliar room—no names, no memories, no clue how they got there.



25 MINUTES

13+

THERE MAY BE FLASHING LIGHTS



# EVENTS

## WHEN GOOD ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

BY CHARLENE GALEA



*When Good Enough is Enough* is a research-based performance examining personal history, creative industry expectations, and standardised learning limitations. The performance critiques society's narrow definition of 'good enough' and celebrates perceived failures as alternative ways of being and doing.

30 MINUTES



AUDIENCE INTERACTION MAY OCCUR



## 90 SEKONDA

BY BENJAMIN ABELA

*90 Sekonda* features a nameless protagonist on a hedonistic path of self-destruction following the death of his eco-extremist brother, Luca. The narrative critiques the climate crisis, highlighting the futility of individual actions against corporate greed.

45 MINUTES



16+

STRONG LANGUAGE, IMPLIED DRUG USE



# EVENTS



## CONTACT

BY MALCOLM MICALLEF  
WITH FAYE MIFSUD MIDOLO

A “TED Talk” about how one can see the connectivity within connection.

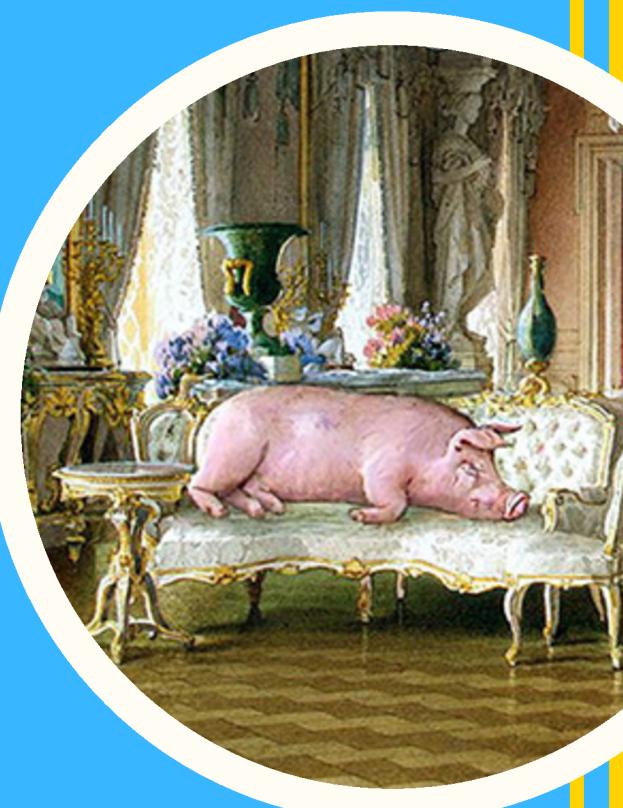
30 MINUTES

16+

## THE PIGS IN A PARLOUR: A PaR PERFORMANCE

WITH SARAH FOFANA,  
ALICE BERTOLASI,  
GIORGIA IONESCU  
AND ANNA ISSAJEVA

Four Practice Researchers trying to find the Pigs in a Parlour. *The Pigs in a Parlour* formed part of *Practice Research*, which is a Theatre Studies study-unit at the University of Malta in 2024. The performance, based on Prof. Frank Camilleri's concept of *Duration* 56, examines duration, repetition, and improvisation, focusing on their effects on performers' attention and work in an installation-like setting with chairs and lanes.



30 MINUTES

MOST  
OF THE  
PERFORMANCE  
WILL BE IN THE  
DARK

# EVENTS

## THE LANGUAGE OF THE DEAF & HOORAY, OUR WORLD IS ENDING

BY D SHOWS

D Shows presents two performances in one sitting!

*The Language of the Deaf* addresses themes of greed, societal taboos, and the impact of silence and fear of words. It challenges societal clichés and subconscious patterns, provoking thought and questioning conventional paradigms.

*Hooray, Our World is Ending*, and to whatever comes after. This performance piece, set in a bar, dives into the sentiment of being paralysed by frustration. The grumpy regular ranting about the world, while drinking through another night of forgetting. "My mind is in: Palestine, Congo, Ethiopia, Sudan. It's on one of the boats that might arrive at our shores tomorrow. Or yesterday? and I haven't even kept up with the news to carry this knowledge like a burden." But how can we do something about it?



30 MINUTES

18+

THE PERFORMANCE CONTAINS AND TALKS  
ABOUT ASPECTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

# EVENTS

## THEN AND NOW



1 HOUR

Which news items catch our attention? How do we deal with them? Using the dramatised, Living Newspaper model, Theatre Studies Year 1 students are excited to 'pause and play' by sharing a programme of five short performances on a variety of themes: power, security, status, loss, and empathy... their causes then, but also their effects now. How real are our stories? Do they mix with abstract ideas or dreams? Come and find out!



L-Università ta' Malta  
School of Performing Arts

Department of  
Theatre Studies

**It's Your Life  
Design Your Studies  
Make Your Future**



Photo by Kathryn Bianco

# ART EXHIBITION



MEETING  
ROOM 3



THE EXHIBITION IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL  
PUBLIC THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

**BAĦAR**

**BY LARA VELLA**

An intimate view of Malta's sea:  
where light is refracted into a  
variety of unique works of art.



**PAUSE & REFLECT**

**BY EMILY SALNITRO**

Emily's artwork balances chaos and calm, highlighting the importance of pausing during anxious moments to reflect on positivity. Her vibrant, abstract compositions convey life's unpredictability through dynamic movement and areas of stillness, promoting peace and mindfulness. Color reflects varying moods, reminding viewers to slow down and appreciate beauty in both turbulent and tranquil moments.



# ART EXHIBITION



MEETING  
ROOM 3



THE EXHIBITION IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL  
PUBLIC THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL



## MOMENTS BETWEEN

BY ELENA MARIE SCIBERRAS

*Moments Between* showcases the lives of strangers we encounter daily, encouraging empathy and understanding through the art of people - watching.

## WORKSHOPS



WORKSHOPS WILL OCCUR DURING DESIGNATED SLOTS;  
PLEASE CHECK THE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS

<b>Painting Workshop</b>	A painting workshop will be provided by both Emily Salnitro and Elena Sciberras, where they will be demonstrating the painting process and answering any questions attendees may have.
<b>Interactive Workshop</b>	Charlene Galea will be leading an interactive workshop about confidence and help others believe that what they do is good enough through play.
<b>Q&amp;A on 90 Sekonda</b>	Ben Abela will be hosting a Q&A on 90 Sekonda and will also be discussing about activism and the arts and what role they have to play.

# WORKSHOPS



WORKSHOPS WILL OCCUR DURING DESIGNATED SLOTS;  
PLEASE CHECK THE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS

Discussion on <b>No Name. No Past</b>	Rebecca Grech will be offering a discussion and an explanation session on the performance <i>No Name. No Past</i> and the process from rehearsing to filming.
Creating a Mini- Performance with D Shows	Both Diellza and Dino from D Shows will be explaining and showcasing how to create a mini performance about social and political topics such as the ones found in <i>The Language of the Deaf</i> and <i>Hooray, Our World is Ending</i> .

# EXTERNAL EVENTS



EXTERNAL PERFORMANCES TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE THE MAIN FESTIVAL HUB AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA VALLETTA CAMPUS.

## WERK IT! A DRAG RAVE



WILD  
HONEY

WITH KIKI VALENTINE,  
CELESTE SAMODIVA  
AND BEN N. SYDER



21:30

Prepare for a night of glitz and glamour featuring high-energy lip-syncs, stunning looks, and hilarious comedy from our dazzling queens. Expect fierce attitude and electrifying dance moves in a celebration of self-expression. This performance is part of the *Pause & Play* Festival, organised by Alex Jatosti in collaboration with the Malta Gay Rights Movement (MGRM).

# EXTERNAL EVENTS



EXTERNAL PERFORMANCES TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE THE MAIN FESTIVAL HUB AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA VALLETTA CAMPUS.

## AMPED UP: A NIGHT OF MUSIC

WITH STARCROSSED



MAEWEST



21:45

Get ready for an electrifying night of live music! Bringing you a mix of music with anthems, original hits, and high-energy vibes. Whether you're a longtime fan of Starcrossed's good music or just looking for a great night out, this gig promises epic tunes, good vibes, and an atmosphere you won't want to miss!

## COMEDY KINGDOM: THE LAUGHING STOCK

WITH

ANDREW JOHN SCIBERRAS,  
CRUSH VELVET,  
DANIEL DIACONO,  
AND TIM BORG HOSTING



MAEWEST



18:00

Get ready for a night of unstoppable laughter as some of the funniest comedians take the stage! Hosted by the sharp-witted Tim Borg, the lineup features the hilarious Andrew John Sciberras, the brilliantly witty Martha Gatt Suban, and the ever-entertaining Daniel Diacono. Expect quick-fire jokes, outrageous stories, and a whole lot of fun. This performance is part of the *Pause & Play* Festival, organised by Nikolai Azzopardi Productions.

# A HEAD'S UP ABOUT EXTERNAL EVENTS

External performances are free of charge with a minimum €5 donation at the door granting attendees either a 'buy-one-get-one free drink' (only at Wild Honey Beer House and Bistro) or a 'free welcome shot' (only at MaeWest) exclusive offer at the specific venue. Entry without donation is allowed, but the offer is not included. Any donations made are directly supporting the external artists.

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The festival itself does not have an age rating and is suitable for everyone, however the external performances may be unsuitable for younger audiences and it's at the discretion of parents and/or guardians to decide whether the performance in question is suitable or not.

For:

*Werk It! A Drag Rave and  
Comedy Kingdom: The Laughing Stock*

We Recommend:

**UNDER 16 WITH PARENT  
OR LEGAL GUARDIAN**

*Amped Up: A Night of Music*

**SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES**

## BOOK YOUR EXTERNAL EVENT TICKETS:



WERK IT!  
A DRAG RAVE



AMPED UP:  
A NIGHT OF MUSIC



COMEDY KINGDOM:  
THE LAUGHING STOCK

# THE EMPTY ROOM

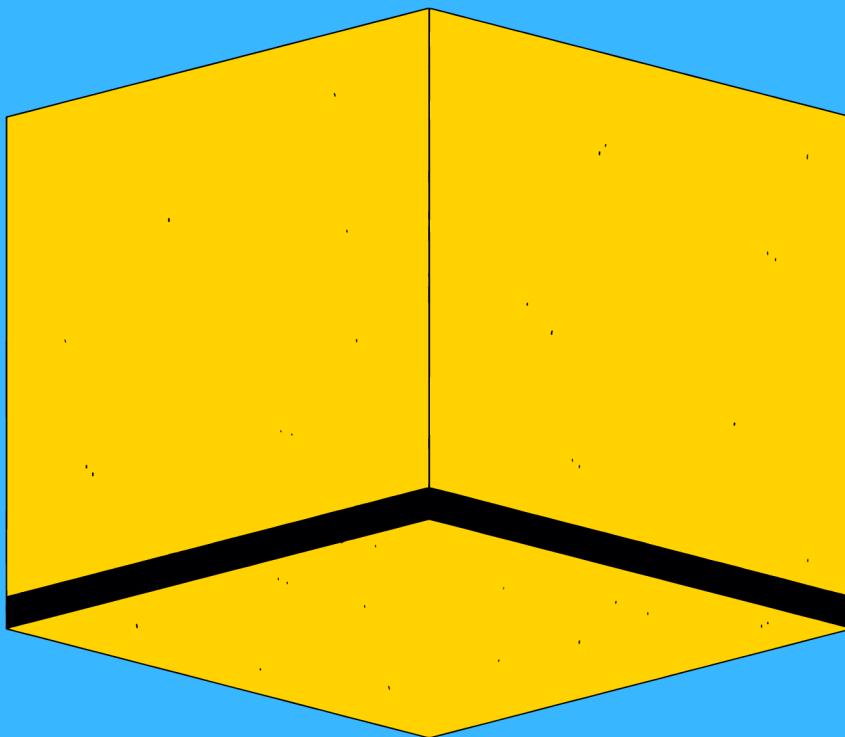
 MEETING  
ROOM 5



THE EMPTY ROOM IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL  
PUBLIC THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

After seeing a performance, workshop or piece of art,  
you may be asked to say in one word how you felt  
about what you saw via an online portal called **Slido**.

Your answer will be publicly (but anonymously)  
displayed on a television screen in the **Empty Room**.



Be sure to visit the **Empty Room**  
in Meeting Room 5 to see what others had to say!

Who knows, you might even strike up a conversation  
with someone over a cup of coffee or tea  
while you're at it.

# FAQ's

## ?

### How much do tickets cost?

**A** The three-day festival is free – except for external performances – but, if you're feeling generous, donations at the venue are appreciated.

## ?

### What is the age rating of the festival?

**A** The festival is suitable for all ages, but some performances may not be appropriate for younger audiences. Parents and guardians should decide on suitability.

## ?

### Are there any content warnings?

**A** The festival is suitable for all, but some performances may address sensitive topics. It's recommended to check for content warnings before attending to make an informed decision.

## ?

### Is there disabled-friendly access?

**A** Valletta Campus is accessible for individuals with disabilities. For more information, contact [conferences@um.edu.mt](mailto:conferences@um.edu.mt). However, Wild Honey Beer House and Bistro and MaeWest are not accessible, and we apologise for the inconvenience.

# FAQ's

## Is the venue suitable for elderly or persons with mobility issues?

The University of Malta Valletta Campus offers step-free access; contact [conferences@um.edu.mt](mailto:conferences@um.edu.mt) for details. MaeWest may also accommodate individuals with mobility issues but it's advisable to confirm with the venue. Wild Honey Beer House and Bistro, unfortunately, may not be accessible. We apologise for the inconvenience.

## I have more questions, who do I contact?

If you have more questions about the festival or require more information, please contact the Pause & Play Festival Team on our contact page.

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 OPTIMA

# **DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE STUDIES**

The Department of Theatre Studies at the University of Malta has been a central hub for theatre education since welcoming its first students in 1988. It remains until today the leading institution for tertiary-level theatre education in Malta, offering a dynamic space where theatre, performance, and critical thinking come together.

## **Educational Approach**

Programmes offered by the department explore theatre as a living and evolving practice deeply connected to the world around it. Courses examine how performance responds to social and political change, how spaces shape experiences, and how the role of the performer continues to develop.

Inspired by current trends in Performance Studies, the Department looks at the roots of theatre practice in religious, political, and cultural traditions, while also embracing the future through contemporary theory and digital media.

## **Interdisciplinary Focus**

Added to this is the approach adopted by the academic staff whereby theatre is never considered in isolation but always in dialogue with music, dance, philosophy, and other theoretical and practical contexts. This makes the Department's approach strongly interdisciplinary, encouraging openness to a wide range of influences and practices.

# DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE STUDIES

## Career Development

With a balance of critical inquiry and hands-on experience, students are equipped with the necessary tools to be employable and work confidently within the broader cultural and creative sectors.

## Study Options

The Department offers undergraduate and postgraduate study options, including a Bachelor of Arts (General or Honours), a Bachelor of Theatre (Honours), Masters degrees (both taught and research-based), and doctoral programmes.

## Student Community

Students at the Department of Theatre Studies come from diverse backgrounds and nationalities – some new to theatre, others with years of experience – creating a vibrant, collaborative learning environment that reflects the diversity of contemporary performance cultures.

# PARTNERS



L-Università ta' Malta  
School of Performing Arts

Department of  
Theatre Studies



CREATIVE  
EUROPE DESK  
MALTA



MAEWEST



