

Media Release

The Hon Colin Brooks MP

Minister for Industry and Advanced Manufacturing
Minister for Creative Industries



Wednesday, 4 June 2025

RISING FESTIVAL DESCENDS ON MELBOURNE

From an exhibition you can play to a gig in a train station, laneway karaoke, to lights and lasers, RISING festival is set to transform Melbourne's city centre for the next 12 days, backed by the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks today previewed RISING 2025, which will see more than 610 local and international artists bring 100 events to Melbourne's streets, arcades, laneways, theatres, music venues and trams, showcasing live music, installations, dance, theatre, film and more.

This year's program includes a diverse offering of interactive events, spanning iconic and secret Melbourne spaces.

An exhibition like no other, *Swingers: The Art of Mini Golf* will transform the Flinders Street Station ballroom into a mini golf course with each hole designed by a female artist. Festival goers will immerse themselves in an underwater sound experience at the City Baths – an experience that has already sold out.

While at Melbourne Town Hall, people of all ages are invited to get involved in *Communitas*, a massive free communal music making event with electronic music duo SHOUSE.

Music label Bad Apples Music will take over the new Anzac Station for *Track Work: Music from the Underground*, a free all-ages First Nations-led concert as part of the Metro Tunnel Creative Program.

intangible #form will turn The Capitol Theatre into a free artwork of light and lasers; and *Blockbuster* at Fed Square offers a free day-to-night celebration of Pakistani music, and Punjabi art and food.

RISING attracted more than 680,000 people last year, boosting local businesses, jobs and the Victorian economy.

RISING supports local artists, musicians and performers, as well as directly employing 250 Victorians in roles including event management, front of house, technical support and crew, and ticketing.

The 2025 RISING festival runs from 4 June — 15 June. To book tickets and view the full program visit 2025.rising.melbourne

Quotes attributable to Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks

"RISING brings a unique brand of energy and creativity to our city. There is something for all ages and budgets, giving Victorians plenty of reasons to rug up and explore."

Quote attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos

"This bold and creative festival draws locals and visitors into the heart of the city, supporting local artists, businesses and the economy."

Quote attributable to RISING Co-Artistic Director Hannah Fox

"Across 12 incredible days, we're thrilled to invite audiences to dive headfirst into a sensory world of art, music and performance, where the familiar is transformed into the extraordinary."

Quote attributable to RISING Co-Artistic Director Gideon Obarzanek

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"In its fourth edition, RISING brings together over 600 artists to deliver world premieres, free public celebrations, immersive installations and international showstoppers across the city. RISING is truly a festival made for Melbourne, bold, ambitious and unmistakably now."