

# RISING :

## Gid's Guide (for time poor people) RISING 2024

This year's RISING program is the best yet, and there is literally nothing I wouldn't recommend. But spanning over two weeks and three weekends, I know for many it's just not possible to experience it all. So, here's a personal quick guide and my two-cents worth about priority shows and events:

### To begin and end any RISING show

Walk along the river right on sunset and you'll hear voices come from everywhere. It's like the sky is singing and the land is talking. [The Rivers Sing](#) ushers every RISING evening. Best on Evan Walker Bridge (the pedestrian bridge), or anywhere around that area – Princes Bridge, The Arbory, or Southbank (at Hamer Hall end). I think sunset in June is around 5:45pm, but I am no meteorologist so check on the link.

After sunset, walk to Fed Square and wander through [The Blak Infinite](#). This is an impressive collection of contemporary Aboriginal art that's future focused in a Blak Sci-Fi kind of way.

Later in the night, after your show, come and join us at [Night Trade](#) for a drink, a bite, some music and occasional odd arty happenings. This year it's going to be in the arcade underneath the Capitol Theatre (opposite Melbourne Town Hall) and connecting to Howey Place.

And all the above is FREE!

### Big Shows

[Big Name No Blankets](#) is a gutsy rock concert and storytelling show celebrating the Aboriginal rock legends, the Warumpi Band. Created by Ilbijerri Theatre and family and community from Papunya, BNNB tracks the incredible journey of Australia's first chartbusting and hugely influential desert rock band. I guarantee you will laugh, get a little misty eyed and cheer.

[One Song](#). I saw this show in Paris last year and thought, WTF is this?! I can only describe it as a music squad playing a song repeatedly with radical tempo changes while being challenged on sporting apparatus. Sounds absurd, but their ridiculous quest reflects our own demanding lives more than ever and like everyone around me, I marvelled at and cheered on these determined and impressive triple-threat musician/dancer/athletes.

[Counting and Cracking](#). From the streets of Colombo in the 1950's at the beginning of the Sri Lankan civil war, to the Australian suburbs in the 2,000's, this is big epic story-theatre. 19 actors, 3 acts spanning multiple generations. This unique journey is both deeply intimate and powerfully universal.

[Daytripper](#). If you're like me, overwhelmed by the scale of the music program, or just not familiar with all the new names, then hand over the decision-making reigns to us (actually, Hannah & Hayley) and come to our Kings Birthday weekend daytime block party. 8 hours, 3 stages, 1 ticket, and my favourite bit, it starts at midday! That means plenty of time for dinner out after, or just home for a nice cup of tea and Great British Bake Off (or whatever is your wind-down guilty pleasure).

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## Up Close

[FOOD](#). Strangely, 'Dinner Theatre' has held a long-time fascination for great contemporary theatre makers and New York's Geoff Sobelle is no exception. At this table, Geoff is your host, trickster, waiter and creator of extraordinary worlds. Charting the consumption and production of food from the beginning of life on earth to where we are now - this is one of the best pieces of physical theatre I have ever witnessed. Three hats! But a warning, don't come expecting to be fed – book a restaurant for after the show, or come to Night Trade.

[You Beauty](#). My favourite place to watch dance is up close in a sweaty studio. Sitting in an auditorium away from the physicality on stage, I miss the visceral power and often subtle details. In Chunky Move's new premiere, we are invited inside an inflatable to witness dance up close. Sealed in a strange private atmosphere, we are in a couple's intimate world. For those of you who have had to share a cramped apartment with a couple, don't worry - it isn't like that, or at least very brief.

## WTF (unclassifiable)

[Cadela Forca](#). This is the most affecting and unique performances I have seen in the last 10 years. Very rarely a new production shifts the definition of theatre, and this is one of them. It left me stunned and thinking for weeks.

I cannot classify the genre of this unique storytelling, except to describe some of what's going on. The writer, director and lead performer begins with a kind of TED talk about sexual violence and femicide depicted in art and also perpetrated on a particular artist. Early into this lecture, she takes a substance which renders her into a state of altered consciousness. Then the PowerPoint backdrop falls away to reveal a strange landscape – the imaginings of the unconscious - where her body is taken on a journey by a group of strangers. It's not everyone's cup of tea, but for those interested, it will not disappoint.

[8/8/8 Rest](#). Beginning at 9pm on the top of Arts Centre Melbourne and journeying down 8 levels to arrive by 5am at the deepest basement below the State Theatre stage, this overnight expedition requires commitment! It is the second instalment by Harriet Gillies and Marcus McKenzie, who are on a mission to create a marathon 24-hour show of three acts – WORK, REST and PLAY. First commissioned by RISING in 2022, WORK was the smash hit of that festival and this year they're back with REST. Frankly, I am not sure how restful it's going to be, but judging by their extraordinary first show, I'm there!

## Music

Music is firmly my partner Hannah Fox's terrain and if you want the informed details, she also puts out her own guide. But if you find a 'Dad Rock' perspective vaguely useful to your decision making, I am here to weigh in.

[Dirty Three](#). A rare opportunity - These legends don't get together very often, and they haven't headlined a show back in their hometown for 12 years. Current ticket allocations are exhausted, but I have it on good authority it's highly worth going on the RISING waitlist as there are quite a few holds that will be released in the coming weeks, and even a possible third show.

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[Tinariwen](#). Saharan guitar-groove blues, this renowned North African band formed back in the 70's and have toured with the likes of the Rolling Stones. They alone have made me a highly valued Spotify customer.

[Fever Ray](#). First time in Australia.

[One Four](#). Drill rap from Mount Druitt and Australia's most successful hip-hop act ever. I highly recommend you watch the Netflix documentary *OneFour: Against All Odds* to see why programming them is so monumental for the group, and for Australian hip-hop.

## Dining close to RISING:

If you're looking for something more substantial than drinks and delicious snacks at [Night Trade](#), there are of course plenty of places in the city. Here are a few:

In Fed Square: [Mabu Mabu](#)

Casual & Delicious: [Mo Vida Next Door](#)

Push the boat out \$\$+: [Aru](#)

Late night dinner and mini- martini's: [Bar Margaux](#)

Best Gelati & Sorbetti: [Spring Street Grocer](#) (favourite flavour - Cardamom & Roast Pistachio!)