

Festival Village returns with Family Week, Messina, lululemon yoga and more!



Photo: Maser artwork "Moving Together" Berlin, March 2014

Festival Village in Hyde Park is set to return as the must-see day to night highlight venue of Sydney Festival 2015 from **8 to 25 January 2015**.

Featuring two performance tents– The Famous Spiegeltent and The Aurora Spiegeltent– 2015 will see even more music, kids' shows, late night cabaret and weird and wonderful acrobatic offerings, alongside free activities and more impressive food and drink options than ever before.

The Festival Village will keep the much-loved bandstand and glittering lights of previous years, and will gain new food outlets, a quiet chill-out zone, multiple bars, and the large scale colourful installation **Higher Ground** by Dublin street artist Maser. Rising up from the Hyde Park lawn and reaching over two storeys high, there are plenty of reasons to visit the Festival Village before work, after work or as your go-to party to entertain you well into the night this summer.

New in 2015, The Festival Village will see the introduction of **Family Week**: a jam packed program with a range of FREE activities to suit every age. If you are looking for a day out with the kids, we have the last week of the school holidays covered.

Children can explore their inner artist with **Hotbed Design's** workshop, inspired by Maser's giant Higher Ground art installation using block printing on sustainable fabric. Go exploring with the Australian Museum as they bring their collections and hands on activities into Hyde Park. Make the digital world a reality with artist **Maybe () Together** and search for a "Hope St" home anywhere in the world on Google and send the owner a personal postcard. Bop along to the tunes from charming parlour ensemble, **Vintage Quartestra** as they put their unique spin on our favourite cartoon theme songs. Get fresh, twist and sprout with the juiciest, rootiest bunch in town: **The Vegetable Plot** is a show packed full of tasty melodies, nutritious grooves and delicious puns so you never think the same way about vegetables again.

Open daily, **City of Sydney's Lawn Library** returns as an oasis of calm and the perfect chill-out zone for the whole family during a big day at Sydney Festival. Browse the collection at the City of Sydney's Lawn Library, take a seat and stay for story time sessions, "Kids Make Art" craft activities, music jams, circus workshops and so much more.

In addition to the free family highlights at The Festival Village, ticketed performances include a return season of **Jazzmatazz!** which was recently ARIA nominated "Best Children's Album". Teaching the kids moves in an energetic hour of jazzy beats, trashy pop classics and unadulterated fun. **The Luck Child** is the story of the luckiest boy in the world, an evil king and a three-headed hound from hell as David Collins (**The Umbilical Brothers**) and Jonathan Biggins (*The Wharf Revue*) bring you the prize-winning show that makes every child think they are the Luck Child. Armed with an arresting soundtrack, **Fright or Flight** takes you on a rare athletic and aerial journey into the coop of the chaotic, the beautiful and the enchanting, while new addition **A Simple Space** bring their own brand of daring acrobatics pushing the human body to its physical limits.

For bigger kids, The Festival Village is also the place for your daily workout fix. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings at 7:15am and Wednesday nights at 6pm, **lululemon athletica** brings Festival-goers a complimentary 1 hour yoga class in Hyde Park. Bring your mat and soak up the sun while you move, breathe, strengthen and stretch in the heart of Festival Village!

Irresistible cabaret, naughty circus treats and awe-inspiring acrobatic offerings ensure there's plenty of action for the adults too. The much-loved dirty and dangerous cabaret circus act **LIMBO** returns while the unforgettable **Yana Alana**, the provocative **Wau Wau Sisters** and the unabashed **Blak Cabaret** will also explode onto The Famous Spiegel tent stage to tantalise, tease and leave audiences wanting more.

The Famous Spiegel tent and the Aurora Spiegel tent will turn up the volume in Hyde Park this summer, showcasing the biggest line up of musical talent Sydney Festival has ever seen. For three weeks, the Festival Village will play host to back-to-back nights of exclusive and unique one-night-only international and Australian performances, spanning diverse cultures and genres.

Ease into your evenings and chill out after work with the powerful, percussion-driven music of **Christine Salem (Reunion)**, the Australian debut performance of Baltimore-based duo **Wye Oak (US)** and the revered singer, songwriter and storyteller, **Tiny Ruins (NZ)** to name a few.

Late nights in the Spiegel tent bring highlights such as Afro-Brazilian rising hip-hop star **Karol Conka (Brazil)**, São Paulo born and New York DJ and music producer **Béco Dranoff (US)**, London's trendsetting DJ **Oneman (UK)** and Melbourne duo **Client Liaison** to encourage dancefloor excess and nonstop partying.

Festival Village is the go-to destination for pre or post show eats and treats, and in 2015 there's a variety of delicious delicacies to tantalize everybody's taste buds. With plenty of food options for all appetites, food outlets operating day to night include **Bar Pho**, **Harvest Trader & Co**, **Puntino Italian Street Food**, **Bite Size Delights**, **Bar Coco Milk Bar**, **Jafe Jaffles**, the Village cheese shop **Cheesesmith**, **Porteño's Good Eats** and the return of Gelato Messina with **Messina's Tasty Treats**. Featuring an array of specially crafted treats on the menu, Festival Village will be just as delicious as it looks.

The **Kirin Bar** will be a highlight of The Festival Village, featuring the artwork **Bit.Fall** by Julius Popp. As seen at the London 2012 Olympic Village and MONA, bursts of water droplets are released at split-second intervals spelling out fleeting, transient words – a real-time cascade of text pulled from the **#kirinbitfall** hashtag. With plenty of bars to choose from including the **[yellow tail] Glow Bar** and **Laurent-Perrier Bar**, Festival-goers will have every reason to celebrate the balmy summer nights in the centre of our city.

New in 2015, the **Sydney Morning Herald Info Lounge** will also offer Festival-goers a space to sit down, peruse the Festival program, gather more information of what's on offer in January and decide what's next.

Summer days and nights are meant to be experienced outdoors and The Festival Village is the perfect oasis of music, mayhem and magic in Sydney this summer. Experience everything from South American hip hop and cumbia to some of the most hypnotic female voices in the music scene. Early evenings to late balmy nights, the Festival Village opens its doors to bathe you in the rhythms of summer.

MEDIA RELEASE

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**SYDNEY
FESTIVAL**
8–26 JAN **2015**

sydneyfestival.org.au/village

- Where** Festival Village in Hyde Park
Hyde Park North
Entry near Archibald Fountain
- When** 8–25 January , closed Mondays

Family Week 20–25 January

Entry until midnight.
Food available from 11am.
Licensed bars open from 4.30pm.
Licensed venue. Under 18s must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian
- Bookings** Sydney Festival 1300 668 812, sydneyfestival.org.au
- Access** Festival Village is a licensed venue
All minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult
Food and beverage outlets are open from 11am



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