

CROYDON FESTIVAL ITES

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ITES

A FESTIVAL OF
NEW THEATRE
AND PERFORMANCE
FOR CROYDON

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Find us on:



31 OCT - 24 NOVEMBER 2024

HAPPENING IN A VENUE NEAR YOU:

STUDIO 55, THE FRONT ROOM, THE GREEN DRAGON, TALAWA STUDIOS
THE VENUE ON MIDDLE STREET, BRAITHWAITE HALL & STANLEY ARTS

For more information and to book:

WWW.CROYDONITES.COM

GREETINGS CROYDONITES!

We are very proud to bring you the 7th edition of the Croydonites Festival. Over the years we've grown from presenting just a few companies to over twenty in 2024. This year we have a delightful mix of performance, dance, comedy and storytelling as well as the hottest thing in immersive theatre right now.

We are producing two participatory events with local casts including *We Can Be Heroes*, the brainchild of French choreographer **Arnaud Pirault**. This lip-syncing rollercoaster ride transports you from Shirley Bassey to Eninem, a joyful and ironic takeover of public space. In his second visit **Richard DeDomenici** will create a low-budget remake from the award-winning romantic fantasy *All Of Us Strangers*, with all the roles played by a local cast.

Other highlights include **Sarah Baltzinger and Isaiah Wilson** from Luxembourg with their performative dance duet *MEGASTRUCTURE*, a work whose pieces are constantly being dismantled, tested and reinvented; and **HurlyBurly Theatre** make their first visit to Croydonites with *You Are the Sun*, a folk inspired opera for babies and grown-ups that explores the magic of nature.

James Rowland dies at the end of the show is a masterclass in storytelling which asks 'What would you do with an hour? What if it was your last hour ever?' **Wendy Houstoun** also asks questions, this time about identity, personal truth and political ideology in a ridiculous Game Show for One, *WATCH IT!*

We round off the festival with *The Manikins: a work in progress* by **Deadweight Theatre**, a ninety-minute performance by two actors for a single audience member. A labyrinthine conspiracy, a cold war between dream and reality, a constantly transforming psychedelic world that slips like sand between your fingers. It's an experience like no other.

We are still committed to nurturing local artists through commissioning and showcasing their work. In 2024 eight local artists are taking part in CroydonBites; **Chardine Makaveli-Singh** and **Nathan Brown-Bennett** from the 2023 cohort have been supported to develop their earlier works; and the first round of this three year cycle comes to fruition with a work in progress by **Simon Manyonda** (*Rye Lane, The Bay, His Dark Materials*). *Blessed, Tryna Break This Curse* is a Theatrical Mixtape of late 90s early 00's nostalgia where Garage Music, Dawson's Creek and Croydon Night Life soundtrack a coming of age tale, following a young man's yearning to transcend his life and become an Actor. We are delighted to partner with **Talawa Theatre Company** to realise this work which will be presented in their studios.

Plus...we've added a fringe. 20 artists in 4 venues over 4 days from 31 Oct - 3 Nov. It's a monster! We can't wait to share it with you.

THU 31 OCT - SUN 3 NOV CROYDONITES FRINGE 2024



Did we mention we have started a Fringe Festival?

From 31 Oct - 3 November there are 20 shows on offer in 4 venues across Croydon Town Centre. We have performance, new writing, comedy, film, music and site-specific. I hope you're ready!

We also have a series of free events on Saturday 2 November in the town centre. *We Can Be Heroes* by French choreographer Arnaud Pirault, performed by a local community cast in Whitgift Square; and *The Working Boys Club* and *Bedlam Oz* in North End.

Performance

Tom Marshman
Queer Croydon
Company Skin
Sarah Teale

New Writing

Na-Keisha Pebody
Jessie Wren-Jacobs
Artopia
Britny Virginia
Good Wolf People

Comedy

Nick Helm
Louise Bastock
Til Fletcher
Will BF
Emmy Fyles

Comedy cont.

Joy Harvey
Dick Denham
Chipo Kureya
Elgin Edison
Improv the Dead
Sharifa Butterfly

Site-specific

Amy Gwilliam
Genome Theatre Company

Film

Phoebe Wagner

Music

Surrey Harmony Chorus
Roger Wagner
Minifigure

See www.croydonites.com for more info and to book

The Croydonites Fringe is sponsored by Croydon BID and funded by Croydon Council and Arts Council England.



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DOUBLE BILL.



Photo Credit: Sebastian Black

Photo Credit: Baylee Mole Photography

THU 31 OCT 6.00PM • FRI 1 NOV 7.30PM • SAT 2 NOV 1.00PM • £10/£8

Studio 55, Centrale Shopping Centre • Suitable for 16+

CHARDINE MAKAVELI-SINGH A CRONX TALE STEFANS STORY (FILM)

A Cronx Tale is a short, animated film about the dangers of getting involved in gangs, street crime and county lines. Through animation it looks at how actions have consequences, and using a mixture of reality and fiction, its aim is to leave an impact and create positive change. This film is the first in a trilogy, telling a story from different viewpoints and using different mediums. Followed by a Q&A.

Stefans Story is the first part of a trilogy, the second film is centred around the theme of robbery, the consequences for the perpetrator and the impact on the victim. The film aims to educate young people, steering them away from street crime and offering guidance to potential victims on how to stay safe. The third film will focus on the issue of violence against women and girls, and how they can spot the signs of grooming and exploitation. All three films will be touring in schools.

NATHAN BROWN-BENNETT & MARISA OLUSEMO AGAIN, AGAIN AND AGAIN (AKA. CANCELLED X2)

A deep dive into the human psyche through spoken word, music, and theatre. How do our emotions have an impact on our relationships and mental health? Embark on a journey of dark and light moments that are sure to have an impact. Covering topics of sexual assault, bereavement, and anxiety.

Again, Again & Again is a collaborative project featuring spoken word, rap and singing; written and produced by Nathan Brown-Bennett & Marisa Olusemo.

Croydonites Commissioning Pathways

Croydonites is committed to nurturing local artists through its commissioning pathway from initial idea, to a work in progress performance, to a finished work.

Both Chardine and Nathan presented work in CroydonBites (for short works) in 2023 and have been supported in 2024 with a commissioning fee, rehearsal space and a mentor. They are also the recipients of additional funding from Stanley Arts to develop these works.



WELCOME TO CROYDON

There is so much to discover in Croydon town centre. Enjoy a variety of unique places to eat, drink, and shop, or immerse yourself in a range of cultural, artistic, and family-friendly events.



Take a look around

SCAN ME



@checkoutcroydon

Brought to you by Croydon Business Improvement District (BID)



Photo Credit: Nicolas Joubard

SAT 2 NOV 2PM & 4PM

ARNAUD PIRAULT WE CAN BE HEROES

Whitgift Square, Whitgift Shopping Centre
FREE EVENT / SUITABLE FOR ALL

Performed by a local cast, this lip-syncing rollercoaster will take you from Shirley Bassey to Eninem. *We Can Be Heroes* is a joyful and ironic take over of public space, celebrating the unifying experience of coming together to perform songs we know and love.

“A simple collective gesture just beautiful and generous”

“The result is explosive!”

SAT 2 NOV 12.30PM, 2.30PM & 4.30PM

BEDLAM OZ BIG MOB WALKABOUT

North End, Croydon
FREE EVENT / SUITABLE FOR ALL

Bedlam Oz bring their majestic parade of hyper flexible interactive slinkies to North End. An Edinburgh favourite, they combine elegance and humour in their unique brand of physical and visual theatre.

“Strangely wonderful, wonderfully strange”

The Scotsman



Photo Credit: Chloe Archer

SAT 2 NOV 11.30AM, 1.30PM & 3.30PM

WORKING BOYS CLUB SERVING SOUNDS

North End, Croydon
FREE EVENT / SUITABLE FOR ALL

Serving Sounds is the musical pub that serves bass not beer! You'll find all the usual items you'd expect at a bar, but when touched they create a groove, a sound or a snare. Come and re-create some of your favourite hits with this multi-sensory sound installation that creates connection through music.

“Two creative minds bring plenty of joy, love it gents”

“This is sooo exxxtra cool”



Photo Credit: Daniel Lomas Photography

DANCE DOUBLE BILL



Photo Credit: Bohumil Kostohryz

WED 6 NOV 7.30PM

Studio 55 & The Braithwaite Hall • £15/£10 Recommended for 12+

ELISE ANTONIA & MARLON MATENHESE PARADIGM

Studio 55, Centrale Shopping Centre 7.30pm

Paradigm unfolds as a miraculous story based on the true events of a young woman's experience maturing into her womanhood. Venturing away from everything she thought she knew, she is faced with unimaginable choices to make and profusely battles with her moral compass in search for an opportunity to reset the timeline.

Elise 'Hummingbird' Antonia and Marlon 'Cosmic' Matenheese are FLOCK members of award-winning Hip Hop Architects BirdGang. Paradigm was developed during BirdGang's Arts Council England funded HATCHWORK24 programme and first performed at Stanley Arts.

SARAH BALTZINGER & ISAIAH WILSON MEGASTRUCTURE

The Braithwaite Hall 8.30pm

MEGASTRUCTURE is a puzzle, a dance duet whose pieces are constantly being dismantled, tested and reinvented. Co-creators and performers Sarah Baltzinger and Isaiah Wilson draw on their bodies to deconstruct the traditional format of dance pieces.

What does the audience expect in a performance? What is necessary to create? Without music or other distractions, MEGASTRUCTURE is both an immersive experience and a captivating performance.

“A vast vocabulary of unique-looking movements, create a mesmerizing performance: often violent, at times whimsical, but always inventive.”

Marina Srnka, Springback Magazine

COMEDY NIGHT DICK'S PICKS

SAT 2 NOV 8PM

The Green Dragon £15/£10 Recommend for 18+

Lovingly curated by Dick Denham, Nick Helm (Uncle, 8 of 10 Cats Does Countdown) headlines this stellar evening of comedy featuring Til Fletcher (Wilderness, Vault Festival, Love Supreme), Sharifa Butterfly (King Gong winner at The Comedy Store 2023), local Elgin Edison and MC'd by stand up and tv presenter Louise Bastock (Kapow, Lonely Planet). Saturday night in Croydon has never looked so damn funny!



Photo Credit: Lukasz Izdebski

THU 7 NOV 2.15PM & 8PM - FRI 8 NOV 8PM
LIFE IN ART/SIMON MANYONDA
BLESSED, TRYNA SHAKE
THIS CURSE (WIP)

Talawa Studio, Fairfield Halls
£15 / £10 Recommended for 14+

Commissioned by Croydonites and presented in association with Talawa Theatre Company, *Blessed, Tryna Shake This Curse* is a Theatrical Mixtape of late 90s early 00's nostalgia created by Simon Manyonda (Rye Lane). Garage Music, Dawson's Creek and Croydon NightLife, soundtrack a coming of age tale following a young man's yearning to transcend his life and become an Actor.

Soundtracked by music and a score created and composed by Simon Manyonda with additional production by Owain Kelly (NO CEREMONY!!!), *BLESSED* experiments with the 90s transportation of Garage Music on mixtapes and puts it on stage to tell a blast from the past story that took place outside The Black Sheep.

R&D supported by The National Theatre Studio

**TALA
WA**

COMMISSIONED
BY CROYDONITES



Photo Credit: Richard DeDomenici (American Assassin)

SAT 9 NOV 5.30PM
RICHARD DEDOMENICI
ALL OF US STRANGERS: REDUX
(WORLD PREMIERE)

The Venue on Middle Street
£15 / £10 Recommended for 14+

In 2018 Croydonites commissioned Richard DeDomenici to make a low-budget remake of a scene from the 2017 Hollywood movie *American Assassin*, which was set in Istanbul, but actually filmed in Croydon.

Richard filmed his shot-for-shot recreation - or Redux - with local participants in the original location of St George's Walk.

Now he's back with a new recreation of the award-winning romantic fantasy *All Of Us Strangers*, starring Andrew Scott and filmed in Croydon.

Join us for the world premiere of *All Of Us Strangers: Redux!*

"Subversive, anarchic, mischievous, unpredictable...alive with possibility, and vibrating with risk"

The Guardian, on Richard's live BBC4 Redux

"I find his performance presence so refreshing and delightful. I could listen to him for hours, even if I don't know what he's talking about half the time."

Dorothy Max Prior, Total Theatre Magazine

The OVAL

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FRIENDLY FOOD - TASTY STAFF

CROYDONBITES

CroydonBites is a programme for local artists with short works, some of them making their debut performance.

FRI 8 NOV 7PM Studio 55, Centrale Shopping Centre • £15/£10 Recommended for 16+



MOLLY-ROSE CURRAN BUG & BEETLE

Bug & Beetle follows the disappearance of a young man from his childhood home in Thornton Heath and the days following as family members and friends come together to solve the mystery of his whereabouts. A new play in development by Molly-Rose Curran, this scratch performance is directed by Kay Michael. Made thanks to Croydon Council's London Borough of Culture Legacy Fund

CATHERINE PESTANO THE MENOPAUSE & ME (AND US!)

We are hearing more about the menopause but it leaves so much out. Join Catherine for a quirky dive into some of the diverse aspects of our many collective menopause journeys. Help her shape this creative work in progress. Open to all genders and ages. (Explicit conversational content).



GRAND GESTURE RITE OF AUTUMN

Grand Gesture is a company of geri-anarchists creatively staging ageing through dance theatre. Rite of Autumn, their latest work, shows how ageing is not an end, but an ongoing cycle. Inspired by the structure of Stravinsky's Rite of Spring, playful games lead to the selection of a sacrifice.

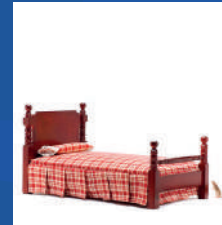
JASMIN CHERRELLE SKEETE (PLAYSBYJCS) BROKEN HEELS

Cherrelle and Jess' friendship unravels after a lighthearted moment leads to deeper conversations about insecurities and life. After Cherrelle fails at a job Jess helped her secure, Jess ends their friendship, feeling held back. Both women reflect, realising their paths must diverge for personal growth.



CROYDONBITES

SAT 9 NOV 7PM Studio 55, Central Shopping Centre • £15/£10 Recommended for 16+

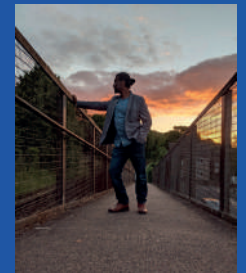


MARIA BEADELL WE CAN'T ALL BE FIELD MICE

We Can't All Be Field Mice is a one woman performance across eras, centred around a single bed. This piece explores empathy, understanding and tolerance within the context of historical witch hunts and modern feminism.

RUSTAMSKI

Discover the captivating spoken word poetry that blends sci-fi, the charm of Labradors, and the energy of ParkRuns in Croydon. Rustamski engages audiences with imaginative tales and relatable themes, making each performance a unique exploration of life, community, and creativity. Join the journey and be inspired!



ADEOLA VEMITAN GOOD NEWS

Ade has intel that the end of the world is nigh, for real this time. And the instruction is clear: to make disciples of all nations. One such former disciple is Ade's estranged friend, Joni. Rumour is, she's running from God and has lost her way. Ade knows he must do whatever he can to save her from the jaws of Death before time runs out... so what's a little bit of kidnap in the grand scheme of eternal damnation? *Good News* is a playful work-in-progress extract asking, how far is too far to go for the Truth?

PEACE OF MIND TRANSPORTED

Transported is a collection of short scenes exploring the impact of public transport on mental health. Inspired by personal experience Peace of MIND show how even small journeys across town can have a devastating impact on mental wellbeing. Peace of MIND are a community drama group based at MIND Croydon.





Photo Credit: Adam Walker

SUN 10 NOV 12PM, 1.30PM & 3.00PM **HURLYBURLY THEATRE** **YOU ARE THE SUN**

Stanley Arts, South Norwood
Suitable for 0-2 years and their grown-ups

HurlyBurly Theatre presents *You are the Sun*, a folk inspired opera for babies and grown-ups that explores the magic of nature.

Combining the joy of gentle classical singing and sensory play, it is an invitation to see beauty in the smallest things and to let plants be our guides.

Celebrate the gift of nature and help to conjure a world out of breath, water, sunlight and soil in this magical musical adventure for 0 – 2 year olds.

‘You are the Sun by Hurly Burly is a masterclass in how early years theatre should be created.’

Zoe Pickering - Head of Programming, Z-arts

‘So transporting, so beautiful, so perfectly pitched for children of this age... just utterly magical.’

Half Moon Theatre Audience Member - February 2023



Photo Credit: Rosie Collins

TUE 12 NOV 7.30PM **JAMES ROWLAND** **JAMES ROWLAND DIES AT THE END OF THE SHOW**

Studio 55, Centrale Shopping Centre
£15 / £10 Recommended for 14+

What would you do with an hour? What if it was your last hour ever? For James the answer is easy: he wants to tell you a story. A story full of laughter and music and joy. A story about living. The third and final part of a trilogy that began with *Learning to Fly*.



‘A master storyteller’

The Scotsman



‘Breathtakingly funny’

Binge Fringe



‘Joyful’

Theatre Review



‘If you’ve never seen Fringe stalwart James Rowland, stop reading and immediately book tickets: you can thank me later’

Three Weeks



Photo Credit: Hugo Glendinning

THU 14 & FRI 15 NOV 7.30PM **WENDY HOUSTOUN** **WATCH IT!**

Studio 55, Centrale Shopping Centre £15 / £10
Recommended for 16+

‘A brilliant renaissance woman of performance art.’
New York Times

In quite possibly her last ever show Wendy Houstoun teams up with Kate Champion (Australia) and Hannes Langolf (UK, Germany) to create a personal and irreverent solo.

More stand up than dance around, *WATCH IT!* asks questions about identity, personal truth and political ideology in a ridiculous Game Show for One.

What happens to the individual in the midst of ideological regulation?

Is it possible to ask questions without being cast as a reactionary?

Is self-censorship driving thought underground?

Secrecy, privacy and the public domain are all on the table in a show that combines projection, spoken word and idiosyncratic movement.

Made with financial support as part of DV8 Physical Theatre's Legacy Commissions.



Photo Credit: Taha Izzi

SAT 16 – SUN 24 NOV 1PM, 3PM, 5PM, 7PM (NOT MON 18TH) **DEADWEIGHT** **THE MANIKINS: A WORK IN PROGRESS**

Studio 55, Centrale Shopping Centre
£100 / £75 / £50 Recommended for 16+

Have you ever wanted a story which is more than just about something, but is that something?

The Manikins: a work in progress is a ninety-minute performance by two actors for you, its single audience member and protagonist.

It is a labyrinthine conspiracy, a cold war between dream and reality, a constantly transforming psychedelic world that slips like sand between your fingers.

Winner of the GEST Best in Fest award at the 2024 Gothenburg Fringe and one of The Stage's top 50 shows of 2023, Broadway World calls *The Manikins: a work in Progress* ‘a dark, mystery-laden masterpiece.’



‘This is the best immersive show of 2024, and it may take many more years for anything else to come close to it.’

Immersive Rumours



‘An adventure into the avant garde... It really does leave a surreal, indelible mark like a vivid dream.’

London Theatre Reviews



‘(A) dark, mystery-laden masterpiece

Broadway World

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CROY DON ITES

DEFINITION

Croydonites:
residents of the London
Borough of Croydon

Croydon Nights:
seriously good nights
out in the theatre...in Croydon

Croydonites is a festival of theatre and performance for Croydon. Our mission is to nurture local artists and bring high quality work from around the UK to Croydon doorsteps.

Director:

Anna Arthur

Associate Directors:

Katie Hurley & Sophie Eustace

Production Manager:

Jonathan Samuels

Young Producer:

Raashmi Aman Niranjan

Supported by:

centrale
& *Whitgift*

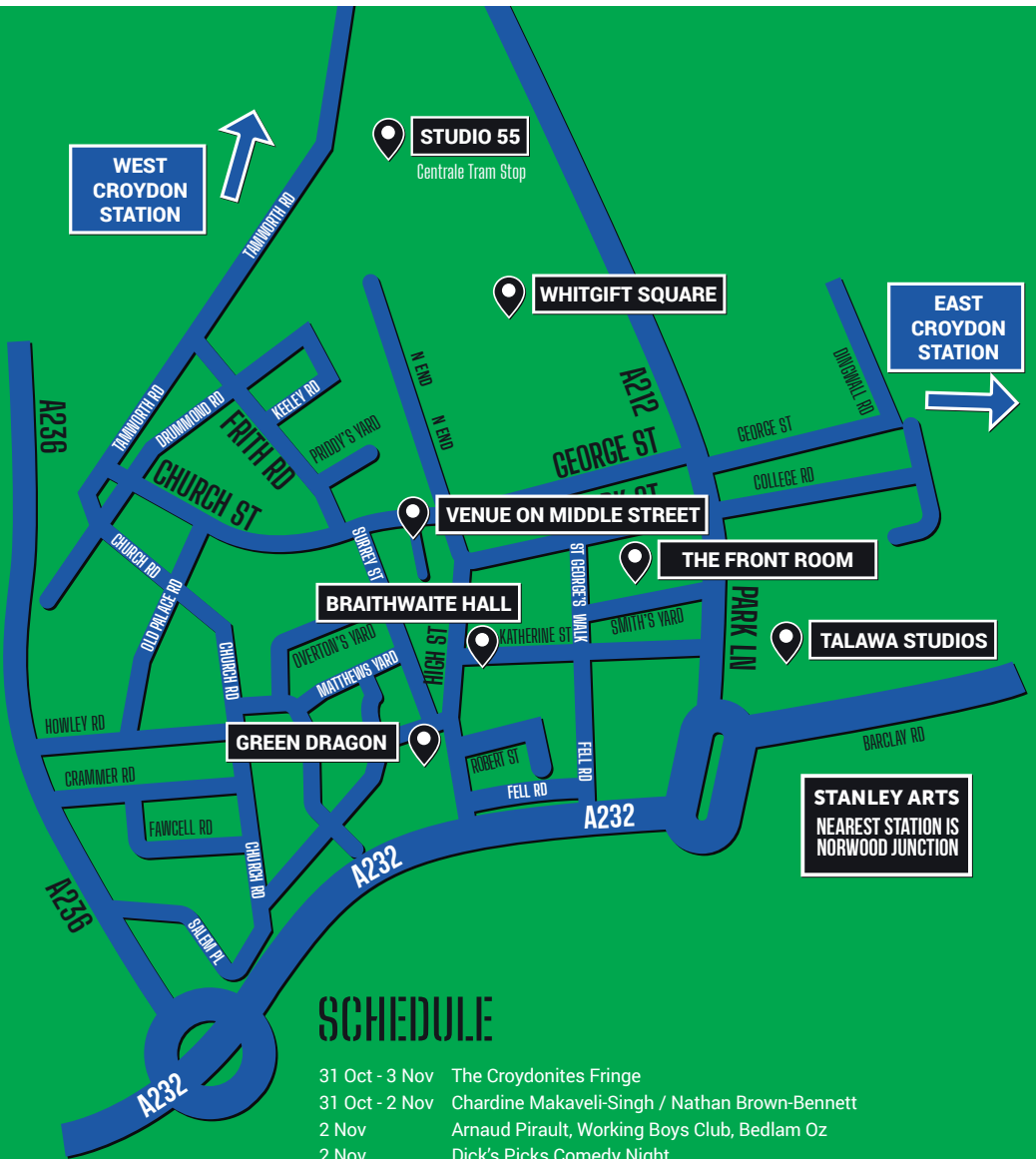
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The Croydonites Fringe
is sponsored by the Croydon BID





SCHEDULE

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 31 Oct - 3 Nov | The Croydonites Fringe |
| 31 Oct - 2 Nov | Chardine Makaveli-Singh / Nathan Brown-Bennett |
| 2 Nov | Arnaud Pirault, Working Boys Club, Bedlam Oz |
| 2 Nov | Dick's Picks Comedy Night |
| 6 Nov | Sarah Baltzinger & Isaiah Wilson / Elise Antonia & Marlon Matenhese |
| 7-8 Nov | Simon Manyonda / Blessed, Tryna Shake This Curse |
| 8-9 Nov | CroydonBites |
| 9 Nov | Richard DeDomenici / All of Us Strangers: REDUX |
| 10 Nov | HurlyBurly Theatre / You are the Sun |
| 12 Nov | James Rowland Dies at the End of the Show |
| 14-15 Nov | Wendy Houstoun / Watch It! |
| 16-24 Nov | Deadweight / The Manikins: a work in progress |

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