

# FESTIVALS

## ART

### BIENNALE OF SYDNEY

The Biennale generally starts in **June** and runs until the end of **August**. It's a major event on the Sydney art calendar and features a large number of Australian and international artists practicing all forms of visual art. The Biennale takes place at over 15 different venues around Sydney- the principal venues being Pier 2/3 at Walsh Bay (see *Theatres*), The Art Gallery of New South Wales and the Museum of Contemporary Art (see *Galleries*). Every year the Biennale is organized within a conceptual framework. In 2006 the theme was 'Zones of Contact'.

For more information visit [www.bos2006.com](http://www.bos2006.com)

### SCULPTURE BY THE SEA

'Sculpture by the Sea' is Australia's largest outdoor, free to the public exhibition of contemporary sculpture. The exhibition is staged along the Bondi to Tamarama coastal walk, with over 100 works by Australian and international artists. The exhibition has become an institution in Bondi and something that locals and travelers anticipate with great interest.

Exhibition runs annually from the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> **November**.

Tel. (02) 8399 0233 or visit [www.sculpturebythesea.com](http://www.sculpturebythesea.com)

### SYDNEY FESTIVAL

The Sydney festival is an annual event focusing on theatre, music, dance and visual arts. Exhibitions and performances are held at different venues around Sydney. There are a number of family friendly activities such as Jazz in the Domain as well as free outdoor events.

The festival runs from around the 6<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> **January**.

Tel. (02) 8248 6500 or visit [www.sydneyfestival.org.au](http://www.sydneyfestival.org.au)

## FILM

### FLICKERFEST

Flickerfest is an annual film festival held at the Bondi Pavilion. The festival showcases independent Australian and International documentaries and short films.

Flickerfest runs from around the 6<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> **January**

Tel. (02) 9365 6888 or visit [www.flickerfest.com.au](http://www.flickerfest.com.au)

### TROPFEST

Tropfest is probably Australia's best known short film festival. Held annually in The Domain around the end of **February**, 16 finalists are chosen and screened to over 130 000 spectators- and a winner is announced. All films must include the Tropfest Signature Item (TSD) which in 2006 was "Bubble".

Admission is free.

For more information visit [www.tropfest.com](http://www.tropfest.com)

## SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

The Sydney Film Festival happens annually in **June** and celebrates the best of local and international cinema including features, short films, animation, documentary and retrospectives. They also run forums and lectures by industry professionals, critics and academics. The State Theatre (see *Theatres*) is home to the festival but there are also screenings at the Dendy Opera Quays and George St Cinemas (see *Cinemas*).

Tel. 136 100 or visit [www.sydneyfilmfestival.org](http://www.sydneyfilmfestival.org)

## CULTURAL

### SYDNEY MARDI GRAS

The Mardi Gras season happens over **February/March** each year, the highlight being a huge celebration and parade down Oxford St in early March. The purpose of Mardi Gras is to celebrate proud gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual and queer people in their communities- but it's for everyone to enjoy and it's a great time.

For more information visit [www.mardigras.org.au](http://www.mardigras.org.au)

### SURRY HILLS FESTIVAL

The Surry Hills festival generally happens in **May** at Prince Alfred Park, near Central Station. There's live entertainment, street theatre, market stalls and an international food fair. It's a fantastic day out.

For more information visit [www.surryhillsfestival.org.au](http://www.surryhillsfestival.org.au)

### FIFTIES FAIR

Celebrate the music and popular culture of the 1950s, set against the striking modernism of Rose Seidler House, built in 1948 by internationally renowned architect Harry Seidler for his parents, Max and Rose. Featuring fifties-style music, dance and fashion, vehicle displays, stalls and memorabilia plus activities for the kids and special guest appearances, the Fifties fair has become a date not to be missed on Sydney's cultural calendar. Entry cost \$12 or \$27 for families.

Held annually in **August** at Rose Seidler House (member of the Historic Houses Trust)

71 Clissold Rd, Wahroonga

Tel. (02) 8239 2211 or visit [www.hht.net.au](http://www.hht.net.au)

Getting there: It's about a 45 min drive or take the 380 bus from Campbell Pde to Bondi Junction, catch the train from Bondi Junction- Central- Turrumurra and a free shuttle bus operates between Turrumurra train station and Rose Seidler House for the duration of the event

## LITERATURE

### SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL

The Sydney Writers Festival happens once a year in **May**. Over 300 leading writers from Australia and around the globe descend on Sydney to talk in depth about their work. These talks take place at different venues all over Sydney. The principle venue being the Sydney Theatre Company at Walsh Bay (see *Theatres*). For more information visit [www.swf.org.au](http://www.swf.org.au)

## FOOD

### GOOD FOOD AND WINE SHOW

Held annually in **June** at the Sydney Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour

There's over 300 exhibitors of fine food and wine as well as demonstrations, tastings and celebrity chef appearances.

Tel. 136 100 or visit [www.goodfoodshow.com.au](http://www.goodfoodshow.com.au)

## MUSIC

### HOMEBAKE

'Homebake' is an all ages music festival held annually in **December** in The Domain. Tickets cost around \$60 and it's an all day/night event showcasing Australian (and New Zealand) bands, both established and up-and-coming. It is the only Australian music festival focused entirely on homegrown talent and in its 11<sup>th</sup> year in 2006, it has become an Aussie institution.

It's a great opportunity to experience some of Australia's best in rock, hip hop, folk and dance.

For information on the line-up and ticket outlets visit [www.homebake.com.au](http://www.homebake.com.au)

### BIG DAY OUT

Every year on Australia Day (26<sup>th</sup> **January**) over 50 000 music lovers descend on Sydney Showground at Sydney Olympic Park for the 'Big Day Out'. Over 30 Australian and international acts perform to massive crowds on 6 different stages. Food and alcohol is available at the venue and you can guarantee most festival-goers will be fairly merry!

I'd give it a huge miss if you're not feeling festive because the crowds and queues will drive you insane.

Otherwise, it's a fantastic day...just make sure you organise a late check-out! For information on the line-up and to purchase tickets visit [www.bigdayout.com](http://www.bigdayout.com)

### SOUTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL

This is an event held annually in **February** at the Bondi Pavilion. The festival is devoted to the best of Latin American music and dance in Australia. There are four areas of entertainment where you can enjoy the sounds of Argentina, Cuba, Bolivia, Chile and Peru. There are also dance workshops, food stalls and an art and craft market. The finale is a Brazilian Carnival and parade complete with sequined dancers, feathered drummers, and capoeira performers.

Tickets are \$15 and entertainment goes from 1-7pm.

For more information and for other Bondi Pavilion events visit [www.waverly.nsw.gov.au](http://www.waverly.nsw.gov.au)- choose 'Visitor Info' and then 'Bondi Pavilion'

### THE GREAT ESCAPE

The Great Escape is a new addition to Sydney music festivals but it's been a hit two years running. Held over the Easter Long Weekend in **April**, it's 4 days of non-stop bands. The venue is Newington Armory near Homebush Bay which is about 5 minutes from the Sydney Olympic Park Train Station.

Tickets start at \$85 for 1 day.

For more information visit [www.thegreatescape.net.au](http://www.thegreatescape.net.au)