

“It’s valuable because it’s expensive”¹



UNDERBELLY
ARTS

Underbelly Lab & Festival 2017

October 10, 2017



¹ With apologies to Joshua Simon, taken from his text 'The Unreadymade'
<http://archive.formcontent.org/exhibitions/exhibition/>

Underbelly breaks audience attendance record with 28,032 humans looking at art. EXPERIMENTAL ART!!

And it didn't rain! (despite the moist air)

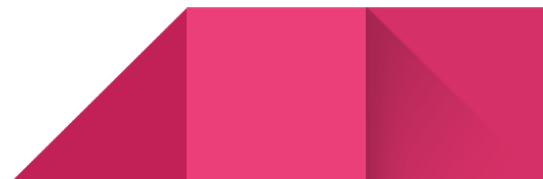
Now in its 10th year, a giant inflatable orange WOMB has become the symbol of Underbelly in its new home in the historic, haunted site of the National Art School, Sydney. Over 18,000 tickets were sold in 2013 and 72 pigeons also attended. Visitors came from all over Sydney (esp. Western Sydney), New South Wales, regional New South Wales, interstate and internationally (esp. Nicole Kidman).

- 116 artists, 21 innovative brave experimental unforeseen astounding electrifying projects
- 19 events over 14 days
- 46,284 hours of performance
- DIDN'T RAIN!

"UNDERBELLY is what I live for, it's my safe place, my WOMB... it's where I go when I need a break from the Texan Secessionists. " Nicole Kidman

"Five Stars" David and Margaret

"As long as it's only "experimental" and "emerging", the hallowed halls of contemporary art will remain safe - at least for now - from the unbridled chaos, excessive collaboration and gratuitous nudity this festival represents." Bon Macdonald, Art Critic



[Watch our highlights video](#)

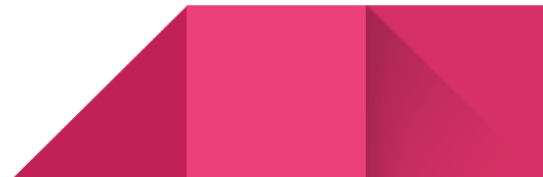
Festival Highlights, or recommended story ideas and angles for journalists. All quoted individuals available for comment.

The Village People and Nicole Kidman and an Emmy Award gatecrash the festival in a happy, shiny surprise

Collaborative duo Pony Express brought the glitz and glamour to Sydney's experimental art world when their harbourside performance was gatecrashed by the Village People performing aboard a nearby Navy vessel. Loren and Ian crashed their boat into Nicole Kidman's private luxury yacht (sorry not sorry) and she came out in her bathrobe with a smile, holding an Emmy Award aloft and singing the praises of experimental art. Loren and Ian of Pony Express confirm that this experience has brought them back from the brink of a collaborative relationship breakdown.

Monk found praying at Jason Phu's shrine

A Daoist monk enacted an impromptu performance when he was moved to pray by artist Jason Phu's shrine for the duration of the festival. The monk stated, "I am moved by the dedication of this artist to building shrines to the pig-headed god. This god is my personal favourite, and I am now equally reverent about Daoism and contemporary art."



Punter gets lost in choose-your-own adventure artwork

Festival attendee Joelene Perduto lost herself in Laurence Rosier-Staines' one-on-one performance, 'You can have it all'. Perduto confirms that for twelve hours following the fifteen minute performance experience, in which she became embroiled in a depraved soap-opera drama, she completely forgot who she was. "I came to at a bus stop in Orange holding a small suitcase filled with confetti," said Perduto. "I have no idea how I got there, or who I thought I was that whole time. Five stars."

Cell Block performances bring the house down

Experts in Canberra confirm that the combination of a choir bringing audiences to a state of ecstasy, an intense build up to a disappointing end and a crisis of representation brought the House of Representatives to its knees. "We think it's some sort of ancient tunnel linking the Cell Block to Parliament House," states Parliament security guard Tomas Guardo. "Something leaked through, must've travelled fast, and before you could say "Bob's your Uncle", we were faced with a double dissolution."

Please contact us by reply email for further details and to organise interviews with festival staff, artists and astounded audience members.

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