



Media Release 6 August 2026

MEDIA ALERT: For immediate release

Step into your shadow with Night Moves: Metro Arts and Brisbane Festival explore the dark side.

By day, Brisbane Festival fills the city with spectacle. After dark, Metro Arts invites audiences to experience Night Moves.

Night Moves is Metro Arts' contribution to Brisbane Festival - a season of performance, exhibition and celebration that embraces the intimate, the curious, and even the disturbing. Across four works spanning contemporary dance, visual art and queer nightlife, audiences are invited to step into spaces where familiar boundaries begin to dissolve and new ways of seeing, feeling and connecting emerge.

"Night doesn't just change the city; it changes us," says Metro Arts CEO Kieran Swann. "Metro Arts offers something a little darker, a little stranger, and a little riskier. It's an invitation to step beyond the familiar and discover artists that aren't interested in easy answers. They're creating experiences that ask us to lean into uncertainty and discover what new ideas might be waiting there."

At the heart of Night Moves is ***The Scramble***, Shaun Johnston's award-winning work that combines contemporary dance and wrestling. In a rough-and-tumble athletic match, two performers wrestle with masculinity and the boundaries, physicality, and connection that exist within male friendships. Slipping from friend to foe to friend again, they gradually reveal something tender and complex about the ways men connect through touch.

Shandy sees Metro Arts transform into an immersive, queer fantasia. DJ Sweaty Baby's much-loved Brisbane club night invites you to stay out later than you planned. When the lights drop and the pulse kicks in, ***Shandy*** brings Metro Arts alive with the kind of sweaty, euphoric chaos that only a proper queer dancefloor can deliver. Through live performance and DJs, Shandy offers you a night that's darker, sweatier, and just a little bit risky.

Night Moves' exhibitions invite audiences to question the boundaries of perception and self.

(In)Sight by Kuweni Dias Mendis and Grant x Wilkes explores image making across digital and handmade forms, inviting audiences to see and be seen. Building on their award-winning collaboration (Metro Arts Experimental Portraiture Prize, 2025 Brisbane Portrait Prize), this exhibition extends this collaboration into a third dimension of experimentation with ritual, darkness and the unstable nature of images.

Meanwhile, ***Choral Cthonics***, gathers local and international artists to explore the voice as instrument, threshold, collective technology and self-annihilation. In *Choral Cthonics*, the mouth and body act as conduits for forces that are communal, elemental and unstable: drawing audiences toward new connections with each other and with the more-than-human world.

Together, these works form ***Night Moves***: bringing a different beat to Brisbane Festival. Whether on the dancefloor, in the gallery, or at the edge of a wrestling mat, Metro Arts invites audiences to embrace the unfamiliar - and discover something new about themselves along the way.

Night Moves Performance Program

Shandy

Presented by Metro Arts within the Night Moves program for Brisbane Festival Shandy runs 8pm-12 midnight, Friday 4 September.

Ticketing link <https://metroarts.com.au/event/shandy/>

Image available. Please contact us.

Credit: Shandy Party founder DJ Sweaty Baby

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The Scramble

Presented by Metro Arts within the Night Moves program for Brisbane Festival ***The Scramble*** runs 16-19 September.

Opening Night 7.30pm Wednesday 16 September

Season 7.30pm Thursday 17 to Saturday 19 September

Ticketing link <https://metroarts.com.au/event/the-scramble/>

Images available. Please contact us.

Credit: Andrea Mae.



Night Moves Exhibitions

Dates 27 August – 26 September

Gallery hours: Tuesday – Friday: 10am-5pm, Saturday: 2-6pm, Sunday: 9am-12:30pm

Choral Cthonics by Cicadas (Celeste Ricci & Maria Molina)

Featuring several artists brought together by Criculids

Exhibition information <https://metroarts.com.au/exhibition/choral-cthonics/>

Metro Arts Gallery One

Image available, contact Metro Arts

Kuweni Dias Mendis and Grant x Wilkes: (In)Sight

Exhibition information <https://metroarts.com.au/exhibition/insight/>

Metro Arts Gallery Two

Image credit: InSight images courtesy of the artists.

Images available. Please contact us.

Brisbane Festival program link:

<https://www.brisbanefestival.com.au/night-is-calling-you>

Get in touch:

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About Metro Arts

Metro Arts centres Australian artists and experimentation.

In 2026-27, Metro Arts is embarking on a deliberate “rewiring” of our operations, programming and partnerships. This transformational process is strengthening internal systems, deepening philanthropic relationships, embedding entrepreneurial and sustainable practices, and refining strategy to better support artists and future-focused practice. These efforts lay the foundation for the organisation’s next chapter as we approach our 50th anniversary and Brisbane’s Cultural Olympiad for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

With a profound 45 year legacy, Metro Arts is at the forefront of nurturing Australian creative talent, serving as an incubator and launchpad for some of the country's finest artists. Metro Arts is equipped with state-of-the-art galleries, artist studios and theatre facilities, all located along the old Peters Ice-cream Factory Lane, within the thriving West Village precinct in West End. Their workshop facility at Norman Park provides vital space for visual artists to create, build and experiment supported by Brisbane City Council.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Metro Arts Program is supported by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its funding and advisory body. Metro Arts is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Visual Art, Craft and Design Framework, an initiative of the Australian, state and territory governments. The Metro Arts Creative Development Program and Artist in Residence Program is proudly supported by Brisbane City Council. Metro Arts Visual Arts (MAVA) Substation is assisted by Brisbane City Council.