ARTS HOUSE

Working Class Clown

Tommy Misa

Access Guide

Last Updated: 17 November 2026



Updates to this document

Arts House website will contain the most up to date version of this guide. If changes have been made, all ticket holders will be sent the latest version of this guide 3 days and 1 day prior to the event.

This document was created: 23 October 2026

Revision 1: 17 November 2027
Revision 2: 19 November 2027

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About This Guide

This Access Guide is a document designed to help prepare you for the experience of attending an event at Arts House.

The first few pages should give you the most important information about the show.

The section after that will tell you how to get here and what to expect from the venue.

The last section goes into detail of the experience of the event you are here to see. This may include spoilers.

Please use the contents page to navigate to whichever part of the guide is most useful to you.

Show Overview

Where

Arts House
521 Queensberry Street
North Melbourne VIC

When

Thursday 19 – Sunday 22 November 2026
Thu – Sat, 7:30pm
Sun, 5pm

Duration: 70 mins, no interval



Overview



This show is a one-person experimental theatre show performed on stage.

- Pepe Toa tells us about his life and family
- He shares Samoan clowning, weaving and architecture with the audience
- Themes of love, grief, identity, belonging are explored
- There are moments of voluntary audience participation

Important Notes

Content Notes

This work contains themes of grief and loss, references to death and dying, references to physical violence, adult themes, triggering content, coarse language.

The work contains, haze, loud music, sudden loud noises, strobe, low lighting, lights black out and lights change colour and intensity. All occur throughout the performance.

General Notes

An acknowledgement of country is done live on stage at the start of the show.

Towards the end of the performance, audience members will be invited to raise their hand if they would like to take part in a brief onstage interaction. Participation is entirely voluntary. The performer will select participants from those who choose to volunteer, invite them onto the stage, indicate where to stand, and provide clear guidance throughout the interaction. Audience members are welcome to participate as much or as little as they wish and may remain seated and enjoy the performance without participating at any point.

Access Services



This event is Auslan Interpreted on Friday 20 November at 7:30pm.



The quiet space will be available for you to use before and after the show.

More information about the quiet space can be found later in this guide.



Visual Rating 50%

A mixture of visual and auditory components including speaking, singing, clapping, music and sound effects.



Aural Rating 50%

A mixture of both sound and visual components like lighting, movement, clowning, and physical design.



Assistance Animals are welcome.



Assistive Listening is available free of charge. Ask staff for assistance on arrival.



This performance is fully wheelchair accessible.

More information on wheelchair accessible entrances and bathrooms can be found later in this guide.



Companion cards are accepted for this event.

Tickets, Refunds and Viral Safety

Tickets can be purchased online, over the phone or at our Box Office desk.

You **must not attend** our venue or programs in person if you have any signs of transmissible illness.

We will provide a refund if you need to cancel your attendance due to illness. Please contact us by 9am on the day of the event. This helps our staff process your refund during off-peak times.

We cannot provide refunds to events that have already passed.

To minimise the risk of viral transmission, we encourage you to **wear a well fitted respirator** of P2 or comparable standards.

Outside of masked events/hours. this is not something Arts House enforces. Because of this, it is reasonable to expect that most others in the building will not be masking.

For more information on booking tickets, ticket types and viral safety measures we recommend, please visit our website or read our Access Key.

Getting to Arts House

Arts House is located in the North Melbourne Town Hall, at the corner of Queensberry Street and Errol Street in North Melbourne.

We have some resources that can help you with navigation throughout the building, including our Access Key, a video guide and a verbal map.

The nearest **Tram** stop is Stop 12 on Route 57. (Please note, this is not a level access tram stop and is only occasionally serviced by low floor trams.)

Nearby **Train** stations include North Melbourne, Flagstaff Station and Arden Station (each a 15 - 20 minute walk)

If travelling by **Car, t**here is paid street parking around Arts House. There are two accessible parking spaces on Queensberry Street and two on Errol Street.

Arts House is a 35 minute **Walk** from Flinders Street Station, (a 35 minute walk) or an 11 minute walk from Queen Victoria Markets.



Image: a map of Arts House and its surrounding area.
LINK TO MAP

The Venue

This is a summary of your experience of the venue. For more detail, please view our Access Key.

Arrival and Entrances

Arts House has three entrances.

- One with stairs on **Queensberry St**



ID: North Melbourne Town Hall view from Queensberry Street which features giant red letters that say ARTS HOUSE out the front of it.

- Accessible entrance on **Errol St** (next to the post office)



ID: View of door at Post office entrance. Button to open automated door is on the right.

- Accessible entrance via **George Johnson Lane.**



ID: View of the left turn from George Johnson Lane to the accessible entrance ramp. A large painted sign points the way and reads 'Town Hall Arts House Errol Street Entrance'

The Foyer

When you enter Arts House, you will find yourself in the foyer. Please gather and wait in the foyer if your show is in the Studios, Supper Room or the Main Hall.

In and near the foyer you can find:

Seating
(Limited Availability)

A bar serving drinks
(no cash payments)

Toilets
(Gender neutral and Accessible bathrooms available)

Friendly Staff who can answer questions
(wearing black Arts House uniforms)

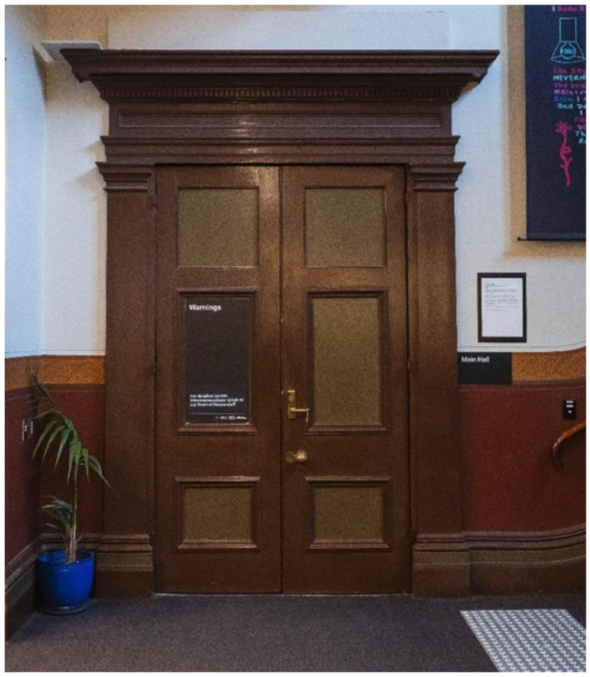
Quiet Space
(Chill out, prayer or parenting space)

Lift to other floors

Main Hall

The Performance is in the Main Hall. It is on the ground floor. It is to the left of the box office desk and right of the bar.

An artist statement is available on signage and warnings on the door.



(Top) The closed doors to the Main Hall. They are heavy brown double doors. A large black sign on the left door lists show warnings.



(Bottom) Tiered seating looks out to large hall with wooden floor and raised stage along back wall.

Working Class Clown

Sensory Notes



Sound

- Speaking
- Singing
- Clapping
- Voiceover
- Sound effects



Physical

- Touch
- Proximity
- Movement
- Clowning



Lighting

- Strobe
- Flashing
- Dim/dark
- Colour Change
- Intensity Change



Visual

- Handmade objects
- Objects transform

Audience Experience



Entering the Space

- Main doors
- Sit in seats



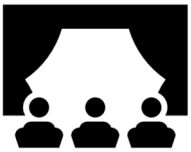
Social Expectations

- Repeat phrases when asked
- Repeat claps when asked



Shocks or Surprises

- Hearing of death in family
- Interaction with police
- Description of violence



Performance Expectations

- Storytelling
- Clowning
- Moments of guided participation

Performers

Tommy Misa – Pepe Toa



Image: A man in a blue denim outfit wearing a hat.

Stage and Props



Image: Pepe Toa holding paper a midst thick haze.



Image: Audience Participating in building the set on stage during the show.

Synopsis

Pepe Toa is a young, queer, Samoan person living in Australia. They use storytelling, Samoan clowning, weaving and architecture to tell us about their life and experiences.

First, the performer does an acknowledgment of Country and then explains to the audience that they may leave the space if they need to.

They address the audience, and begin to tell their story of their family, upbringing, and their father. They use words, song and movement to tell these stories. They also ask the audience to participate in call and responses with words and clapping.

They talk about their fathers love for gardening and place small plants on the set as they also explain of the loss of neighbours being removed from the neighbourhood.

They talk about navigating housing systems to try and find their father housing. They tell a story about bullying at school, and standing up for themself. They tell a story about their best friend, Gussy.

They tell a story about an interaction with police. During this, the lights become dim, and the music is ominous to create tension.

They tell the story of the moment they receive the call that their father has died, and the feelings that follow.

They tell the story of grieving their father, and people who helped with that grief.

They tell the story of asking their father, ‘if I lose you, where can I find you?’. Their father replied, just above the horizon at sunset.

They slowly start moving the pole set pieces, changing their form and arrangement around the central woven structure. They explain that a Samoan house is called a *fale*, and how these should be made.

They invite audience members to raise their hand if they would like to participate in a moment on stage. They choose audience members from those who raise their hands, and invite them onstage, showing them where to

stand. They place a necklace around each person's neck to welcome them. They give instructions to the group, who raise the woven structure above their heads, whilst the performer secures it to the tops of poles. The audience members are thanked and asked to return to their seats. Pepe Toa has built this *fale* as a gesture of love for their father, whose face floats above the structure, with warm lighting that feels like sunset.

They sing a song called 'Tears in Heaven' as they take their bows. The audience applauds.



Image: A man in a denim outfit wearing a hat standing in front of staging with material flowing from a set piece hanging down

Contact Us

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521 Queensberry Street
North Melbourne
Victoria 3051

Phone: 9322 3720
Text Enquiries: 0447 570 178

Email: artshouse@melbourne.vic.gov.au
Website: https://www.artshouse.com.au

TTY users:
phone 13 36 77 – then ask for – 03 9322 3720

Speak and Listen users:
phone 1300 555 727 – then ask for – 03 9322 3720

Internet relay users:
connect to the NRS – then type in: 03 9322 3720

Video relay users:
connect to the VRS – then type in: 03 9322 3720

Was this Access Guide helpful?

Your feedback can help us improve. Please call, text, or email us to provide feedback.

Thank-you for using this Access Guide