

Making The Comedy Festival
easier for local comics

MOOSEHEAD 2024_

What is the Moosehead?

It is an organisation that wants to give financial support to Australian comedians putting on new shows in the 2024 Melbourne Comedy Festival.



If you are a
comedian who
would like the
Comedy Festival
to be a bit
easier you
should probably
keep reading!_

First a brief History Lesson...

The Moosehead has been around for about 35 years. It started out as a way of remembering a young comedian and promoter, Brian McCarthy, who was killed in a car accident in 1987. He had only recently appeared at the very first Comedy Festival, and he died on the way home from the Fringe Opening Night. He basically died of comedy. He was 23.

His friends and family started putting on a show every year called the Moosehead Benefit, which is now a Gala spectacular held in the Main Hall at the Melbourne Town Hall and is the traditional closing event of the Melbourne Comedy Festival.

The money raised at that show has been used to fund Comedy Festival seasons from artists like Judith Lucy, Lano & Woodley, David Quirk, Tom Ballard, Hannah Gadsby, Sammy J with Randy, Sam Simmons, Wes Snelling and Kate McLennan. In 2023 it supported Emma Holland, Lou Wall, Josh Ladgrove, Suren Jayemanne, Prue Blake and Mandy Nolan.

The Benefit also funds the Golden Gibbo. Awarded to the best independently produced show of the Festival each year the Gibbo is a \$3,500 cash prize awarded in memory of the late, great Lynda Gibson.

Fun Fact:

Brian McCarthy was the uncle of Kevin Whyte, who runs comedy management and production company Token. However, it is important to know that the Moosehead is not run by Token.

The Moosehead is administered by a committee comprising Russell Fletcher (performer/friend of Brian's), Declan Fay (writer/performer), Gerard McCulloch (writer/performer), Geraldine Hickey (performer), Claire Hammond (Deputy Festival Director MICF), Jorge Menidis (Century), and Urvi Majumdar (Performer/Producer) with Kevin and long-time Token Events Managing Director Kathleen McCarthy representing Brian's family.

OK. On with the bit where
we give you the money...



Why do we want to help you put on your show?

The Moosehead has a really long history of supporting comedians in the Melbourne Comedy Festival. We have helped fund innovative and bonkers ideas for actual decades, we love live comedy and the comedians that make it and we want to help support them to do the best possible show they can. We think the best way to do that is to:

- A Remove some of the financial risk that makes putting on a festival show terrifying, so you can concentrate on the comedy
- B Provide creative support or collaboration that could elevate your performance.



How will we help you put on your show in 2024?

We will pay your Melbourne Comedy Festival registration fee for you

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We will pay the first \$3,000 of your Venue Rental

(this does NOT need to be a festival managed venue)

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We will pay up to \$2,500 for you to have Creative Support around your show – this usually means a director but it could be a sound designer, animator, script consultant etc...

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We may also support production costs for a particularly wild idea and we will do some overhead marketing.

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If you live outside of Melbourne (including Regional Victorian locations more than 90 mins from Melbourne CBD), we will contribute up to \$2,000 towards your accommodation costs for the Festival.

We recognise that the Festival is even more expensive to participate in for interstate and regionally based Artists. Please note your place of residence at the time of your application will be considered final.

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That is it. Nice and simple. We do not give cash to do with what you want. We will pay invoices directly to the supplier / provider.

How has it changed?

We used to fund specific ideas but we have recognised that it can be tough to have that idea nailed in time to do the application. Instead we want to spread the love around and give mid-career comedians a chance to supercharge their festival – that means we will be funding you, not your idea.

We used to provide a producer and marketing support, now we will allow you to work with your manager or preferred producer. Marketing isn't the burden it used to be so we want to re-direct that money to artists by giving out more grants. If you don't have a producer we will introduce you to some.

Who can apply?

Any working comedian can apply.

PLEASE NOTE: You do not need to be an independent artist to apply.

You can have a producer or manager (commercial or otherwise) attached to your show.

This is not an award for newcomers, you will most likely have done at least one full length festival show before.

What do we need from you?

We need you to fill in a really pretty basic form

- 1 Tell us about you. What have you done as a performer so far? This is the Bio bit.
- 2 Tell us why you think 2024 is your year.
 - Do you feel you have momentum? If so, please explain why.
 - Is it the right time in your career to take the next step? If so, why?
 - Have you got a particularly great idea for next year's show? If so, take us through it.
 - What difference could a Moosehead grant make to the show you present?
 - Was there something that you discovered in the last festival or something that you have seen that has excited you?

There is no right or wrong answer here we just want to know why you think your 2024 Festival is going to be special and why our support could really help you get to the next level.

- 3 Links and clips – if you have something you want to show us, especially if you are not from Melbourne or Sydney and we may not have seen you.
- 4 Head to **themoosehead.com.au** to apply now

Applications are open now and close on Friday 15 September, 11.59pm, 2023.

If you have any queries please email info@themoosehead.com.au

How do we decide if you will be successful?

The Moosehead Committee appoint a selection committee made up of managers, producers, festival programming staff and comedians (who have not applied for a Moosehead!). The Selection Committee changes every year to keep it fresh.

A decision will be made on the successful applications by end of October 2023

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Some Terms and Conditions

While this isn't for anyone's first show, it is also not intended to support commercially established shows. As a rule, this is for artists in venues of less than 120 seats (this is a guide, we won't be counting chairs). We know there will be reasons from time to time that people will be in bigger rooms (eg: shorter runs, production needs) and you can talk to us about this.

Producers and managers must pass the whole benefit of the grant through to the artist by way of reduced costs for the show which cannot be shared with other shows. The artist must receive no less than 60% of the profits and the producer cannot charge fees other than the profit share.

This has to be a premiere for the 2024 festival seasons. You can have done a preview season in a Fringe season but this is a fund to make something new – it isn't for polishing gold.

You need to be an Australian permanent resident.

The Selection committee is not required to give feedback on applications.

The Committee will need to sign off on the director/ collaborator, who can't also be one of the people in the show. If you have your heart set on someone, let us know now – otherwise we will talk about it once we have selected the recipients.

GOOD
LUCK_