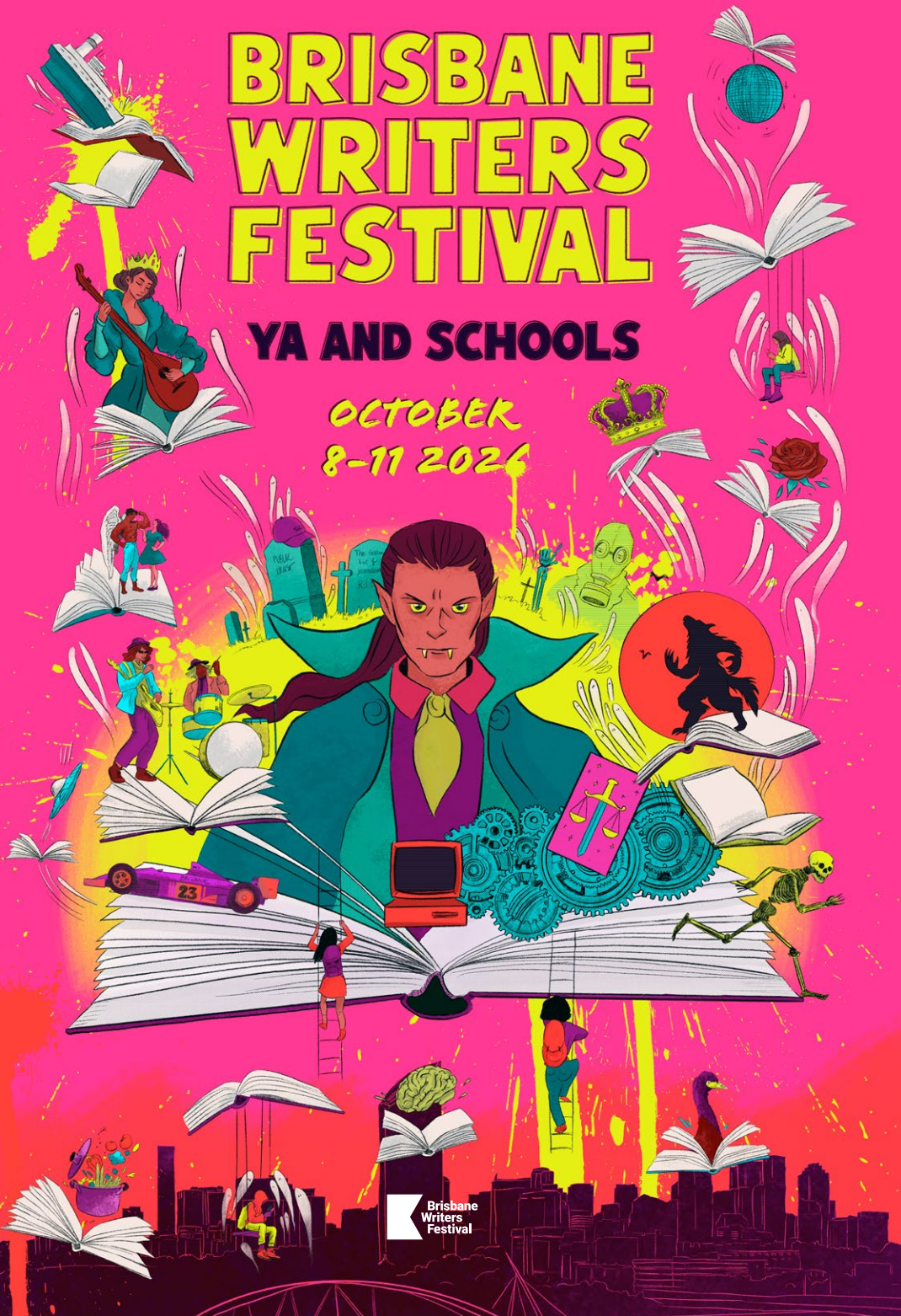


BRISBANE WRITERS FESTIVAL

YA AND SCHOOLS

OCTOBER
8-11 2024



Thursday 8 October

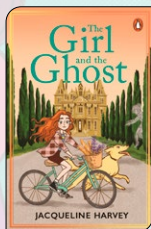
8 October, 10am–3pm, Brisbane Powerhouse
Proudly supported by The University of Queensland

Brisbane Writers Festival's schools program is a celebration of reading, writing and storytelling for students.

TIME	Powerhouse Theatre	Parkside Marquee	Underground Theatre	Fairfax Studio	
10:00am–10:15am	1. Primary Jacqueline Harvey The Stories Behind the Stories	2. Upper Secondary Morris Gleitzman What I Do, How I Do It, and Why I'm Not in Jail	3. Lower Secondary Dr Matt Agnew AI, Algorithms and Arguing	4. Lower Secondary Gary Lonesborough A Boy from Bega	
10:15am–10:30am					
10:30am–10:45am					
10:45am–11:00am					
11:00am–11:15am					
11:15am–11:30am					
11:30am–11:45am		5. Primary Sally Rippin <i>Lottie, Pog and the Runaway Ghost</i>	6. Upper Secondary Carla Salmon Stories You Can't Escape	7. Upper Secondary Bori Cser A Sceptic's Guide to Worldbuilding	
11:45am–12:00pm	8. Lower Secondary Kate Foster Your Voice. Your Choice.				
12:00pm–12:15pm					
12:15pm–12:30pm					
12:30pm–12:45pm					
12:45pm–1:00pm					
1:00pm–1:15pm					
1:15pm–1:30pm					
1:30pm–1:45pm	9. Upper Secondary Gary Lonesborough A Boy from Bega	10. Lower Secondary Jacqueline Harvey Princes, Girls and Ghosts – Weaving History and Mystery to Create Compelling Tales	11. Primary Peter Carnavas Small Goat, Big Adventure	12. Primary Dr Matt Agnew AI, Algorithms and Arguing	
1:45pm–2:00pm					
2:00pm–2:15pm					
2:15pm–2:30pm					

Schools Program

PRIMARY



Jacqueline Harvey

1. Jacqueline Harvey: The Stories Behind the Stories

10–11am, Thursday 8 October,
Powerhouse Theatre

Bestselling author Jacqueline Harvey will introduce readers to the stories behind some of her most iconic book series, including *The Girl and the Ghost*, *Kensy and Max* and *Willa and Woof*. She'll reveal how she mines her own life experiences to create great narratives and show students how they can do the same.



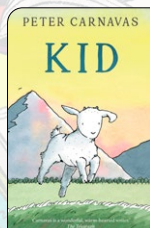
Sally Rippin

5. Sally Rippin: *Lottie, Pog and the Runaway Ghost*

11:30am – 12:30pm, Thursday 8 October,
Parkside Marquee

What would you do if you discovered a ghost in your walls whose mission in life

was to create trouble? Even worse, no one else could see or hear her except you! Come along to hear all about Lottie, Pog the dog and a runaway ghost called Martha who is plotting to get rid of Lottie's stepmother-to-be and bring her real mother home. If you love stories of unconventional families, smelly dogs or meddlesome ghosts, this one's for you!



Peter Carnavas

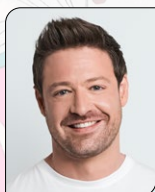
11. Peter Carnavas: *Small Goat, Big Adventure*

1:30–2:30pm, Thursday 8 October,
Underground Theatre

Discover the story of *Kid*, a charming novel about a small goat on a wild adventure to find his parents. This fun and inspiring session will feature weird goat facts and a goat quiz, plus Peter will share the process of creating this story – including live illustration!



PRIMARY & LOWER SECONDARY



Dr Matt Agnew

3 & 12. Dr Matt Agnew: AI, Algorithms and Arguing

1:30–2:30pm, Thursday 8 October,
Fairfax Studio (Primary)

10–11am, Thursday 8 October,
Underground Theatre (Lower Secondary)

How do we navigate a world in which AI quietly decides what we see and believe and technology drives deeper division and more arguments? This talk unpacks the tech and ethics of AI, how we form different views, how to spot misinformation and, above all, how to argue respectfully.

LOWER SECONDARY



Kate Foster

8. Kate Foster: Your Voice. Your Choice.

11:45am–12:45pm, Thursday 8 October,
Powerhouse Theatre

Join award-winning author Kate Foster as she shares what navigating everyday life

as an autistic person is like and how her childhood informed the creation of her new verse novel, *A River I Must Be*. Touching on both the struggles and the glimmers, Kate discusses how a single voice has the power to change many lives.

10. Jacqueline Harvey: Princes, Girls and Ghosts – Weaving History and Mystery to Create Compelling Tales

1:30–2:30pm, Thursday 8 October,
Parkside Marquee

Meeting a prince in a bookshop in Singapore gave Jacqueline Harvey one of her best ideas yet. From this chance encounter, *The Girl and the Ghost* was born. Students will discover how Jacqueline has taken real historical figures and woven them into contemporary stories full of mystery, humour and heart.

LOWER & UPPER SECONDARY



Gary Lonesborough

4 & 9. Gary Lonesborough: A Boy from Bega

10–11am, Thursday 8 October,
Fairfax Studio (Lower Secondary)

1:30–2:30pm, Thursday 8 October,
Powerhouse Theatre (Upper Secondary)

Gary will take you on a journey through his writing life, from when his love of books began to his becoming a published author. Gary will explore the life experiences,

lessons and writing tips he's learned along the way and how they've informed the creation and publication of his award-winning books.

UPPER SECONDARY

2. Morris Gleitzman: What I Do, How I Do It, and Why I'm Not In Jail

10–11am, Thursday 8 October,
Parkside Marquee

The adventure of writing adventures. Including my real-life adventures with research: Premier League footballers in London, ruthless killers in North Queensland, tears in Europe, wild horses, grumpy camels, melted cars, too many skeletons to count, climbing the back fence at Buckingham Palace, embarrassment in Hollywood and lots more. Don't bring a pen – bring absorbent underwear.



Carla Salmon

6. Carla Salmon: Stories You Can't Escape

11:30am –12:30pm, Thursday 8 October,
Underground Theatre

What makes a book impossible to put down? In this interactive presentation, Carla Salmon will share how she builds suspense and momentum in her gripping mysteries. Students will experiment with the what-if prompts that inspired Carla's CBCA-shortlisted debut, *We Saw What You Started*. They'll also go behind the

scenes of *We Did It Anyway*, learning how to hook readers, raise stakes and write with confidence.



Bori Cser

7. Bori Cser: A Sceptic's Guide to Worldbuilding

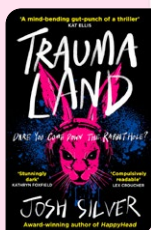
11:30am–12:30pm, Thursday 8 October,
Fairfax Studio

Join fantasy author and former worldbuilding sceptic Bori Cser for a primer on constructing the settings for your stories. Hear how Bori created the Renaissance-inspired world of her debut novel, *Mirrorwoven*, and learn just how rewarding and fun it can be to use history, the world around you, and your curiosity and imagination to build fantastical worlds of your own.



Young Adult Program

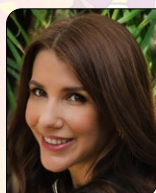
Sessions especially for fans of young adult fiction, including a special international author event with *Heartstopper* graphic novelist **Alice Oseman**!



Josh Silver



Lynette Noni



Megan Jacobson



Bori Cser

44. Good Grief

Josh Silver (*Traumaland*), Gary Lonesborough (*Good Young Men*), Megan Jacobson (*The Waiting Place*)

Chair: Darby Jones

3:30–4:30pm, Friday 9 October,
Parkside Marquee

How do you handle loss – of yourself, of the life you thought you wanted, or of someone close to you? From the tensions of small-town Australia and a tightly controlled religious community to the chilling reality of a VR simulation that hides a dark secret, these unputdownable novels explore how we can find belonging and friendship in a world where all is not as it seems.

49. Bargains, Secrets & Enchantments

Lynette Noni (*Shadow Reaper*), Bori Cser (*Mirrorwoven*)

Chair: Jeann Campillo

5–6pm, Friday 9 October,
Underground Theatre

These wildly inventive and captivating books tell tales of magical secrets, political intrigue and enemies-to-lovers romance. With their playful spins on classic tropes, epic worldbuilding and intricately imagined magic systems, these novels are guaranteed to grip you to the very last line.



Allannah Hunt



Anna Whateley

54. Better Together

Allannah Hunt (*Forever & Ever*), Anna Whateley (*Tearing Myself Together*)

Chair: Rhianna Patrick

6:30–7:30pm, Friday 9 October,
Fairfax Studio

Buried secrets. Messy friendships. Unhappy families. The pain and promise of first love. The challenge of forgiveness. In these two candid and heart-wrenching novels, characters wrestle with emotional and physical adversity as they come to terms with their past and learn how to reimagine their future.

16. Microfiction Competition

Presented in partnership with
The University of Queensland.

Calling all young writers! BWF and UQ present the annual schools' microfiction competition, open to Queensland-based students. The 2026 prompt is the 2026 youth program artwork by Rachel Tribout.

You are invited to respond to the image in no more than 120 words, using any written format (verse/prose). Shortlisted entrants will be invited to present a reading of their microfiction at the awards ceremony during the festival. The winner will receive a book pack for their school and a cash prize: \$1,000 for the senior category and \$500 for the junior category.

To enter, visit bwf.org.au/microfiction

Microfiction Readings & Awards Ceremony

**FREE
EVENT**

3:30–4pm, Thursday 8 October,
Fairfax Studio (Brisbane Powerhouse)

All are welcome for the awards ceremony, which features readings of shortlisted and winning entries and is presented by guest judge and YA author Carla Salmon.



YA Special Events

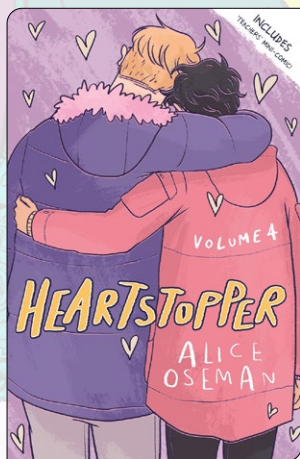
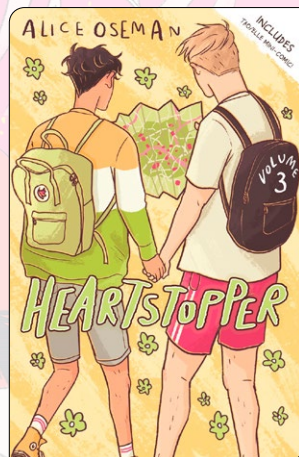


75. Alice Oseman: Art with Heart(stopper)

In conversation with Phoebe Paradise

2.45–3.45pm, Saturday 10 October, Brisbane Powerhouse

Writer and illustrator Alice Oseman's hugely popular *Heartstopper* graphic novel series is defined not just by its joyful narrative but by its striking design and clean, minimalist lines. Discover the aesthetic artistry behind Nick and Charlie's relationship in this sparkling conversation between Alice and fellow artist and designer Phoebe Paradise.



118. Alice Oseman: *Heartstopper*

In conversation with Claire Christian

1–2pm, Sunday 11 October, Brisbane City Hall

In 2016, a young writer called Alice Oseman began publishing a webcomic about two teenage boys who meet and fall in love. Ten years on, Oseman is the third bestselling graphic novelist of all time, and that webcomic, *Heartstopper*, is a global publishing phenomenon (not to mention a wildly popular Netflix show) and a Gen Z icon lauded for its representation of queer joy. Join Oseman on her first visit to Brisbane as she discusses her tender and hopeful portrait of friendship and first love.

General Information

How to book

Browse the program in print and online at **bwf.org.au**. We recommend school groups use the booking form to secure a place for your students. On the day, please have your tickets ready to present at the door, either printed or on a device.

Booking Form: available from 13 July
General Public On-Sale: 5 August

Brisbane Powerhouse

Box Office Contact:

boxoffice@brisbanepowerhouse.org
07 3358 8600

Pricing

Schools Program

Student individual tickets:

\$16 per person (+ booking fee)

Student bundle deal for three sessions:

\$40 per person (+ booking fee)

Adult tickets:

\$20 per person (+ booking fee)

School groups are eligible for one complimentary adult ticket for a teacher or supervisor for every 15 student tickets. Complimentary tickets can be claimed via the booking form.

YA Program

Individual tickets (panel events):

\$20 per person (+ booking fee)

Bundle deal for all three panels:

\$50 per person (+ booking fee)

Alice Oseman special event tickets full price: **\$49** per person (+ booking fee)

Alice Oseman special event tickets concession: **\$45** per person (+ booking fee)

Our Partners

The BWF Schools Program is proudly supported by



Queensland
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THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
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BRISBANE
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Notes and Autographs

**BRISBANE
WRITERS
FESTIVAL**
8-11 OCTOBER 2026

Brisbane
Writers
Festival

bwf.org.au