

BRISBANE UNIVERSE FESTIVAL 9-12 OCTOBER 2025





8 OCT

Hannah Ferguson
QPAC CONCERT HALL



5 NOV

Harry Enfield
QPAC CONCERT HALL



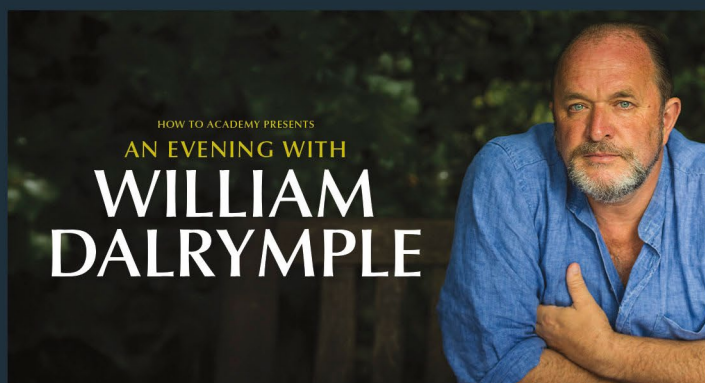
6 NOV

Mary Beard
BRISBANE POWERHOUSE



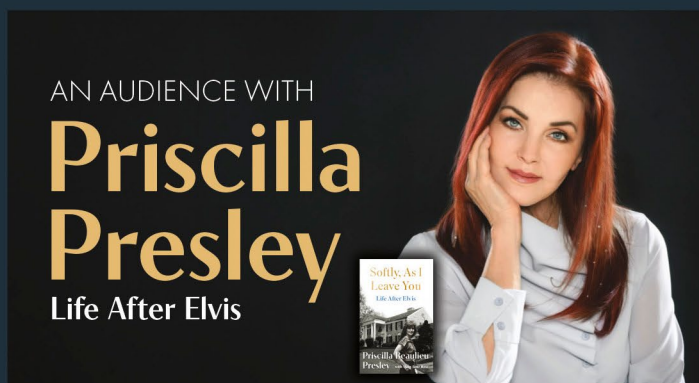
7 NOV

Ben Elton
QPAC CONCERT HALL



12 NOV

William Dalrymple
QPAC CONCERT HALL



24 NOV

Priscilla Presley
QPAC CONCERT HALL



30 NOV

Merlin Sheldrake
QPAC CONCERT HALL



3 DEC

Jonathan Agnew
BRISBANE CEC

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**First Nations people are
Australia's first storytellers.**

Brisbane Writers Festival is held on the
lands of the Yuggera and Turrbul people,
on the banks of the Maiwar river.

We recognise the important and ongoing
contributions of Indigenous Australians to
art and literature and pay our respects to
Elders past and present.



bwf.org.au



bernadette

peters



FRI 24 OCT 2025

BRISBANE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE



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**BRISBANE
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**Queensland
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BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL

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Join the conversation



@briswritersfest



#BWF25



#HaveWeGotAStoryForYou

The **Brisbane Writers Festival** is proud to acknowledge **Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeanette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland**, and her husband, **Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD**, as **Joint Patrons**.



Message from The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane Councillor Adrian Schinner

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the Brisbane Writers Festival 2025, from 9–12 October at the iconic Brisbane Powerhouse.

The Brisbane Writers Festival has long been a cornerstone of our city's cultural and artistic identity. From emerging talents to established literary icons, this festival showcases the diversity of the literary landscape, offering something for all to enjoy and inspiring countless individuals to engage with literature in new and meaningful ways.

I commend the dedication and passion of event organisers whose efforts to make this year's Festival a reality continue to play such an important role in enriching our city's cultural tapestry and reaffirming Brisbane as Australia's lifestyle capital.

Adrian Schinner
Lord Mayor



Message from the Arts Minister

This year marks a significant milestone for Brisbane Writers Festival as it moves to a new home at Brisbane Powerhouse.

The festival's 2025 program features an exciting line-up of acclaimed local, national and international authors including Griffin Dunne, Helen Garner, Trent Dalton and Anita Heiss. Together with readers from across Queensland, writers will participate in important discussions about creativity, communities and culture.

The Queensland Government proudly invests in Brisbane Writers Festival, which will deliver on *Queensland's Time to Shine: a 10-year strategy for arts and culture* and its priority to share our stories and celebrate our storytellers.

As we look ahead to the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympics, Brisbane Writers Festival will continue to highlight Queensland's reputation as a vibrant cultural destination.

The Honourable John-Paul Langbroek
Minister for Education and the Arts



Chair's Statement

This year's festival is a celebration of Brisbane's enduring love of great writing. A love so great that after two years of record ticket sales, BWF is embarking on a fantastic new chapter at the iconic Brisbane Powerhouse, which can accommodate larger audiences and a bigger bookshop.

Artistic Director Jackie Ryan has, as usual, risen to the occasion with a program that offers something for everyone, with an incredible line-up of local, national and international writers.

The late Pope Francis said literature is important because it heals and enriches our responsiveness to each other and is a cure for 'emotional incapacity'. Channelling Marcel Proust, Francis said that at its best, writing brings out contours and nuances; it lets us experience life as it is.

One of the festival's international guests, Maggie Jackson, writes that 'the best thinking begins and ends with the wisdom of being unsure'. I urge you to embrace this uncertainty, because I can confirm how difficult it will be to pick from the smorgasbord of conversations and ideas you'll find at BWF2025. What a wonderful problem to have.

**The Honourable Justice
Thomas Bradley**
Chair of Board, Brisbane Writers Festival

Artistic Director's Statement

I owe you all an apology. The 2025 iteration of BWF is so good it can never be topped. Globally. In what shall become known as the BWF2025 Aftertimes, writers, audiences and industry practitioners are doomed to walk the earth knowing that, collectively, humanity has peaked. Which is far better than the alternative: missing out.

What a nightmare, though. How are people supposed to choose what not to miss out on? Over a hundred different sessions across four venues that are casually pumping out quality 12 hours a day for four days. It's no secret that the arts are hard, but this is cruel.

And yet you must choose. Do you go for first looks at new releases from the biggest names in the business or lookbacks at classics and special anniversaries from writers and thinkers who are part of our cultural and intellectual firmament? Maybe take a punt on discovering your new favourite authors by seeing as much as you can from over 200 local, national and international guests?

There are also temporal and spatial limits on the topics you can explore. Muay Thai fighting with a 10-time world champion or *Women's Weekly* cakes? Hollywood or Indigenous Futurisms? Economics, conspiracy theories, romantasy, mysteries, thrillers, comedy, politics, nature or Pub Choir? In-depth one-on-ones with incredible authors on their only visit to Brisbane, or the ephemeral alchemy of writers hitting it off in panel combinations that will never be repeated?

Who's to blame for this impossible situation? Let's start with an old favourite: the government. This festival costs a fortune to run and the Deep State at Arts Queensland is our largest contributor, followed by Brisbane City Council, The University of Queensland and the Taylor family. Added contributions from a range of other sponsors, donors and advertisers get this ragged registered charity to the halfway budget mark.

The other half comes from the ticket-buying public. Without their support over the last few years (sales have doubled since 2022), you wouldn't be facing such difficult choices right now...because there wouldn't be a festival. We certainly wouldn't have needed to move to a bigger venue.

About that venue. First under the leadership of Kate Gould, then under Phoebe Meredith, the teams we've been working with at Brisbane Powerhouse have been relentlessly warm, accommodating and generous...which has only contributed to the problem, as they've helped us achieve everything we hoped for. You try working through tears of joy!

Phoebe Paradise will be complicit in luring many people to the festival this year with her triumphant visual thirst trap of a hero image. The ever-patient Michael Evans has further baited



the hook with a lovely program design that features alluring copy from Myles McGuire and Carody Culver and, of course, showcases the festival's irresistible authors.

Yes – the authors, too, have made this impossible program possible. And the publishers, and our international artist-share partners at Sydney Writers' Festival, Wheeler Centre, Canberra Writers Festival, Melbourne Writers Festival, Margaret River Readers & Writers Festival, WORD Christchurch, Byron Writers Festival and SXSW Sydney. Not to worry if you don't see all these magnificent writers live, though, as the charmers at Avid Reader & Riverbend Books will be sure to help you get hold of all their work during the festival.

There's still a bit of blame to go around. There are the usual suspects on the BWF Board, who continue to deliver a dexterous combination of forbearance and advice. And the staff. There is one full-time worker at BWF (me). Our General Manager, Katie Woods, performs straight-up miracles on one day a week. Emily Bowman, on four days a week, is Programs and Systems Manager with a sideline in social media posting and EDMs. And that's it for the year-round team at BWF.

As the festival cycle ramps up, we're joined by Marketing and Publicity Manager Sally Wilson, who astonishes me daily with her professionalism and expertise. Our Programs Coordinator, Kieren Scougall, was an intern last year, so he knew what he was in for – but we're still finding out how lucky we are to have *him*. Soon we'll be joined by our Production Manager, Jaime Ng, who always gets us safely and stylishly home, and, among others, our returning Green Room Manager, Georgia Fitzgerald, who can settle an argument with a look.

Obviously, I'm having as much trouble narrowing the blame as audiences will have settling on the number of BWF sessions they can realistically attend. But I must mention former BWF CEO and AD Jane O'Hara, who's been showing us how it's done as our Industry Engagement Manager, and Cinnamon Watson, the platonic ideal of a PR person, who'll cause thousands more people to be confronted by the difficult choices in this program – with the help of ABC 612 Brisbane, *The Courier-Mail* and many more.

So really, we're all complicit in this exhaustively excellent event. The word 'community' gets bandied around a lot, but a small not-for-profit like BWF can only wrangle something of this magnitude with the help of hundreds of people, especially those listed above. Maybe you all owe *me* an apology for pitching in and helping us deliver this magnificent beast of a program! Enjoy being spoilt for choice in the meantime.

Dr Jackie Ryan

Artistic Director, Brisbane Writers Festival

First Nations Cultural Curators

Supported by McCullough Robertson Lawyers

In 2025 BWF has had the great fortune of working with First Nations Cultural Curators Sharlene Allsopp and Jillian Bowie, who've put together a series of sessions that complement and enhance the program. You'll find a curator credit next to each of the sessions they've created; we hope you enjoy the breadth and depth these panels bring to the festival. BWF would like to extend a huge thank you to Sharlene and Jillian for their illuminating and exciting contributions.



Sharlene Allsopp – Aboriginal First Nations Curator

In curating these sessions, I focus on the stories held by place. When human beings are silenced, when stories are misrepresented or selective voices are elevated, let's remember that humans are not the only keepers and tellers of story. Place is the original storyteller.

Place witnesses and holds stories without hierarchy. How does place hold and tell story? What power do stories held in place have? How does storytelling materially change us and the world we live in? In times of great despair and fear of losing agency, can stories imbue the present with the power to create alternative futures? These sessions ask authors about the way they honour the agency of place in their work and how place shapes and reshapes their past, present and future.



Jillian Bowie – Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) Islander First Nations Curator

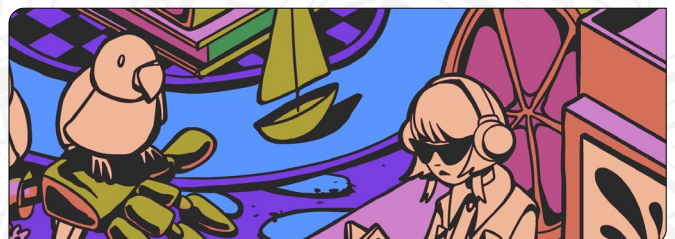
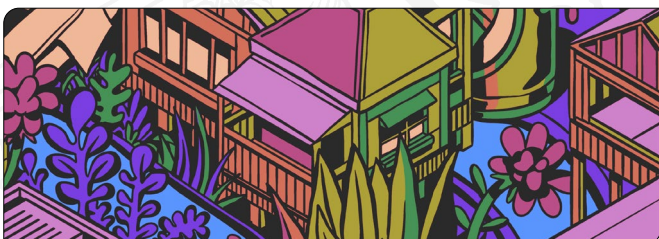
Writing Blak

First Nations peoples are the original storytellers of these ancient lands. Our stories matter because Blak stories survive us. They carry the power to plant, build and align our narratives through generations, as we interpret ourselves through our stories, dance, song, language and Ailan Kastom (island custom) to pass on ancient knowledges of identity, culture, shared values, beliefs and social structures.

The womb is our first country, where we are formed and knitted into our bloodlines and where we connect to the spirit of our lands, seas, skies and waterways. Beyond today's systems and structures, we find our breath and purpose, as we write to influence opinions and for our own perpetuity.

Writing for social change matters. We write to make a difference in the world through multiple genres and platforms to engage and enrich the minds and hearts of those willing to listen, learn and enjoy the journey with us.

We welcome you into our world of writing for creative expression through music, dance, theatre and comedy.



Tickets

Regular Festival

Regular session

\$29.90 full price / **\$25** concession

Four-Event Bundle (regular sessions only)

\$100

Powerhouse Theatre session

\$49.90 Premium / **\$45** concession

\$39.90 A-reserve / **\$35** concession

\$29.90 B-reserve / **\$25** concession

Schools Program

\$16 student / **\$25** adult

School groups receive one complimentary adult ticket for a teacher or supervisor for every 15 student tickets. For large bookings and to claim complimentary tickets, call **07 3216 0694**.

Three-Event Schools Bundle

\$40 student (three schools program sessions on a single day)

First Word

Free, bookings essential

Marion Taylor Address

\$99 full price / **\$90** concession

YA session

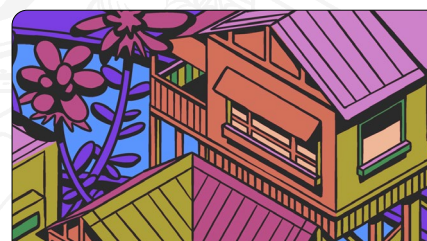
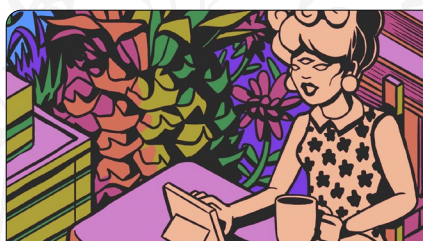
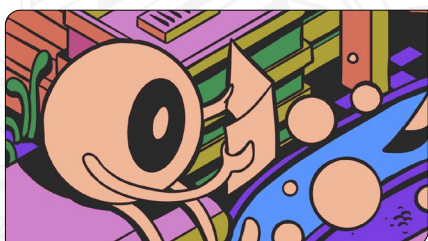
\$20 all ages (no concession)

Families

\$16 children / **\$16** adult

Free events are marked in the program.

Bookings essential. For more information, visit bwf.org.au



Information

Program Updates

Changes to the program in this printed brochure may happen to due to external circumstances.
Visit bwf.org.au for updates.



For ticket enquires, see below contact information for Brisbane Powerhouse Box Office.

For general enquiries about the festival, contact the BWF office on **07 3216 0694** or info@bwf.org.au

How to book

We strongly advise booking ahead of time via our website or by phone.

Online: bwf.org.au
or brisbanepowerhouse.org

Phone: **07 3358 8600** (Brisbane Powerhouse Box Office)

Email:
boxoffice@brisbanepowerhouse.org

In person: The Brisbane Powerhouse Box Office is located inside the Powerhouse at 119 Lamington St New Farm.

Please note the Box Office is cashless – purchases through EFTPOS only.

Bundles

Please note that you must still book a ticket for events by redeeming an event credit from your Four-Event Bundle.

For information on how to redeem bundles for tickets, contact the Powerhouse Box Office.

Getting to the festival

Most BWF events take place at the Brisbane Powerhouse, 119 Lamington St New Farm.

Public transport

Bus

196 – Merthyr, Valley, City, Sth Bris, Highgate Hill, Fairfield

Every 10–15 mins

Closest Stop – Brunswick St at Oxlade Dr (480m walk to/from Brisbane Powerhouse, through New Farm Park)

City Cat

Towards University Qld (inbound) – City, South Bank, Milton, West End, St Lucia

Every 15–30 mins

Towards Northshore Hamilton (outbound) – Hawthorne, Bulimba, Teneriffe, Bretts Wharf

Every 15–30 mins

Closest Ferry Terminal – New Farm Park, end Brunswick St (440m walk to/from Brisbane Powerhouse, through New Farm Park)

Visit translink.com.au or call **13 12 30** for more information.

Parking

Parking is limited at Brisbane Powerhouse. We encourage you to consider transport alternatives such as public transport, taxi, rideshare, shuttle bus, cycling, scooter, walking or river vessel.

New Farm Park (enter from Brunswick Street)

200 parking spaces (free)

New Farm Park gates open Mon–Fri 8.30am–11pm, Sat + Sun 6am–11pm

Exit gate open until 12.30am

Brisbane Powerhouse Car Park (enter from Lamington Street)

148 parking spaces (paid parking)

Six accessible parking spaces for permit holders

Operates 24/7

For up-to-date venue information, please see brisbanepowerhouse.org/visit/

Accessibility

The BWF festival precinct is wheelchair accessible. Volunteer wayfinding assistance is available.

There is a drop off area in the Brisbane Powerhouse car park with level access to the Stores Building and lift access to the main building. All levels of Brisbane

Powerhouse are accessible by lift. The Turbine Platform can be accessed via ramp. On entry to the theatre, an usher will direct you to your seats.

If you need any assistance, please approach one of our friendly staff.

Accessible seating options are available for wheelchair users and disabled patrons. Please notify Box Office of your requirements at the time of booking, a minimum of 24 hours in advance. Please note that balcony seating in the Powerhouse Theatre is not wheelchair accessible.

Companion cards are accepted for events at Brisbane Powerhouse unless otherwise stated. Please advise that you will be using a companion card at the time of booking. Companion cards must be presented when collecting the tickets.

Donate

If you are as passionate about celebrating books, writing and ideas as we are, we'd love you to consider making a donation.

This could help a child access our schools program or give an emerging Brisbane author the chance to present at the festival.

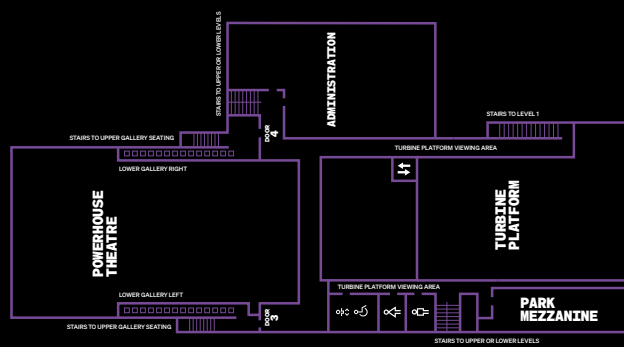
Any donation to BWF over \$2.00 is tax deductible. Visit bwf.org.au/donate

Terms & Conditions

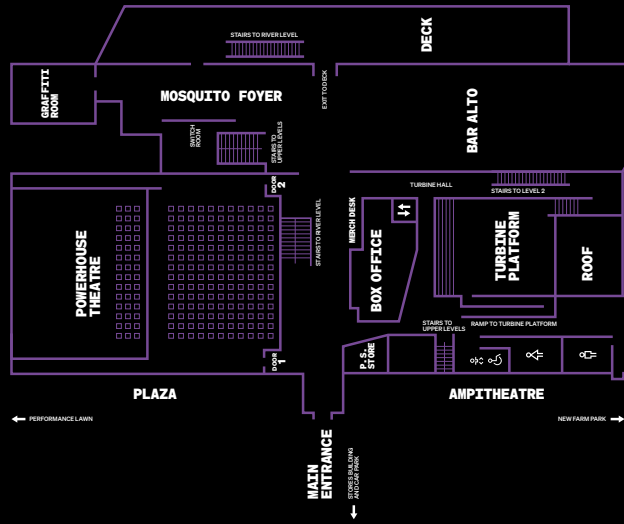
Program details are correct at the time of printing. BWF reserves the right to alter the program and artists and to cancel sessions where necessary. No refunds or exchanges are possible once bookings are complete and payment received unless the festival has cancelled the session. Proof of concession may be required when booking your event and on entry to sessions. Special events are excluded from Multi-Event Bundles.

Full Terms & Conditions are available at brisbanepowerhouse.org/ticket-info

MEZZANINE LEVEL



TURBINE LEVEL

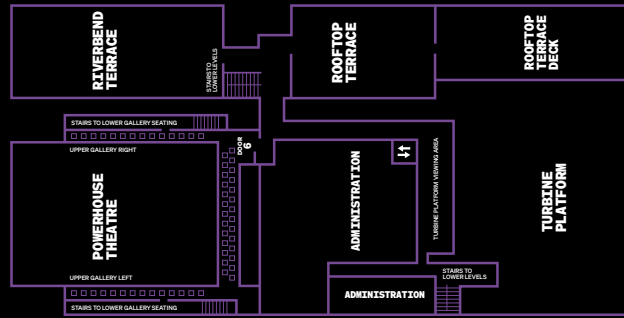


**BRISBANE
POWERHOUSE**

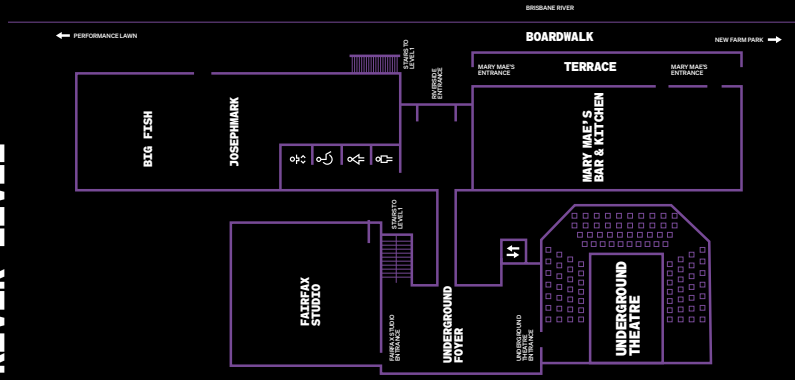
Pleasuredome – outside on the lawn

BWF Bookshop – Turbine Platform

ROOFTOP LEVEL



RIVER LEVEL



Powerhouse Theatre –
Turbine level

Fairfax Theatre – River level

Underground Studio – River level

18 OCT —
1 NOV

QUEENSLAND
THEATRE

BILLE BROWN
THEATRE

*"Epic in its theatricality...an unforgettable journey through
a tantalising collision of languages, times and places."*

— Judges Panel, Queensland Premier's Drama Award

MALACAÑANG MADE US

By Jordan Shea
Directed by Kenneth Moraleda



Queensland Premier's Drama
Award is proudly supported by



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SCAN TO BOOK

Keynote Addresses

FREE EVENT

2025 First Word Address

Keynote by Anita Heiss

**3:30–4:30pm, Thursday 9 October,
Powerhouse Theatre**

BWF's 2025 opening speech will be delivered by one of Australia's most prolific and well-known authors, Dr Anita Heiss AM, who is a proud member of the Wiradyuri nation of central New South Wales. Heiss publishes across genres including non-fiction, historical fiction, commercial fiction and children's fiction.

Festival audiences will also hear from BWF2025 First Nations Cultural Curator Sharlene Allsopp, Jillian Bowie, Singaporean poet Theophilus Kwek and BWF Artistic Director Jackie Ryan.

**Supported by The University
of Queensland**



2025 Marion Taylor Address

Keynote by Bettany Hughes

**7:30–9:30pm, Friday 10 October,
Rooftop Terrace**

Is it all just a little bit of history repeating? The past may be a foreign country, but sometimes the present seems like another planet. In this keynote speech, followed by a cocktail reception, esteemed classicist and broadcaster Bettany Hughes considers the lessons of history – how contemporary circumstances might echo the preoccupations of the past, and what we can learn from the wisdom of the ancients.

Includes catering and refreshments.

Dress Code: Classic Tailoring

Supported by the Taylor family



The Internationals

Take a literary tour this Brisbane Writers Festival with our line-up of magnificent international guests! Whatever your preferred reading adventure – glamorous Hollywood memoir, captivating historical commentary, razor-sharp cultural critique, decadent culinary wisdom, sizzling romantasy, incisive social and economic discourse or multigenerational drama – we've got the perfect festival destination to recommend.



Griffin Dunne

You may know Griffin Dunne from his starring role in Martin Scorsese's 1985 cult classic *After Hours*. Or from his memorable turn as doomed backpacker Jack Goodman in 1981's *An American Werewolf in London*. Or as the nephew of legendary writer Joan Didion and the director of an intimate documentary about her, 2017's *The Center Will Not Hold*. Or as the son of Dominick Dunne, the famed investigative journalist who covered the OJ Simpson trial for *Vanity Fair*. One thing's for sure: Griffin Dunne has a lot of stories to tell, and his incredible memoir, *The Friday Afternoon Club*, is both a star-studded tale of growing up in Tinseltown and a moving portrait of family love and loss.



Sophie Gilbert

If pop culture's your game, Sophie Gilbert's your girl. She's a Pulitzer Prize finalist, a National Magazine Award winner and a staff writer at *The Atlantic* – and now, she's bringing her whipsmart commentary on entertainment and feminism to BWF. Sophie's latest book, *Girl on Girl*, surveys the cultural trends of the '90s and early noughties – from the punk energy of riot grrrl to the limp platitudes of girl power – and how they turned women against one another, ushering us all into a post-feminist world shaped by porn, misogyny and #girlboss capitalism.



Helen Goh

Craving some culinary conversation? We've got the ultimate treat for you. UK-based Helen Goh is not only Yotam Ottolenghi's pastry chef and lead product developer – she's also a practising psychologist who understands the many ways baking brings us big feelings as well as big flavours. Her first solo cookbook, *Baking and the Meaning of Life*, is a delicious compendium of sweet and savoury recipes and a testament to the joy of breaking bread (and biscuits, and cakes, and cheese puffs...) with others.



Callie Hart

Set your reading pulse racing with Callie Hart, the fastest selling romantasy author in Australia right now. UK-born and US-based, Callie shot to the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list last year with her banter-filled blockbuster *Quicksilver*; now, addicted readers are desperately awaiting its steamy sequel, *Brimstone*. Crackling with chemistry and brooding with dark twists and turns, Callie's books will keep you up all night – so don't miss your chance to catch her at BWF before *Brimstone* sets the world aflame!



Bettany Hughes

Think you already know about the seven wonders of the world? Think again. Award-winning British historian, author and broadcaster Bettany Hughes is here to unveil the secrets and surprises of antiquity's most famous monuments. The first woman to present a history program on UK television, Bettany is now renowned for her ability to bring the past to life on the page and the screen. Her latest book, *The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World*, takes readers on a dazzling journey to investigate these incredible feats of human imagination and explore why they still captivate us today.



Maggie Jackson

We live in difficult times – so it's just as well award-winning US author and journalist Maggie Jackson is here to help us make sense of them. Her acclaimed essays and commentary have long offered prescient insights into social trends, and her 2018 book *Distracted: Reclaiming Our Focus in a World of Lost Attention* prompted global debate about the social consequences of living in an information age. Her latest release, *Uncertain: The Wisdom and Wonder of Being Unsure*, makes a compelling case for the transformative power of uncertainty in a volatile world.



David McWilliams

Money talks – and David McWilliams knows how to talk about money. This Irish economist, writer and co-host of the hit podcast *The David McWilliams Show* breaks down complex global economic and political challenges, from tech bros and tariffs to bankers and bailouts, with effortless wit and irreverence (and, of course, he does it all in a charming Irish brogue). In his latest book, *Money: A Story of Humanity*, McWilliams demystifies economics and explains how dough drives human behaviour. Your BWF experience will be all the richer for catching him in action.



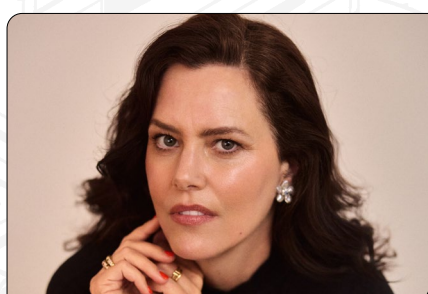
Eric Puchner

If you love losing yourself in a Great American Novel, Eric Puchner should go straight to the top of your BWF dance card. A PEN/Faulkner Award finalist, California Book Award winner and *Best American Stories* contributor, Puchner is known for his finely wrought characters and tragicomic mastery of family dynamics. His latest novel, *Dream State*, is a gorgeously rich and generation-spanning exploration of familial and romantic love that plays out against the backdrop of a slowly warming Montana. Oh, and it's also a 2025 Oprah's Book Club pick. Run, don't walk.



Helen Scheuerer

New Zealand-based epic fantasy scribe Helen Scheuerer is bringing her steamy enemies-to-lovers energy down under! Bestselling author of *The Oremere Chronicles*, *The Curse of the Cyren Queen* quartet and *The Legends of Thezmarr*, Scheuerer pairs feisty female characters with spicy sexual chemistry and action-packed plots. If you like your romantasy to have an extra-hot chilli rating, Scheuerer's the one to watch this BWF.



Lone Skye

If you're a certain age, you'll remember Lone Skye's star-making turn in Cameron Crow's cult classic rom-com *Say Anything* (the boombox scene: if you know, you know). At just 16, she went from high-school dropout to Gen X It Girl, soon becoming the indie darling of '90s cinema – but there's so much more to her story. In her fantastically entertaining and tender coming-of-age memoir *Say Everything*, she shares the complexities and challenges of her unconventional life offscreen, from growing up in the shadow of her absent father – famous folk singer Donovan – to exploring her bisexuality in '90s LA and struggling with the trappings of fame.

Australian Icons

While every single one of our Australian guests is an icon, we'd like to draw your attention to some particularly special writerly events in 2025. These legends of literature are either celebrating significant book anniversaries or reflecting on their incredible careers and the ways in which their work has shaped Australian culture. Don't miss your chance to see these powerhouses of prose in person!



Sheila Fitzpatrick

Sheila Fitzpatrick isn't simply a historian of the Soviet Union – *she's* the historian of the Soviet Union. Widely considered to have founded the field of Soviet social history, Fitzpatrick pioneered a new approach to her subject by exploring how the lives of ordinary citizens shaped the Stalinist era. She's been awarded numerous accolades, including the United States' highest honour for historical studies and, back home, the Prime Minister's Award for Non-Fiction. In her latest book, *The Death of Stalin*, she turns her scholarly eye to the demise of an infamous dictator and its ongoing reverberations.



Anita Heiss

Author, poet, activist, satirist, social commentator: is there anything Anita Heiss can't do? Over the course of her remarkable career, Heiss has published more than 20 books across historical fiction, non-fiction, children's fiction and commercial women's fiction, and her many writing prizes include two Premier's Literary Awards. A proud member of the Wiradjuri Nation of central New South Wales, she's an Ambassador for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation and Publisher at Large at Bundy, a new Simon & Schuster imprint that's dedicated to showcasing First Nations writing talent.



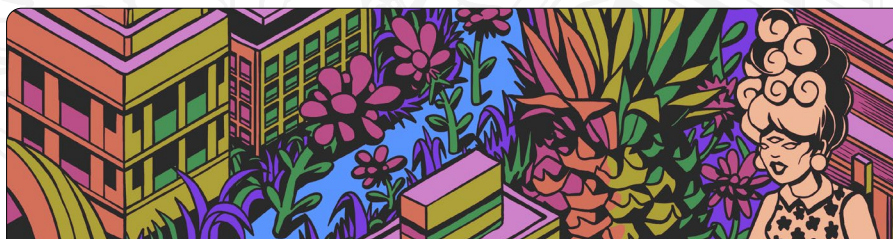
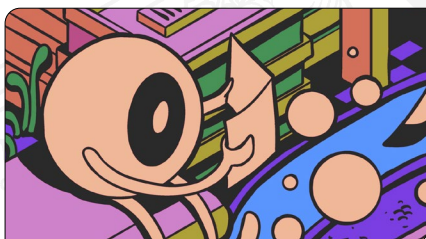
Helen Garner

The Guardian calls her 'Australia's greatest living writer'. Peter Craven describes her as one of our finest prose stylists. Anne Enright says we're lucky to have her. We're talking, of course, about Helen Garner, a titan of Australian letters who's worked across fiction, non-fiction and journalism for almost fifty years. From the grunge-lit of *Monkey Grip* to the devastating courtroom drama of *This House of Grief* to the raw intimacy of *How to End a Story: Collected Diaries* to the tender observations of her newest book, *The Season*, there are few themes and genres Garner hasn't enlivened with her inimitable blend of prowess, candour and intelligence.



Fiona McIntosh

Not only has Fiona McIntosh been writing books for a quarter-century – she's also sold well over one million copies to captivated readers around the world. With incredible range and skill, McIntosh works across genres, from the ancient magic and high drama of her fantasy novels to the lavish backdrops and heart-stopping romance of her historical fiction to the complex plots and high stakes of her crime novels. She's an unstoppable force of fiction – and her latest novel, *The Soldier's Daughter*, is a hotly anticipated sequel to her 2020 blockbuster, *The Champagne War*.





Di Morrissey

Di Morrissey is a mainstay of bookshelves across the globe – and rightly so. Since 1991 – when she released her first novel, the smash-hit outback romance *Heart of the Dreaming* – Morrissey has been one of Australia's most successful and prolific novelists, penning panoramic tales of family, relationships and adventure that blend page-turning plots and memorable characters with environmental, social and cultural issues. In 2025, she's releasing her thirtieth book, *River Song*, a powerful story of female friendship and a life-changing lottery win.



David Stratton

For many years, Wednesday nights in Australian households meant one thing: *At the Movies* with David Stratton and Margaret Pomeranz. For Stratton, one of our most beloved and respected film critics and historians, co-hosting this iconic show is just one of the many ways in which he's introduced generations of Australians to the magic of cinema: his books, criticism, journalism, interviews and teaching have profoundly shaped our national film culture. He retired in 2023 after a 57-year career, but thankfully, he's given us one more book: *Australia at the Movies*, an indispensable guide to almost every Australian feature film from 1990 to 2020.

Please Note: David Stratton sadly passed before the festival dates, so we've removed his events from the PDF of the program. But we didn't have the heart to remove this particular mention, as he remains an Australian Icon. RIP.



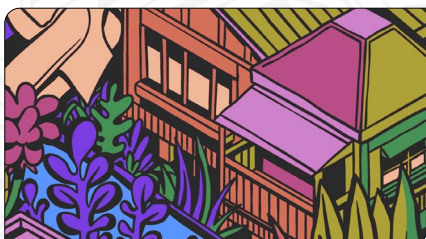
Anne Summers

One of Australia's leading feminist thinkers and writers, Anne Summers changed the way many Australian women saw themselves – and changed Australia for women. She's the author of nine books and a tireless advocate for women's rights, having advised two prime ministers on women's issues and worked for a time as Editor-in-Chief of *Ms* magazine, co-founded by Gloria Steinem, in the US. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of Summers' landmark book *Damned Whores and God's Police*, a feminist classic that's as relevant today as when it was first released in 1975.



Charlotte Wood

With her lucid prose, astute observations and wonderfully wry sensibility, Charlotte Wood is one of Australia's finest writers. Her seven novels – the most recent of which, *Stone Yard Devotional*, was shortlisted for the 2024 Man Booker Prize – chart the emotionally complex terrain of human relationships and interrogate the subtle power dynamics and social mores that underpin our lives. In 2025, we're marking the 10th anniversary of her magnificently unsettling book *The Natural Way of Things*, a fable-like exploration of misogyny and control that won the 2016 Stella Prize.



Singapore Voices



Supported by the National Arts Council Singapore

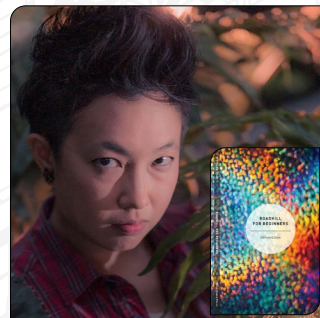
We're thrilled to be joined this year by a slate of talented young writers from Singapore whose concerns span themes such as heritage and identity, migration and displacement, historical subcultures and the place of faith in urban life. All these writers have either published acclaimed debut collections or earned international recognition for their work.



Theophilus Kwek



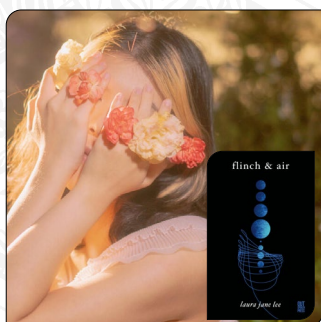
Chim Sher Ting



Stephanie Dogfoot



Jonathan Chan



Laura Jane Lee



nor



Wen-yi Lee

We're so excited about BWF's new home in the stunning surrounds of the Brisbane Powerhouse, we've thrown some theatrical magic into the mix of this year's program. You can catch some of the festival's funniest guests at our comedy show, So Bad It's Good (featuring freshly minted Miles Franklin winner Siang Lu); enjoy a host of homegrown talent at the *Queersland!* showcase; see your favourite local and international wordsmiths at the Poetry Salon; experience a talent-loaded panel of First Nations performers at Blak to the Future; and celebrate the tenth anniversary of Charlotte Wood's *The Natural Way of Things* at a special performance and conversation event. Who says writing isn't dramatic?

As if that wasn't enough, we've also got two live podcasts as part of BWF2025: ABC RN's *The Bookshelf* and Matt Bevan's *If You're Listening*. Turn up and tune in!

It's Show Time!



Siang Lu



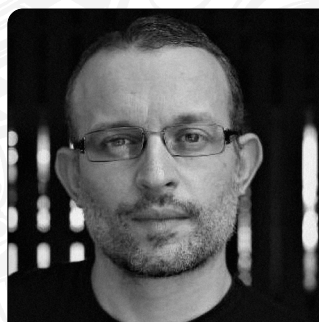
Patrick Lenton



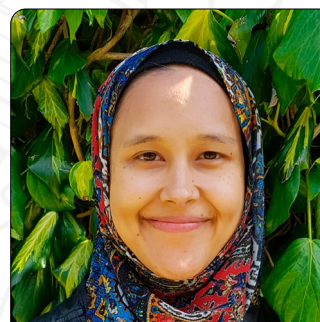
Cheryl Leavy



Laura McCluskey



Patrick Holland



Zeynab Gamieldeen



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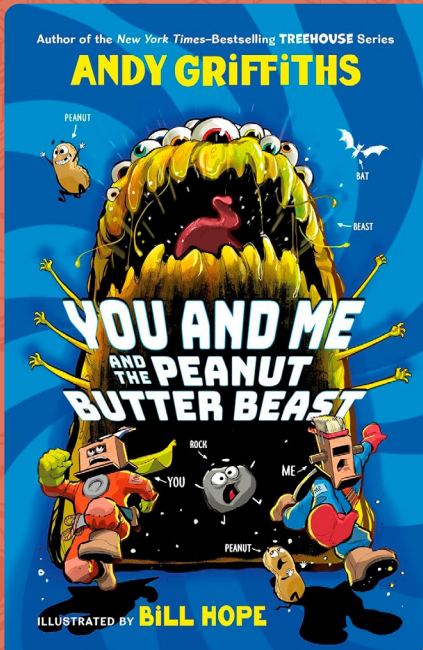


Scan to
learn more!



Families

An afternoon of fun for children aged 5+ and their families.



Andy Griffiths



Bill Hope

You & Me and the Peanut Butter Beast

Andy Griffiths and Bill Hope

5:30–6:30pm, Friday 10 October, Powerhouse Theatre

Join bestselling children's author Andy Griffiths and illustrator Bill Hope for an outrageously funny event about their latest book, *You & Me and the Peanut Butter Beast*. Together, you, Andy and Bill will find out what happens when you fall down a hole all the way to the centre of the Earth.

GriffithReview

A *Griffith Review* subscription gives you access to more than twenty years of the best new writing from Australia and beyond.

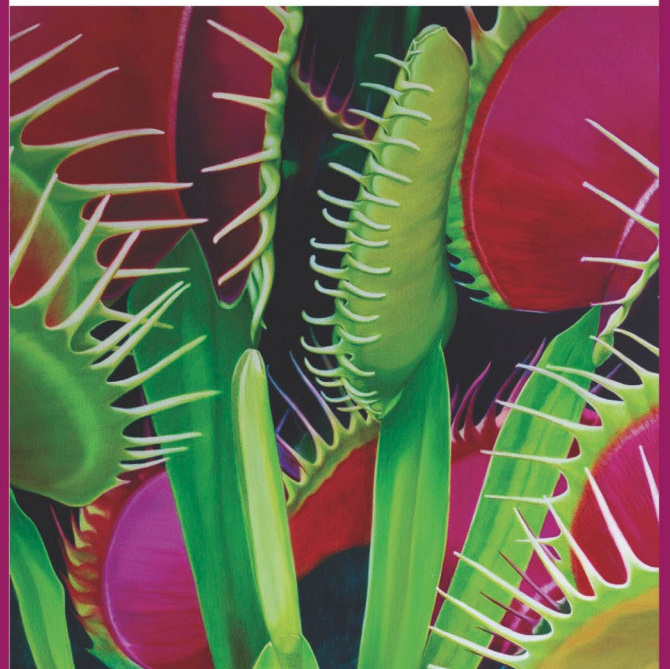
To celebrate our latest edition, we're offering a **MONSTER 40% discount** on any subscription!



Subscriptions start from just \$6. Scan the QR code and use the code **BWF2025** for 40% off.

GriffithReview89 Here Be Monsters

Jumaana Abdu on the secrets of the subconscious
Fiona Foley on memorialising historic injustice
Rick Morton on the bogeyman of bureaucracy
Yumna Kassab on stoking the fire of resistance
Dylin Hardcastle on the joy of metamorphosis



Schools Program

Supported by The University of Queensland

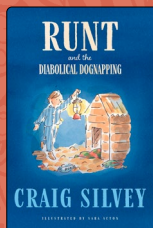
The Brisbane Writers Festival schools program is a celebration of reading, writing and storytelling for students. Tickets are available for purchase online at brisbanepowerhouse.org or over the phone on **07 3358 8600** (calling is recommended for large groups). Tickets sell quickly, so book early to secure a place for your students. See pages 39 and 40 for the timetable.

PRIMARY

Lili Wilkinson: *Bravepaw*

9:30–10:30am, Thursday 9 October,
Powerhouse Theatre

Bestselling author Lili Wilkinson will introduce this iconic fantasy series for young readers, taking participants through the storytelling process in a lively and interactive presentation.

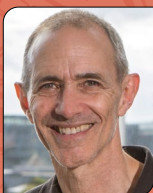
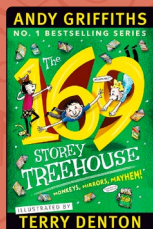


Craig Silvey

Craig Silvey: *Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping*

11:30am–12:30pm, Thursday
9 October, Powerhouse Theatre
10–11am, Friday 10 October,
Pleasuredome

Meet Craig Silvey, author of *Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping*, the hilarious sequel to his much-loved novel *Runt*. Discover how he created Upson Downs, what it's like turning a book into a movie and what inspired *Runt*'s latest adventure. Bring your questions for Craig to this fun interactive session!



Andy Griffiths

**Andy Griffiths:
Return to the Treehouse**

1:30–2:30pm, Thursday 9 October,
Powerhouse Theatre

Return to the *Treehouse* in this laugh-out-loud event with Australia's favourite storyteller, Andy Griffiths, who wrote this classic children's series with illustrator Terry Denton. These much-loved stories have been praised by *The Conversation*

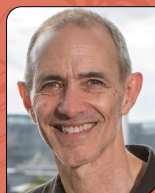
as among the best Aussie books of the 21st century.

Garth Nix: *Making Up Stories From Your Own Life*

11:30am–12:30pm, Friday 10 October,
Powerhouse Theatre

Garth Nix talks about how to take ordinary characters, settings and events from your own life and turn them into extraordinary stories.

Andy Griffiths and Bill Hope: *You & Me and the Peanut Butter Beast*



Andy Griffiths

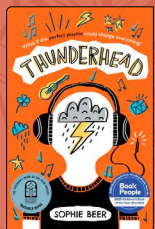


Bill Hope

1:30–2:30pm, Friday 10 October,
Powerhouse Theatre

Join bestselling children's author Andy Griffiths and illustrator Bill Hope for an outrageously funny event about their latest book, *You & Me and the Peanut Butter Beast*. Together, you, Andy and Bill will find out what happens when you fall down a hole all the way to the centre of the Earth.

LOWER SECONDARY



Sophie Beer

Sophie Beer: *Thunderhead*

9:30–10:30am, Thursday 9 October,
Fairfax Studio
10–11am, Friday 10 October,
Fairfax Studio

Centring on her middle-grade novel *Thunderhead* and her own personal story of hearing loss, Sophie Beer talks

through the importance of inclusion and diversity in children's/YA literature (with lots of giggles along the way). Students will experience what hearing loss is like, talk about their favourite bands and books, and come away from the discussion with a new way of looking at the importance of empathy and representation in literature.

**Gabriel Bergmoser:
How I Learned to Write
Books I Actually Like**

11am–12pm, Thursday 9 October,
Fairfax Studio

1–2pm, Friday 10 October,
Fairfax Studio

Gabriel Bergmoser takes young readers on a journey through the creative process behind *Andromache Between Worlds*. In this fun and inspiring talk, he shares how his attempts at writing 'serious' books led to something even more exciting: an action-packed adventure filled with heart and imagination. Perfect for young writers and readers, this session explores the power of storytelling and unexpected creativity.



Maxine Beneba Clarke

**Maxine Beneba Clarke:
Poetry that Punches**

12:30–1:30pm, Thursday 9 October,
Fairfax Studio

11:30am–12:30pm, Friday 10 October,
Fairfax Studio

Olivia Rodrigo's song 'drivers license' is a primary example of what literary device? What is a found poem, and how many have you passed so far today? Describe lightning to someone who's never seen or heard of it. What would happen if you tried to condense Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet* into a five-line limerick, or a 17-syllable haiku? Why is it called

'Coca Cola' and what does that have to do with poetry? Can you find a rhyme for the word orange, or the word opus? Based on Maxine Beneba Clarke's poetry collections *It's the Sound of the Thing: 100 new poems for young people* and *Stuff I'm (NOT) Sorry For: 99 more poems for young people*, this session explores the way poetry appears in our everyday lives and how language has the ability to charm, question, collude and conquer. Bring a notebook and pen!

UPPER SECONDARY

Isabelle Carmody: *Comes the Night*

10–11am, Thursday 9 October,
Pleasuredome

11:30am–12:30pm, Friday 10 October,
Underground Theatre

At 14, Isabelle Carmody began *Obernewtyn*, the first in her much-loved *Obernewtyn Chronicles*, which has sold over 230,000 copies. Her fourth novel, *The Gathering*, was joint winner of the 1993 Children's Literature Peace Prize and the 1994 CBCA Book of the Year Award, and she won Book of the Year for the second time with *The Red Wind*, the first in another series, which she also illustrated. This year, she has been shortlisted again for the CBC Book of the Year for her new novel, *Comes the Night*. Set in near-future Canberra, it tells the story of 16-year-old Will, who lives with his father in a domed Canberra where citizens are safe from extreme weather events, dangerous solar radiation and civil unrest. He does not question his carefully controlled existence until the recurrence of an old nightmare propels him on a dangerous quest, both in his world and in a mysterious parallel dream world. Join Isabelle as she talks about all things writing and how she came to write this novel.



Steph Tisdell

Steph Tisdell: *The Skin I'm In*

11:30am–12:30pm, Thursday
9 October, Pleasuredome

Actress, screenwriter and proud Ydjinji woman Steph Tisdell's star is so on the rise, this might be your last chance to see her in this galaxy. She's already a TV mainstay and one of the most recognisable voices in Australian comedy – and with *The Skin I'm In*, Tisdell announces herself as an important new voice in literature, rendering a young woman's coming of age into 'vibrant, fearless, and unpretentious YA fiction' (*Nine Newspaper*).



Amie Kaufman

Amie Kaufman:

Everyday Magic

1–2pm, Thursday 9 October,
Pleasuredome

1–2pm, Friday 10 October,
Underground Theatre

Journey inside a writer's mind with bestselling author Amie Kaufman. Drawing on her experience writing more than 20 science fiction and fantasy novels, Amie will share how she finds the magic in life's everyday details and will teach students to transform the way they see the world around them. They'll leave ready to turn their experiences into storytelling magic.

Lili Wilkinson: *The Power of Fantasy*

10–11am, Friday 10 October,
Underground Theatre

Award-winning author Lili Wilkinson explores the profound power of fantasy to reimagine our world and challenge how we think about ourselves. Go behind the scenes of her latest dark academia fantasy, *Unhallowed Halls*, and learn how to unlock the storyteller within.

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 2025 prompt is...

Determination

You are invited to respond to the prompt 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

4:30–5pm, Thursday 9 October,
Fairfax Studio

All are welcome for the awards ceremony, which will feature readings of the shortlisted and winning entries and is presented by guest judge and middle-grade author Gabriel Bergmoser.

**FREE
EVENT**

Young Adult Program

Sessions especially for fans of young adult fiction.



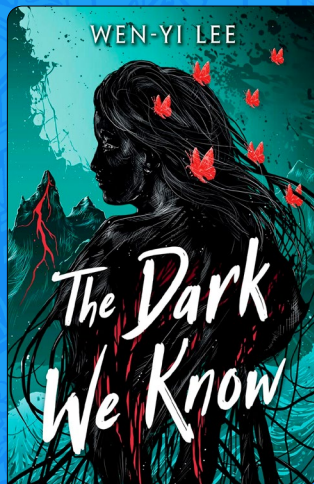
Home-grown Mysteries

Jasmin McGaughey (*Moonlight and Dust*), Carla Salmon (*We Saw What You Started*), Isobelle Carmody (*Comes the Night*)

Chair: Jane Sullivan

5:30–6:30pm,
Thursday 9 October,
Fairfax Studio

These suspenseful novels are imbued with everyday magic, combining real-world themes with fantastical intrigue. From the domed dystopia of a near-future Canberra to the glittering beaches of California and Cairns, these books issue a call to adventure you won't be able to resist.



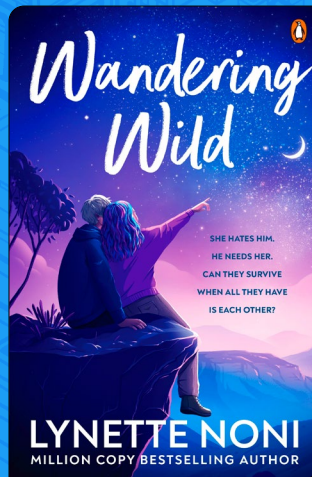
What Lurks in the Dark

Lili Wilkinson (*Unhallowed Halls*), Garth Nix (*The Old Kingdom series*), Wen-yi Lee (*The Dark We Know*), Vanessa Len (*Once a Villain*)

Chair: Joanne Anderton

2:30–3:30pm,
Friday 10 October,
Underground Theatre

Demons, ghosts, necromancers and castles... it's giving dark academia in this spooky, spectral panel session. From modern masters to beguiling new voices, these authors know how to cast a spell.



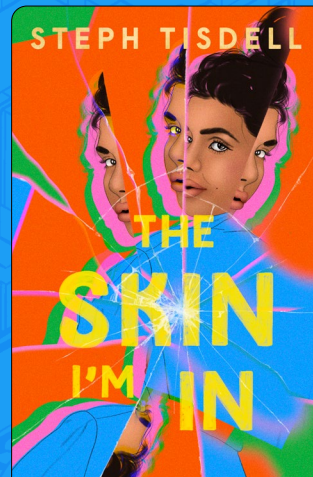
Love in Unexpected Places

Lynette Noni (*Wandering Wild*), Amie Kaufman (*Lady's Knight*)

Chair: Alex Adsett

7:30–8:30pm,
Friday 10 October,
Powerhouse Theatre

Lost in the wilderness after a reality show goes wrong or secretly competing as a knight in the Tournament of Dragonslayers...whatever their circumstances, the characters in these swoon-worthy novels find love in the most unlikely of places.

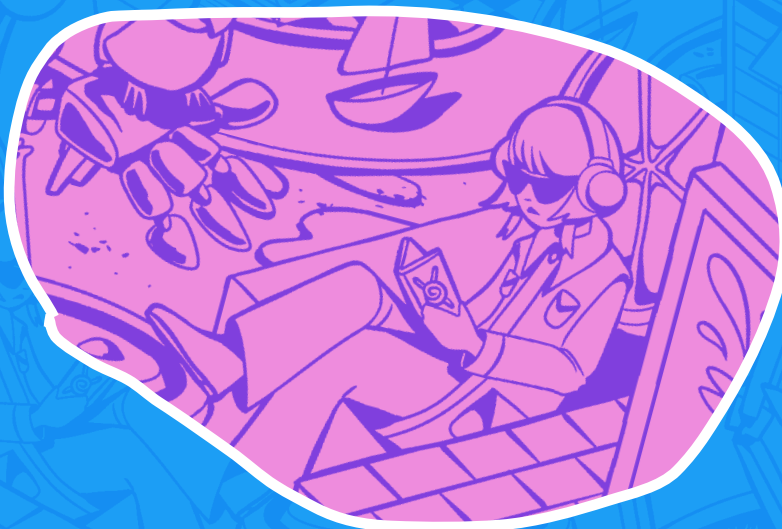


Steph Tisdell: *The Skin I'm In*

In conversation with
Rhianna Patrick

7–8pm, Sunday 12 October,
Fairfax Studio

Actress, screenwriter and proud Ydjinji woman Steph Tisdell's star is so on the rise, this might be your last chance to see her in this galaxy. She's already a TV mainstay and one of the most recognisable voices in Australian comedy – and with *The Skin I'm In*, Tisdell announces herself as an important new voice in literature, rendering a young woman's coming of age into 'vibrant, fearless, and unpretentious YA fiction' (*Nine Newspaper*).





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Creative Australia


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Thursday 9 October

The Writing Group as a Place of Joy

Darby Jones, Haylee Escalante, Dakota Feirer

Chair: Sharlene Allsopp

10–11am, Thursday 9 October, Underground Theatre



Darby Jones



Dakota Feirer

How do safe place and safe community nurture creative work? We invite you to listen in as we yarn about connection in the places we create with, and for, each other. This is the space where the stories we tell/write/listen shape us. The joy of the journey, not the outcomes.

Curated by Sharlene Allsopp

Raina MacIntyre: *Dark Winter & Vaccine Nation*



Raina MacIntyre

In Conversation with Fiona McMillan-Webster
11:30am–12:30pm, Thursday 9 October, Underground Theatre

Epidemiologist Raina MacIntyre examines the seismic impact

of vaccination on the human species, from the eradication of once ubiquitous diseases to the public health policies that mitigated the worst of the Covid pandemic. Considering present-day biosecurity and the possible trajectory of innovations, MacIntyre's two books offer vital insights into the history and future of disease.

Supported by The University of Queensland

Human/Nature

Darryl Jones (*(Be)wilder*), Jessica White (*Silence Is My Habitat*).

Chair: Amanda Niehaus

1–2pm, Thursday 9 October, Underground Theatre

These two thoughtful books transcend the everyday and return us to nature. Their authors consider how our relationship with the environment is

FREE
EVENT

formed by the senses and how we preserve our connection with the natural world in the face of today's ever-encroaching modernity.

Big Concepts for Little People

Jasmin McGaughey (*Little Ash series*), Sophie Beer (*Thunderhead*), Lara Cain Gray (*The Grown-Up's Guide to Picture Books*). Chair: Megan Daley

2:30–3:30pm, Thursday 9 October, Pleasuredome

It's not just kids' stuff! These exceptional authors discuss the art of crafting narratives for children, exploring how literature for young ones can expose them to big ideas and create a blueprint for the kind of people they'll grow up to be.

Supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund

Businesses Behaving Badly

Quentin Beresford (*Hooked: Inside the Murky World of Australia's Gambling Industry*), Bryan Horrigan (*Corporate Social Responsibility in an Age of Existential Threats*). Chair: Ian Kemish

2:30–3:30pm, Thursday 9 October, Underground Theatre



Quentin Beresford



Bryan Horrigan

Surveying everything from the predatory practices of Big Gambling to the confused role of corporations in modern social justice movements, these authors turn a sceptical eye to the world of business. Where does the buck stop when the governing principle is profit?

Faber Anthology Launch

2:30–3:30pm, Thursday 9 October, Fairfax Studio

Join the Faber Writing Academy for the launch of the 2024 Faber Writing Anthology, hosted by Pip Smith and Emily O'Grady and featuring readings by students from the selective Writing a Novel courses. The Faber Writing Academy offers an annual program of online and in-person writing courses

FREE
EVENT

presented by Allen & Unwin and the prestigious publisher Faber & Faber.

Supported by Faber Writing Academy

2025 First Word Keynote: Anita Heiss

FREE
EVENT

3:30–4:30pm, Thursday 9 October, Powerhouse Theatre

BWF's 2025 opening speech will be delivered by one of Australia's most beloved and prolific authors, Dr Anita Heiss AM. Festival audiences will also hear from BWF's 2025 First Nations Cultural Curator Sharlene Allsopp, Jillian Bowie, Singaporean poet Theophilus Kwek and BWF's Artistic Director, Jackie Ryan.

A Welcome to Country will be performed by Cheryl Leavy.

Supported by The University of Queensland

Tony Wellington: *Mixtapes and MTV*

In Conversation with John Tague

4–5pm, Thursday 9 October, Pleasuredome

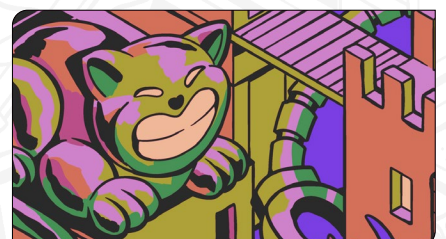
The 1980s transformed music: cassettes and CDs supplanted vinyl, MTV launched the era of the music video, and the Sony Walkman changed our listening experience. Tony Wellington tunes in to the sonic legacy of this tumultuous decade, illuminating how music was revolutionised by mass media, consumer culture and monumental political change.

Phil Brown: *Confessions of a Minor Poet*

In Conversation with Sean Sennett

4–5pm, Thursday 9 October, Underground Theatre

One of Australia's most esteemed arts journalists and BWF's favourite raconteur Phil Brown launches his delightful memoir *Confessions of a Minor Poet*, which showcases his trademark blend of pithy insight and wit.



Hollywood in Hindsight

Griffin Dunne (*The Friday Afternoon Club*), Lone Skye (*Say Everything*). Chair: Carody Culver

5:30–6:30pm, Thursday 9 October, Powerhouse Theatre

They don't call it Hollyweird for nothing. In these star-studded coming-of-age memoirs, silver screen luminaries Griffin Dunne and Lone Skye share the glamour and tragedy of life and love in Tinseltown – and reveal how America's mythmaking capital defines the story it tells about itself.

Conspiracy Nation:

Cam Wilson & Ariel Bogle

In Conversation with Ian Kemish

5:30–6:30pm, Thursday 9 October, Pleasuredome

If you've ever wondered why your uncle keeps banging on about fluoride at Sunday lunch, this compelling new book might explain it all. From Harold Holt to Min Min lights, Australia has no shortage of conspiracy theories. Journalists Wilson and Bogle dig deep into this paranoid worldview, examining our fascination with mysteries, how it can morph into something more sinister, and what it might say about our place in the world OR what it might say about us.

Supported by
The University of Queensland

Pigs & Punks

John Willsteed (*Nowhere Fast: Punk and Post-punk Brisbane 1978–1982*), Andrew Stafford (*Pig City: From the Saints to Savage Garden; 20th Anniversary Edition*). Chair: Noel Mengel

5:30–6:30pm, Thursday 9 October, Underground Theatre

Glittering images and razor-sharp observations bring Brisbane's rock history into the present in these two superb books. The Go-Betweens' John Willsteed joins legendary Queensland music journalist Andrew Stafford for a literary headbanger, reflecting on the city's illustrious live music scene and the potent subcultures that propelled it.

Homegrown Mysteries

Isobelle Carmody, Jasmin McGaughey, Carla Salmon. Chair: Jane Sullivan

5:30–6:30pm, Thursday 9 October, Fairfax Studio

These suspenseful novels are imbued with everyday magic, combining real-world themes with fantastical intrigue.

YA

From the domed dystopia of a near-future Canberra to the glittering beaches of California and Cairns, these books issue a call to adventure you won't be able to resist.

Siang Lu on his Miles Franklin Win



Siang Lu

Lu took out the nation's top literary prize for his wildly inventive novel, *Ghost Cities* – and now, he's embarking on the next phase of his brilliant career. Join Lu in conversation with fellow Brisbane author Steve MinOn as he discusses the book that, as the Miles Franklin judges put it, 'redefines what Australian literature can be'. You'll also learn how this prestigious award is already redefining Lu's career.

In Conversation
with Steve MinOn

7–8pm,
Thursday 9 October,
Pleasuredome

Meet the 2025 Miles
Franklin Award winner!
Earlier this year, Siang

Lloyd Rees and the Architects

Ross Wilson, Malcolm Middleton, Laura Patterson. Chair: Louise Martin-Chew

7–8pm, Thursday 9 October, Underground Theatre

As a child, Lloyd Rees, the visionary Australian painter of landscape, water and light, reimagined his home city of Brisbane, creating designs for a new opera house and railway station. Later, he taught art to successive generations of architecture students at Sydney Uni. Ross Wilson discusses why Rees was a teacher of genius with one of his former students, architect Malcolm Middleton, and explores what about his work and life fascinates people today with contemporary artist Laura Patterson.

Supported by Built Environment
Collective, Wilson Architects and BVN

The Poetic Observer



Nathan
Shepherdson

Jonathan Chan (*bright sorrow*), Nathan Shepherdson (*Soft Meteorites*), David Stavanger (*The Drop Off*), Theophilus Kwek (*Commonwealth*). Chair: Pascale Burton

7–8pm, Thursday
9 October, Fairfax Studio

This very special session brings together some of the most extraordinary poets in the Asia-Pacific. They'll explore how blowing apart conventions of language can create an expanded view of what it means to be human.

Romantasy Allstars

Helen Scheuerer (*Iron & Embers*), Sarah A Parker (*When the Moon Hatched*), Stacey McEwan (*A Forbidden Alchemy*), Jaymin Eve (*Spellcaster*). Contributing Chair: Vanessa Len (*Once a Villain*).

7:30–8:30pm, Thursday 9 October, Powerhouse Theatre

It's the portmanteau on everyone's lips. This panel brings together some of the most compelling writers in the romantasy game for a deep dive into the tropes, twists and tricks of this steamy subgenre.

Jane Caro: Lyrebird



Jane Caro

In Conversation
with Jessica Rudd
8:30–9:30pm,
Thursday 9 October,
Pleasuredome

The inimitable Jane Caro is back with a brilliantly twisty crime thriller. This stunningly subversive novel questions the nature of evidence and makes readers both witness and jury in a case that reveals what society would rather keep hidden.

Anita Heiss, Living Legend

In Conversation with Nicole Abadee

8:30–9:30pm, Thursday 9 October, Underground Theatre

Name any literary genre and there's a good chance Anita Heiss has published a book in it. Reflecting on her astounding career, Heiss discusses the different approaches required to craft rom-coms, historical fiction, non-fiction and children's books and how she works across these disparate forms while maintaining her singular voice.

Dark Imaginings

Helen Marshall (*The Lady, the Tiger and the Girl Who Loved Death*), Kathleen Jennings (*Honeyeater*), Wen-yi Lee (*When They Burned the Butterfly*), A. Rushby (*Slashed Beauties*).

Chair: Gary Budden

8:30–9:30pm, Thursday 9 October, Fairfax Studio

Fairytales and historical myths are often readers' first encounter with the darkness of human nature. In these stunning novels, fable and archetype are reworked in dazzling ways, allowing readers to consider afresh how fantasy, myth and magic can allow us to better understand reality.

Supported by the
Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund

Friday 10 October

Michelle Bridges:

The Perimenopause Method

In Conversation with Katherine Feeney

9:30–10:30am, Friday 10 October,
Powerhouse Theatre



Michelle Bridges **Katherine Feeney**

Personal trainer and all-round health aficionado Michelle Bridges takes us through one of life's most significant changes, interrogating the myths around menopause and highlighting the nutritional and exercise approaches best suited to managing every stage of the process.

Supported by QBD Books

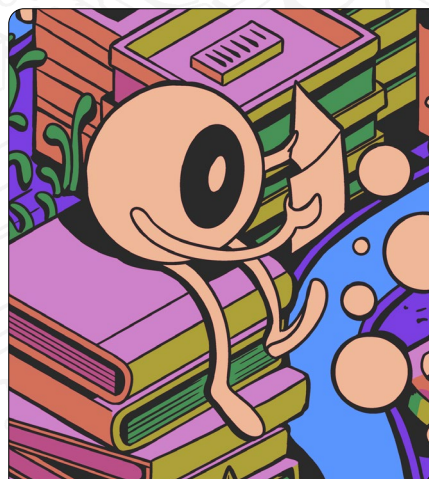
Maggie Jackson: *Uncertain*



In Conversation with
Christine Jackman

11:30–12:30am,
Friday 10 October,
Pleasuredome

If one thing's for certain, it's how uncertain the future looks. But are we better off not knowing all the answers? One of the world's leading thinkers on social change and how technology affects our lives, National Book Award nominee Maggie Jackson makes the case for uncertainty, exploring how being comfortable with ambivalence and ambiguity fuels wisdom, resilience and creativity.



Sarah Napthali:

My Year of Psychedelics

In Conversation with Amanda Niehaus

2:30–3:30pm, Friday 10 October,
Pleasuredome

Join parenting guru Sarah Napthali, author of *Buddhism for Mothers*, as she discusses her research into psychedelic medicine and shines a light on how shrooms, acid and ayahuasca can help us better understand the human experience.

What Lurks in the Dark

YA

Lili Wilkinson (*Unhallowed Halls*), Garth Nix (*The Old Kingdom series*), Wen-yi Lee (*The Dark We Know*), Vanessa Len (*Once a Villain*). Chair: Joanne Anderton

2:30–3:30pm, Friday 10 October,
Underground Theatre

Demons, ghosts, necromancers and castles...it's giving dark academia in this spooky, spectral panel session. From modern masters to beguiling new voices, these authors know how to cast a spell.

So Funny It Hurts

Patrick Lenton (*In Spite of You*), Alice Fraser (*A Passion for Passion*), Daniel Nour (*How to Dodge Flying Sandals*), Jack Hutchinson AKA Elmore Collins (*Thirteen More Fictions for Middling Millennial Melancholia*). Chair: Siang Lu

2:30–3:30pm, Friday 10 October,
Fairfax Studio

A bodice-busting romance homage, a wickedly funny modern rom-com, a riotous and big-hearted memoir, and a dazzling short-fiction collection about meandering millennials...these four brilliantly imaginative books lay bare the human condition with a wink, a nod and the occasional tear.

Fiona McIntosh: *The Soldier's Daughter* + Career Overview



Fiona McIntosh

Solo Presentation

3:30–4:30pm,
Friday 10 October,
Powerhouse Theatre

2025 marks a quarter century of internationally acclaimed author Fiona McIntosh's published works, which span genres, eras and borders. Join us

for an unforgettable evening as Fiona delves into her latest blockbuster, *The Soldier's Daughter*, a heart-stopping WWII drama and the long-awaited sequel to *The Champagne War*. She'll also share highlights from her incredible career and globetrotting research, including some of the hilarious anecdotes she's gathered along the way.

Ione Skye: *Say Everything*



In Conversation
with Kellie Lloyd

4–5pm, Friday
10 October,
Pleasuredome

Ione Skye

Few people embody the essence of '90s cool like Ione Skye: movie star, It Girl and creative polymath. In her riveting memoir *Say Everything*, Skye reflects on her early life with candid lyricism, chronicling her estrangement from her father, folk superstar Donovan; her rise to fame as the winsome love interest in the 1989 rom-com *Say Anything*; and a doomed romance with Red Hot Chili Peppers frontman Anthony Kiedis.

Mark Brandi: *Eden*



In Conversation
with Mirandi Riwoe

4–5pm, Friday
10 October,
Underground Theatre

Mark Brandi

Mark Brandi is equally deft at rural mysteries and urban noir – and in *Eden*, he transplants a small-town boy to the big smoke, his fresh start quickly taking a sour turn. Dark and deadly, this is another lyrical thriller from one of the stars of modern Australian crime.

Poetry Salon

Madeleine Dale, Cheryl Leavy, Maxine Beneba Clarke, David Stavanger, Laura Jane Lee, Jonathan Chan, Chim Sher Ting. Host: Jarad Bruinstroop

4–5pm, Friday 10 October,
Fairfax Studio

This show-stopping literary salon features poetry readings and performances from an incredible line-up of dynamic local, national and international voices. Enjoy pure poetry in motion in the fine company of these award-winning wordsmiths.

Andy Griffiths & Bill Hope: *You & Me and the Peanut Butter Beast*

5:30–6:30pm, Friday 10 October, Powerhouse Theatre

Join bestselling children's author Andy Griffiths and illustrator Bill Hope for an outrageously funny event about their latest book, *You & Me and the Peanut Butter Beast*. Together, you, Andy and Bill will find out what happens when you fall down a hole all the way to the centre of the Earth.

Families

Comedy Salon: So Bad It's Good

5:30–6:30pm, Friday 10 October, Pleasuredome



Alice Fraser

Siang Lu, Steph Tisdell, Patrick Lenton, Garth Nix, Alice Fraser, Leon Filewood, David McWilliams, Benjamin Stevenson.

Writing so bad it's good? So over the top it's funny? Harder than

it may sound. These brave literary souls have accepted a peculiar mission: come up with an odd alter ego and then write a short story in the voice of that character. What could go wrong? You'll need a ticket to find out.

Julian Kingma and Andrew Denton: *The Power of Choice*

5:30–6:30pm, Friday 10 October, Underground Theatre

In Conversation with Andrew Stafford



Julian Kingma



Andrew Denton

This extraordinarily moving photo essay documents the final days of people preparing for voluntary assisted dying. Honouring the lives and dignity of his subjects, Julian Kingma appears alongside Andrew Denton to discuss this profound work and the real human stories that are often elided by political noise.

Tributes & Collections

Angela Savage (*Spinning Around: The Kylie Playlist*), Amy McQuire (*Black Witness*), Jasmin McGaughey (*Words to Sing the World Alive*), Stephanie Dogfoot (*EXHALE: An Anthology of Queer Singapore Voices*). Contributing Chair: Terri-ann White

5:30–6:30pm, Friday 10 October, Fairfax Studio

Explore the art of great editing with these fabulous anthologies, which bring together some of our finest writers. Whether it's a rousing call for justice for First Nations people or a giddy celebration of Kylie Minogue, these collections showcase the very best in contemporary Asia-Pacific letters.

Nailbiters

Fiona McIntosh (*Blood Pact*), Gabriel Bergmoser (*High Rise*), Sam Guthrie (*The Peak*), Zahid Gamielien (*All the Missing Children*). Chair: Ian Kemish

7–8pm, Friday 10 October, Underground Theatre



Gabriel Bergmoser Zahid Gamielien

These surprising, twisty novels deliver hot takes on thrills and chills. From high octane action to the suspense and subterfuge of international espionage, these excellent page-turners deliver guts and grit.

If You're Listening with Matt Bevan

7–8pm, Friday 10 October, Pleasuredome

Assassins disguised as tennis players. Battleships cutting internet cables. Global superpowers in a race to mine moon ice. When you pay close attention, the world is stranger than it seems. Join Matt Bevan, host of the ABC News podcast *If You're Listening*, for a live show blending wit, insight and captivating storytelling. Known for unpacking global news with sharp analysis, Matt will explore seismic changes on the horizon by uncovering surprising stories from the past. Expect jaw-dropping revelations, sharp humour,

and the kind of storytelling that will leave you questioning everything you thought you knew about the world.

Blurred Lines: An Interplay of Identities

Shokoofeh Azar (*The Gowkaran Tree in the Middle of Our Kitchen*), Micaela Sahhar (*Find Me at the Jaffa Gate*), nor (*homesick*), Lenora Thaker (*A Pearl of Tagai Town*). Contributing Chair: Cheryl Leavy (*Yanga Mother*)

7–8pm, Friday 10 October, Fairfax Studio



Micaela Sahhar



nor

Who we are is the product of many interlocking factors. These brilliant books tug at the threads of place, language, culture and memory while showing how an unraveling might reveal who we truly are.

Supported by
The University of Queensland

Love in Unexpected Places

YA

Lynette Noni (*Wandering Wild*), Amie Kaufman (*Lady's Knight*). Chair: Alex Adsett

7:30–8:30pm, Friday 10 October, Powerhouse Theatre



Lynette Noni

Lost in the wilderness after a reality show goes wrong or secretly competing as a knight in the Tournament of Dragonslayers... whatever their circumstances, the characters in these swoon-worthy novels find love in the most unlikely of places.



Friday 10 October cont.



English author Louise Doughty delivers the Marion Taylor Gala keynote speech, 2024.

The Marion Taylor Address with Bettany Hughes: Is it all just a little bit of history repeating?

7:30–9:30pm, Friday 10 October, Roof Top Terrace

The past may be a foreign country, but sometimes the present seems like another planet. In this keynote speech and special event, esteemed classicist and broadcaster Bettany Hughes considers the lessons of history – how contemporary circumstances might echo the preoccupations of the past, and what we can learn from the wisdom of the ancients. This event entails a 20-minute keynote from guest of honour Bettany Hughes, short speeches from BWF's Artistic Director and Chair, and a keynote response from a representative of the Taylor family. Dress code: cocktail. Includes light refreshments and heavy mingling.

Supported by the Taylor Family

John Wayne Parr & Jarrod Boyle: *The Fighter: The Legendary Life of an Australian Champion*



John Wayne Parr

Muay Thai world champion John Wayne Parr, from his intense early training to his stellar global career.

In Conversation with Steve Austin
8:30–9:30pm, Friday 10 October, Pleasuredome

This knockout book documents the rise and rise of 10-time

Meditating on the demands of martial arts and the strain of pushing his body to the edge, Parr reveals another side of himself in a memoir we can only describe as kick ass.

Supported by 612 ABC Radio Brisbane

Benjamin Stevenson: *Everyone in this Bank Is a Thief*



Benjamin Stevenson

We've cracked the case: Benjamin Stevenson is the modern master of the locked-room mystery. With *Everyone in this Bank Is a Thief*, Stevenson again delivers a drolly self-aware riff on the classic detective story that'll leave you in absolutely no doubt whodunnit (Stevenson, that's who).

In Conversation with Ron Serdiuk
8:30–9:30pm, Friday 10 October, Underground Theatre

Desire

Steve MinOn (*First Name, Second Name*), Patrick Lenton (*In Spite of You*), Helen Scheuerer (*Iron & Embers*). Chair: Sarah Klenbort
8:30–9:30pm, Friday 10 October, Fairfax Studio

You can't always get what you want – but you can sure give it a red-hot go. Join the authors of these page-turning novels as they navigate the ins, outs, ups and downs of our desire for love, acceptance and belonging.

Anne Summers: *Damned Whores and God's Police*. (50th Anniversary Edition)

In Conversation with Suzy Freeman-Greene

9:30–10:30am, Saturday 11 October, Powerhouse Theatre

It's been half a century since the publication of Anne Summers' landmark work of feminist analysis *Damned Whores and God's Police*, a book that's still in print and has been updated several times over the years. The work explores Australian history and society through the prism of the stereotypes used to define and oppress Australian women and is still relevant today. Summers discusses how much has changed for Australian women since 1975 – and how much is still the same.

Supported by The Conversation

Kingdoms & Quests

Garth Nix (*Sabriel*), Fiona McIntosh (*Myrron's Gift*)

In Conversation with Kathleen Jennings
10–11am, Saturday 11 October, Pleasuredome

Join us for an enchanting deep dive into two modern classics of Australian fantasy writing. From the necromantic world of *The Old Kingdom* to the medieval romance of *The Quickening*, Nix and McIntosh have redrawn the map of fantasy writing. Here, these two masters of the genre discuss the art of worldbuilding and how writing that ventures far can hit so close to home.

Heather Rose: *A Great Act of Love*



Heather Rose

In Conversation with Kate Evans
10–11am, Saturday 11 October, Underground Theatre

The award-winning and endlessly inventive Heather Rose has dazzled readers with novels such as *Bruny* and *The Museum of Modern Love*. Her latest is a historical adventure following a young widow swept across the globe to what was then called Van Diemen's Land. *A Great Act of Love* is a searing and propulsive epic about loss and the possibility of starting life anew.

Saturday 11 October

Lyrical Lives

Nardi Simpson (*The Belburd*), **Indyana Schneider** (*Since the World Is Ending*), **Joanna Horton** (*Catching the Light*). Chair: Darby Jones

10–11am, Saturday 11 October, Fairfax Studio



Nardi Simpson

These gorgeous novels render the lives of artists, poets and musicians, asking what compels a person to create – and how this compulsion is interwoven with all our desires. Thoughtful and exquisitely written, these

books bring unique perspectives to the relationship between art and life.

Helen Garner: A Life in Letters



Helen Garner

In Conversation with Sarah Kanowski

11:30am–12:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Powerhouse Theatre

In this very special event, Helen Garner discusses her life and career, revisiting the novels and writing process she documents in her diaries alongside the complexities of a life lived on the page.

Sheila Fitzpatrick: The Death of Stalin



Sheila Fitzpatrick

In Conversation with Michael Ondaatje

11:30am–12:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Pleasuredome

One of Australia's most esteemed historians, Sheila

Fitzpatrick renders a pivotal period of modern history in forensic detail: the death of Joseph Stalin and the internecine power struggles between his successors. Fitzpatrick's masterful and immensely readable account explores the far-reaching consequences of a dictator's demise.

The Language of War

Debra Dank (*Terraglossia*), **Abbas El-Zein** (*Bullet, Paper, Rock*), **Micaela Sahhar** (*Find Me at the Jaffa Gate*), **Chim Sher Ting** (*Burn After Dawn*). Chair: Amber Gwynne

11:30am–12:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Underground Theatre



Debra Dank



Abbas El-Zein

These extraordinary books consider the weaponisation of language in war. How do we find words to describe the unspeakable? And how are our stories of conflict shaped as much by what is silenced as by what is said?

Indigenous Futurisms

Allanah Hunt, **Mykaela Saunders**, **John Morrissey**. Chair: Sharlene Allsopp

11:30am–12:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Fairfax Studio



Mykaela Saunders John Morrissey



Terra Nullius declared we have no past. The dying race trope pretended we have no future. Indigenous Futurisms calls time on both. These authors write us back into the past and the future, where we have always been and always will be.

Curated by Sharlene Allsopp

Di Morrissey: River Song



Di Morrissey

In Conversation with Angela Savage

1–2pm, Saturday 11 October, Pleasuredome

Few Australian authors adorn as many bedside tables as Di Morrissey, who for decades has captivated readers with her epics of love, loss and landscape. The 30th novel from a master storyteller, *River Song* is

an indelible story about the ripples sent through small-town life by the arrival of a mysterious visitor.

Miss-behaving



Meg Bignell

Meg Bignell (*The Good Losers*), **Naima Brown** (*Mother Tongue*), **Sara Foster** (*When She Was Gone*), **Suzanne Do** (*The Golden Sister*). Chair: Sita Walker.

1–2pm, Saturday 11 October, Underground Theatre

The darkness of domestic life comes out of the shadows in these compelling character studies wrapped in mysteries. Whether it's the absurdities of the upper class, the breaching of societal norms or a very unusual injury, these novels are about what makes the veneer of normalcy come crashing down.

Supported by QBD Books

Here Be Monsters: Griffith Review 89

Jumaana Abdu, **Yumna Kassab**, **Richard King**. Chair: Carody Culver.

1–2pm, Saturday 11 October, Fairfax Studio



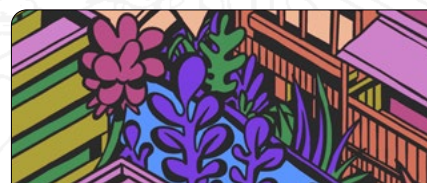
Jumaana Abdu



Yumna Kassab

What are you most afraid of? When is monstrosity alluring rather than frightening? And what form might the monsters of the future take? *Griffith Review 89: Here Be Monsters* explores beasts and bogeymen past and present, literal and figurative. Join three edition contributors as they consider modern-day monstrosities: the suppression of dark impulses, insidious forms of othering, and the throbbing weirdness of the nuclear renaissance.

Supported by Griffith Review



Bettany Hughes: *The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World*

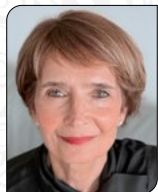
In Conversation with Kate Evans

1:30–2:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Powerhouse Theatre

Famed classicist Bettany Hughes takes readers on a fabulous sightseeing tour of antiquity, from the pyramids of Egypt to the semi-mythological Gardens of Babylon. Considering the reverence the ancients had for these extraordinary sites, and the enduring fascination they've exerted throughout history, Hughes delivers a tour de force that will make you see the ancient world from an entirely new perspective.

Supported by the Taylor family

Jana Wendt: *The Far Side of the Moon and Other Stories*



In Conversation with Marie-Louise Theile

2:30–3:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Pleasuredome

A legend of Australian journalism, Jana Wendt turns her hand to fiction in this superb collection of short stories. Epic in scope and granular in detail, these tales take readers on fascinating forays into the lives of unforgettable characters, showcasing a familiar voice in new and unexpected ways.

Through a Glass Darkly

Lucinda 'Froomes' Price (*All I Ever Wanted Was to Be Hot*), Abbas El-Zein (*Bullet, Paper, Rock*), Anna Broinowski (*Datsun Angel*), Daniel Nour (*How to Dodge Flying Sandals*). Chair: Ashley Hay

2:30–3:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Underground Theatre



Lucinda 'Froomes' Price



Daniel Nour

What hidden truths can we reveal when we shine a light on our own pasts? In these captivating memoirs, which take readers from the Middle East to the middle of Australia, four writers tell extraordinary coming-of-age tales that depict the agony and ecstasy of youth with the clear-eyed perspective of maturity.

Supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund

Family Secrets

Eric Puchner (*Dream State*), Shokoofeh Azar (*The Gowkaran Tree in the Middle of Our Kitchen*), Charlotte McConaghy (*Wild Dark Shore*). Chair: Kristina Olsson

2:30–3:30pm, Saturday 11 October,



Charlotte McConaghy



Shokoofeh Azar

Tolstoy famously wrote that each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. In these exquisite novels, full of unforeseen reverberations and unexpected revelations, this maxim is proven true in the most surprising and thoroughly modern ways.

David McWilliams: *Money*



In Conversation with Richard King

3:30–4:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Powerhouse Theatre

David McWilliams

It doesn't grow on trees or make the world go round...so what exactly is money, and why does it consume so much of our time and energy? In this epic and entertaining history, economist, broadcaster and GFC doomsday prophet David McWilliams balances the books, tracing the long and complex relationship between humans and money.

Holly Wainwright: *He Would Never*



Holly Wainwright

In Conversation with Frances Whiting

4–5pm, Saturday 11 October, Pleasuredome

Beloved author Holly Wainwright once again delivers the goods in this page-turning story of five families whose relationship comes to a head over a weekend camping trip. Mining the everyday for suspense, Wainwright explores trust, betrayal and the bonds forged by motherhood.

Blak to the Future

Leon Filewood, Rita Pryce, Gabriel Bani, Rochelle Pitt-Watson. Chair: Jillian Bowie

4–5pm, Saturday 11 October, Underground Theatre



Rita Pryce



Rochelle Pitt-Watson

Our stories follow us, from dancing and ceremonial grounds and around the campfire onto stages, screens and books, welcoming others into our world and being recorded across modern structures for generations to come.

Curated by Jillian Bowie

Winners, Losers, Lovers and Schmoozers

Melanie Saward (*Love Unleashed*), Indyana Schneider (*28 Questions*), Lauren Ford (*Liv Is Not a Loser*). Chair: Claire Christian

4–5pm, Saturday 11 October, Fairfax Studio



Indyana Schneider Melanie Saward



If you're looking to fall head over heels with your nose in a book, you've come to the right place. From the streets of Manhattan to the bedrooms of Brisbane, these classic romances with a modern twist will sweep you off your feet.

Sally Hepworth: *Mad Mabel*



Sally Hepworth

In Conversation with Frances Whiting
5:30–6:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Powerhouse Theatre

No one does a neighbourhood secret quite like Sally Hepworth, and in *Mad Mabel*, she delivers her most deliciously dark novel yet. Bringing her eagle eye for domestic intrigue to bear on a little old lady's mysterious past, Hepworth delivers a page turner for your inner curtain twitcher.

Tinkering with the Doomsday Clock

Darryl Jones (*(Be)wilder*), Joshua Gilbert (*Australia's Agricultural Identity*), Richard King (*Brave New Wild*). Chair: Liz Minchin

5:30–6:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Underground Theatre

The challenges of climate change are here to stay, so why are so few people proposing innovative solutions that can renew our perspective on nature? These powerful books delve into our past, present and future, using fact and fiction to help us reframe our relationship to the environment and emphasise symbiosis instead of extraction.

Supported by The Conversation

Eric Puchner: *Dream State*



In Conversation with Kate Evans
5:30–6:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Underground Theatre

A jewel of a novel, *Dream State* is the story of three people whose lives are changed forever by a fateful decision on the eve of a wedding. With its exquisitely drawn characters and devastating subtlety, Puchner's incredible book joins the ranks of the Great American Novel.

Great Expectations

Clare Stephens (*The Worst Thing I've Ever Done*), Anna Broinowski (*Datsun Angel*), Lucy Nelson (*Wait Here*), Laura Jane Lee (*flinch & air*). Chair: Christine Jackman

5:30–6:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Fairfax Studio



Clare Stephens



Anna Broinowski

Join four brilliant women of words as they illuminate the intricacies of female identity and experience. Across fiction, memoir, short stories and poetry, these dazzling books take readers from the toxic misogyny of 1980s Australia to the civil unrest of 21st-century Hong Kong, exploring the complexities of childlessness, cancel culture, political struggle and youthful idealism.

Bob Brown: *Defiance*

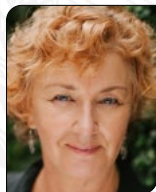


Bob Brown

In Conversation with Ashley Hay
7–8pm, Saturday 11 October, Pleasuredome

A political institution unto himself, Bob Brown's environmental activism has quite literally changed the Australian political landscape. In his new memoir, Brown reflects on life in activism and politics, providing a blueprint for a new generation seeking to challenge the powerful forces holding our collective humanity hostage.

Debra Oswald: *One Hundred Years of Betty*



Debra Oswald

In Conversation with Jane Sullivan
7–8pm, Saturday 11 October, Underground Theatre

In her novels, plays and TV series, including the smash-hit drama *Offspring*, Debra Oswald introduced us to characters so vividly realised that they immediately felt like old friends. Her latest book, *One Hundred Years of Betty*, is the story of both a remarkable woman and a changing society: a continent-spanning, whole-of-life tale full of human spirit and crackling wit.

Pitch Blak: From Page to Stage

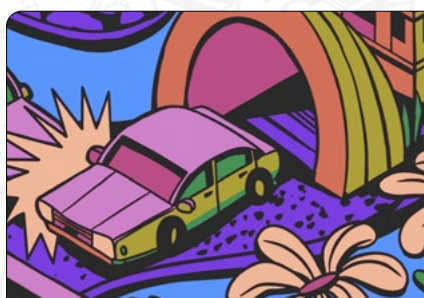


Leon Filewood

Leon Filewood and Rita Pryce.
Chair: Jillian Bowie
7–8pm, Saturday 11 October, Fairfax Studio

Creative storytelling on stage to capture wide audiences takes a special kind of skill. In this session, we celebrate comedian Leon Filewood and performing artist Rita Pryce on finding a platform for their voices and interpreting their narratives in the most engaging ways.

Curated by Jillian Bowie



Callie Hart: *Quicksilver*



Callie Hart

In Conversation with Lynette Noni
7:30–8:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Powerhouse Theatre

Get your heart pounding with *Quicksilver*, an enemies-to-lovers romantasy replete with alchemy, fae and tension you could cut with a knife. Callie Hart brings us on a magical journey into the mountains of Yvelia, a place you won't want to leave.

Supported by QBD Books

Michael Robotham: *The White Crow*



Michael Robotham

In Conversation with Steve Austin
8:30–9:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Pleasuredome

Master of mystery Michael Robotham returns with another gritty blend of police procedural and psychological thriller featuring intrepid constable Philomena McCarthy. Investigating the link between a series of crimes, McCarthy is confronted with the ties that bind when all the evidence points to her mob boss father.

Supported by QBD Books and 612 ABC Radio Brisbane

Charlotte Wood: *The Natural Way of Things* 10th Anniversary Conversation and Salon



Charlotte Wood

In Conversation with Kristina Olsson.
Salon readings from Laura McCluskey and Toby Schmitz
8:30–9:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Underground Theatre

Marking the 10th anniversary of her astonishing and provocative Stella Prize winner *The Natural Way of Things*, Booker-shortlisted author Charlotte Wood revisits this landmark work of feminist literature. The evening will commence with select readings from the work by celebrated actors and authors Laura McCluskey (*The Wolf Tree*) and Toby Schmitz (*The Empress Murders*), who are also all appearing at the festival with their own books.

Saturday 11 October cont.

Messy Patches

Naima Brown (*Mother Tongue*), Kimberley Allsopp (*Rise and Shine*), Clare Stephens (*The Worst Thing I've Ever Done*), Suzanne Do (*The Golden Sister*). Chair: Mirandi Riwoe
8:30–9:30pm, Saturday 11 October, Fairfax Studio



Kimberley Allsopp Suzanne Do

The pleasures and pains of modern life are rendered with wit and clarity in these page-turning novels. From the arbitrary injustice of cancellation to the challenges of maintaining a marriage, these books examine the eternal human truths underpinning our current moment.



Trent Dalton:

Gravity Let Me Go



Trent Dalton

Few words bring more joy to readers and booksellers alike than the phrase 'new Trent Dalton novel'. With *Gravity Let Me Go*, Dalton brings his ineffable voice to the story of a marriage in all its glorious vicissitudes – it's another must-read from one of Australia's most beloved storytellers.

Supported by QBD Books

In Conversation with Kimberley Allsopp

9:30–10:30am, Sunday 12 October, Powerhouse Theatre

Kate Reid: to Lune from Destination Moon



Kate Reid

Start your engines! Few people can claim to have risen to the tops of two careers as different as Formula One and croissant making – in fact, Kate Reid might be the only person who has. In this delectable memoir, she reflects on her unusual professional transition, the similarities between engineering a really fast car and a perfect croissant, and the power of resilience.

In Conversation with Alison Kubler

10–11am, Sunday 12 October, Pleasuredome

Vicki Hastrich:

The Last Days of Zane Grey

In Conversation with Charlotte Wood

10–11am, Sunday 12 October, Underground Theatre

This revelatory biography reveals the unknown Australian adventures of a Hollywood legend. *The Last Days of Zane Grey* chronicles the life and times of the world's first millionaire author, a celebrity adventurer who popularised the Western genre. Vicki Hastrich shines a light on this intrepid man of his times, an entrepreneurial frontiersman whose personal experiences left an indelible mark on the public imagination.

Splendid Isolations

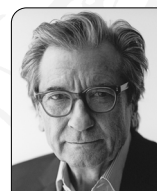
Charlotte McConagh (*Wild Dark Shore*), Jumaana Abdu (*Translations*), Patrick Holland (*Oblivion*), Laura McCluskey (*The Wolf Tree*). Chair: Alex Philp

10–11am, Sunday 12 October, Fairfax Studio

These masterful novels find stillness and silence amid the cacophony of the modern world. From the remoteness of rural Australia to the floating world of international finance, these books will transport you and give you cause to reflect on the spiritual quality of solitude.

Griffin Dunne:

The Friday Afternoon Club



Griffin Dunne

In Conversation with Frances Whiting

11:30am–12:30pm, Sunday 12 October, Powerhouse Theatre

A bicoastal reverie about a complex American family,

this exquisite memoir by writer, actor and director Griffin Dunne chronicles his star-studded upbringing and early adulthood (*American Werewolf in London*, anyone? How about *After Hours*?) with uncommon humour and grace. Perfectly balancing critique and compassion – as in his documentary biography of his aunt, Joan Didion – Dunne transports the reader into a world as glamorous as it is unsettling.

Supported by James St precinct

Against Type



Lucinda 'Froomes' Price

Lucinda 'Froomes' Price (*All I Ever Wanted Was to be Hot*), Meg Bignell (*The Good Losers*), Yumna Kassab (*The Theory of Everything*), Lucy Nelson (*Wait Here*). Chair: Jane Sullivan

11:30am–12:30pm, Sunday 12 October, Pleasuredome

Four exciting and very different storytellers reflect on feminism, societal pressure, sisterhood, identity and what it means to live in changing times. And that's just their opening chapters! Join these wonderful writers as they provide a fully realised picture of our world today.

Lauren Samuelsson:***A Matter of Taste***11:30am–12:30pm, Sunday 12 October,
Underground Theatre

In Conversation with Kelly Higgins-Devine

**Lauren Samuelsson**

Since *Bluey* paid homage to the Sisyphean task that is baking the infamous Rubber Ducky Cake, the indelible recipes of the *Australian Women's Weekly* have surged back into public consciousness. In this brilliant book, Lauren Samuelsson chronicles the evolution of an Australian institution, revealing in glorious detail the often surprising story of how choo-choo train cakes and apricot chicken made us who we are.

**Kelly Higgins-Devine****Joshua Gilbert:*****Australia's Agricultural Identity***

In Conversation with Ashley Hay

11:30–12:30pm, Sunday 12 October,
Fairfax Studio

An important voice bridging the agricultural and environmental spheres, Joshua Gilbert is a Worimi man with extensive family connections to both farming and Country. In his visionary book, Gilbert reflects on his family's relationship to the land and examines how Aboriginal knowledges can inform the future of Australia's primary industries.

Helen Goh:***Baking and the Meaning of Life***In Conversation
with Sarah Kanowski1–2pm, Sunday 12 October,
Pleasuredome

As the baking enthusiasts among us know, whipping up a delectable cake or cookie isn't just a treat for the tastebuds – it's a salve for the soul. Renowned Ottolenghi pastry chef and trained psychologist Helen Goh reveals why baking is a recipe for better wellbeing and shares the stories behind her magnificent new collection of sweet and savoury creations. The proof, as they say, is in the pudding – and we'll be having seconds.

Cop ShopSara Foster (*When She Was Gone*),
Zahid Gamieldien (*All the Missing Children*), Laura McCluskey (*The Wolf Tree*), Angie Faye Martin
(*Melaleuca*). Chair: Ron Serdiuk1–2pm, Sunday 12 October,
Underground Theatre

You have the right to remain enthralled! In this arresting session, four brilliant writers reimagine the police procedural, considering the nuances of the justice system and the complex narrative mechanisms of crime writing.

Campfire**Gabriel Bani**Gabriel Bani,
Rochelle Pitt-Watson.
Chair: Jillian Bowie1–2pm, Sunday
12 October,
Fairfax Studio

Join us as we delve into the ancient truths and practices of Bipo Taim (*before time*) and the challenges we face today as we strive to survive our language, culture, knowledge systems and stories in this modern world.

Curated by Jillian Bowie

**Helen Garner and
Brandon Jack Talk Footy**

Chair: Ashley Hay

1:30–2:30pm, Sunday 12 October,
Powerhouse Theatre

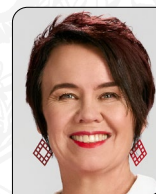
A literary legend and a former AFL player share their love of the game in a session for bookworms and footy fans alike. Discussing their books *The Season* and *Pissants*, Garner and Jack ponder the allure of Aussie Rules, their relationship to the sport and how these elements translate to the page.

Supported by Pikos

Sophie Gilbert: *Girl on Girl***Sophie Gilbert**In Conversation
with Carody Culver2:30–3:30pm,
Sunday 12 October,
Pleasuredome

Anyone on Instagram knows Y2K is back in a big way. But the first decade of the 21st century wasn't all mules and low-rise jeans – misogyny was also on trend. In *Girl on Girl*, Atlantic

critic and Pulitzer Prize finalist Sophie Gilbert presents a trenchant critique of the way mass culture commodified women in the 90s and noughties, examining the grotesque public mocking of the Britneys, Lindsays and Parises and tracing the fallout for feminism today.

The Bookshelf:**ABC Radio National**Toni Jordan (*Tenderfoot*), Eric
Puchner (*Dream State*), Zeynab
Gamieldien (*Learned Behaviours*),
Patrick Holland (*Oblivion*).In Conversation with Kate
Evans & Cassie McCullagh2:30–3:30pm, Sunday 12 October,
Underground Theatre**Kate Evans****Toni Jordan**

Joining the hosts of ABC Radio National's *The Bookshelf*, these phenomenal authors discuss their most recent novels and the books and writers who inspire them. With voting underway for ABC's Top 100 Books of the Century, these writers make the case for their favourites (and who knows, maybe someone will nominate one of their own books).

Supported by ABC Friends Qld

Shoulder CheckToby Schmitz (*The Empress Murders*), Martine Kropowski
(*Left Behind*), John Morrissey
(*Firelight*), January Gilchrist (*The Final Chapter*). Chair: Cass Moriarty2:30–3:30pm, Sunday 12 October,
Fairfax Studio**Toby Schmitz****Martine Kropowski**

These very different books are united by an unconventional approach to storytelling, with unreliable narrators, stylistic misdirection or shocking twists subverting our expectations of what a mystery can be – leaving readers both thrilled and chilled.

Melissa Leong: *Guts: A Memoir of Food, Failure and Taking Impossible Chances*



Melissa Leong

In Conversation with Becca Wang
3:30–4:30pm,
Sunday 12 October,
Powerhouse Theatre

Food and fashion icon Melissa Leong became a household name as the first female host

of *MasterChef* in 2020 – but her path to fame has been anything but easy. In this deliciously funny and achingly raw memoir, Leong shares her story (plus some of her favourite recipes) and serves up her advice for conquering self-limiting beliefs and going your own way.

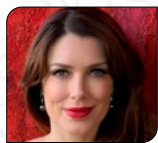
Clinton Fernandes: *Turbulence: Australian Foreign Policy in the Trump Era*

In Conversation with Ellen Fanning
4–5pm, Sunday 12 October,
Pleasuredome

One of our most penetrating political analysts, Clinton Fernandes, is here to help us make sense of our current bewildering moment in history. Laying out the seismic geopolitical shifts occurring globally and distilling the logic behind the spectacle of Trumpian politics, Fernandes provides indispensable insight into the new world order and Australia's place in it.

Supported By 612 ABC Radio Brisbane

Tara Moss: *The Italian Secret*



Tara Moss

In Conversation with Jessica Rudd
4–5pm, Sunday
12 October,
Underground Theatre

Bestselling author and award-winning human rights activist Tara Moss is back—and so is her beloved fictional heroine, the ever stylish and sassy private investigator Billie Walker. *The Italian Secret*, the spellbinding third mystery novel featuring Moss' glamorous 1940s gumshoe, follows Billie from Sydney to Naples as she sets out to crack her most personal case yet.

Place as Story-Holder and Story-Teller

Nardi Simpson, Anita Heiss, Fiona Foley. Chair: Sharlene Allsopp
4–5pm, Sunday 12 October, Fairfax Studio
These writers explore the agency of place/Country in meaningful and diverse

ways. How do these writers respect that agency in their recent works? How did writing these stories change them?

Curated by Sharlene Allsopp

Turia Pitt: *Selfish*



Turia Pitt

In Conversation with Rebecca Sparrow
5:30–6:30pm,
Sunday 12 October,
Powerhouse Theatre

The phenomenal Turia Pitt has written several books examining

the nature of happiness and resilience through the lens of her extraordinary personal story. In *Selfish*, she takes an unorthodox look at a familiar subject, questioning the wisdom of putting others first at the expense of oneself, and asking if we might better help those around us by putting our oxygen mask on first.

Steve Vizard: *Nation, Memory, Myth*



Steve Vizard

In Conversation with Michael Ondaatje
5:30–6:30pm,
Sunday 12 October,
Pleasuredome

Consummate multihyphenate Steve Vizard takes on the

kernel of Australian identity in this original and gripping investigation of the ANZAC myth. Situating the Gallipoli mythology in the greater scheme of national myths, Vizard delivers fascinating insights into the potency and ambivalence of the stories we tell ourselves.

Fact as Fiction

Toni Jordan (*Tenderfoot*), Kimberley Freeman (*The Secret Year of Zara Holt*), Laura Elvery (*Nightingale*), Lenora Thaker (*The Pearl of Tagai Town*). Chair: Melanie Myers

5:30–6:30pm, Sunday 12 October,
Underground Theatre



Toni Jordan



Kimberley Freeman

The stories of women defying the expectations of their times animate these wonderful historical novels, which venture from the verdant English countryside to the glittering waters of the Torres Strait by way of the elusive mystery of Australia's disappearing Prime Minister. Rendering the remarkable

inner lives of their central characters, these books exemplify the delicate art of breathing new life into history.

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Suspense!



Sam Guthrie

Sam Guthrie (*The Peak*), Zeynab Gamielien (*Learned Behaviours*), Joanna Jenkins (*The Bluff*), Toby Schmitz (*The Empress Murders*). Chair: Sally Piper

5:30–6:30pm, Sunday

12 October, Fairfax Studio

We all love to curl up on the couch with a good book; these ones will have you on the edge of your seat. Whether it's a police procedural, international politics or a bird's eye view of buried mysteries, these writers will keep you up to an ungodly hour, wondering who did it and why.

Queersland! Salon

Steve MinOn, James Lees, Kris Kneen, nor, Stephanie Dogfoot, Ruth Gardner.

7–8pm, Sunday 12 October,
Pleasuredome



Steve MinOn



Ruth Gardner

Let me hear you say 'Yass Queen(sland)' for this fabulous salon, featuring our fiercest, finest authors reading their contributions to the *Queersland* anthology. But wait – there's more! This session also includes two honorary Queerslanders (visiting from Singapore), nor and Stephanie Dogfoot. Yass!

Where to From Here?

David McWilliams (*Money*), Sophie Gilbert (*Girl on Girl*), Clinton Fernandes (*Turbulence*), Richard King (*Brave New Wild*). Chair: Carody Culver

7–8pm, Sunday 12 October,
Underground Theatre

If capitalism and cultural pressure points don't kill us, then climate change or a nuclear winter might well finish the job. These brilliant writers unite the fields of economics, environmentalism, popular culture and geopolitics for a panel that thrashes out the absolute state of things, asking how we rise to the manifold challenges of the present.

Supported by the
Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund

Steph Tisdell: *The Skin I'm In*

In conversation with Rhianna Patrick

7–8pm, Sunday 12 October, Fairfax Studio

Actress, screenwriter and proud Yindji woman Steph Tisdell's star is so on the rise, this might be your last chance to see her in this galaxy. She's already a TV mainstay and one of the most recognisable voices in Australian comedy – and with *The Skin I'm In*, Tisdell announces herself as an important new voice in literature, rendering a young woman's coming of age into 'vibrant, fearless, and unpretentious YA fiction' (*Nine Newspaper*).

YA

Astrid Jorgensen: *Average at Best***Astrid Jorgensen**In Conversation
with Jessica Rudd7:30–8:30pm, Sunday 12 October,
Powerhouse Theatre

Raise your voice for the woman behind the Pub Choir® phenomenon. Astrid Jorgensen has brought countless Australians together with her love of music, arranging stirring renditions that have gone viral on social media and delighted millions. In conversation with Jessica Rudd, Jorgensen discusses her creative journey and reveals how she delivers the joy of music – even to those of us who can't hit a note with a stick.

Supported by The University of Queensland




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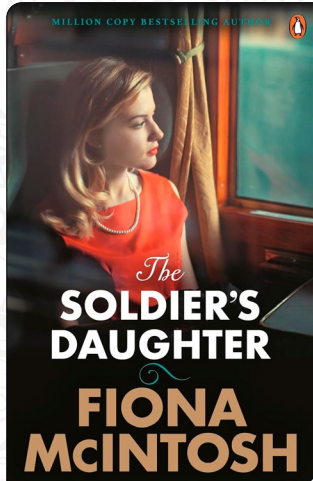
THIS IS BRISBETTER



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Beyond Brisbane

With the support of City of Moreton Bay, BWF is thrilled to facilitate the following author talks beyond Brisbane. There will be signings and light refreshments after each of the below sessions. Bookings are free and are managed through the host libraries. Please see session details at the relevant booking link.



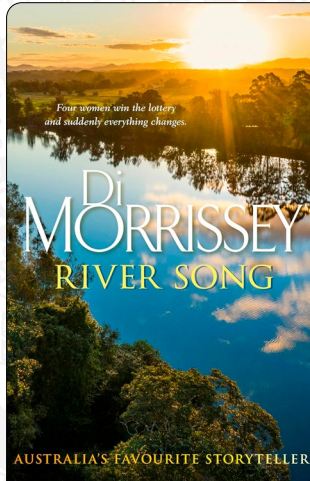
Fiona McIntosh: *The Soldier's Daughter*

6:30–7:30pm, Thursday 9 October,
North Lakes Library

Tickets: mbrc.link/BWF25-moretonbay |
(07) 3480 9900

Known for her compelling storytelling and richly drawn characters, Fiona will discuss the journey of Violet Nash, who grows up amidst her father Charlie's shattered dreams after his return from the battlefields of WWI. As they seek a new beginning in Tasmania, Violet discovers her talent for whisky distilling, but the shadows of war and secrets from the past threaten their future. As WWII rages, Charlie is drawn back to the battlefields, leaving Violet to fight for his legacy.

2025 marks a quarter-century of Fiona McIntosh's published works. Spanning genre, history and borders, Fiona has firmly established herself as a master storyteller across the 46 titles she has to her name. Fiona will also touch on her incredible career and her globetrotting research along with the hilarious anecdotes she has gathered along the way.

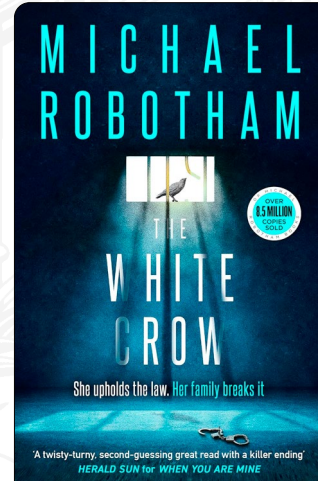


Di Morrissey: *River Song*

10:30–11:30am, Sunday 12 October,
Redcliffe Library

Tickets: mbrc.link/BWF25-moretonbay |
(07) 3883 5745

Few Australian authors adorn as many bedside tables as Di Morrissey, who for decades has captivated readers with her epics of love, loss and landscape. The 30th novel from a master storyteller, *River Song* is an indelible story about the ripples sent through small town life by the arrival of a mysterious visitor – a jewel of a novel by a national treasure.

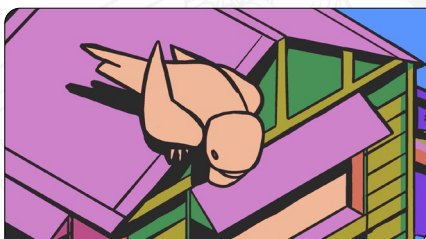


Michael Robotham: *The White Crow*

12:30–1:30pm, Sunday 12 October,
Redcliffe Library

Tickets: mbrc.link/BWF25-moretonbay |
(07) 3883 5745

Master of mystery Michael Robotham returns with another gritty blend of police procedural and psychological thriller featuring intrepid constable Philomena McCarthy. Investigating the link between a series of crimes, McCarthy is confronted with the ties that bind when all the evidence points to her mob boss father.



Thursday 9 October

TIME	Powerhouse Theatre	Pleasuredome	Underground Theatre	Fairfax Studio
9:30am–10:00am	Lili Wilkinson: <i>Bravepaw</i> Primary			Sophie Beer: <i>Thunderhead</i> Lower Secondary
10:00am–10:30am		Isobelle Carmody: <i>Comes the Night</i> Upper Secondary	The Writing Group as a Place of Joy: Darby Jones, Haylee Escalante, Dakota Feirer. (c) Sharlene Allsopp	
10:30am–11:00am				
11:00am–11:30am				Gabriel Bergmoser: <i>How I Learned to Write Books I Actually Like</i> Lower Secondary
11:30am–12:00pm	Craig Silvey: <i>Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping</i> Primary	Steph Tisdell: <i>The Skin I'm In</i> Upper Secondary	Raina MacIntyre: <i>Dark Winter & Vaccine Nation</i> . (c) Fiona McMillan-Webster	
12:00pm–12:30pm				
12:30pm–1:00pm				Maxine Beneba Clarke: <i>Poetry that Punches</i> Lower Secondary
1:00pm–1:30pm		Amie Kaufman: <i>Everyday Magic</i> Upper Secondary	Human/Nature: Darryl Jones, Jessica White. (c) Amanda Niehaus	
1:30pm–2:00pm	Andy Griffiths: <i>Return to the Treehouse</i> Primary			
2:00pm–2:30pm				
2:30pm–3:00pm		Big Concepts for Little People: Jasmin McGaughey, Sophie Beer, Lara Cain Gray. (c) Megan Daley	Businesses Behaving Badly: Quentin Beresford, Bryan Horrigan. (c) Ian Kemish	Faber Anthology Launch: Emily O'Grady, Pip Smith, Faber Students
3:00pm–3:30pm				
3:30pm–4:00pm	2025 First Word Keynote: Anita Heiss. Also with Sharlene Allsopp, Jillian Bowie, Theophilus Kwek and Jackie Ryan.			
4:00pm–4:30pm		Tony Wellington: <i>Mixtapes and MTV</i> . (c) John Tague	Phil Brown: <i>Confessions of a Minor Poet</i> (c) Sean Sennett	
4:30pm–5:00pm				Microfiction Readings & Awards Ceremony
5:00pm–5:30pm				
5:30pm–6:00pm	Hollywood in Hindsight: Griffin Dunne, Ione Skye. (c) Carody Culver	Cam Wilson and Ariel Bogle: <i>Conspiracy Nation</i> . (c) Ian Kemish	Pigs & Punks: John Willsteed & Andrew Stafford. (c) Noel Mengel	Homegrown Mysteries (YA): Isobelle Carmody, Jasmin McGaughey, Carla Salmon. (c) Jane Sullivan
6:00pm–6:30pm				
6:30pm–7:00pm				
7:00pm–7:30pm		Siang Lu on his Miles Franklin Win. (c) Steve MinOn	Lloyd Rees and the Architects: Ross Wilson, Laura Patterson, Malcolm Middleton. (c) Louise Martin-Chew	The Poetic Observer: Jonathan Chan, David Stavanger, Nathan Shepherdson, Theophilus Kwek. (c) Pascale Burton
7:30pm–8:00pm	Romantasy Allstars: Helen Scheuerer, Sarah A Parker, Jaymin Eve, Stacey McEwan. Contributing Chair: Vanessa Len			
8:00pm–8:30pm				
8:30pm–9:00pm		Jane Caro: <i>Lyrebird</i> . (c) Jessica Rudd	Anita Heiss: <i>Living Legend</i> . (c) Nicole Abadee	Dark Imaginings: Helen Marshall, Kathleen Jennings, A Rushby, Wen-yi Lee. (c) Gary Budden
9:00pm–9:30pm				

Friday 10 October

TIME	Powerhouse Theatre	Pleasuredome	Underground Theatre	Fairfax Studio
9:30am–10:00am	Michelle Bridges: <i>The Perimenopause Method</i> . (c) Katherine Feeney			
10:00am–10:30am		Craig Silvey: <i>Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping</i> Primary	Lili Wilkinson: <i>The Power of Fantasy</i> Upper Secondary	Sophie Beer: <i>Thunderhead</i> Lower Secondary
10:30am–11:00am				
11:00am–11:30am				
11:30am–12:00pm	Garth Nix: <i>Making Up Stories from Your Own Life</i> Primary	Maggie Jackson: <i>Uncertain</i> . (c) Christine Jackman	Isobelle Carmody: <i>Comes the Night</i> Upper Secondary	Maxine Beneba Clarke: <i>Poetry that Punches</i> Lower Secondary
12:00pm–12:30pm				
12:30pm–1:00pm				
1:00pm–1:30pm			Amie Kaufman: <i>Everyday Magic</i> Upper Secondary	Gabriel Bergmoser: <i>How I Learned to Write Books I Actually Like</i> Lower Secondary
1:30pm–2:00pm	Andy Griffiths & Bill Hope: <i>You & Me and the Peanut Butter Beast</i> Primary			
2:00pm–2:30pm				
2:30pm–3:00pm		Sarah Napthali: <i>My Year of Psychedelics</i> . (c) Kris Kneen	What Lurks in the Dark (YA): Lili Wilkinson, Garth Nix, Wen-yi Lee, Vanessa Len. (c) Joanne Anderton	So Funny It Hurts: Patrick Lenton, Alice Fraser, Daniel Nour, Jack Hutchinson. (c) Siang Lu
3:00pm–3:30pm				
3:30pm–4:00pm	Fiona McIntosh: <i>The Soldier's Daughter</i> + Career Overview. Solo Presentation.			
4:00pm–4:30pm		Ione Skye: <i>Say Everything</i> . (c) Kellie Lloyd	Mark Brandt: <i>Eden</i> . (c) Mirandi Riwoe	Poetry Salon: Madeleine Dale, Cheryl Leavy, Maxine Beneba Clarke, David Stavanger, Laura Jane Lee, Jonathan Chan, Chim Sher Ting. Host: Jarad Bruinstroop
4:30pm–5:00pm				
5:00pm–5:30pm				
5:30pm–6:00pm	Andy Griffiths & Bill Hope: <i>You & Me and the Peanut Butter Beast</i> Families	Comedy Salon: So Bad It's Good. Siang Lu, Steph Tisdell, Garth Nix, David McWilliams, Benjamin Stevenson, Alice Fraser, Leon Filewood, Patrick Lenton. (c) Kris Kneen	Andrew Denton and Julian Kingma: <i>The Power of Choice</i> . (c) Andrew Stafford	Tributes & Collections: Angela Savage, Amy McQuire, Jasmin McGaughey, Stephanie Dogfoot. Contributing Chair: Terri-ann White
6:00pm–6:30pm				
6:30pm–7:00pm				
7:00pm–7:30pm		If You're Listening with Matt Bevan	Nailbiters: Fiona McIntosh, Gabriel Bergmoser, Sam Guthrie, Zahid Gamieldeen. (c) Ian Kemish	Blurred Lines: An Interplay of Identities. Shokoofeh Azar, Micaela Sahhar, nor, Lenora Thaker. Contributing Chair: Cheryl Leavy
7:30pm–8:00pm	Love in Unexpected Places (YA): Lynette Noni, Amie Kaufman. (c) Alex Adsett			
8:00pm–8:30pm				
8:30pm–9:00pm		John Wayne Parr & Jarrod Boyle: <i>The Fighter: The Legendary Life of an Australian Champion</i> . (c) Steve Austin	Benjamin Stevenson: <i>Everyone in This Bank Is a Thief</i> . (c) Ron Serdiuk	Desire: Steve MinOn, Patrick Lenton, Helen Scheuerer. (c) Sarah Klenbort
9:00pm–9:30pm				

Saturday 11 October

TIME	Powerhouse Theatre	Pleasuredome	Underground Theatre	Fairfax Studio
9:30am–10:00am	Anne Summers: <i>Damned Whores and God's Police</i> (50th Anniversary). (c) Suzy Freeman-Greene			
10:00am–10:30am		Kingdoms & Quests: Garth Nix & Fiona McIntosh. (c) Kathleen Jennings	Heather Rose: <i>A Great Act of Love</i> . (c) Kate Evans	Lyrical Lives: Nardi Simpson, Indyana Schneider, Joanna Horton. (c) Darby Jones
10:30am–11:00am				
11:00am–11:30am				
11:30am–12:00pm	Helen Garner: <i>A Life in Letters</i> . (c) Sarah Kanowski	Sheila Fitzpatrick: <i>The Death of Stalin</i> . (c) Michael Ondaatje	The Language of War: Debra Dank, Abbas El-Zein, Micaela Sahhar, Chim Sher Ting. (c) Amber Gwynne	Indigenous Futurisms: Allannah Hunt, Mykaela Saunders, John Morrissey. (c) Sharlene Allsopp
12:00pm–12:30pm				
12:30pm–1:00pm				
1:00pm–1:30pm		Di Morrissey: <i>River Song</i> . (c) Angela Savage	Miss-behaving: Meg Bignell, Naima Brown, Sara Foster, Suzanne Do. (c) Sita Walker	<i>Here Be Monsters: Griffith Review 89</i> . Jumaana Abdu, Yumna Kassab and Richard King. (c) Carody Culver
1:30pm–2:00pm	Bettany Hughes: <i>The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World</i> . (c) Kate Evans			
2:00pm–2:30pm				
2:30pm–3:00pm		Jana Wendt: <i>The Far Side of the Moon and Other Stories</i> . (c) Marie-Louise Theile	Through a Glass, Darkly: Lucinda 'Froomes' Price, Abbas El-Zein, Anna Broinowski, Daniel Nour. (c) Ashley Hay	Family Secrets: Eric Puchner, Shokoofeh Azar, Charlotte McConaghy. (c) Kristina Olsson
3:00pm–3:30pm				
3:30pm–4:00pm	David McWilliams: <i>Money</i> . (c) Richard King			
4:00pm–4:30pm		Holly Wainwright: <i>He Would Never</i> . (c) Frances Whiting.	Blak to the Future: Leon Filewood, Rita Pryce, Gabriel Bani, Rochelle Pitt-Watson. (c) Jillian Bowie	Winners, Losers, Lovers and Schmoozers: Melanie Saward, Indyana Schneider, Lauren Ford. (c) Claire Christian
4:30pm–5:00pm				
5:00pm–5:30pm				
5:30pm–6:00pm	Sally Hepworth: <i>Mad Mabel</i> . (c) Frances Whiting	Tinkering with the Doomsday Clock: Darryl Jones, Joshua Gilbert, Richard King. (c) Liz Minchin	Eric Puchner: <i>Dream State</i> . (c) Kate Evans	Great Expectations: Clare Stephens, Anna Broinowski, Lucy Nelson, Laura Jane Lee. (c) Christine Jackman
6:00pm–6:30pm				
6:30pm–7:00pm				
7:00pm–7:30pm		Bob Brown: <i>Defiance</i> . (c) Ashley Hay	Debra Oswald: <i>One Hundred Years of Betty</i> . (c) Jane Sullivan	Pitch Blak: From Page to Stage. Leon Filewood and Rita Pryce. (c) Jillian Bowie
7:30pm–8:00pm	Callie Hart: <i>Quicksilver</i> . (c) Lynette Noni			
8:00pm–8:30pm				
8:30pm–9:00pm		Michael Robotham: <i>The White Crow</i> . (c) Steve Austin	Charlotte Wood: <i>The Natural Way of Things</i> . 10th Anniversary Conversation and Salon with Charlotte Wood, Laura McCluskey, Toby Schmitz. (c) Kristina Olsson	Messy Patches: Naima Brown, Kimberley Allsopp, Clare Stephens, Suzanne Do. (c) Mirandi Riwoe
9:00pm–9:30pm				

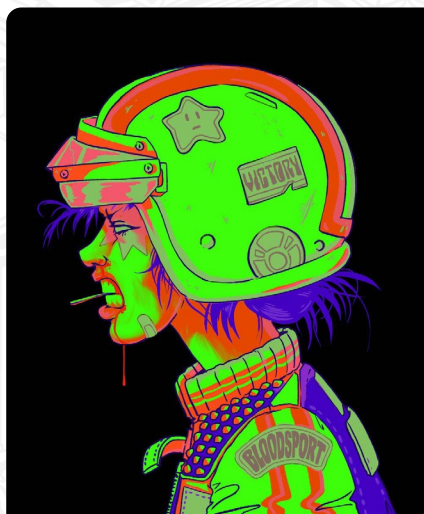
Sunday 12 October

SUNDAY 12 Oct	Powerhouse Theatre	Pleasuredome	Underground Theatre	Fairfax Studio
9:30am–10:00am	Trent Dalton: <i>Gravity Let Me Go</i> . (c) Kimberley Allsopp			
10:00am–10:30am		Kate Reid: <i>To Lune from Destination Moon</i> . (c) Alison Kubler	Vicki Hastrich: <i>The Last Days of Zane Grey</i> . (c) Charlotte Wood	Splendid Isolations: Charlotte McConaghy, Jumaana Abdu, Patrick Holland, Laura McCluskey. (c) Alex Philp
10:30am–11:00am				
11:00am–11:30am				
11:30am–12:00pm	Griffin Dunne: <i>The Friday Afternoon Club</i> . (c) Frances Whiting	Against Type: Lucinda 'Froomies' Price, Meg Bignell, Yumna Kassab, Lucy Nelson. (c) Jane Sullivan	Lauren Samuelsson: <i>A Matter of Taste: The Australian Women's Weekly and Its Influence on Food Culture</i> . (c) Kelly Higgins-Devine	Joshua Gilbert: <i>Australia's Agricultural Identity</i> . (c) Ashley Hay
12:00pm–12:30pm				
12:30pm–1:00pm				
1:00pm–1:30pm		Helen Goh: <i>Baking and the Meaning of Life</i> . (c) Sarah Kanowski	Cop Shop: Sara Foster, Zahid Gamielien, Laura McCluskey, Angie Faye Martin. (c) Ron Serdiuk	Campfire: Gabriel Bani and Rochelle Pitt-Watson. (c) Jillian Bowie
1:30pm–2:00pm	Helen Garner and Brandon Jack Talk Footy (c) Ashley Hay			
2:00pm–2:30pm				
2:30pm–3:00pm		Sophie Gilbert: <i>Girl on Girl</i> . (c) Carody Culver	The Bookshelf: ABC Radio National. Toni Jordan, Eric Puchner, Zeynab Gamielien, Patrick Holland. (c) Kate Evans & Cassie McCullagh	Shoulder Check: Toby Schmitz, Martine Kropkowski, John Morrissey, January Gilchrist. (c) Cass Moriarty
3:00pm–3:30pm				
3:30pm–4:00pm	Melissa Leong: <i>Guts</i> . (c) Becca Wang			
4:00pm–4:30pm		Clinton Fernandes: <i>Turbulence: Australian Foreign Policy in the Trump Era</i> . (c) Ellen Fanning	Tara Moss: <i>The Italian Secret</i> . (c) Jessica Rudd	Place as Story-Holder and Story-Teller: Nardi Simpson, Anita Heiss, Fiona Foley. (c) Sharlene Allsopp
4:30pm–5:00pm				
5:00pm–5:30pm				
5:30pm–6:00pm	Turia Pitt: <i>Selfish</i> . (c) Rebecca Sparrow	Steve Vizard: <i>Nation, Memory, Myth</i> . (c) Michael Ondaatje	Fact as Fiction: Toni Jordan, Kimberley Freeman, Laura Elvery, Lenora Thaker. (c) Melanie Myers	Suspense! Sam Guthrie, Zeynab Gamielien, Joanna Jenkins, Toby Schmitz. (c) Sally Piper
6:00pm–6:30pm				
6:30pm–7:00pm				
7:00pm–7:30pm		Queersland! Salon: Steve MinOn, Kris Kneen, James Lees, nor, Stephanie Dogfoot, Ruth Gardner.	Where to From Here? David McWilliams, Sophie Gilbert, Clinton Fernandes, Richard King. (c) Carody Culver	Steph Tisdell: <i>The Skin I'm In</i> . (c) Rhianna Patrick (YA program)
7:30pm–8:00pm	Astrid Jorgensen: <i>Average at Best</i> . (c) Jessica Rudd			
8:00pm–8:30pm				

Phoebe Paradise | Cover Artist



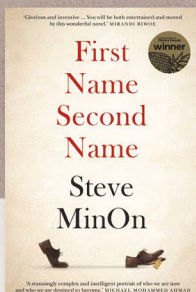
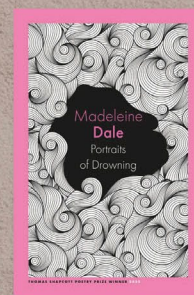
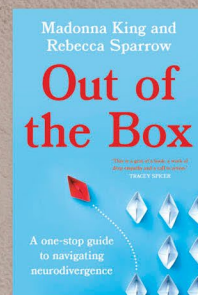
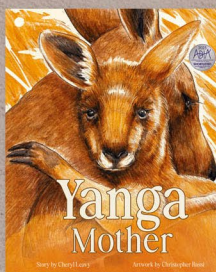
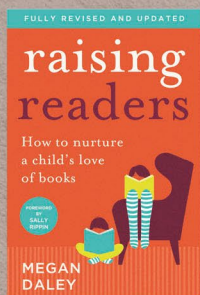
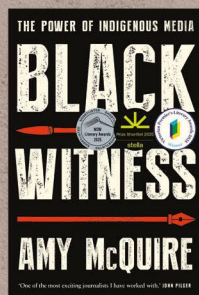
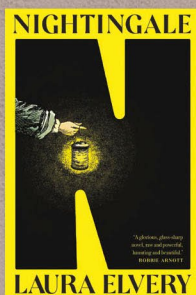
Phoebe Paradise is visual artist and musician proudly based in Meanjin/ Brisbane who's known for her illustrations, public art installations and commercial practice. Phoebe's contemporary artistic practice delves into the everyday poetics of her hometown's diverse identities, employing aesthetics that blend gothic



sublimity with Sunshine State popmism. Recently, she has focused on exploring fantastical depictions of Brisbane's iconic suburban architecture as a means of recounting its many oral histories, including her own. Often camp and dripping with nostalgia, Phoebe's body of work is hyper-niche yet elicits a universal



sense of belonging that has captured the imagination of her broad audience. Since early 2024, Phoebe has operated as the Director of Merivale Studios, an artist studio and gallery in the heart of South Brisbane's Fish Lane Arts Precinct. Her diverse portfolio can be viewed at www.phoebeparadise.com.au.



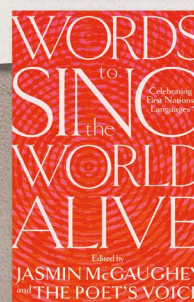
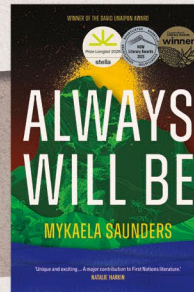
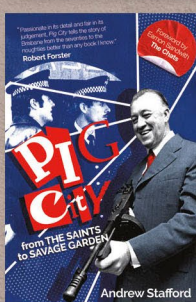
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Out-of-Season Events

Liane Moriarty: *Here One Moment*

In conversation with Frances Whiting
Thursday 5 September, 2024



Tim Winton: *Juice*

In conversation with Sarah Kanowski
Tuesday 15 October, 2024

Darren Hayes: *Unlovable*

In conversation with Yumi Stynes
Saturday 16 November, 2024



Patrick Ness

In conversation with Dave Lowe
Monday 18 November, 2024

Geraldine Brooks: *Memorial Days*

In conversation with Susan Johnson
Tuesday 25 February, 2025



A special thank you to everyone who attended our out-of-season events between the 2024 Festival and the 2025 Program Launch! For more exciting out-of-season events before and after the 2025 festival, make sure you're subscribed to our newsletter at bwf.org.au/subscribe and that you're following our social media.



Kaliane Bradley:
The Ministry of Time

In conversation with Helen Marshall
Tuesday 13 May, 2025

Alan Hollinghurst:
Our Evenings
In conversation with Carody Culver
Tuesday 20 May, 2025



Ian Rankin: *Midnight and Blue*
In conversation with Ron Serdiuk
Tuesday 20 May, 2025



Lauren Roberts:
The Powerless Trilogy
In conversation with Vanessa Len
Tuesday 24 Jun, 2025



Esther Freud:
My Sister and Other Lovers
In conversation with Carody Culver
Wednesday 6 August, 2025



Brisbane Writers Festival Team



**Brisbane
Writers
Festival**

BWF thanks its amazing and dedicated volunteers,
who make the festival happen each year.

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The BWF Endurance Award, instigated under the reign of Jackie Ryan (2023–) and mentally bestowed each year to the longest suffering external staffer or contractor to work with the festival, goes to **Gemma Chisholm** at Brisbane Powerhouse. She joins **Michael Evans** (winner 2023 & 2024) in embodying the true meaning of the phrase 'suffering for art'.

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Brisbane Writers Festival acknowledges the generous support of our donors, with special thanks to the Taylor family.

We are a non-for-profit organisation and rely on the generosity of donors and partners to support our aim of bringing stories to life in Queensland communities.

Brisbane Writers Festival is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.



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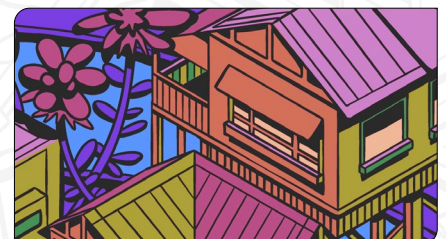
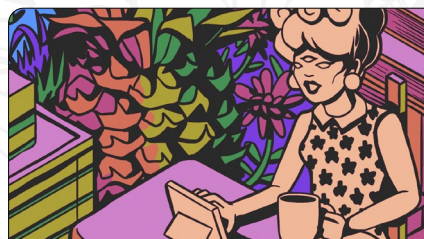
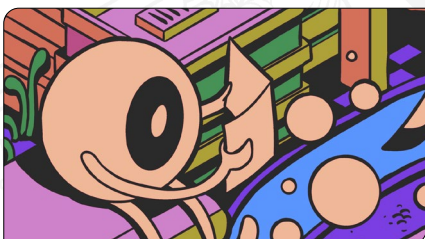
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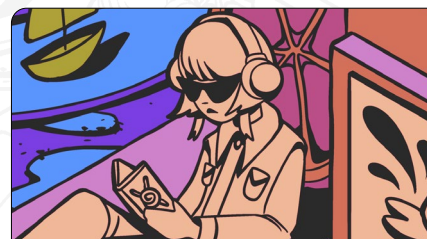
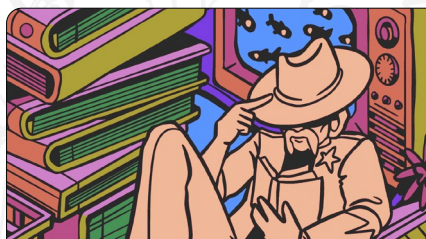
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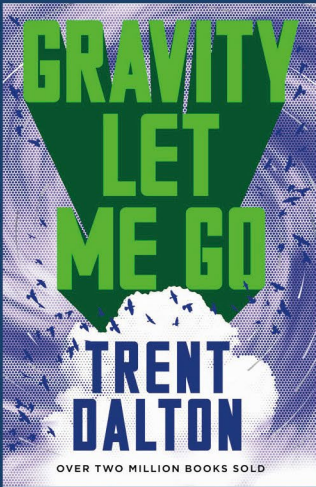
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TRENT DALTON - GRAVITY LET ME GO

In Conversation with Kimberley Allsopp



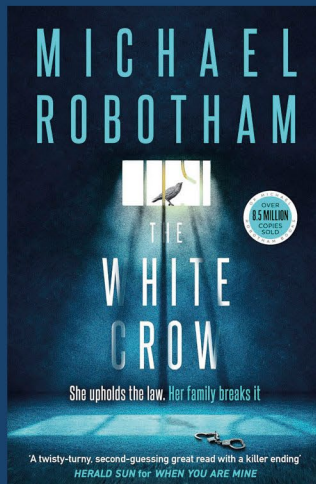
9:30am, Sunday 12 October
Powerhouse Theatre

Dark, gritty, hilarious and unexpected, *Gravity Let Me Go* is Trent Dalton's deeply personal exploration of marriage and ambition, truth-telling and truth-omitting, self-deception and self-preservation. It's a novel about the stories we want to tell the world and those we shouldn't, and how the stories we keep locked away are so often the stories that come to define us.

Image Credit: David Kelly



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MICHAEL ROBOTHAM - THE WHITE CROW

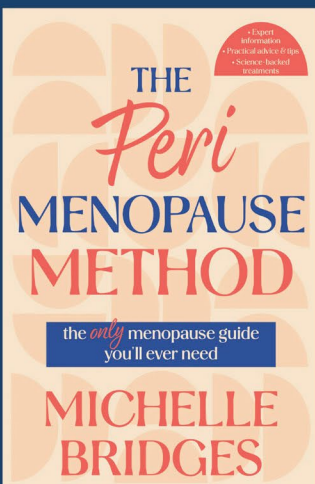
In Conversation with Steve Austin



8:30pm, Saturday 11 October
Pleasuredome

Before becoming a novelist, Michael Robotham was a feature writer and investigative reporter working in Britain, Australia and America, and with clinical and forensic psychologists as they helped police investigate complex, psychologically driven crimes.

The White Crow is the second book in his Philomena McCarthy series, following on from the internationally bestselling *When You Are Mine*.



MICHELLE BRIDGES - THE PERIMENOPAUSE METHOD

- In Conversation with Kat Feeney



9:30am, Friday 10 October
Powerhouse Theatre

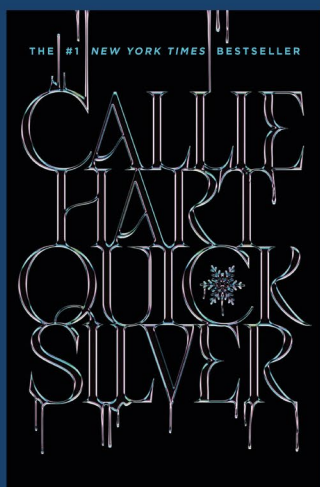
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CALLIE HART - QUICKSILVER

In Conversation with Lynette Noni



7:30pm, Saturday 11 October

Powerhouse Theatre

Callie Hart is the Sunday Times and #1 New York Times bestselling author of the international phenomenon *Quicksilver*, along with many other bestselling dark romance and dark academia titles. A British expat now living in California, Callie can most likely be found sequestered away in the corner of a library, fantasising about exciting new realms and the brooding antiheroes who occupy them.

MISS-BEHAVING PANEL with Meg Bignell, Naima Brown, Sara Foster and Suzanne Do

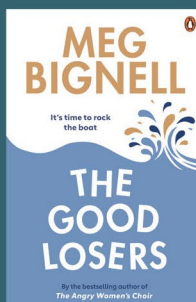
Chaired by Sita Walker

1:00-2:00pm, Saturday 11 October

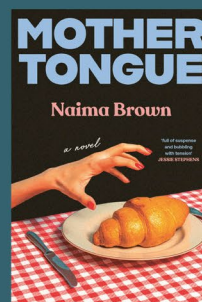
The Underground Theatre

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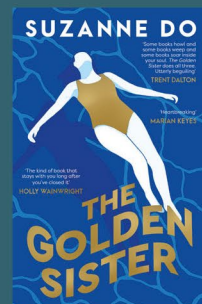
MEG BIGNELL - THE GOOD LOSERS



NAIMA BROWN - MOTHER TONGUE



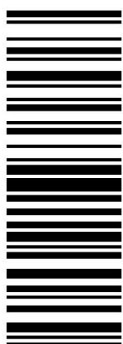
SARA FOSTER - WHEN SHE WAS GONE



SUZANNE DO - THE GOLDEN SISTER



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