



# SCHOOLS PROGRAM



**Brisbane Writers Festival**  
**9–10 October 2025**  
**Brisbane Powerhouse**

Thursday, 9 October 2025

# Timetable

TIME		Powerhouse Theatre		Pleasuredome		Fairfax Studio	
9:30am–10:00am	Lili Wilkinson <i>Bravepaw</i>				Sophie Beer <i>Thunderhead</i>		
10:00am–10:30am				Isobelle Carmody <i>Comes the Night</i>			
10:30am–11:00am							
11:00am–11:30am	Craig Silvey <i>Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping</i>				Gabriel Bergmoser How I Learned to Write Books I Actually Like		
11:30am–12:00pm				Steph Tisdell <i>The Skin I'm In</i>			
12:00pm–12:30pm							
12:30pm–1:00pm	Andy Griffiths Return to the Treehouse				Maxine Beneba Clarke Poetry that Punches		
1:00pm–1:30pm				Amie Kaufman Everyday Magic			
1:30pm–2:00pm							
2:00pm–2:30pm							

LEGEND	Primary	Lower Secondary	Upper Secondary
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# Timetable

Friday, 10 October 2025

TIME		Pleasuredome	Underground Theatre	Fairfax Studio
10:00am–10:30am		Craig Silvey <i>Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping</i>	Lili Wilkinson <i>The Power of Fantasy</i>	Sophie Beer <i>Thunderhead</i>
10:30am–11:00am				
11:00am–11:30am		Powerhouse Theatre		
11:30am–12:00pm		Garth Nix <i>Making Up Stories From Your Own Life</i>	Isobelle Carmody <i>Comes the Night</i>	Maxine Beneba Clarke <i>Poetry that Punches</i>
12:00pm–12:30pm				
12:30pm–1:00pm				
1:00pm–1:30pm			Amie Kaufman <i>Everyday Magic</i>	Gabriel Bergmoser <i>How I Learned to Write Books I Actually Like</i>
1:30pm–2:00pm		Andy Griffiths & Bill Hope <i>You &amp; Me and the Peanut Butter Beast</i>		
2:00pm–2:30pm				

LEGEND	Primary	Lower Secondary	Upper Secondary
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# Tickets

On sale from 8pm, 14 August 2025

Tickets sell quickly, so book early to secure a place for your students. On the day, please have your tickets ready to present at the door, either printed or on a device.

## Cost

**Student individual tickets:** \$16 per person (+ booking fee)

**Student bundle deal for three sessions:** \$40 per person (+ booking fee)

**Adult tickets:** \$25 per person (+ booking fee)

Schools groups are eligible for one complimentary adult ticket for a teacher or supervisor for every 15 student tickets. For large groups to claim complimentary tickets, book over the phone.

## How to book

Browse the program and book tickets online at **[brisbanepowerhouse.org](https://brisbanepowerhouse.org)**.

If booking over the phone (recommended), call Brisbane Powerhouse Box Office on **07 3358 8600**. For ticketing enquiries email **[boxoffice@brisbanepowerhouse.org](mailto:boxoffice@brisbanepowerhouse.org)**.

**Terms & Conditions:** Brisbane Writers Festival reserves the right to alter the program and artists and cancel sessions where necessary. No refunds or exchanges are possible once bookings are complete and payment received unless BWF has cancelled your session. Program details are correct at the time of printing; for the most up-to-date program details, visit the website.

Book now! **[brisbanepowerhouse.org](https://brisbanepowerhouse.org)**



# Attending

## General information for teachers and parents

### Session formats

Brisbane Writers Festival's schools program presents Australian children's, middle grade and young adult authors in talks tailored to their age group and stage of learning. Students will have the opportunity to engage directly with authors during Q&A, and after the session meet the writers to have their book signed.

### Book signings

Books by presenting authors will be available to purchase at the festival. If students already own any books by the presenting authors, they are also welcome to bring these along to get signed.

### What to bring

Backpacks are allowed in the venue, however we recommend students bring a **smaller bag** if possible. We also highly encourage students to bring a **notebook and pens/pencils** as some sessions involve writing and drawing activities.

### What's for lunch?

There are breaks between sessions for students to have lunch, and they are welcome to bring their own. Food and drink will also be available for purchase from various cafes and vendors on site. New Farm Park or Powerhouse Park are good spots for a break outside.

### Photography

BWF photographers will be on-site throughout the festival. Photos taken may be used in BWF marketing material. The purchase of a ticket implies permission for photos to be used for these purposes.

### Need help?

Look for a volunteer with a yellow BWF lanyard if you need assistance on-site. For further information please visit [bwf.org.au](http://bwf.org.au) or [brisbanepowerhouse.org](http://brisbanepowerhouse.org).

# More events

Don't miss out on the rest of the festival! See suggestions below or explore online for sessions in other parts of the Brisbane Writers Festival program that may be of interest.

## Families Program

Andy Griffiths and Bill Hope will be appearing again at 5:30pm, Friday 10 October 2025 for a session aimed at families.

## YA Program

Panels and in-conversations throughout the festival feature young adult authors, including Isobelle Caromdy, Jasmin McGaughey, Carla Salmon, Lili Wilkinson, Garth Nix, Wen-yi Lee, Vanessa Len, Lynette Noni, Amie Kaufman and Steph Tisdell.

## Regular Program

Some adult programming may be of interest to senior students. Explore the full program at [bwf.org.au](http://bwf.org.au) or [brisbanepowerhouse.org](http://brisbanepowerhouse.org).

## Partners



THE UNIVERSITY  
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POWERHOUSE**



# Primary

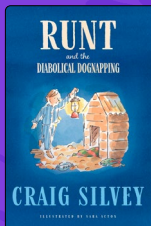
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## **Lili Wilkinson: *Bravepaw***

**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.

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**Craig Silvey**

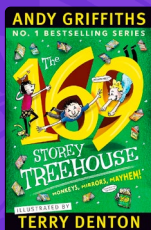
## **Craig Silvey: *Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping***

**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!

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**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.

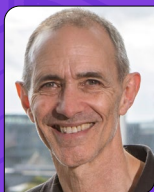
## Garth Nix: Making Up Stories From Your Own Life

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.

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



Andy Griffiths



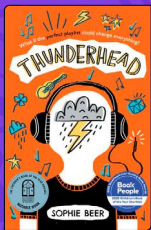
Bill Hope

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, find out what happens when you fall down a hole all the way to the centre of the Earth.

## Lower Secondary

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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.

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## **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.

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**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

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## **Isabelle Carmody: *Comes the Night***

**10–11am, Thursday 9 October, Pleasuredome**

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

At fourteen, 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.

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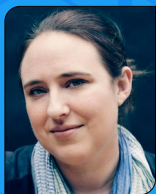


**Steph Tisdell**

## **Steph Tisdell: *The Skin I'm In***

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

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*).



Amie Kaufman

## Amie Kaufman: Everyday Magic

1–2pm, Thursday 9 October, Pleasuredome

1–2pm, Friday 10 October, Underground Theatre

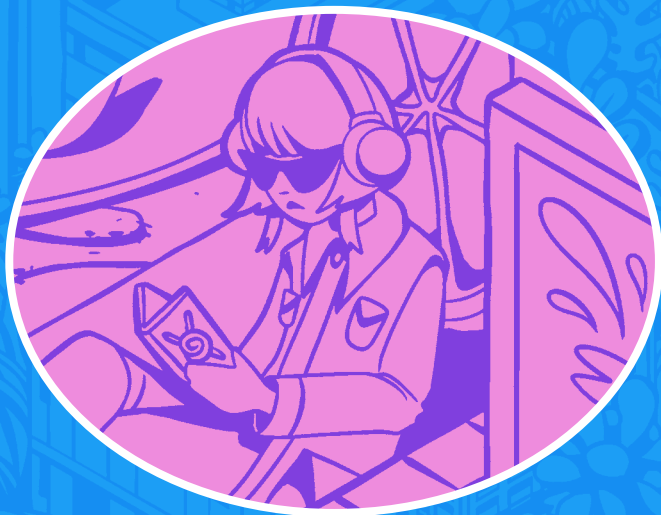
Journey inside a writer's mind with bestselling author Amie Kaufman. Drawing on her experience writing more than 20 science fiction and fantasy novels, Amie will share how she finds the magic in life's everyday details and will teach students to transform the way they see the world around them. They'll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

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## 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](http://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.