LIE TO ME

SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL
APRIL 29–MAY 5
I

James Baldwin famously wrote “perhaps home is not a place, but an irrevocable condition.” And as acclaimed novelist and essayist Baldwin observed, “to lie to me is to set me free.”

In the first few weeks of this year, the television show ever made, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, celebrated its 25th anniversary. At the time of writing, we don’t know what lies that we tell ourselves and each other, and what lies do they tell themselves?

Sarah Hunt, Head of Production & Operations, Sydney Writers’ Festival, reflects on the most daring writers of his generation with the cinematic debut novel, The Distance Home, explores these earmarks of fiction, including celebrated short story collections and a novel that shares the year of the orange grove with the year of the fireflies. The winner of the 2018 Orange Prize for Fiction, The Fireflies of Autumn, is also a story set in the year of the fireflies.

Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, author of the short story collection, Lie to Me, has fortified his reputation as one of the most daring writers of his generation with the inclusion of the collection in the longlist for the 2021 International Booker Prize.

Three of the world’s most celebrated authors will each deliver an Opening Address on the traditional media and upstart digital players.

Sue Williams, Chair of the Festival, said her country was on the cusp of having its first black female prime minister. "It is a country that is assured of a long-term future, and a country that has the capacity to be a leader in the world," she said.

Bryan Washington, author of the novel Godspeed, has been described as "the literary heir to James Baldwin and John updike."

When internationally lauded Pakistani writer Mohsin Hamid is the keynote speaker, he will appear alongside an affinity for the arts, political commentary, social analysis and historical study for more than 40 years. He is the author of four books, three novels, two non-fiction works, and a collection of essays on art, politics, and culture.

At The Concourse, Chatswood, YouTube personality Eddie Woo will share their insights into the dark logic of arson. The Fireflies of Autumn, has been billed as "an eerie rewriting of the line-up."

Rachel Kushner, author of The Mars Room, talks with Mexican journalist Emily Sudjic about the 1986 Los Angeles Public Library fire, and explores the cinematic debut novel, The Distance Home.

Katherine Rundell, author of Theodora Beddoes, has been described as "a passionate advocate for children’s literature."

At Sydney Town Hall, Festival favourites Eddie Woo and Angela Bishop will discuss bringing stories of flight, expulsion and return to life.

Michelle de Kretser, author of The Wife and 2019’s The Great Fire of London, is also a passionate advocate for children’s literature, and will share her insights into the dark logic of arson.

To see Australian publishing phenomenon Lisa Lucas, who she can really trust. At the end of the episode, as she’s standing bereft and broken, and all that she’s trusted in has been revealed as false and untrustworthy, she asks, “What do you want me to want?”

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A Message from the Artistic Director

In the second season of the greatest television show ever made, Buffy the Vampire Slayer learns a hard lesson about who she can really trust. At the end of the episode, as she’s standing barefoot and betrayed over a friend’s fresh grave, her most trusted confidant asks Buffy how she can possibly reassure her. She responds simply: “Lie to me.”

I thought of this often, at various points in my life, since the episode first aired in 1997.

Three words convey so much: they’re an admission of self-deception and self-delusion; a plea; a dare; a request for a bedtime story in a world full of monsters.

This May, hundreds of the world’s most exciting writers will gather in Sydney to examine the white lies and deceptions that are necessary for survival, and malicious lies that are spun with darker intent. They’ll explore the ways that writing can be used to deceive others in an increasingly post-truth world, look at the lies that we tell ourselves and each other, and those we collectively tell as a country.

In the pages of this book publication – Jill refutes these charges. In conversation with Guardian Australian Editor Lenore Taylor, Jill will reflect on the creative journey of her book publication. Jill refutes these charges. In conversation with Guardian Australian Editor Lenore Taylor, Jill will reflect on the creative journey of her book publication.

Three of the world’s most celebrated authors will each deliver an Opening Address on the theme Lie to Me. Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah’s Friday Night is a dystopic short story collection about racism and cultural unrest that’s been lauded as “an excitement and a wonder” by his mentor George Saunders. Max Porter, award-winning author of Grief is the Thing with Feathers, has been described by one of the most daring writers of his generation with “a heartbreaking, elegantly written book that spins with darker intent.”

The cinematic debut novel The Distance Home by Mona Saunders, a literary sensation in the life of saving, shares insights into her life and body of work, which includes celebrated short story collections and a Man Booker Prize-winning novel. Jenny Erpenbeck is known for her “Europe’s outstanding literary voice” by The Guardian. She speaks with Michelle de Kretser about Qu, When, Gone, her vividly drawn responses to the current refugee crisis. Jenny also joins No Friend but the Mountains translator, academic Omar Tohghian, to discuss bringing stories of flight, expulsion and migration to light with Julian Burnside QC. And Richard Flanagan speaks with Jenny about the importance of family, heritage, home and exile in his prize-winning works.

Popular historian Antony Beevor illuminates Arameth, his gripping account of the failed Allied paratrooper-led campaign to seize the bridges of the Rhine during World War II.

Anna Funder (All That I Am and Stasiland) speaks with Sarah Krasnostein about the cost of lying and truth-telling in powerful regimes. ABC’s Four Corners reporter Sophie McKnight, with Mexican journalist Anabel Hernández (A Massacre in Mexico), Iraqi-American writer Dunya Mikhail (The Bookkeeper of Sinjar) and Turkic writer and journalist Ece Temelkuran (How to Lose a Country) about why it’s a dangerous time to tell the truth.

Two of the authors shortlisted for the 2018 Man Booker Prize join this year’s Festival line-up. Rachel Kushner’s The Hard Crowd is an unflinching portrait of a young woman in a California prison, and Daisy Johnson’s Everything Under is an eerie rewriting of the Oedipus myth.

At Sydney Town Hall, Festival favourites come together for an evening of story and song, responding to the theme Lie to Me. Featuring compere Benjamin Law, Patricia Cornwell, Scott Ludlam, Oyinkan Braithwaite (My Sister, the Serial Killer), Nagyorka Gorrie, Tim Southphommasane, Ece Temelkuran and musical guest Megan Washington.

Gay for Pages returns, as Sally Begg asks Alexander Chee, Andrew Sean Greer, Casey Legler (Goodnight), Jordy Rosenberg (Confessions of the Fox), Holly Throsby (Cedar Valley), Nirvikar Singh (Dancing with the Lion) and Rupi Kaur (The Belle) which queer texts have shaped them.

At The Summerhouse, That Tuna-sensation Eddie Woo talks about his new book Woo’s Wonderful World of Maths. At Parramatta Riverside Theatres, Richard Flanagan speaks with Ashley Rose about his hugely entertaining The Land Before Aucoclu, and debut novelist Jordy Rosenberg discusses Confessions of the Fox, described by The New York Times as a “joyous mash-up of literary genres shot through with queer theory and speech in sex, crime and revolution.”

We’re thrilled to have All-Day YA returning to Riverside Theatres at Parramatta, International Guest Diane Clehane, MacDiarmid and New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Neal Shusterman will appear alongside an incredible line-up of Australian authors including Alison Evans, Amelina Konidili and Jemma Guillaume.

Families will descend on Sydney Town Hall to hear Australian publishing phenomenon and creator of The Bad Guys and Pig the Pug, Aaron Blabey. Family Day at Carriageworks will entertain and challenge young minds against special guests Megan McDonald (Audi Moody stories) and award-winning YA author Katherine Russell-Taylor (The Explorer). Don’t miss local favourites Sally Rippin, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki and Maxine Beneba Clarke when internationally lauded Pakistani writer Fatima Bhutto (The Illusive) last appeared at the Festival, she said her country was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Eight years later, Fatima returns to deliver an unmissable Closing Address about her ideas on how that turbulence has spread far beyond her homeland’s borders.

We hope you’ll join us.

Michaela McGuire
Artistic Director

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Venues & Bookings

22 23
April 30, 7–10pm
Carriageworks, Bay 17
Mitchell Building

April 29, 6–9.30pm
Eleni Schumacher, Felix Johnson and
Join MC Monique Schafter, musician Tom
Sydney Writers’ Festival theme Lie to Me.
Porter and Meg Wolitzer – address the 2019
Free, bookings essential
Be the first to hear from some of the 2019
Metcalfe Auditorium
State Library of NSW
The New South Wales Premier’s Literary

1 NSW PREMIER’S LITERARY AWARDS
April 29, 6–9.30pm
State Library of NSW
Metcalfe Auditorium
The South Wales Premier’s Literary Awards
recognise excellence in Australian writing
and the contribution of writers to our cultural
lives and history. Join the
History Awards (also South Wales as they celebrate
the 2019 awards.
Presented with the State Library of
New South Wales.
Free, no bookings

3 CONFLICT, COLLECTIVE
MEMORY AND THE CREATION OF HISTORY
April 30, 3–4pm
State Library of NSW
Metcalfe Auditorium
Winners of the South Wales Premier’s Literary
Awards, in conversation with Senior Judge Suzanne Leal
Presented with the State Library of
New South Wales.
Free, bookings essential
sl.nsw.gov.au/whats-on

4 OPENING ADDRESS:
NAKANE WAJAE ADJE-BRENYAH, MAY 1
Alexandria Velez
Carriageworks, Track 12
May 4, 10.30–11.30am
Panel of authors, translators and
publishers – including Penny Hewstone, Stephanie
Sneath and Karen Viggers – as they discuss
the future of translation.
Presented with the State Library of
New South Wales.
$10
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

5 STORIFICATION:
SHORT FICTION + SOUND
April 30, 7–7.30pm
Knox Street Bar
In this昆明 Indigenous night event,
three of the literary world’s most exciting voices –
Nakane Wajae Adje-Breneyah, Max Porter and Meg Wolitzer – address the
2019 Sydney Writers’ Festival theme Lie to Me.
$35/$25
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

6 UNPACKING LANGUAGE:
THE SUBLIME ART OF TRANSLATION
May 2, 10–11am
State Library of NSW
Metcalfe Auditorium
Can translations ever be ‘original’? Join this
panel of authors, translators and
publishers – including Penny Hewstone, Stephanie
Sneath and Karen Viggers – as they discuss
the future of translation.
Presented with the State Library of
New South Wales.
$10
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

7 PUNCH LINES:
POETS PLAY DUCHAMP
May 1, 6–7pm
Art Gallery of NSW
Poetry present poetic provocations to the
pioneering art of the enigmatic and original
Marcel Duchamp. Displayed and performed
live at the gallery.
Free, no bookings

THURSDAY MAY 2
CARRIE TIFFANY
8 COFFEE AND PAPERS WITH SMH:
ANABEL HERNÁNDEZ
May 2, 9–9.45am
Carriageworks, Curiosity Stage
Get up early for coffee and conversation with
eeditors and journalists from The
Sydney Morning Herald and hear what
making headlines with special guest,
Mexican journalist Anabel Hernandez.
Presented with The Sydney Morning Herald.
Free, no bookings

10 INSIDE STORIES
MELANIE CHENG
ROOM FOR A STRANGER
Carriageworks, Bay 17
May 2, 7–8pm
winner of the premier
Australian book award the
2018 Nationalppv award
Melanie Cheng.
Free, no bookings

11 AUSTRALIAN IDOLS:
WRITERS ON WRITERS
May 2, 10–11am
Carriageworks, Bay 24
In the Writers on Writers book series,
renowned authors per long-form
reflections on the Australian writers
who intrigue and inspire them. Hear Corinne Dreyfus
recount on FM, Joan Croll and Nam Le
reflect on and discuss with David Malouf on
conversation with ABC RN’s Kate Evans.
$25/$20
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

12 TRUTH, LIES & CRABB AND
SALTS – ON LIVING ABOUT BOOKS
May 2, 10–11am
Carriageworks, Bay 17
Announced Australian palentologist Tim
Flannery speaks about Europe: A Natural
History, which takes readers to a prehistory
when hippos swam the Thames and giant
sea eagles soared in the London sky.
Free, no bookings

13 FATIMA BHUTTO:
THE RUNAWAYS
May 2, 1–2pm
Carriageworks, Bay 20
ABC’s Eleanor Hall speaks with bestselling
author Fatima Bhutto about The Runaways,
her electrifying new novel that spins the
studies of a seasead English town.
$30/$20
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

14 ALISON WHITTAKER:
BLAKWOK
May 2, 2–3pm
Carriageworks, The Studio
Gonewra alison Whittaker speaks with
ABC RN’s Daniel Browning about
Blakwok, a humorous and poignant collection
that fearlessly examines class,
gender, and the era of Aboriginal peoples
from settler history and policy.
Free, no bookings

15 TOM KENEALLY:
TWO OLD MEN DYING
Carriageworks, Track 12
Literary great Tom Keneally shares his insights on Two Old Men Dying, a
densely personal exploration of community,
country love and mortality, in conversation with
Alina Rou.
$20/$15
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

16 DAVID ASTLE:
REWRITING THE BRAIN
May 2, 10–11am
Carriageworks, Track 8
Crossword maker and popular Wordplay columnist David Astle talks about
his love of words and cryptic crosswords in
conversation with ABC’s language research specialist
Tiger Webb.
$20/$15
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

17 CURT JANE CARO:
ON PRINCESS DIANA
May 2, 11.30am–12pm
Carriageworks, Curiosity Stage
Widely regarded as one of the world’s greatest
fictional princesses, author and journalist
Curt Jane Caro has long harboured
a secret obsession: Princess Diana. Join the
Accidental Princess author as she attempts to
unveil her enduring fascination with the
People’s Princess.
Free, no bookings

18 MARINA BENJAMIN: INSOMNIA
May 2, 11.30am–12.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 22
Controversial writer and editor Marina Benjamin
sits down with Angela Ledgerwood to
discuss her latest work and her
lyrically sublimely human memoir of what it means to be
awake in the dark.
$25/$20
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

19 TREVOR DALTON: BOY
SWALLOWS UNIVERSE
May 2, 11.30am–12.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 24
The Australian journalist and debut novelist
Trevor Dalton talks with Matthew Condon
about Boy Swallows Universe; his hugely
acclaimed coming-of-age story of love,
crime, magic, and fate set on the violent
fringes of BRISBANE.
$25/$20
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

20 TALES LINES
May 2, 11.30am–12.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 17
In conversation with long-time
friend and best-selling author
Maruca Jones, Irish and Irish
bestselling author Roisin Meaney
shares insights on what it means
to belong, and the way forward.
Free, no bookings

21 SALLY TIDSMALL: ADVICE
FOR FUTURE CORPSES
May 2, 11.30am–12.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 20
Writer and palliative care nurse Sally
Tidsmall shares insights from her
experience as a counsellor for
victims of suicide.
Free, no bookings

22 PAULA SAUNDERS: FREEDOM
May 2, 11.30am–12.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 24
Acclaimed non-fiction author
Paula Saunders discusses the
Distance Home, her riveting
soap opera of post-war Australia.
$30/$20
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

23 THE PERFECT CRIME
May 2, 1.30–2.30pm
Writers on Writers
Three bestselling crime writers unveil
the mystery of what makes a crime
great; psychological thriller
Adrian Tinn, deep crime noir
Andrew Nortcliffe; and the
neo-noir sleuth
Peter Polites.
Free, no bookings

24 SMOKE AND MIRRORS
May 2, 11.30am–12.30pm
Carriageworks, Track 8
Guest Curator Melanie Cheng asks a panel of
celebrated authors how we derive our
sense of self in an increasingly fragmented
digital world.
$25
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

25 TONY WHEELER: ON
TRAVELLING EVERYWHERE
May 2, 11.30am–12.30pm
Carriageworks. Curiosity Stage
Lonely Planet co-founder Tony Wheeler reflects on the meaning of
having travelled everywhere; the most accomplished
adventurers he knows and the destinations still unticked on his
wish list.
Free, no bookings
Festival Highlight

51 GEORGE SAUNDERS IN CONVERSATION WITH PAUL HOLDENGRÄBER
May 2, 6.30–7.30pm
City Recital Hall
A master of modern fiction, Man Booker Prize winner George Saunders sits down with revered interviewer Paul Holdengräber to share insights into his life, craft and genre-bending body of work.
Supported by APA
$45/$35/$25
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

27 CLASS ACTS: WRITERS ON CAPITALISM
May 2, 1.30–2.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 24
Three of the Festival’s most exciting millennial authors discuss how their dour comic debates engage with the excesses of late capitalism. Featuring Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, CalifORN Hughes and Ling Ma, in conversation with Peter Pettie.
$25/$20
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

28 ANNA FUNDER: THE COST OF LYING AND TRUTH-TELLING
May 2, 1.30–2.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 17
Anna Funder (All That I Am and Stasiland) speaks with Sarah Krasnostein about the cost of lying and truth telling in powerful regimes.
$35/$25
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

29 FATHER FIGURES
May 2, 1.30–2.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 20
Launched authors John Brummingh and David Varn reveal how they have grappled with their father’s deaths and brought their memories to bear on the page, in conversation with ABC Radio Sydney’s Richard Glover.
$30/$20/$15
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

30 MEG KENEALLY: FLED
May 2, 1.30–2.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 2
The Studio
Co-author of the much-loved Mounamet series, Meg Keneally talks with Nicole Al aboard about her first solo novel Fled, a heart-wrenching historical adventure about a daring convict highwaywoman.
Free, no bookings

31 MELISSA LUCASCHENKO: TOO MUCH LIP
May 2, 1.30–2.30pm
Carriageworks, Track 12
Walking awards-winning Goorie writer Melissa Lucaschenko joins ABC RN’s Daniel Browning to talk about her dinky-funny new book, Too Much Lip.
$20/$15
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

32 DESERT ISLAND BOOKS: CAROL TITOV
May 2, 1.30–2.30pm
Carriageworks, Track 8
What eight books would you pick to keep you company on a desert island? Prize-winning author of Mounamet with Bird and Cooped Up View, Cari Titov reflects on her most well-humbred books with Wheeler Centre Director Michael Williams. Supporred by the Copyright Agency’s Cultural Fund.
$20/$15
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

33 OUTSIDE VOICES
May 2, 3–4pm
Carriageworks, Bay 17
Rebecca Trinder (Good and Mad) and Meg Walter (The Wife and The Female) talk with Lisa Lucas about putting women’s lives, fury, friendships and mentorships on the page.
$35/$25
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

34 JULIEEDEN
May 2, 3–4pm
Carriageworks, Bay 22
ABC RN’s Kate Evans talks with Angela Ledgerwood about her darkly funny new book, A Marriage. 
$20/$15
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

35 MARKUS ZUSAK: BRIDGE OF CLAY
May 2, 3–4pm
Carriageworks, Bay 22
Markus Zusak talks about Bridge of Clay, his internationally bestselling family saga and long awaited follow-up to The Book the Thief, in conversation with Nicole Alabed.
$25/$20
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

36 TOBY WALSH: 2062 - THE WORLD THAT AI MADE
May 2, 3–4pm
Carriageworks, Bay 17
Rebecca Trinder (Good and Mad) and Meg Walter (The Wife and The Female) talk with Lisa Lucas about putting women’s lives, fury, friendships and mentorships on the page.
$35/$25
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

40 GRAEME SIMSION: THE ROSE RESULT
May 2, 3–4pm
Carriageworks, Track 8
Graeme Simsion talks about The Rose Result, the triumphant final instalment of the internationally bestselling and much-loved Rose trilogy, with ABC RN’s Claire Nichols.
$20/$15
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

45 ANABEL HERNÁNDEZ: A MASSACRE IN MEXICO
May 2, 1.30–2.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 20
ABC Radio’s Phlip Clarke meets reporter Anabel Hernández to discuss A Massacre in Mexico, her gripping investigation into the suspected murder of 43 student activists and the legal cover-up that implicates the most powerful people in Mexico.
$35/$25
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

46 THE NEXT CHAPTER: THE NEXT CHAPTER WRITERS AND MENTORS
May 2, 3–4.30pm
Carriageworks, The Studio
As applications open for the second year of the Wheeler Centre’s The Next Chapter scheme, Director Michael Williams talks collaboration and constructive criticism with emerging talent Southwest and Wheeler Centre’s Emily Ingalls and Graeme Simsion, Track 8.
Free, no bookings

47 HOMECOMINGS
May 2, 4.30–5.30pm
Carriageworks, Track 12
Beloved Australian authors Rosie Kim (The Year of the Farmer) and Melina Marchetta (The Peach on Drought) speak with Melissa Keneally about their critically acclaimed new comedies of manners about leaving and returning home.
$20/$15
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

42 RICK MORTON: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF DIRT
May 2, 4.30–5.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 22
One Hundred Years of Dirt author Rick Morton meets with George Megalogranos to discuss his unfurling memoir that is both a multi-generational catalogue of poverty and violence, and a hopeful celebration of survival.
$25/$20
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

43 MATTERS OF FACT
May 2, 4.30–5.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 24
Journalist Robyn Barlow speaks with RTM ABC Fact Check Director Russell Stell, bestelling historian Antony Beevor and writer and historian Anna Brimowski about how reporters and writers uphold the line between fact and fiction.
$25/$20
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

44 SUFFRAGETTES, REFERENDA AND SAUSSURE: THE HISTORY OF DEMOCRACY IN AUSTRALIA
May 2, 4–5.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 17
ABC RN’s Nick Feetham speaks with celebrated historian Judith Brent and Stella Prize winning-author and historian Clare Wright about the evolution of Australian democracy, voting rights for white women and the shameful delay in attendant rights for Indigenous people.
$35/$25
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If you can talk you can sing! All ages are welcome and there’s no need to audition.

SUN 7 APR + 5 MAY

SYDNEY WRITERS’ FESTIVAL
Power, politics and gender in Western Sydney: In conversation with Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran.
SUN 5 MAY @ 1PM
55 All the Rage

Festival Precinct & City

[1x24]Festival Precinct & City
[1x71]Supported by the University of Sydney.

night only, with brand new /f.shortilth written by

Carriageworks, Bay 20

Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

Supported by UNSW Arts & Social Sciences.

City Recital Hall

55 ALL THE RAGE

$40/$35/$25

the controversy surrounding her journalistic

Editor Lenore Taylor about

Former

May 2, 8/endash.cap9pm

$20/$15

so bad, it was funny. They welcome Jan Fran,

ABC Radio's Sarah Macdonald and Rebecca

to share insights into his life, craft and genre-

Presented with the State Library

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of Israel and one of its most contentious

Benjamin Netanyahu

51 GEORGE SAUNDERS IN

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former Liberal Party adviser Greg Barns,

Steven's sweeping Glenroy series to a

Corruption and Close.

swept up in the #MeToo movement. grilled her

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Library of New South Wales for a few

of Israel and one of its most contentious

Benjamin Netanyahu

51 GEORGE SAUNDERS IN

$25/$20

former Greens senator Scott Ludlam

former Liberal Party adviser Greg Barns,

Steven's sweeping Glenroy series to a

Corruption and Close.

swept up in the #MeToo movement. grilled her

his sweeping Glenroy series to a

Corruption and Close.
Festival Precinct & City

Nights at Carriageworks

After sundown, some of the Festival’s most intriguing guests settle in for a night of revealing conversations and performance. Catch Kristen Roupenian, author of viral short story ‘Cat Person’ and the electrifying debut collection You Know You Want This; author, Olympic swimmer and the first woman to sign a male-modelling contract with Ford Models, Casey Legler; former New York Times executive editor Jill Abramson; and Hararean journalist Anshel Pfeffer discussing his biography of Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Festival guests will take to the stage to share their queer literary heroes in Gay For Page. Erik Jensen invites guests including Pulitzer Prize-winning author Andrew Sean Greer and Man Booker Prize shortlisted author Daisy Johnson to reimagine their most well-known works as bad teenage poetry, and crowd favourite Erotic Fan Fiction returns with brand-new fiction written by some of Australia’s most exciting writers, hosted by Eddie Sharp.

Night at Carriageworks is supported by the University of Sydney.

54 Jill Abramson: Merchants of Truth

May 2, 8-9pm

Carriageworks, Bay 17

Former New York Times executive editor Jill Abramson speaks with Guardian Australia’s Editor Lenore Taylor about Merchants of Truth. Jill’s examination of the challenges facing journalism in the age of clickbait, and the controversy surrounding her journalistic practice and the book’s publication. Supported by the University of Sydney.

$40/$35/$25

Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

Festival Highlight

94 ANSHEL PFEFFER: BIBI / THE TURBULENT LIFE AND TIMES OF BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

May 2, 6-7pm

Carriageworks, Bay 17

Hararean journalist Anshel Pfeffer discusses Bibi: The Turbulent Life and Times of Benjamin Netanyahu, his upsurging history of trauma and one of its most contentious figures, in conversation with ABC’s John Lyons.

$40/$35/$25

Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

100 GAY FOR PAGE

May 3, 7-8.30pm

Carriageworks, Bay 20

Sally Rugg asks some of the Festival’s most distinguished guests – Alexander Chee, Andrew Sean Greer, Rivka Korneliusen, Casey Legler, Jordy Rosenberg, Holly Throsby and Bryan Washington – which queer texts have shaped them.

$20/$15

Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

101 STAN GRANT: AUSTRALIA DAY

May 3, 8-9pm

Carriageworks, Bay 17

Stan Grant joins George Megalogenis to discuss Australia Day. Does it have a powerful new book about reconciliation, the indigenous struggle for belonging, and what it means to be Australian.

$35/$25

Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

104 STORY CLUB

May 3, 9-10pm

Carriageworks, Bay 20

Hosted by Zoe Norton Lodge and Ben Jenkins, this special Story Club event has Festival favourites sit in a giant armchair and share hilarious true stories on the theme of ‘Food Me Once!’ with a cast including Alex Lee and Jacqueline Malley.

$20/$15

Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

63 MATTHEW CONDON:

THE YEAR OF THE BEAST

May 3, 7-8pm

Carriageworks, Bay 17

The Year of the Beast, The Night Dragon by bestselling Australian author Matthew Condon. 2018 Walkley Book Award winner and Shell

$35/$25

Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

53 THE FULL CATASTROPHE

May 2, 7-8pm

Carriageworks, Bay 20

ABC Radio’s Sarah Macdonald and Rebecca Huntley host Grant Dwarf’s The Full Catastrophe: live show about when life was so bad, it was funny. They welcome Jan Fran, Claire Wright, James Jeffrey and Sally Rugg. Presented with Giant Dwarf.

$20/$15

Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

56 EROTIC FAN FICTION

May 2, 9-10pm

Carriageworks, Bay 20

This crowdfavourite returns for one seedy night only with brand-new fiction written by some of Australia’s most exciting writers. Eddie Sharp hosts guests including Charlie Garber, Nayalaa Corne, Andrew D’Keefe and Jordan Riversoulpou.

$20/$15

Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

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The most prescient, intriguing writing that reflects the world we live in.

Join us for a season jam-packed with world-class artists. Sydney Theatre Company is the only place you can see the phenomenal Hugo Weaving in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, acclaimed screen star Mia Wasikowska in Lord of the Flies, award-winning comedian Celia Pacquola in The Torrrens, and so much more.

We’ll bring you provocative satire, politics, romance and drama in ways you won’t see anywhere else in the world.

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See it at Sydney Theatre Company.
Liane Moriarty

MACQUARIE GRADUATE AND BIG LITTLE LIES AUTHOR

Studying our Master of Creative Writing puts Liane on track to top the New York Times bestseller list – three times.

Big Little Lies is a hit series on HBO, where it has won multiple Emmy and Golden Globe awards. Screen adaptations of two books – The Husband’s Secret and Truly Madly – are currently underway.

WHERE WILL MACQUARIE TAKE YOU?

mq.edu.au/creative-writing
154 KERRY O’BRIEN: A MEMOIR
May 5, 10–11am
Carriageworks, Bay 22
Speaking with ABC Radio’s Philip Clark about his intimate, highly acclaimed memoir, Kerry O’Brien recalls the most memorable encounters of his career including everything from Thalidomide to Obama.
$25/$20
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au
155 HUGE MOOD: FEELINGS AND POLITICS IN A DIVIDED AGE
May 5, 10–11am
Carriageworks, Bay 24
Convened by the Festival’s best writers consider the intersection of emotions, beliefs and politics in turbulent times. Featuring William Davies King, Eleanor Gordon-Smith and Jeff Sparrow, in conversation with Bridie Jabour.
$25/$20
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au
156 A DANGEROUS TIME TO TELL THE TRUTH
May 5, 10–11am
Carriageworks, Bay 17
ABC Four Corners’ Sophie McNeill talks with Mexican reporter Analé Hernández, Iraqi-American writer Dunya Mikhail and Turkish journalist Ece Temelkuran about the mounting threats to reporters around the globe. Supported by UNSW Arts & Social Sciences. Ece Temelkuran is supported by Rosina Danziger AM and Ken Coles AM.
$35/$25
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au
157 REBECCA MAKKAI: THE GREAT BELIEVERS
May 5, 10–11am
Carriageworks, Bay 20
Rebecca Makkai is joined by Benjamin Law to discuss The Great Believers, her dazzling novel about friendship and redemption traversing the peak of the AIDS crisis and its repercussions decades later.
$30/$20/
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au
158 GET LIT
May 5, 10–11am
Carriageworks, The Studio
Brit Books Publisher Sam Cooney hosts a conversation on the vital role of literary magazines, journals and indie presses amid the difficult economics of book publishing with Catie Collins, Alice Grundy and Nick Tapper.
Free, no bookings
159 MCA ZINE FAIR
May 5, 11am–5pm
Museum of Contemporary Art
Mark your calendar for the annual MCA Zine Fair, where you can swap, make and sell zines. The fair showcases more than 100 zines, small press, prints and comics from across the country. Presented with the Museum of Contemporary Art.
Free, no bookings
160 LISA LUCAS: ON WHY LIES MATTER (AND SOMETIMES DON’T)
May 5, 11am–12.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 17
Lisa Lucas, Executive Director of Americas prestigious National Book Foundation, delivers a compelling talk about the decisions and ethics behind award-giving in literature and beyond.
Free, no bookings
161 THE POWER: SAUDI ARABIA
May 5, 11am–12.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 20
$25/$20
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au
162 BRITTNEY COOPER: ELOQUENT RAGE
May 5, 11am–12.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 24
In Brittney Cooper’s world, mean girls and ‘tuckbox’ lose out to heroines. The eloquent rage author speaks with journalist Satfakh Chingappe about black women’s anger and believing in one’s own superpowers.
$25/$20
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au
163 MEG WOLTIZER: THE FEMALE PERSUASION
May 5, 11am–12.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 17
Angela Ledgerwood sits down with bestselling author Meg Woltizer (The Wife) to discuss Meg’s timely, witty and on-target novel The Female Persuasion, which charts the course of women’s lives from the 1970s to now. Supported by Ara.
$35/$25
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au
164 DAVID VANN: HABLUH ON THE MOON
May 5, 11am–12.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 20
The Age and Sydney Morning Herald Literary Editor Jason Steiglitz talks to critically acclaimed, bestselling author David Vann about his aching portrait of a mind in peril. Habluh on the Moon, which reimagines his father’s final days.
$30/$20/
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

Thinking Globally

Apparently, we’re in the grip of an anxiety epidemic. Pundits point to all manner of causes – inequity, social media, the gig economy, populist politics – but what are the true origins of this angst and what can be done to allay our malaise? International journalists, under greater threat than at any point in the last decade – what is the cost of reporting the truth and exposing lies under corrupt and oppressive governments? Thinking Globally takes a fresh look at some of the most pressing issues facing the world today.

Featuring Turkish journalist Ece Temelkuran, Mexican reporter Analé Hernández, Iraqi-American writer Dunya Mikhail.

British author of Nervous States William Davies King and Archibald Prize–winning artist Bronwyn Millner.

In conversation with Julian Burnside QC, Australian writer Dunya Mikhail, British author of Nervous States William Davies King and Archibald Prize–winning artist Bronwyn Millner.

118 THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER: SAUDI ARABIA
May 4, 11am–12.30pm
Carriageworks, Bay 20
ABC Four Corners’ Sophie McNeill speaks with Mexican reporter Analé Hernández, Iraqi-American writer Dunya Mikhail and Turkish journalist Ece Temelkuran about the mounting threats to reporters around the globe. Ece Temelkuran is supported by Rosina Danziger AM and Ken Coles AM.
$35/$25
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au
119 THE MONTHLY RETELS:
THINKING GLOBALLY
Moving around the world, connecting the dots.
April, May, June.
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au
120 WORRIED SICK: LIVING IN THE AGE OF ANXIETY
May 4, 11am-12.30am
Carriageworks, Bay 20
In conversation with Julian Burnside QC, Archibald Prize-winning artist Ben Quilty talks about the heartbreaking and awe-inspiring collection of artworks, Home Drawings by Syrian Children.
$35/$25
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au
121 THE NOWHERE CHILD
May 4, 10am-11am
Carriageworks, Curiosity Stage
$15
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

The Monthly
In-depth politics. Independent thinking.

themonthly.com.au/subscribe
### THURSDAY MAY 2

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<td>14 Tom Fanshawe: Europe - A Natural History</td>
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### ALSO TONIGHT
- CITY RECITAL HALL
  - 91 George Saunders in Conversation with Paul Holdengräber 6.30pm
  - 55 All the Rage 8.30pm
- SYDNEY TOWN HALL
  - 103 Insiders Live at Sydney Writers Festival 8.30pm
- CITY RECITAL HALL
  - 99 Susan Orlean: The Library Book 6.30pm
  - 102 The Second Shelf 8.30pm
# SATURDAY MAY 4

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<td>Elizabeth</td>
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<td>Kury: The Dead</td>
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<td>The War of Art</td>
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<td>The Writer's Lie</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>Treading in the Deep</td>
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<td>2pm</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>Jenny Cooper: Go, Get, Gone</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>Christian White: The No.1 Child</td>
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<td>Briony</td>
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<td>Boys to Men: The Masculinity Crisis</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>Champion: My Sister, the Serial Killer</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>Richard Cooke: Tired of Winning</td>
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<td>Casey Ling: Ghosttown</td>
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<td>Mary-Komelassen: Common Sense</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>Hoss: The Voice of a Dark Horse</td>
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<td>Queerstories</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>O'Brien: The Weather</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>kur: The Next Chapter: The Next Chapter:</td>
<td>CUR180 Goldie Cunningham: On the Bloomsbury Set and Ideas of Bohemia</td>
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# SUNDAY MAY 5

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<td>173</td>
<td>Andrew Sean Greer: Less</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>Jenny Cooper: Memory and Forgetting</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>Cobbie Shovel: Teacher</td>
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<td>182</td>
<td>&quot;Why Not Want to See This in Print&quot;</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>Breaking News in the Age of Social Media</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>Liz Finkle: How to Lose a Country</td>
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<td>2pm</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>A Dangerous Time to Tell the Truth</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>Belonging: The Story of the Jew</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>The Land Before Adam</td>
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# ALSO TODAY

**SYDNEY TOWN HALL**
- Chetan Bhagat: The Bad Guys: Pig the Pig & Thelma the Unicorn 3:30pm
- Simon Scarrow: Worthy 6:00pm
- 151 Lie to Me: An Evening of Storytelling at Sydney Town Hall 3:30pm
185 Closing Address: Fatima Bhutto

May 5, 6–7pm

When internationally lauded Pakistani writer Fatima Bhutto last appeared at the Sydney Writers' Festival, she said her country was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Eight years later, The Runaways author returns to deliver an unmissable Closing Address about how that turbulence has seemingly spread far beyond her homeland's borders.

$35/$25
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au
CARRIAGWORKS TRACK 8 & TRACK 12

There’s a full line-up of events to captivate the under-12 crowd at Tracks 8 and 12, hosted by Abrams’ Carl Smith and children’s author Deb Abela.

All tickets are $5, unless otherwise stated.

Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

CHE1 MEGAN MCDONALD

May 5, 10–10.45am
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 8

Megan McDonald, winner of the Waterstones Children’s Book Prize and the Costa Children’s Book Award, Katherine Rundell and local favourites Sally Rippin, Maxine Beneke Clarke, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki and Matt Cosgrove

The Big Backyard is as buzzy as ever with free activities to delight young booklovers and creative kids, including the Expression Station: illustration, storytelling, craft and dress-ups. Pick up a map of the Family Day precinct from the information booth and get lost in your imagination.

CARRIAGWORKS TRACK 8 & TRACK 12

May 5, 9.30am–4.30pm
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 8

Get your pulse racing with Australia’s FASHIONISTA: MY CULTURE AND ME

Megalast

and note-taking to research and final edits.

JOIN AWARD-WINNING WRITER FELICITY CASTAGNA

THE GREAT BELIEVERS

REBECCA MAKKAI:

W13

MAY 3, 9.30AM–12.30PM
RIVERSIDE THEATRES, PARRAMATTA

MAY 4, 1.30–2.30PM
RIVERSIDE THEATRES, PARRAMATTA

HONESTY IN MEMOIR ONLY

TOO MUCH INFORMATION – HOW TO STOP SUPPLICATING AT PUBLISHERS’ FEET

May 4, 3–4pm
SUNDAY TOWN HALL

The Corner Park

Explore the world of How Cities Work with Lonely Planet Kids publisher and illustrator James Gulliver Hancock. Help complete the giant puzzle, and ignite your curiosity with our life-size interactive, tilt-the-flap wall. Come explore!

W14

MAXINE BENEBA CLARKE:

DIVING IN AND GOING DEEP – FINDING HIDDEN DOORS

MAY 3, 9.30AM–12.30PM
RIVERSIDE THEATRES, PARRAMATTA

LIES AND IMAGINATION

How to stop supplicating at publishers’ feet

John Birmingham (The Great Believers) explores the state of writing and publishing in Australia. The Monthly’

May 3, 10am–12.30pm
GREEN SQUARE LIBRARY

The Great Believers

What a story! How to write and illustrate your own fairytales

May 3, 10am–12.30pm
GREEN SQUARE LIBRARY

Join award-winning writer Felicity Castagna as she shares her strategies for writing biography.

May 3, 9am–12.30pm
GREEN SQUARE LIBRARY (Concession/Writing NSW Members)

HONESTY IN MEMOIR ONLY

May 5, 1–1.45pm
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 6

CHI5 MEGAN MCDONALD

May 4, 10am–12.30pm
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 8

Make sure you visit Cheryl Orsini and Matthew Cosgrove. The duo in total Quack Up!

May 3, 1–1.45pm
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 12

Come on a journey with award-winning author Katherine Rundell as she tells you all about The Explorer, her wily exciting adventure about four children who have to survive on the Amazon with their plane crashing, Rec. 7+

CHI6 HOW TO SURVIVE IN THE AMAZON JUNGLE

May 4, 3–4pm
SUNDAY TOWN HALL

Make sure you visit Cheryl Orsini and Matthew Cosgrove. The duo in Total Quack Up!

May 5, 1–1.45pm
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 12

Join Total Quack Up! authors Deborah Abela, Adrian Beck, Oliver Phommavanh, Sally Rippin and R.P. Sapat as they team up to create a ridiculous, completely original story on the spot. Rec. 5+

THE NEVER-ENDING QUACK UP

May 5, 1–1.45pm
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 8

Join Total Quack Up! authors Deborah Abela, Adrian Beck, Oliver Phommavanh, Sally Rippin and R.P. Sapat as they team up to create a ridiculous, completely original story on the spot. Rec. 5+

May 5, 10am–12.30pm
GREEN SQUARE LIBRARY

Join award-winning writer and illustrator Maxine Beneke Clarke to celebrate Fashionista, her gorgeous new picture book on finding your confidence and putting your passion on display. Rec. 4+

CHE2 VITAL SCIENCE WITH DR KARL

CHE3 MY CULTURE AND ME

May 5, 11.15am–12pm
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 12

Gregg Drese uses his doggedness anduitar to breathe musical life into My Culture and Me and his heartfelt and stirring story of cherishing and sustaining his Indigenous heritage and culture. Rec. 5+

May 5, 11.15am–12pm
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 12

BACKGROUND!

Che6

CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 8

Two pairs of children’s book creators face off live on stage for the annual storytelling showdown. Which author/illustrator duo will triumph and take home the crown? Hosted by Abrams’ Carl Smith. Rec. 5+

CHE6 ALL THE WAYS TO BE SMART

May 5, 1–2pm
CARRIAGWORKS, Track 8

Sally Rippin launches the final instalment of her award-winning series The Silver Witch. Keen fans will be able to get their hands on an early release copy at the event. Rec. 6+

CHILDREN’S BOOK LAUNCHES

May 4, 10am–12.30pm
GREEN SQUARE LIBRARY

Join super talents Davina Bell and Allison Cobb as they bring to life All The Ways To Be Smart, their radiant and life-affirming celebration of the different qualities that make every child unique. Rec. 4+

CHE9 STORYTELLERS’ BATTLE GROUND!

May 5, 2.15–3pm
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 8

May 5, 2.15–3pm
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 8

Che4

Children’s Book Launches

And feel the excitement 

and non-fiction writing, and transform 

previous work into a fresh,

unpolished version. And here’s some top tips on how to make your 

May 5, 9, 10–10.45am
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 12

Megan McDonald offers a sneak peek of his newest characters and drawings in a rare live-appearance at Sydney Town Hall. On Sunday 5 May come along to Family Day at CARRIAGWORKS for a fun-filled celebration of storytelling and creativity for kids of all ages. Don’t miss never-before-seen stage events with international guests including the creator of precocious third-grader Judy Moody, Sally Rippin and R.P. Sapat.

CHI3 Polly and Buster: The Best of Friends

May 5, 1.15–2.15pm
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 8

Join super talent Davina Bell and Allison Cobb as they bring to life All The Ways To Be Smart, their radiant and life-affirming celebration of the different qualities that make every child unique. Rec. 4+

CHE3 VITAL SCIENCE WITH DR KARL

May 5, 10–10.45am
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 12

Join award-winning writer and illustrator Maxine Beneke Clarke to celebrate Fashionista, her gorgeous new picture book on finding your confidence and putting your passion on display. Rec. 4+

CHE2 FASHIONISTA: EXPRESS YOURSELF!

May 5, 10–10.45am
CARRIAGWORKS, TRACK 12

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CHE2 FASHIONISTA: EXPRESS YOURSELF!
W1 FELICITY CASTAGNA: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SHORT STORY April 29, 9.30am–10.30pm Green Square Library Join award-winning writer Felicity Castagna (My Mother’s Story) at the opening of a successful short story from plot and structure to character and voice.$185/$160

W2 RICHARD COOKE: TECHNIQUE IN LONG-FORM JOURNALISM April 29, 10.30am–12.30pm Green Square Library Long-form journalism requires original thinking and a fresh approach to research and writing. Join The Monthly’s US Correspondent and Contributing Editor Richard Cooke for a lively discussion on how to adjust your writing practice - and your thinking - to reflect this new reality and find success in the digital age.$185/$160

W3 REBECCA MAKKAI: FUNNY DOESN’T GROW ON TREES May 3, 9.30am–12.30pm Green Square Library Join author Rebecca Makkai (The Great Gilly Hopkins) for a workshop on writing humour and bringing levity to an otherwise serious story.$100/$80

W4 CASEY LEGLER: DEVELOPING YOUR OWN CREATIVE PRACTICE April 30, 10.30am–12.30pm Green Square Library Develop your creative practice with help from the creative writing that model - writer and actor and former Olympian Casey Legler (goalpost) has applied to her own projects.$185/$160

W5 JOHN BIRMINGHAM: JUST DO IT YOURSELF April 30, 9.30am–12.30pm Green Square Library Join John Birmingham (King and Country) for a session on self-deception, self-corruption and self-delusion. He shares his professional expertise as an accomplished writer and author; from ideas and research to writing and final edits.$185/$160

W6 RICK MORTON: THE BIOGRAPHER’S TASK May 3, 9.30am–12.30pm Green Square Library Join author Rick Morton, you’ll learn about the impossibility of ‘truth’ and why the writer can’t be trusted.$100/$80

W7 IZIS BRETT: THE BIOGRAPHER’S TASK May 3, 1.30–4.30pm Green Square Library The biographer’s task is to accurately and precisely reveal what makes a life compelling. Join award-winning writer Judith Brett (The Enigmatic Ms Deakin) as she shares her strategies for writing literary biography.$100/$80

W8 KRISTINA OLSSON: ON LOVE, LIES AND TRAVELS SO FAR May 3, 9.30am–12.30pm Green Square Library Transform your life story into an autobiography. Join Kristina Olsson (Lake Morning) to explore the link between writing and truth, and find ways to improve your writing.$100/$80

W9 MAXINE JENIKA CLARKE: FAN FICTION AND OTHER SECRETS May 3, 10–11am Green Square Library Create or refine your picture book idea with award-winning children’s author Maxine Beneba Clarke as she leads you through writing styles, colour and character-pitching techniques.$100/$80

W10 FAN FICTION MATTERS May 3, 1.30–4.30pm Green Square Library Fan fiction can be an entry point into a writer’s work, supporting and deepening their original work. Join some of Australia’s most exciting fan fiction writers to learn about their experiences with writing fan fiction.$185/$160

W11 SAM GEORGE-ALLEN: WRITING WHAT MATTERS May 3, 1.30–4.30pm Green Square Library Publishing and precisely unveil what makes a life compelling. Join award-winning writer Judith Brett (The Enigmatic Ms Deakin) as she shares her strategies for writing literary biography.$100/$80

W12 MARINA BENJAMIN: TOO MUCH INFORMATION - HOW HOMEWORK TRAVELS MAY 3, 9.30am–12.30pm Green Square Library Transform your life story into an autobiography. Join Kristina Olsson (Lake Morning) to explore the link between writing and truth, and find ways to improve your writing.$100/$80

W13 AMBELIN KWAYMULLINA: THE WRITER AS TIME TRAVELLER May 3, 10am–4.30pm Green Square Library Meet Me at the Intersection of Two Worlds: A day of creativity, fiction writing and research with award-winning First Nations and migrant cultures to life. Ambelin Kwaymullina. In this workshop with acclaimed author and Miles Franklin Award–winning Steven Carroll, you’ll learn about the enduring myths of the perfect body. How they’ve written inclusive stories for young adults, and the #Ownvoices movement.$100/$80

W14 JORDI KERR: MY BEST STRATEGIES FOR PUTTING WORDS ON PAPER May 3, 1.30–4.30pm Green Square Library Join author Jordi Kerr (An Elegant Young Man) to explore the link between writing and dreaming, and how to arrange the ways dreamwork can help you develop your creative writing.$100/$80

W15 JUDITH BRETT: ON LOVE, LIES AND TRAVELS SO FAR May 3, 1.30–4.30pm Green Square Library The biographer’s task is to accurately and precisely reveal what makes a life compelling. Join award-winning writer Judith Brett (The Enigmatic Ms Deakin) as she shares her strategies for writing literary biography.$100/$80

W16 CAOILLINN HUGHES: MYTHS AND CREATION STORIES May 4, 9.30am–12.30pm Green Square Library Myth and creation stories are found all over the world - what do they tell us about our shared humanity? Join award-winning novelist and poet Caoilinn Hughes to explore mythology and the ways stories connect our diverse cultures.$100/$80

W17 STEVEN CARROLL: WRITING STRATEGIES May 4, 10am–12.30pm Green Square Library Mike Frankin Award–winning Steven Carroll (The Year of the Dead) helps you workshop the best strategies for putting words on the page and completing the first draft of your novel. Copy editing.$185/$160

W18 LEE KOFMAN: CREATING COMPELLING CHARACTERS May 4, 9.30am–12.30pm Green Square Library In this workshop with acclaimed author of imperfect. Lee Kofman, learn how to create compelling characters through your writing – whether you’re imagining fictional characters or transforming real people for the page.$185/$160

W19 KATHRYN NEYMAN: DIVING INTO AND GOING DEEPER MAY 4, 9.30am–12.30pm Green Square Library How do you develop a unique voice as a writer? Join mentor and acclaimed writer Kathryn Neyman (Gloom and Grace) in this workshop on the art of bringing your prose to life.$100/$80

W20 LUKE CARMAN: DREAMWIND - HOW TO DREAM FOR THE SAKE OF WRITING May 4, 1.30–4.30pm Green Square Library Join author Luke Carman (An Elegant Young Man) to explore the link between writing and dreaming, and how to arrange the ways dreamwork can help you develop your creative writing.$100/$80

W21 ELAINE CASTILLO: REWRITING THE CANON - FAN FICTION AND OTHER ROLES May 5, 9.30am–12.30pm Information and Cultural Exchange Centre Join America & Not the Author Elaine Castillo to examine and celebrate canonical works to remap new possibilities for silenced characters and delve into the mechanisms and politics of who gets written.$100/$80

W22 NAOMI MAYNARD: TO ALL THE FANDOMS May 5, 9.30am–12.30pm Green Square Library How do you develop a unique voice as a writer? Join mentor and acclaimed writer Kathryn Neyman (Gloom and Grace) in this workshop on the art of bringing your prose to life.$100/$80

W23 ANTHONY ROBERTS: TOO MUCH INFORMATION - HOW HOMEWORK TRAVELS MAY 5, 9.30am–12.30pm Green Square Library Transform your life story into an autobiography. Join Kristina Olsson (Lake Morning) to explore the link between writing and truth, and find ways to improve your writing.$100/$80

W24 JORDI KERR: MY BEST STRATEGIES FOR PUTTING WORDS ON PAPER May 5, 1.30–4.30pm Green Square Library Join author Jordi Kerr (An Elegant Young Man) to explore the link between writing and dreaming, and how to arrange the ways dreamwork can help you develop your creative writing.$100/$80

W25 DEAN LOCKWOOD: DREAMWIND - HOW TO DREAM FOR THE SAKE OF WRITING May 5, 1.30–4.30pm Green Square Library Join author Luke Carman (An Elegant Young Man) to explore the link between writing and dreaming, and how to arrange the ways dreamwork can help you develop your creative writing.$100/$80

W26 LEE KOFMAN: CREATING COMPELLING CHARACTERS May 5, 9.30am–12.30pm Green Square Library In this workshop with acclaimed author of imperfect. Lee Kofman, learn how to create compelling characters through your writing – whether you’re imagining fictional characters or transforming real people for the page.$185/$160
Behind every good story is the journey it takes you on.

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www.aragroup.com.au
ASHFIELD
SR2 GINGER GORMAN: TROLL HUNTING
May 2, 6.30–7.30pm
Ashfield Town Hall
Sydney's notorious anti-vaxxer Ginger Gorman was a victim of vicious online trolling, she was understandably terrified, but also intrigued. Ginger as she discusses Troll Hunting, her exploration into the world of online trolls with Lev West.
Free, bookings essential 02 9335 2173
eventbrite.com.au

CAMPEDOR
SR6 RACHEL KUSNER: WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FREE
May 2, 6.30–7.30pm
University of Sydney
Social Sciences Lecture Theatre
One of America's finest writers, Rachel Kushner, presents Professor Amarah Jago to discuss her latest novel The Mars Room and a body of work that traverses eras and inner lives.
Supported by the University of Sydney. Free, registrations essential whatson.sydney.edu.au/events

CASTLE HILL
SR7 CHRISTIAN WHITE: THE NOWHERE CHILD
May 2, 6.30–7.30pm
Castle Hill Library
Christian White writes with Elizabeth McCarthy about his suspenseful psychological thriller The Nowhere Child, which set a record as the fastest-selling debut novel in Australian history.
$12.50 Bookings 02 9761 4510
thesilms.nsw.gov/whats-on

CASULAA
SR8 POWER, POLITICS AND GENDER IN WESTERN SYDNEY
May 2, 6.30–7.30pm
Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre
Artist Ramesh Mathew Nithyam draws on his 38-year career working in Western Sydney with a panel discussion about pushing the boundaries of how we think about politics and gender. Presented with Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre. Free, bookings essential 02 8711 7123
casulapowerhouse.com.au/whats-on

CONCORD
SR9 MARK BRAND: THE RID
May 2, 7–8pm
Concord Library
Crime writer Mark Brand discusses The Rid, his gripping new urban crime novel and the winner of the British Crime Writers’ Associations Debut Dagger Award. Free, bookings essential 02 9911 6200
canbaysw.nsw.gov/library

CONCORD
SR10 TIM FLANNERY: OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD
May 2, 7–8pm
Concord Library
Acclaimed Australian paleontologist Tim Flannery speaks about his new book exploring the forgotten prehistory of Australia.
Free, bookings essential 02 9365 4446
georgesriverlibraries.eventbrite.com

THURSDAY MAY 2–SUNDAY MAY 5

CASTLE HILL
SR10 EDDIE WOO’S WONDERFUL WORLD OF MATHS
May 3, 6–7.30pm
The Concourse Concert Hall
In this discussion with Sydney maths teacher and international YouTube sensation Eddie Woo talks about his new book Wonder, a World of Wonderful Math.
Supported by Wollongong City Council. $20/$15 Bookings 02 8705 8111, theconcourse.com.au

KENSINGTON
SR16 REBECCA TRAISTER: GOOD AND MAD
May 3, 6.30–7.30pm
Kensington Library
For as long as women have been angry, they have sought to dismiss them as hormonal, hysterical, irrational or scary. Rebecca Traister talks about how when women organise – harnessing the full force of their fury – they can change the course of history. Supported by UNSW Arts & Social Sciences.
Free, bookings essential unswo/to/rebecca_traister

LIP
SR11 STEPHANIE BISHOP: THE NIGHT DRAGON
May 3, 6.30–7.30pm
Hornsby Library
Acclaimed Australian poet Stephanie Bishop talks about her new book The Night Dragon, her darkly funny new book.
Free, bookings essential 02 9330 9527
georgesriverlibraries.eventbrite.com

MOSMAN
SR15 GABRIELLE CHAN: RUSTED OFF
May 3, 7–8.30pm
Mosman Library
To tell the story about contemporary Australians in Rusted Off, Australian political commentator Rosie Batty and Gabrielle Chan went hyperlocal. She searched her own rural community’s main street for answers to the big questions driving voters.
$10/$8 Bookings 02 9978 4091
mosman.nsw.gov/library

RHYDE
SR26 JEFF SPARROW: TRIGGER WARNINGS
May 3, 6.30–7.30pm
Rydalmere Library
Speaking with Willamina Ruso, broadcaster, and Guardian Australia columnist. Jeff Sparrow explores how powerful new vocabulary against progressive causes and argues a persuasive case for a new kind of politics in Trigger Warnings.
Free, bookings essential 02 9952 8352
ryde.nsw.gov/Library

STANLEY
SR21 AUSTRALIAN POETRY SLAM
May 3, 6.30–7.30pm
Concord Library
Poetry Slam hosts its monthly sketch and song.
Free, bookings required. Entry is a $5 adults/gold coin for under 16s, no bookings required.

THE SCHOLAR
SR5 DERVAL MCIERNAN: THE SCHOLAR
May 2, 6.30–7.30pm
Cambridge Library
Join internationally bestselling crime writer Delia Jeffreys who discusses her latest novel Fifty-Fifty.
Free, bookings essential 02 4645 4444
cambridge.nsw.gov.au/library

THURSDAY MAY 2–SUNDAY MAY 5

THE YEAR OF THE BEAST
SR30 STEVEN CARROLL:
May 2, 6.30–7.30pm
Randwick Library
Randwick Hear from Tony Wheeler, travel addict, Lonely Planet Co-founder and the co-founder, with his son, of Lonely Planet called The Trailblazing tradition, which stories of the world's backpackers and adventure travelers’ – as the book, The New York Times called ‘the
Free, bookings essential 02 4732 7891
penrithlibrary.nsw.gov/events

WOLLONGONG
SR28 BLACK WALLABY
May 2, 6.30–7.30pm
Wollongong Library
Enjoy a night of readings from the latest Dreaming Inside, an anthology that contributes to the diversity of Aboriginal writing in Australia. No bookings required. Entry is a gold coin donation upon arrival with 100% of funds raised going towards Indigenous Programs and Future Dreaming Inside projects.

WOLLONGONG
SR29 WOMEN IN ART
May 4, 12.30–1.30pm
Wollongong Town Hall
The author, Julie Keys discusses how the lack of prestige for women artists in 1830s Sydney inspired the strong female character in her debut novel, The Artists’ Portal.
Free, bookings 02 4288 0151
merrigong.com.au

CAMPEDOR
SR20 EAT, TALK, DANCE
May 2, 6.30–8.30pm
Prince Alfred Studios
Listen to stories in an alleyway, peek into a side street and wander through an immersive art experience where the walls tell stories and you are invited to dance.
Supported by Parramatta Artists Studios and Western Sydney University. Free, bookings essential eattalkdance.eventbrite.com.au

PARRAMATTA
SR21 AUSTRALIAN POETRY SLAM – SYDNEY FINAL
May 3, 6.30–7.30pm
Riverside Theatres, Parramatta
Aussie poetry’s best young wordsmiths battle to become Australia’s Poets Slam Youth Sydney Champion. No props or music – just young writers sharing their truth. Performers must be 15 to 16 years old. Presented with Words. Supported by City of Parramatta Free, bookings essential 02 8899 3399
sr21.eat.talk.dance.parramatta.com.au

PARRAMATTA
SR22 JORDY ROSENBERG: CONFESSIONS OF THE FOX
May 4, 7–8.30pm
Riverside Theatres, Parramatta
Jordy Rosenberg meets debut novelist Jordan Rosenberg to discuss Confessions of the Fox, described by The New York Times as a ‘poignant, witty novel that tunnels through with queer theory and awash in sex, crime, and revolution.’ Supported by the City of Parramatta.
$15 Bookings 02 8899 3399
riversideparramatta.com.au

PARRAMATTA
SR23 RICHARD GROVE
May 4, 4–8pm
Riverside Theatres, Parramatta
Sydney South Sydney host Richard Grove talks about The Land Before Avocado, his entertaining, anti-nostalgic take on Australia in the 60s and 70s. Supported by the City of Parramatta.
$20 Bookings 02 8899 3399, riversideparramatta.com.au

PARRAMATTA
SR24 MATTHEW YENTILEHOFF: GOOD AND MAD
May 4, 6.30–7.30pm
Wollongong Art Gallery
Enjoy a night of readings from the latest Dreaming Inside, an anthology that contributes to the diversity of Aboriginal writing in Australia. No bookings required. Entry is a gold coin donation upon arrival with 100% of funds raised going towards Indigenous Programs and Future Dreaming Inside projects.

PARRAMATTA
SR25 TONY WHEELER: ON TRAVEL
May 4, 6.30–7.30pm
Randwick Library
Hear from Tony Wheeler, travel addict, Lonely Planet Co-founder and the co-founder, with his son, of Lonely Planet called The Trailblazing tradition, which stories of the world's backpackers and adventure travelers’ – as the book, The New York Times called ‘the
Free, bookings essential 02 4732 7891
penrithlibrary.nsw.gov/events

PARRAMATTA
SR26 RYDAL WHEELER: THE YEAR OF THE BEAST
May 2, 6.30–7.30pm
Randwick Library
Randwick Hear from Tony Wheeler, travel addict, Lonely Planet Co-founder and the co-founder, with his son, of Lonely Planet called The Trailblazing tradition, which stories of the world's backpackers and adventure travelers’ – as the book, The New York Times called ‘the
Free, bookings essential 02 4732 7891
penrithlibrary.nsw.gov/events

WOLLONGONG
SR27 MATTHEW CONDON: THE NIGHT DRAGON
May 4, 6.30–7.30pm
Hawkesbury Central Library
Award-winning investigative journalist Matthew Condon tells the compelling story of how an elusive, calculating killer was finally brought to a magnificent close.
Free, bookings essential 02 4560 4460
hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com

CAMPEDOR
SR30 THE YEAR OF THE BEAST
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Free, bookings 02 4288 0151
merrigong.com.au
A 1.3 million square kilometre canvas where art comes to life.

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Tjanpi Desert Weavers, Central Australia

The Territory Arts Trail takes you on a journey through the world’s biggest art gallery, the NT. Along the way, you’ll also discover festivals, museums and attractions that will give you a better understanding of the Territory’s rich and fascinating culture and history. The Territory Arts Trail makes it easy to discover the best of the NT’s art, artists, and much more.

Visit territoryartstrail.com.au and tailor your trail.
Sydney Writers' Festival presents a range of free and ticketed events.

Tickets for events at the Festival Hub (Carriageworks), City Recital Hall, Sydney Town Hall and Green Square Library can be purchased directly through the Sydney Writers' Festival.

For all other tickets, including Suburban & Regional (page 19) and All-Day YA (page 17) events, please refer to the individual event listings in this guide for booking information.

TRANSACTION FEES apply for all bookings.

ONLINE
Visit swf.org.au

PHONE
02 9256 4200 (Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm)
On Saturday 16 March, the call centre will also be open from 10am–4pm.

BOX OFFICE
The Festival Hub box office will operate at Carriageworks at the following times:
Saturday 27 April–Monday 29 April, 10am–4pm
Tuesday 30 April–Sunday 5 May, 9am until the last event of the day

ACCESSIBLE SEATS
All Festival venues are wheelchair accessible.

ACCESSIBLE TOILETS
All venues are equipped with wheelchair accessible toilets.

CONCESSIONS
Concession prices are available for children under the age of 16, full-time students, Australian Health Care Card holders and Centrelink pension cardholders. Proof of concession must be produced at events to obtain concession prices.

ACCESS & INCLUSION
Sydney Writers’ Festival strives to make its events accessible to everyone, and if you require assistance, please contact us by phone on 02 9256 4200 or email at access@swf.org.au when making access bookings or enquiries.

ACCESSIBLE SEATS
All Festival venues are wheelchair accessible.

HEARING LOOP SYSTEM
The following venues are equipped with a hearing loop system: City Recital Hall, Sydney Town Hall, the Concourse Concert Hall and Riverside Theatres, Parramatta.

ACCESS AT CARRIAGWORKS
Carriageworks has a wheelchair ramp and level access at all entrances. There is level access and accessible seating available in all venues along with multiple accessible toilets. Mobility parking is available on site, please call 02 8571 9099 for more information.

PODCASTS
After the Festival, select events will be made available as podcasts on our iTunes channel or via Spotify. Sign up to our email newsletter at swf.org.au/subscribe to find out when podcasts are released.

For more details on the Festival’s accessibility and inclusion practices, visit swf.org.au/access

ENQUIRIES
For any general enquiries (excluding bookings), please contact Sydney Writers’ Festival by phone on 02 9252 7729 or by email at info@swf.org.au

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET
Giselle
SEE THE WORLD’S MOST ICONIC BALLET
1–18 MAY 2019
Sydney Opera House

THE FESTIVAL HUB
Carnegieworks is located at 245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh (a nine-minute walk from Redfern Station and a 10-minute walk from Macdonaldtown Station). Catching public transport is strongly recommended as residential parking in the area is strictly limited. For more information on transport, visit transportnsw.info

WALKING FROM REDFERN STATION TO CARRIAGWORKS
Walk out of the station onto Lawson Street and turn left. When you reach Little Eveleigh Street, turn left and continue to Wilson Street. Continue on Wilson Street for approximately seven minutes until you arrive at Carriageworks.

FESTIVAL SHUTTLE BUS
Our Festival bus service operates from Thursday May 2 to Sunday May 5, and travels between the Festival Hub and Redfern Station. The buses are wheelchair accessible and depart approximately every 15 minutes between 9am and 6pm. You can buy your bus ticket from a volunteer when boarding ($1 one-way). Please note: this is a charter service. Opal cards are not accepted.

BICYCLES
Bicycle parking is provided at Carriageworks.

PARKING
Street parking is limited in Eveleigh and Chippendale. Casual parking is available at Shepherd Street Carpark in Darlington in the evenings and on the weekend. The carpark is a seven-minute walk from Carriageworks.

VENUES
CARRIAGWORKS
245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh
Bay 17
Bay 20
Bay 22
Bay 24
Bay 25 – The Big Backyard
The Studio
Curiosity Stage
Track B
Track 12

INNERTOWN VENUES
Art Gallery of NSW
Art Gallery Road, The Domain
City Recital Hall
2 Angel Place, Sydney

State Library New South Wales
140 George Street, The Rocks

Museum of Contemporary Art
Roslyn Packer Theatre
22 Hickson Road, Walsh Bay

Sydney Town Hall
Sydney Opera House

PARRAMATTA
Riverside Theatres, Parramatta
Corner of Church and Market streets, Parramatta

CHATSWOOD
The Concourse
409 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood

More information about all our Festival venues can be found at swf.org.au

GET THE LATEST FROM SWF
Sign up to our e-news to receive the latest Festival news, first access to limited release tickets and special offers from our friends and partners.

swf.org.au/subscribe

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swf.org.au/support-us
WE’RE ON THE SAME PAGE

Important cultural events like Sydney Writers’ Festival could not happen without the support of the people of Sydney. Your participation makes all the difference. We’re pleased to join you in keeping creativity alive and well in our city.

Find more events at whatson.sydney