MEET THE AUTHORS

Leigh Bardugo was born in Jerusalem and grew up in Southern California. She is a #1 New York Times bestselling author of fantasy novels and the creator of the Grishaverse series. With over three million copies sold worldwide, Grishaverse spans the Shadow and Bone trilogy, the Six of Crows duology, The Language of Thorns and King of Scars. Netflix is soon to release an eight-part series based on Grishaverse.

Wai Chim is a first-generation Chinese–American from New York City. She grew up speaking Cantonese at home and absorbing Western culture through books, TV and school. She spent some time living in Japan before making Sydney her home. She is the author of Freedom Swimmer and The Surprising Power of a Good Dumpling.

Jeremy Lachlan was born and raised in Griffith, NSW, but now calls Sydney home. His debut novel, Jane Doe and the Cradle of All Worlds, was a 2019 Australian Book Industry Award winner. Jeremy has an honours degree in creative writing from the University of Canberra.

Malla Nunn was born and raised in Swaziland. After her family migrated to Australia to escape apartheid, Malla graduated with a double degree in English and History from UWA and then earned a Master of Arts in Theater Studies from Villanova University in Pennsylvania. Malla is the author of four award-winning adult books, and her debut YA novel is When the Ground is Hard.

Alice Oseman was born in Kent, England. She secured her first publishing deal at 17 and has gone on to write three YA novels, and the graphic novel series Heartstopper. She is a full-time writer and illustrator with Volume 3 of Heartstopper out in February 2020 and her fourth novel, Loveless, following in April.

BOOKING

The Secondary School Days program goes on sale on 17 October 2019. Booking forms are included in this mail pack.

You can also find an online booking form at swf.org.au

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact:
ticketing@swf.org.au | (02) 9256 4200

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Disclaimer: Details in this brochure are correct at time of publication. Sydney Writers’ Festival reserves the right to add, withdraw or substitute artists, and to vary the program should the need arise. Please note that a waiting list is kept for booked out school/day events.
The Secondary School Days program is a wonderful opportunity for students to hear from some of the world’s most exciting authors, thinkers and storytellers. Led by international and Australian YA authors, these interactive sessions are designed to grow students’ enjoyment of books and reading, encourage them to consider their own creative pursuits, and inspire and challenge them through the discussion of literature and ideas. During each session, writers and illustrators perform from their work, talk about their craft and take questions from the audience.

**DATES AND VENUES**

- **Monday 4 May**  
  Seymour Centre  
  corner of City Road and Cleveland Street, Chippendale

- **Tuesday 5 May**  
  Riverside Theatres  
  corner of Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

- **Wednesday 6 May**  
  The Concourse  
  409 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood

**The Creativity Myth**  
Why did it take New York Times bestselling author Leigh Bardugo (Grishaverse) so long to write her first book? Why is dreaming so much easier than doing? And how does the creative process actually work? In this practical and revealing session, Leigh discusses five big myths about creativity, explains what to do when you come up against fear and self-doubt, and gives insight into the way she outlines, drafts and writes her enthralling fantasy books.

**Drawn from Life**  
First published when she was a teenager, and with an extraordinary seven books now under her belt, 24-year-old Alice Oseman has taken the YA world by storm with her heartfelt stories of fandoms, friendship and love. Join Alice for a fascinating discussion with Wai Chim about her early publishing success, why she chose to self-publish her comic series Heartstopper online, and the importance of writing stories inspired by her own life.

**Wrestling Your Writing Demons**  
Ideas come easily to some writers and harder to others – but either way, the ideas inside your head have to be turned into words on the page. That’s when the hard work begins. Join author and screenwriter Malla Nunn (When the Ground is Hard) for an insider’s guide on how to make friends with your inner critic, learn to trust your words and characters, and take on your writing demons…and win!

**The Long and Winding Road**  
Join author Jeremy Lachlan for an in-depth discussion about the creative life – and what it really takes to write and publish a book. Jeremy talks the long and winding road to becoming an author, the inception of his epic action-adventure series Jane Doe and the Cradle of All Worlds, his creative process, and how personal triumphs and tragedies have shaped the plots of his award-winning novels.

The Secondary School Days program is hosted by Wai Chim.