

MEDIA RELEASE: Thursday, 21 January 2021

WRITERS TURN PAGES INTO STAGES FOR ALL AGES

Full Literature & Ideas Program announced

Multiple venues (8 February – 28 February)



Cr. Rachel Audino

Imaginations will run wild as books will come alive at some of Perth's most iconic venues and the **Literature & Ideas Program** extends across the three weeks of **Perth Festival 2021**.

Perth Concert Hall, His Majesty's Theatre and the unusual habitat of **Perth Zoo** will be welcoming homes as we celebrate our burgeoning local literary scene – and some stars from afar – over 12 days of the Festival.

Our program spans three weekends, starting at Perth Concert Hall on 13 February with [A Day of Ideas](#) focusing on the meaning and impact of the mighty Derbal Yerrigan / Swan River on the life of the city as part of the Bilya (river) theme of this year's Festival.

On 21-22 February, the Maj will be buzzing as lovers of books and the people who write them share the joy of literature at more than 30 events for [Literature Weekend in the City](#). An array of local writers – and international and national special guests joining live by video link – will take centre stage at the beautiful, freshly refurbished heritage theatre.

Spend the weekend with such heavy hitters as former Prime Minister **Julia Gillard**, acclaimed US novelist **Brit Bennett**, Oscar-winner **Shaun Tan** and Booker Prize finalist **Maaza Mengiste** talking to local moderators and answering audience questions, along with our beloved local writers like **Craig Silvey**, **Rebecca Giggs** and **Alf Taylor**. Other special guests include **Kate Grenville**, **Trent Dalton**, **Jessie Tu**, **Karen Wyld**, **Joey Bui**, **Elizabeth Tan**, **Chris Flynn**, **Robert Isaacs**, **Ellen van Neerven**, **Donna Mazza** and **Rebecca Prince Ruiz**.

We close the program in stunning style on 28 February when our **Curated by Kids** young programmers let their ideas run free at [Wild Things: Perth Festival Takes over Perth Zoo](#). This zootopia of authors, musicians and activities for all ages include **Perth Symphony Orchestra** pop ups, **Soukous Internationale**, **James Foley**, animal illustration classes, creature choreography, Noongar storytelling and an animal passport trail that takes you around the world. With a focus on the conservation work by **Perth Zoo**, learn about the numbat, the western swamp tortoise and the red tail black cockatoo in this family day out.

In the lead-up to our weekend at the Maj, you also can meet some of our marvellous local writing talent at free sessions across four nights each at the [Joondalup Library](#) (8-11 February) and the [Literature Centre](#) in Fremantle (15-18 February), presented in association with the Literature Centre.

All the **Literature & Ideas** venues are easy to reach near public transport hubs and much of the diverse program is free or at low ticket prices, offering new opportunities for people to be part of this special community of readers and writers.

At **A Day of Ideas**, one \$39 ticket gets you a full day of five talks and 20 speakers. And people can pay what they can for certain **Literature Weekend** events under our new ticketing approach for 2021. You can pay as little as you like but whatever you pay above the suggested price goes towards helping other people attend Festival events where cost is a barrier.

Also, if you can't make it on the day, we've made it easy to buy a ticket to watch some key sessions online from home.

'After months living online and isolated last year, we will revel in coming together to share the conversations, laughter and camaraderie that can only happen face-to-face in inspiring surroundings,' program curator **Sisonke Msimang** says. 'We will celebrate the best WA writers, along with interstate and international guests, in venues that will be buzzing with stories and adventurous ideas.'

'I'm excited about our **Literature Weekend in the City** at the beautiful His Majesty's Theatre where we are inviting audiences to step away from the small computer and phone screens to take in authors on the big stage and in the smaller, more intimate spaces of The Maj.

'Despite the tumult of the year that was, there has never been a better time to be a reader or a writer. The book – one of the oldest human technologies – has proven to be remarkably resilient. This is also a moment in which ideas matter greatly. I am grateful for the opportunity to meet, laugh and reflect together with others across this city.'

See the full **Literature Weekend in the City** schedule [here](#)



The Literature and Ideas program is also supported by Boffin Books.

Wild Things is supported by:



WHAT: A Day of Ideas

WHERE: Perth Concert Hall

WHEN: Sat 13 Feb, 10am – 5pm

HOW MUCH: \$39

WHAT: Literature Weekend in the City

WHERE: His Majesty's Theatre

WHEN: Sat 20 Feb & Sun 21 Feb

HOW MUCH: Selected sessions – pay what you can

WHAT: Literature in Joondalup & Fremantle

WHERE: Joondalup Library & The Literature Centre, Fremantle

WHEN: Mon 15 Feb – Thu 18 Feb, 6.30pm (Joondalup)

Mon 8 Feb – Thu 11 Feb, 6.30pm (Fremantle)

HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Wild Things (Perth Festival takes over Perth Zoo)

WHERE: Perth Zoo, South Perth

WHEN: Sun 28 Feb, 9am – 12pm and 2pm – 5pm

HOW MUCH: \$39 (Child 3 and under FREE)

BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: perthfestival.com.au

Click here for a [media kit](#) and [images](#). For further information, interviews or images please contact:

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Perth Festival acknowledges the Noongar people who continue to practise their values, language, beliefs and knowledge on their kwobidak boodjar. They remain the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara of this place and we honour and respect their caretakers and custodians and the vital role Noongar people play for our community and our Festival to flourish.



Perth Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 67 years, the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year. Iain Grandage is the Artistic Director 2020 – 23.