

MEDIA RELEASE: Wednesday, 18 November 2020

PAGES AND STAGES FOR ALL THE AGES

Literature & Ideas Program
Multiple venues (8 February – 28 February)



Books and big conversations will come alive at some of Perth's most iconic venues when the Literature & Ideas program extends across the three weeks of **Perth Festival 2021**.

We celebrate our burgeoning local literary scene by spreading the **Literature & Ideas Program** from Fremantle to Perth to Joondalup and across 12 days of the Festival.

Hot spots will be the **Day of Ideas: Beneath the Surface** with a multitude of Noongar voices leading vital discussions about our river and our city at **Perth Concert Hall** on 13 February and the **Literature Weekend** at the beautifully renovated **His Majesty's Theatre** on 20-21 February.



Local luminaries like **Craig Silvey**, **Rebecca Gigg** and **Rebecca Higgie** will shine alongside live-streamed international and national guests such as **Julia Gillard**, **Trent Dalton**, **Maaza Mengiste**, **Brit Bennett** and **Shaun Tan**.

A fantastic mix of WA's most exciting young authors and established stars (**Sophie McNeill**, **Holden Sheppard**, **Yuot A Alaak** and **Alexander Thorpe**) feature in 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.

We'll bring the program to a joyous conclusion on 28 February with **Wild Things**, our Perth Festival takeover of **Perth Zoo** where families can share a different habitat with WA's top authors, musicians, performers and other creative creatures.

All the 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 while we are suggesting people pay what they can for certain events at the *Literature Weekend* under a new approach to ticketing 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.

After the beast of a year that has been 2020, thoughts of nostalgia (for a pre-pandemic past) and desire (for a virus-free future) will inform many of the discussions – along with a deep dive into the life-affirming significance of **Bilya** (river), the theme of the 2021 Festival.

Curated by **Sisonke Msimang**, the 2021 program brings writers, artists and thinkers from across Western Australia in person and the world (via livestreaming) to explore the memory and longing that lie at the heart of feelings of nostalgia.

'Nostalgia is wonderful and frightening,' Msimang says. 'It can blind us to the uglier parts of our history and politics but it can also help us to recapture special times.'

'Our events in 2021 explore that fine line between joy and pain. These strange, unsettled times have given us all a chance to appreciate those we love, and to look back at even the simplest moments with a real sense of nostalgia.'

'I'm excited to hear how this affects the books people are reading and the conversations they are having. And I literally can't wait for a great family day out at the Zoo – what could be more nostalgic than that?'

Look out for our next big announcement on 21 January, when we will reveal the full **Literature & Ideas Program** and **Wild Things** line-up.



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

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.