

MEDIA RELEASE: 20 JANUARY 2022

**FULL LITERATURE & IDEAS PROGRAM OUT NOW**

**A Day of Ideas – 19 February | Writers Weekend – 26, 27 February**

Beloved Western Australian author **Tim Winton**, science fun guy **Dr Karl**, double Miles Franklin-winner **Michelle de Kretser** and uproarious writer-comedian **Judith Lucy** are among the new names to round out the full **Writers Weekend program** for 2022.



*Tim Winton, Helen Garner, Michelle de Kretser, Lisa Taddeo, Judith Lucy*

Embodying Perth Festival's 2022 Wardan (ocean) theme, the 26 - 27 February weekend will make waves of connection in the beautiful garden setting of **Fremantle Arts Centre (FAC)**.

The weekend begins, fittingly, with the hot-topics panel **Saturday Papers** and **Sisonke Msimang, Tony Birch** and **Craig Silvey** sharing their love of stories in **The Joy of Reading**. It ends with **Tim Winton** offering an evening of deep insight and inspiration drawing from his lifelong love of the sea in the special **Closing Address** on Sunday.

In between, lovers of stories and the people who tell them will plunge into a diverse program of more than 40 events across the weekend. These range from the merry mischief of **James Foley** and **Dr Karl** at the ever-popular **Family Day** sessions to the cresting **Crime Wave** in Australian fiction and **Unlimited Futures: Speculative, Visionary, Blak + Black Fiction**.

Among the special guests joining by live stream or in person at FAC will be **Helen Garner, Lisa Taddeo, Christos Tsiolkas, Michelle de Kretser, Pip Williams, Hannah Kent, Michael Robotham** and **Lech Blaine**. Local heroes including **Natasha Lester, John Kinsella, Dr Cindy Solonec, Dr Elfie Shiosaki, Emma Young, Joshua Kemp** and many more will navigate the turbulence of the human heart on the outdoor stages at FAC.

Other sessions include **Julia Baird's** 20th anniversary reflection on **Media Tarts**, **Bri Lee** asking **Who Gets to be Smart**, **Judith Lucy's** hilarious insights in her autobiographical **Turns out I'm Fine**, the **Lines to the Horizon** of Australian surf writing and the wit and wisdom of **Liz Byrski** and **Juliet Marillier** in **Difficult Women**. In his compelling memoir **Car Crash**, **Lech Blaine** reflects on his

traumatic coming-of-age experience and Miles Franklin Prize winner **Josephine Wilson** joins **Prema Arasu** for the annual **Randolph Stow Memorial Lecture**.

‘We invite you to gather with us in the gardens of Fremantle Arts Centre for a series of sparkling conversations with some of Australia’s best new writing talent alongside many of our greatest authors and thinkers,’ Writers Weekend curator **Gillian O’Shaughnessy** said. ‘Bring the kids along for our *Family Day* festivities on the Sunday morning and enjoy a view of our port city and the famous Fremantle doctor as you immerse yourself in stories.’

To make the **Writers Weekend** accessible to all, **Family Day** events are pre-registered and free all Sunday morning and our Pay What You Can ticketing system returns for 2022. This means you can pay as little as you wish but anything you pay above the suggested \$19 per session ticket price will help other people attend Festival events where cost is a barrier.

On the weekend before the jam-packed **Writers Weekend** in Fremantle, we’re diving even deeper into our Wardan theme with **A Day of Ideas: At Sea**. Curated by **Sisonke Msimang**, this mix of conversations, panels and storytelling is set to stimulate and inspire audiences at **Subiaco Arts Centre** on Saturday 19 February.

**A Day of Ideas: At Sea** will be presented across three blocks celebrating multiculturalism over the afternoon and evening. **Block A: WAVE AFTER WAVE** begins with art historian **Clarissa Ball** and takes in conversations with women sailors, ocean swimmers and Fremantle Port’s first woman tugboat hand. **Block B: HOW GOOD’S AUSTRALIA** celebrates the positive migrant experience in Perth with youth ambassador **Bellamore Ndayikeze** and a range of other guests from the worlds of hair-styling, dance, music and swimming. After a break for dinner, **Block C: LOVE PUNK AND RUGBY** promises an evening of tall but true tales from the Centre for Stories, including from former **Manikins** rocker **Neil Fernandes** and deaf rugby-playing Auslan and Japanese Sign Language expert **Nobu Hara**.

**WHAT:** Writers Weekend

**WHERE:** Fremantle Arts Centre

**WHEN:** Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 February

**HOW MUCH:** Pay what you can. *Family Day* sessions are free but you must pre-register.

**WHAT:** A Day of Ideas

**WHERE:** Subiaco Arts Centre

**WHEN:** Saturday 19 February, 3pm - 8.30pm

**HOW MUCH:** \$19 per block or \$49 for full day

**BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO:** [perthfestival.com.au](http://perthfestival.com.au)

Click [here](#) for 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.*

## ABOUT 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 almost 70 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 – 24.*