

# ADELAIDE W WRITERS' W WEEK 2023 4 – 9 MAR

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## Live Streaming Schedule

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SENIORS CARD

M O N D A Y	9:30am	<b>Literary Lives</b> Bernadette Brennan, Heather Clark, Samantha Rose Hill, Hermione Lee, Sean O'Beirne and Brigitta Olubas
	10:45am	<b>Hype, Hypocrisy &amp; History Speeding Up</b> David Hare
	12pm	<b>The Irish Question</b> John Boyne, Esther Freud and Louise Kennedy
	1:15pm	<b>Meet the Cohens</b> Josh Cohen and Joshua Cohen
	2:30pm	<b>An Australian Publishing Icon</b> Hilary McPhee
	3:45pm	<b>Why Books About Politics Matter</b> Laura Tingle and John Warhurst
6 Mar	5pm	<b>Russia Now and Then</b> Alhierd Bacharevič, Sheila Fitzpatrick and Anatol Lieven
T U E S D A Y	9:30am	<b>The Politics of Pandemics</b> Chip Le Grand and Raina MacIntyre
	10:45am	<b>Poetry in the Age of Absolutely Everything</b> Simon Armitage
	12pm	<b>When Children are Cannon Fodder</b> Paul Byrnes
	1:15pm	<b>"From the pulse of my heart"</b> Louise Kennedy
	2:30pm	<b>Modern Relationships</b> Sloane Crosley, Laura Kipnis and Diana Reid
	3:45pm	<b>America, America</b> Shalom Auslander, James Curran, John Keane and Fintan O'Toole
7 Mar	5pm	<b>The Return of D.H. Lawrence</b> Amit Chaudhuri, Geoff Dyer, Lara Feigel and Alison MacLeod
W E D N E S D A Y	9:30am	<b>"Yes, he has come to the end of his sentence, but does that mean he has nothing more to say?"</b> John Banville
	10:45am	<b>Sloane Crosley: In Profile</b> Sloane Crosley
	12pm	<b>The Perils of Publishing</b> Michael Bradley, Adele Ferguson, Samantha Maiden and Louise Milligan
	1:15pm	<b>A Tender Lady Chatterley</b> Alison MacLeod
	2:30pm	<b>A Vision In Teal</b> Simon Holmes à Court, Margot Saville and Brook Turner
	3:45pm	<b>On Endings</b> Geoff Dyer
8 Mar	5pm	<b>The Hazards of Motherhood</b> Esther Freud and Gina Rushton
T H U R S D A Y	9:30am	<b>Life is a Brief Affair</b> Alex Miller
	10:45am	<b>"May these words bring you home"</b> Grace Tame
	12pm	<b>Cold War, Hot Culture</b> Louis Menand
	1:15pm	<b>The Aussie Queen of Noir</b> Jane Harper
	2:30pm	<b>The Planet's Clock is Ticking</b> Ross Garnaut and Simon Holmes à Court
	3:45pm	<b>The Battle for Long Tan</b> Peter FitzSimons
9 Mar	5pm	<b>Meet A Polymath</b> Alexander McCall Smith

9:30AM



## LITERARY LIVES

Bernadette Brennan, Heather Clark, Samantha Rose Hill, Hermione Lee, Sean O'Beirne and Brigitta Olubas

**HERMIONE LEE LIVE  
STREAMED FROM  
LONDON**

According to one critic: "Biography is a very definite region bounded on the north by history, on the south by fiction, on the east by obituary and on the west by tedium." Is there truth in this statement? Catriona Menzies-Pike chairs an expansive discussion with the doyenne of the genre, Dame Hermione Lee, and award-winning biographers Bernadette Brennan, Brigitta Olubas, Sean O'Beirne, Heather Clark and Samantha Rose Hill.

**Chair: Catriona Menzies-Pike**

*Supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund*

10:45AM



## HYPE, HYPOCRISY & HISTORY SPEEDING UP

David Hare

Sir David Hare, one of the greatest British playwrights of our time, explores his anxiety that our world has sped up and that history in this century is a dizzying, unpredictable and unsettling succession of events. Hare has always imbued the political with the personal, exposed the aphrodisiac of power and the creative energy of anger. His latest book, *We Travelled: Essays and Poems*, continues his life's work of arguing against economic rationalism and the bankers, politicians, plutocrats and churchmen who profit from it.

**Chair: Bob Carr**

12:00PM



## THE IRISH QUESTION

John Boyne, Esther Freud and Louise Kennedy

James Joyce in *Ulysses* wrote: "Every life is many days, day after day. We walk through ourselves, meeting robbers, ghosts, giants, old men, young men, wives, widows, brothers-in-love, but always meeting ourselves." John Boyne, Esther Freud and Louise Kennedy examine the Irish soul.

**Chair: Claire Nichols**

*Supported by Culture Ireland*

1:15PM



## MEET THE COHENS

Josh Cohen and Joshua Cohen

**JOSHUA COHEN  
LIVE STREAMED FROM  
TEL AVIV**

"No matter what arguments I'd advance, I'd be the loser and murdered." The credo of Benzion Netanyahu in Joshua Cohen's novel *The Netanyahus* encapsulates the cost of winning and of losing. Novelist Joshua Cohen and psychoanalyst Josh Cohen discuss the haunting figure of the loser in literature, politics and psychoanalysis.

**Chair: Jon Faine**

2:30PM



## AN AUSTRALIAN PUBLISHING ICON

Hilary McPhee

Hilary McPhee, together with her business partner Di Gribble, established Australia's first woman-owned publishing house in 1975. For over two decades, McPhee discovered new writers who are now revered as greats of the Australian literary canon, including Helen Garner, Tim Winton and Drusilla Modjeska. *Monkey Grip*, *Puberty Blues* and *Cloudstreet* are just some of the books this Grand Dame of Australian letters nurtured into being. In this insightful conversation, McPhee talks about those halcyon days, her friend the late Carmen Callil and the state of modern publishing.

**Chair: Anne Summers**

3:45PM



## WHY BOOKS ABOUT POLITICS MATTER

Laura Tingle and John Warhurst

Once upon a time the publishing mantra was that books about politics only sell if written by progressives. The past decade has proven that truism wrong. But what makes for a good book about contemporary politics? Is it scandal? Revelation? Good writing? Laura Tingle and John Warhurst (with Laurie Oakes) spent much of the past 12 months reading as judges of the inaugural Australian Political Book of the Year. So, what did they conclude?

5:00PM



## RUSSIA NOW AND THEN

Alhierd Bacharevič, Sheila Fitzpatrick and Anatol Lieven

**ANATOL LIEVEN LIVE  
STREAMED FROM  
LONDON**

As the war in Ukraine drags on, cities are destroyed and people's lives are devastated, how do we make sense of Russia and the rationale behind its 'special military operation'? There has been intense focus on the plight of Ukraine's citizenry, but less attention has been paid to the Russian mindset, the historical context for this invasion and the likely consequences. Former ABC foreign correspondent Monica Attard is joined by political scientist Anatol Lieven, historian Sheila Fitzpatrick and Belarusian writer Alhierd Bacharevič.

**Chair: Monica Attard**

9:30AM



## THE POLITICS OF PANDEMICS

Chip Le Grand and Raina MacIntyre

How should we judge Australia's response to the pandemic? We were quick to declare a pandemic, to close our borders, to grow COVID in a lab. But we could also have done better – the pandemic divided the federation and our government failed to protect the elderly or the young. Our COVID report card is mixed. Join *The Age's* Chief Political Reporter, Chip Le Grand, and renowned epidemiologist Raina MacIntyre for a fascinating conversation.

Chair: Jon Faine

10:45AM



## POETRY IN THE AGE OF ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING

Simon Armitage

British Poet Laureate Simon Armitage is also a playwright, a novelist, a screenwriter and a musician. While he has turned his hand to many art forms, he recognises the continued need for poetry: "It seems to me that, in this age of over-information, poetry is more important than ever, because it refuses to be garrulous and to join in with the constant diarrhoea of information. It is resolutely compact." Join us as Armitage looks back on his life and work.

Chair: Felicity Plunkett

12:00PM



## WHEN CHILDREN ARE CANNON FODDER

Paul Byrnes

Too young to shave and still wearing short pants, boys as young as 13 lined up and lied about their age to volunteer in the Second World War. These boys must have forgotten the horrors their fathers and grandfathers endured in the First World War or not understood their true impact. Paul Byrnes shares some of these tragic and deeply moving personal stories with Paul Daley, a journalist and author with an abiding interest in history and national identity.

Chair: Paul Daley

1:15PM



## "FROM THE PULSE OF MY HEART"

Louise Kennedy

Growing up Catholic on the outskirts of 1970s Belfast, Louise Kennedy's earliest memories are marked by violence: flying glass lacerating her grandmother when a bomb went off during the Troubles. Her novel, *Trespases*, is a love story set against a backdrop of escalating violence. It won the award for Novel of the Year at the 2022 An Post Irish Book Awards and has been hailed as a brilliant and devastating debut.

Chair: Nicci Gerrard

Supported by Culture Ireland

2:30PM



## MODERN RELATIONSHIPS

Sloane Crosley, Laura Kipnis and Diana Reid

Gender dynamics in the 21st century can be befuddling. Through fiction and non-fiction alike, three renowned authors explore the humour, pathos, heartbreak and the challenges of human connection in the modern city. Sloane Crosley, author of *Cult Classic*, Laura Kipnis author of *Love in the Age of Contagion* and Diana Reid, author of *Seeing People*, are keen observers of contemporary etiquette and the morality of modern personal relationships. They share their observations with Katrina Strickland.

Chair: Katrina Strickland

Sloane Crosley is supported by the Consulate of the United States

3:45PM



## AMERICA, AMERICA

Shalom Auslander, James Curran, John Keane and Fintan O'Toole

The 20th century was deemed 'The American Century'. In more recent times, that title has been challenged by the might and power of China. Experts describe the new world order as multipolar. As America has turned inwards and its exceptionalism engendered skepticism, what are the ramifications? Is a world where spheres of influence are more balanced good for nation states, for their citizens and for collective international action? The Hon Bob Carr tests these propositions with Shalom Auslander, James Curran, John Keane and Fintan O'Toole.

Chair: Bob Carr

5:00PM



## THE RETURN OF D.H. LAWRENCE

Amit Chaudhuri, Geoff Dyer, Lara Feigel and Alison MacLeod

**LARA FEIGEL & ALISON MACLEOD LIVE STREAMED FROM LONDON**

In her 1970 book *Sexual Politics*, Kate Millett described *Lady Chatterley's Lover* as a "quasi-religious tract" worshipping at the altar of the penis. Critical responses have since become more nuanced. Novelist Alison MacLeod and cultural critics Amit Chaudhuri, Geoff Dyer and Lara Feigel discuss a writer whose subject – sex and bodies – suddenly seems profoundly modern.

Chair: Felicity Plunkett

9:30AM



## "YES, HE HAS COME TO THE END OF HIS SENTENCE, BUT DOES THAT MEAN HE HAS NOTHING MORE TO SAY?"

John Banville

LIVE STREAMED FROM LONDON

Irish novelist John Banville is the author of 26 books, including seven crime novels under the name Benjamin Black. In 2005, he won the Booker Prize for his novel *The Sea*. His latest novel, *Singularities*, is a virtuosic, referential work in which he revisits some of his most celebrated characters and playfully grapples with the abiding literary problems of representation, invention and truth.

Chair: Sean O'Beirne

10:45AM



## SLOANE CROSELY: IN PROFILE

Sloane Crosley

"Marriage is agreeing to live in someone else's narrative", according to the 30-something heroine at the heart of Sloane Crosley's second novel, *Cult Classic*. An acerbic wit and whip-smart observations are the hallmark of Crosley's writing in her essays, columns and novels, drawing the praise of writers such as Nick Hornby and Elif Batuman. Crosley discusses her process and the connections between her fiction and non-fiction writing.

Chair: Diana Reid

Supported by the Consulate of the United States

12:00PM



## THE PERILS OF PUBLISHING

Michael Bradley, Adele Ferguson, Samantha Maiden and Louise Milligan

Publishing books on topical issues can be a health hazard, requiring deft footwork to avoid defamation suits, suppression orders, risk-averse publishers, cautious lawyers and, most particularly, litigious subjects. Veteran journalists and authors Louise Milligan, Adele Ferguson and Samantha Maiden revisit some of their most challenging projects with Michael Bradley, a lawyer who has steered many an author through this process.

Chair: Grant McAvaney

1:15PM



## A TENDER LADY CHATTERLEY

Alison MacLeod

LIVE STREAMED FROM LONDON

Alison MacLeod's historical novel *Tenderness* is a powerful recreation of the origins of D. H. Lawrence's scandalous love story, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. From the author in exile, dying bereft in 1930s France, to the high drama of the obscenity trial, MacLeod's novel captures the 20th century conflicts over censorship and sexuality. She talks about the power of literature to disturb, our urge to repress and the resonances of this historical chapter for our time.

Chair: Felicity Plunkett

2:30PM



## A VISION IN TEAL

Simon Holmes à Court, Margot Saville and Brook Turner

The rise of the Teals with the election of over 10 independents to the Australian Federal Parliament changed Australian politics. These are candidates who shared a commitment to climate change, integrity in politics and gender equality. Does their election mean we are witnessing the end of the two-party system? Will independents improve the quality of decision-making? Marian Wilkinson talks with Simon Holmes à Court, Margot Saville and Brook Turner about the Teals and their future.

Chair: Marian Wilkinson

3:45PM



## ON ENDINGS

Geoff Dyer

The problem of endings is particularly acute for a master of digression. In *The Last Days of Roger Federer*, Geoff Dyer's own encounter with the existential drama of late middle age is set against the late work of great artists – from Bob Dylan to John Coltrane, Annie Dillard to Giorgio de Chirico. In conversation with Jonathan Green, Dyer talks about final chapters, twilight achievements, a little about tennis and why he had to complete his latest book before Roger Federer's retirement.

Chair: Jonathan Green

5:00PM



## THE HAZARDS OF MOTHERHOOD

Esther Freud and Gina Rushton

Motherhood has forever been the repository for our deepest collective fantasies and anxieties. In an era when debates over abortion, reproductive technologies and gender politics rage, the moralism and sentimentalism around motherhood has been given renewed intensity. Esther Freud and Gina Rushton have both explored the role of mothers in their writing and continue the conversation here with Katrina Strickland.

Chair: Katrina Strickland



9:30AM



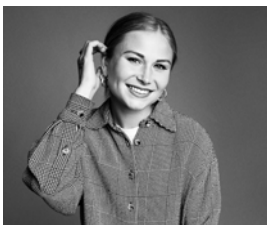
## LIFE IS A BRIEF AFFAIR

Alex Miller

Two-time winner of the Miles Franklin Literary Award, Alex Miller is a giant of Australian literature. His latest novel, *A Brief Affair*, engages with one of literature's most compelling subjects – unhappy women. He talks to journalist Jonathan Green about this deeply moving novel, the question of authenticity and the writer's fidelity to imaginative truth.

**Chair: Jonathan Green**

10:45AM



## "MAY THESE WORDS BRING YOU HOME"

Grace Tame

Former Australian of the Year Grace Tame is a public voice and advocate for survivors of sexual abuse. She is also the author of a new memoir, *The Ninth Life of a Diamond Miner*. Tame sits down with award-winning *Four Corners* journalist Louise Milligan for a conversation about finding one's voice, speaking truth to power and why sometimes only a side-eye will suffice.

**Chair: Louise Milligan**

12:00PM



## COLD WAR, HOT CULTURE

Louis Menand

**LIVE STREAMED FROM NEW YORK**

Louis Menand, the author of Pulitzer Prize-winning book *The Metaphysical Club*, tells the story of America after the Second World War in his latest book, *The Free World*. With references to luminaries such as Jack Kerouac, Elvis Presley, Susan Sontag and James Baldwin, Menand explores the significant cultural figures of the Cold War period, when "ideas mattered, painting mattered, movies mattered, poetry mattered".

**Chair: Bob Carr**

*Supported by the Consulate of the United States*

1:15PM



## THE AUSSIE QUEEN OF NOIR

Jane Harper

Critic Beejay Silcox has suggested that Jane Harper's "outback noir mega-hit *The Dry* kick-started a crime-writing boom... the drought blighted bush town became a genre trope: Australia's sunburned answer to the arid cold of Scandi noir". Her subsequent novels have received international acclaim and have cemented Harper's place in the crime genre. She joins Silcox to talk about the intersection of character, plot and landscape and what becoming an international bestseller has meant to her writing.

**Chair: Beejay Silcox**

2:30PM



## THE PLANET'S CLOCK IS TICKING

Ross Garnaut and Simon Holmes à Court

Two of the most innovative minds in the business tell us if the energy transition plan can work in time to save our planet. Join Simon Holmes à Court, founder of Climate 200, and economist Ross Garnaut in conversation with Marian Wilkinson, a Walkley Award-winning journalist and author of *The Carbon Club*.

**Chair: Marian Wilkinson**

3:45PM



## THE BATTLE FOR LONG TAN

Peter FitzSimons

The Battle of Long Tan was the deadliest battle for Australian forces in Vietnam and every ANZAC who fought there could hold his head high. Peter FitzSimons and military historian Peter Brune discuss the events leading up to that terrible battle and the long war that followed.

**Chair: Peter Brune**

5:00PM



## MEET A POLYMATH

Alexander McCall Smith

Alexander McCall Smith is a man of many talents. An Emeritus Professor of Medical Law, he is perhaps best known for his entertaining crime books, including *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series. These beloved works are just the tip of a prolific iceberg that encompasses everything from philosophy to children's literature. In this session, he'll turn his hand to a new task - attempting to convince crime reviewer and academic Sue Turnbull to open the untouched volume of W.H. Auden poetry she won as a school prize in 1969.

**Chair: Sue Turnbull**