

ADELAIDE



WRITERS'



WEEK 2020

29 FEB - 5 MAR

Submit your questions via email at
awwquestions@adelaidefestival.com.au or Twitter using #awwlivestream

**ADELAIDE
FESTIVAL** **AF**
 28 Feb - 15 Mar 2020

Presenting Partners



Live Streaming Schedule

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SENIORS CARD

DAY THREE Mon 2 Mar	9.30am	Mining History's Depths Damian Barr & Bart van Es
	10.45am	Christianity's Crossroads Tim Costello, Meredith Lake & Christos Tsiolkas
	12 pm	Greenwood Michael Christie
	1.15pm	Women in War Zahra Hankir & Sophie McNeill
	2.30pm	A Carbon Free Future Tim Flannery & Ross Garnaut
	3.45pm	Inner Explorations Joy Harjo & Ali Cobby Eckermann
	5pm	Future Politics Jamie Susskind
DAY FOUR Tue 3 Mar	9.30am	Trees for Life Michael Christie & Sophie Cunningham
	10.45am	Love, Life, and Activism Dennis Altman, Chiké Frankie Edozien
	12 pm	Combatting Extremism Tony McAleer & Jeff Sparrow
	1.15pm	Radical Democracy Yanis Varoufakis
	2.30pm	Reflections on Writing John Birmingham & John Boyne
	3.45pm	See What You Made Me Do Jess Hill
	5pm	Guest House for Young Widows Azadeh Moaveni
DAY FIVE Wed 4 Mar	9.30am	Ripped from the Headlines Tony Jones & Heather Rose
	10.45am	Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister Jung Chang
	12 pm	Peddling Doom Antony Loewenstein & Yanis Varoufakis
	1.15pm	The Challenge of Change Johka Alharthi, Zahra Hankir & Azadeh Moaveni
	2.30pm	Tell Me Why Archie Roach
	3.45pm	The Weekend Charlotte Wood
	5pm	Poetic Justice Joy Harjo
DAY SIX Thu 5 Mar	9.30am	The Rise and Fall of Cardinal Pell David Marr & Louise Milligan
	10.45am	Rage Inside the Machine Robert Elliott Smith
	12 pm	Celestial Bodies Jokha Alharthi
	1.15pm	Keeping it Together Chris Fleming, Antony Loewenstein & Mandy Whyte
	2.30pm	The Visionary Don Dunstan Angela Woollacott
	3.45pm	Storming the World Felicity McLean & Michael Robotham
	5pm	The Erratics Vicki Laveau-Harvie

Mon 2 Mar

LIVE
STREAMING
SCHEDULE

9.30am



MINING HISTORY'S DEPTHS

Damian Barr
Bart van Es

Damian Barr's *You Will Be Safe Here* is a heartbreaking novel that links two dark periods of South African history to examine trauma and its terrible echoes through time. Bart van Es delves deep into his family's history to explore the Dutch response to Germany's murderous Third Reich in his Costa Award-winning *The Cut Out Girl*. Their meticulously researched, beautifully told stories tread lightly across sensitive truths, powerfully demonstrating history's resonance across fiction and non-fiction.

Chair: Anton Enus

10.45am



CHRISTIANITY'S CROSSROADS

Tim Costello
Meredith Lake
Christos Tsiolkas

Beset by scandals across its denominations, the institutions of Christianity seem in crisis, with followers disillusioned by the dissonance between the behaviour of religious leaders and the Bible's teachings. Meredith joins Christos Tsiolkas (*Damascus*) and Tim Costello (*A Lot with a Little*) to discuss the ethics and culture of Christianity and its institutions, and how they shape Australia.

Chair: Sharon Davis

12.00pm



GREENWOOD

Michael Christie

Michael Christie's magnificent *Greenwood* begins after The Great Withering in one of the last tranches of old-growth forests, now a kind of eco-museum for wealthy tourists. Over-qualified guide Jacinda "Jake" Greenwood's world is turned upside down when she learns her tangled family tree gives her a claim of ownership on the resort. Dazzlingly structured across four generations, this propulsive family saga takes us to the end of the world, and then shows us how we got there.

Chair: Michael Williams

1.15pm



WOMEN IN WAR

Zahra Hankir
Sophie McNeill

Sophie McNeill is one of Australia's most celebrated journalists who has reported from frontlines in Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq and Gaza. With pathos and power, her new book, *We Can't Say We Didn't Know*, tells the human stories behind the battleground's headlines. Lebanese-British journalist Zahra Hankir's *Our Women on the Ground* is a collection of writings from Arab women reporting on conflicts in their own homelands, an important anthology that provides a new, non-Western lens through which to view familiar wars.

Chair: Deb Whitmont

2.30pm



A CARBON FREE FUTURE

Tim Flannery
Ross Garnaut

From the scrapping of the Carbon Tax, to support for new coal mines, Australia's major parties seem unable to grapple with our Earth's climate crisis. In *Superpower: Australia's Low Carbon Opportunity*, Ross Garnaut argues this political paralysis has obscured unrivalled opportunity. Tim Flannery's *Life: Selected Writings* documents a life at the forefront of our environmental debates. Two of Australia's leading Climate Change thinkers discuss how Australia can break out of its current policy mire and the great prospects that await us when we do.

Chair: Tom Griffiths

3.45pm



EPIC AMERICANS

Joy Harjo
Ali Cobby Eckermann

When Joy Harjo became US Poet Laureate in June 2019, she became the first Native American to hold that position. Ali Cobby Eckermann was the first Aboriginal Australian to win Yale University's prestigious Windham-Campbell prize, awarded annually for excellence in writing. These two trailblazing women are powerful voices in international literature, complex, activist, and authentic. They describe the challenges they have overcome to achieve their stunning literary success, and how they write them into their poems.

Chair: Michael Williams

5.00pm



FUTURE POLITICS: LIVING TOGETHER IN A WORLD TRANSFORMED BY TECH

Jamie Susskind

It is uncontroversial to state that our world has been transformed by technology. But what are the implications of this revolution? To what extent should our lives be dictated by powerful digital systems...and on what terms? Jamie Susskind's award-winning *Future Politics* examines the relentless digital innovation of our time, positing digital code as the architecture of our age, capable of directing our behaviour and thought. It challenges us to acknowledge that Digital is Political, and develop an appropriate response to this era-defining fact.

Chair: Scott Ludlam

Tue 3 Mar

LIVE
STREAMING
SCHEDULE

9.30am



TREES FOR LIFE

Michael Christie
Sophie Cunningham

"A tree is never just a tree" writes Sophie Cunningham in her stunning essay collection, *City of Trees*. She marvels at the grandeur and intensity of trees and their forests, and their capacity to tell the story of their surrounds. In Michael Christie's *Greenwood*, wealthy tourists flock to an exclusive arboreal resort to experience the great majesty of Earth's last cache of trees. Both books vividly and profoundly remind us of what we stand to lose if our wholesale destruction of trees continues.

Chair: Scott Ludlam

10.45am



LOVE, LIFE AND ACTIVISM

Dennis Altman
Chiké Frankie
Edozien

Vibrant and humane, Chiké Frankie Edozien's award-winning memoir, *Lives of Great Men*, recounts the lives of gay Africans, some who exile themselves in the West in order to live openly and freely, some who stay home, mostly in the closet. Dennis Altman's *Unrequited Love* tells of an intellectual life spent at the forefront of the Gay Liberation movement. Along the way, these fascinating memoirs document social shifts – for better and worse – and are illuminating love letters to Africa and the US.

Chair: Anton Enus

12.00pm



COMBATTING EXTREMISM

Tony McAleer
Jeff Sparrow

Tony McAleer spent 15 years as a leader, recruiter and propagandist for North American white supremacist groups. His long and arduous journey back from hate is documented in his book *The Cure for Hate*. The Christchurch massacre prompted Jeff Sparrow to investigate the politics of hate and fascism, and the threat they pose. The result is *Fascists Among Us*. A timely discussion about the motivations and strategies of the far right, and how individuals are drawn into a world of violent extremism.

Chair: George Megalogenis

1.15pm



RADICAL DEMOCRACY

Yanis Varoufakis

Politician, economist and public intellectual: Yanis Varoufakis is one of Europe's most intriguing and charismatic leaders. He came to prominence as Greek Foreign Minister arguing against a European Union-imposed austerity, condemning the EU as anti-democratic and overly bureaucratic. Now heading his own party in the Greek Parliament – the fantastically named *European Realistic Disobedience Front* – he has emerged as a leader of a fiercely democratic pan-European movement and a powerful advocate for a radically humanist post-capitalist society.

Chair: Tony Jones

2.30pm



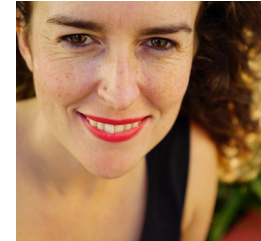
REFLECTIONS ON WRITING

John Birmingham
John Boyne

John Boyne and John Birmingham's prolific writings traverse styles and genres. Best known for his bestselling *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, John Boyne has written 16 novels, short stories and his reviews appear in *The Irish Times* and *The Guardian*. Cult classic *He Died With A Falafel in His Hand* was John Birmingham's first published book. He has gone on to write award-winning history, science fiction, reportage and regular newspaper columns. They reflect on the challenges, joys and business of being a writer.

Chair: Charlotte Wood

3.45pm



SEE WHAT YOU MADE ME DO

Jess Hill

Jess Hill's acclaimed *See What You Made Me Do* sheds new and harrowing light on the social and psychological causes of domestic abuse, its horrifying consequences and the failure of our legal and social institutions to adequately respond. Exhaustively researched, this important and courageous book has helped reframe the national conversation about domestic abuse – who abuses, who they abuse and why – making a compelling argument that change is not only necessary but possible.

Chair: Victoria Purman

5.00pm



GUEST HOUSE FOR YOUNG WIDOWS

Azadeh Moaveni

Shortlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize, Azadeh Moaveni's *Guest House for Young Widows* is a gripping account of thirteen young women who were variously recruited, inspired, or compelled to leave their lives and, in some cases, countries, to join ISIS. Azadeh offers a nuanced and meticulously researched explanation of the global appeal of violent jihadism, and visceral descriptions of the brutality that awaited these young women seeking community and empowerment. With some still stranded by the Caliphate's fall, this is an urgent important book.

Chair: Sophie McNeill

9.30am



RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES

Tony Jones
Heather Rose

Terrorism, Canberra power struggles, international intrigue: they feature in our headlines and in the latest offerings from Stella Award-winning novelist Heather Rose and renowned Australian journalist Tony Jones. *Bruny* asks hard questions about our politicians' capacity to handle China's complex agendas. Tony Jones' pacy thrillers *The Twentieth Man* and *In Darkness Visible* traverse global conflagrations and Australian macho politics. Tony blurs historical fact and fiction; Heather speculates on all-too-possible futures.

Chair: Victoria Purman

10.45am



BIG SISTER, LITTLE SISTER, RED SISTER

Jung Chang

From the author of the worldwide bestseller *Wild Swans*, Jung Chang, comes the story of the remarkable Soong sisters, three sisters who were among the most significant political figures of 20th Century China. One married "Father of China" Sun Yat-sen and became Mao's vice-chair, one became Chiang Kai-Shek's unofficial main adviser, and the other married him. Sometimes arch political opponents but always close-knit, the glamorous and privileged *Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister* were at the very centre of power and helped shape modern China.

Chair: Sophie Cunningham

12.00pm



PEDDLING DOOM: THE EXISTENTIAL THREATS OF CAPITALISM

Antony Loewenstein
Yanis Varoufakis

Has capitalism mutated into a system that poses real risks to human beings, whether those in vulnerable groups – the poor, the remote, those who have suffered a natural or human-made disaster – or as an entire species? Yanis Varoufakis (*And the Weak Suffer What They Must?*) and Antony Loewenstein (*Disaster Capitalism: Making A Killing Out Of Catastrophe*) ponder whether our current economic systems now represent an existential threat to our species, and if so, what can be done about it.

Chair: Paul Barclay

1.15pm



THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE: WOMEN'S LIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Johka Alharthi, Zahra Hankir, Azadeh Moaveni

A distinguished panel explores the extent of change in the lives of women in the Middle East over the last decade. Lebanese-British journalist Zahra Hankir (*Our Women on the Ground: Essays from Arab Women Reporting from the Arab World*), Iranian-American journalist and author Azadeh Moaveni (*Lipstick Jihad* and *Guest House for Young Widows*) and Omani novelist and academic Johka Alharthi (*Celestial Bodies*) examine the diversity of women's experiences across the Middle East, and the challenges they face in campaigning for equality.

Chair: Shakira Hussein

2.30pm



TELL ME WHY

Archie Roach

In this deeply moving memoir, Australian musical legend Archie Roach tells his story for the first time. Best known for his anthem for the Stolen Generations, *Took the Children Away*, *Tell Me Why* recounts the impact on his own life of being taken away, separated from family and country. He details his struggle with mental health, attempts to reconnect with his people, and his triumphant redemption through music and love.

Chair: David Sly

3.45pm



THE WEEKEND

Charlotte Wood

The Natural Way of Things was a literary sensation and garnered its author accolades and awards. Charlotte Wood's new novel, *The Weekend*, is equally impressive. A study in female friendship, loss and the challenges of ageing, the story unfolds over a Christmas weekend, as three old friends meet to sort through the house of the recently deceased fourth in their quartet. Full of sharp characterisations, keen observations and dry, sly humour, *The Weekend* is an absorbing, satisfying exploration of growing up and growing old.

Chair: Kerry Goldsworthy
Supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

5.00pm



POETIC JUSTICE

Joy Harjo

Musician, author and poet Joy Harjo was appointed US Poet Laureate in June 2019, the first Native American to hold the position. Her journey to this literary pinnacle has not been easy – she recounts the trauma of her early life in her illuminating memoir *Crazy Brave*. She found redemption in the spirit of poetry. Full of wisdom and beauty, Joy's poetry is steeped in spirituality and the great myths of her people, and is a profound and poignant exploration of the universe and our place within it.

Chair: Claire Nichols

9.30am



THE RISE AND FALL OF CARDINAL PELL

David Marr
Louise Milligan

George Pell was Australia's most powerful Catholic – friend to Prime Ministers, right-hand man to the Pope. Then it all came crashing down. Louise Milligan was the only journalist to tell the stories of Pell's accusers. When Pell was charged and later convicted of sex crimes against children, Louise's reporting on the allegations in her book, *Cardinal*, led to her being a witness in the case. Her work won her two Quill Awards and Walkley Book of the Year. She joins long-time Pell observer and author of *The Prince: Faith, Abuse and George Pell*, David Marr.

Chair: Rick Sarre

10.45am



RAGE INSIDE THE MACHINE

Robert Elliott Smith

Our world today is as governed by technology as it is by laws and regulations. One of the world's leading experts on AI and evolutionary algorithms, Robert Elliott Smith believes we have been dangerously seduced into believing that technology is neutral and it is only its human users that distort and discriminate. In his lucid, insightful and highly readable *Rage Inside the Machine*, Robert demonstrates how non-scientific ideas have been encoded deep within our technological infrastructure and the pernicious impact this can have on our lives.

Chair: Natasha Cica

12.00pm



CELESTIAL BODIES

Jokha Alharthi

A poetic novel of great beauty and intensity, Jokha Alharthi's *Celestial Bodies* is the first novel written in Arabic to win the International Booker Prize. Through the lives of interconnected families across three generations, it reveals the radical changes that have transformed Oman over the last century, from a traditional slave-owning country to a complex contemporary society. Told from alternating first and third perspectives, this rich family saga combines deep cultural insight with clever construction.

Chair: Claire Nichols

1.15pm



KEEPING IT TOGETHER: A RATIONAL RESPONSE TO DRUGS

Chris Fleming
Antony Loewenstein
Mandy Whyte

For better or worse, human beings have long been taking drugs, legal and illegal. Why are some drugs outlawed and others embraced? What is the impact of prohibition? A panel that brings together three important perspectives: journalist and author Antony Loewenstein looks at the effect of the US-led War on Drugs in his book *Pills, Powder and Smoke*. Chris Fleming's *On Drugs* documents his own addiction. Mandy Whyte recounts her efforts to save her meth-addicted son in *Dancing on a Razor's Edge*.

Chair: David Penberthy

2.30pm



THE VISIONARY DON DUNSTAN

Angela Woollacott

South Australians are rightly proud of the pioneering Premier who ushered in an era of dynamic reform and established our state as a national leader. In this first major biography of Don Dunstan, historian Angela Woollacott details the great social and political achievements of his Government. She recounts how the progressive agenda Dunstan set in South Australia paved the way for a more modern Australia, the personal costs and triumphs of his life fully lived, and his contemporary significance.

Chair: Anthony Durkin

3.45pm



STORMING THE WORLD

Felicity McLean
Michael Robotham

Michael Robotham and Felicity McLean both began their writing careers as journalists before moving into the dark art of ghostwriting. In 2002, Michael's first novel became the subject of an international bidding war and he is now one of the world's most successful crime writers. His latest book is *Good Girl, Bad Girl*. Felicity looks set to follow in Michael's footsteps after her first novel, the compulsive *The Van Apfel Girls are Gone*, became an international sensation. They discuss their books and astonishing career trajectories.

Chair: David Sly

5.00pm



THE ERRATICS

Vicki Laveau-Harvie

Vicki Laveau-Harvie became a debut author in her mid-seventies with her extraordinary memoir, *The Erratics*. Returning to wintry Alberta after 18 years to tend to their infirm ageing parents, Vicki and her sister navigate the willful cruelty of their harsh, mad mother, and excavate the past and the psychological damage she unleashed on their family. "Be glad if you forget", she writes. A book of unsettling honesty, tar-black humour and welcome warmth, *The Erratics* was the first memoir to win the Stella Prize.

Chair: Kerry Goldsworthy