

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL



LIVE & LOCAL

LIVE
STREAM
SCHEDULE
23–26 MAY



THURSDAY 23 MAY

All times are AWST*

8–9AM	JULIA BAIRD: <i>BRIGHT SHINING</i>
10–11AM	VIET THANH NGUYEN: <i>A MAN OF TWO FACES</i>
12–1PM	SUZIE MILLER: <i>PRIMA FACIE</i>
2–3PM	JULIAN BORGER: <i>I SEEK A KIND PERSON</i>
4–5PM	FANTASTICAL WORLDS
5.30–6.30PM	LOVE AND LONGING

FRIDAY 24 MAY

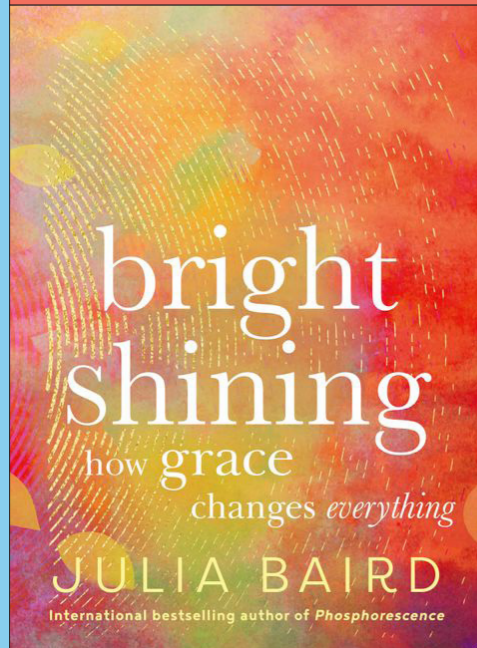
8–9AM	A.C. GRAYLING: <i>THE MEANING OF LIFE IN A TECHNOLOGICAL AGE</i>
10–11AM	THE WAR ON JOURNALISTS
12–1PM	ABDULRAZAK GURNAH: <i>AFTERLIVES</i>
2–3PM	FEMINIST FIREBRANDS

SATURDAY 25 MAY

8–9AM	CELESTE NG: <i>OUR MISSING HEARTS</i>
10–11AM	TRENT DALTON: <i>FROM ELI TO LOLA</i>
12–1PM	STORYTELLERS: LEIGH SALES AND LISA MILLAR

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

8-9AM



JULIA BAIRD: *BRIGHT SHINING*

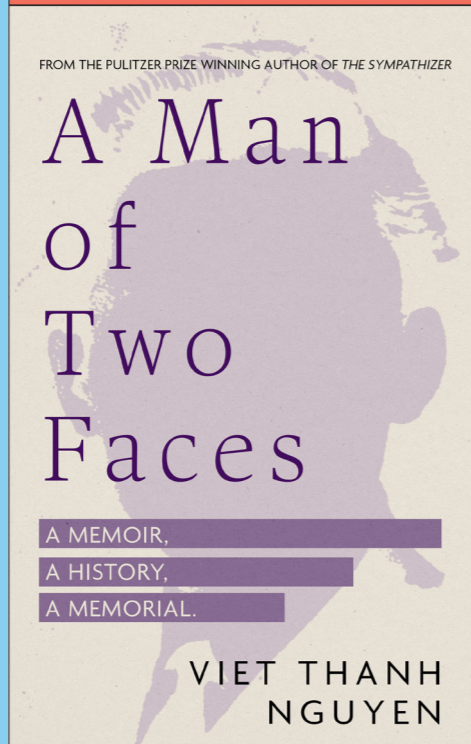
Nurturing grace, even in the darkest of times

Following broadcaster and author Julia Baird's multi-award-winning international bestseller, *Phosphorescence*, comes a beautiful and timely exploration of that most mysterious but necessary human quality: grace.

Bright Shining: How grace changes everything asks what grace looks like today, how we recognise it, nurture it within ourselves and express it. For Julia, grace can be found by being kinder, bigger and better with each other.

Sit down with Julia to discuss this luminous work, which *The Guardian* described as "a book the world needs now". In conversation with journalist Jacqueline Maley.

10-11AM



VIET THANH NGUYEN: *A MAN OF TWO FACES*

Tragicomic memoir from Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sympathizer*

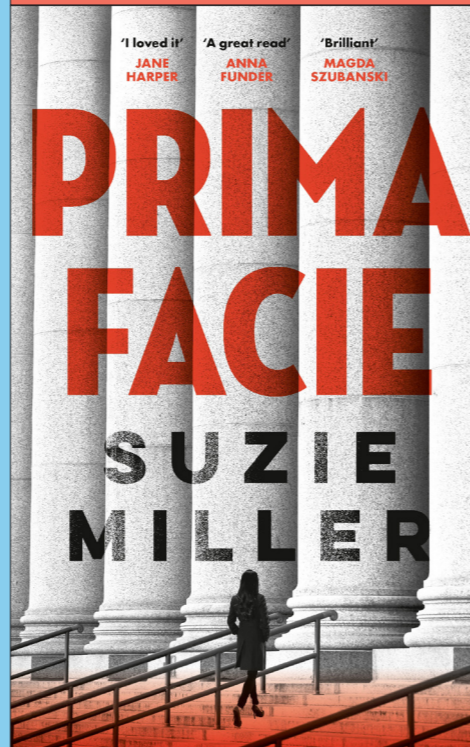
"I am a spy, a sleeper, a spook, a man of two faces", begins Viet Thanh Nguyen's debut novel, *The Sympathizer*, the internationally acclaimed bestseller that was recently adapted into an HBO series starring Sandra Oh and Robert Downey Jr.

This duality is also at the heart of Viet's highly original memoir, *A Man of Two Faces*, which details with sardonic wit and incisive analysis the double consciousness of a Vietnamese refugee growing up in North America.

Listen to the celebrated author, hailed as "a conscience of American literature" (*The New Yorker*), in conversation with Benjamin Law.

Viet Thanh Nguyen appears thanks to the support of Fiona and Matthew Playfair.

12-1PM



SUZIE MILLER: *PRIMA FACIE*

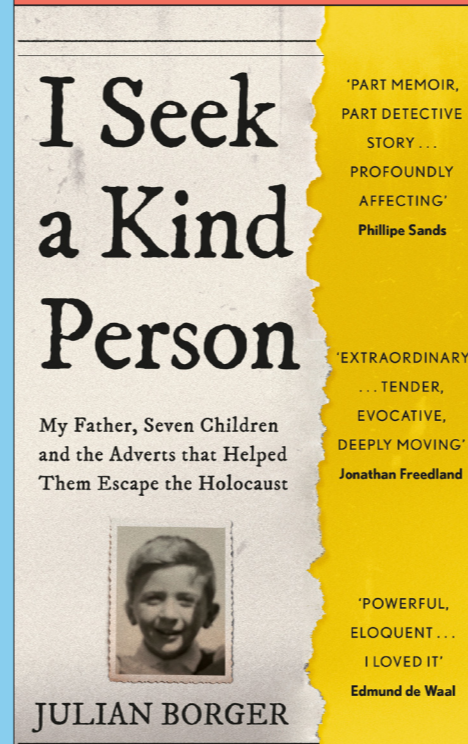
Suzie Miller's disturbingly prescient play, *Prima Facie*, dramatises the price sexual assault victims pay for speaking out.

This blistering one-woman show wowed audiences on Broadway and the West End, winning Suzie an Olivier Award and *Killing Eve* favourite Jodie Comer a Tony for her performance as the brilliant young barrister who, one sickening night, finds herself thrust into the flawed justice system.

Put the courts on trial with Suzie and writer and podcaster Nicole Abadee, as they discuss *Prima Facie*'s adaptation into a gripping novel and screenplay set to star Cynthia Erivo.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.

2-3PM



JULIAN BORGER: *I SEEK A KIND PERSON*

An enthralling memoir of family history and the Holocaust's resonance through generations

"I seek a kind person who will educate my intelligent boy, aged 11."

This extraordinary 1938 personal advertisement is the starting point for Julian Borger's quest to understand his father's past.

An enthralling memoir, family history and detective story all in one, Borger brings to life in vivid detail the Holocaust escape stories of a handful of children and families, and traces the resonance of these events through generations.

Supported by ARA.

4-5PM

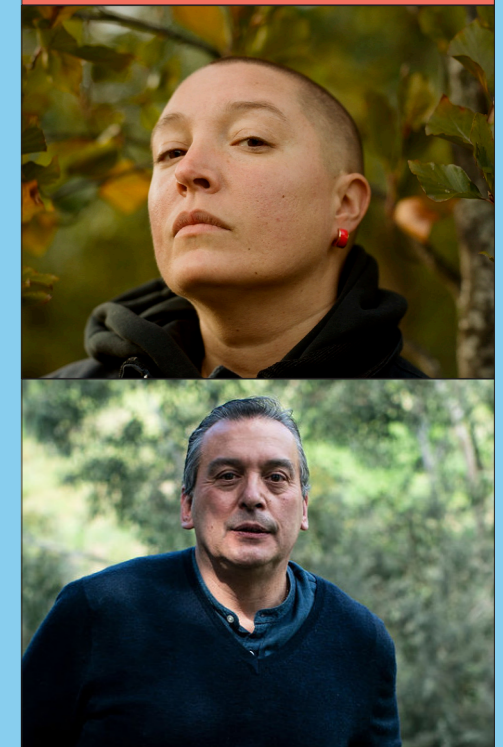


FANTASTICAL WORLDS

Forging new frontiers in fantasy

Imagine another world with the fantasy writers who are redefining the wildly popular genre. Australian fantasy heavyweight Garth Nix (*The Old Kingdom* series) takes to the stage with ascending local star Shelley Parker-Chan (*The Radiant Emperor* duology) and global sensation Samantha Shannon (*The Roots of Chaos* series) to explain how they create expansive universes for their epic stories, heroes and heroines. Don't miss this must-see event for YA and fantasy fans alike! Hosted by Aimée Lindorff.

5.30-6.30PM



LOVE AND LONGING

K Patrick and Christos Tsiolkas reveal their sentimental sides

Love is indeed a many splendoured thing in the work of K Patrick and Christos Tsiolkas, who know firsthand the pleasures of writing queer love stories.

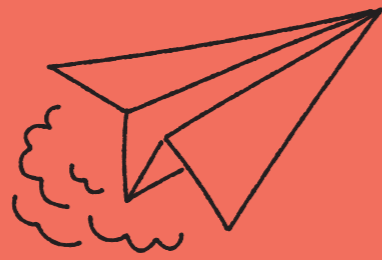
Hosted by Madeleine Gray, this beautiful conversation brings together two authors to discuss their sensual new novels. K's *Mrs S* pulses with lust and longing at an elite boarding school, while Christos' critically acclaimed *The In-Between* follows a fledgling relationship between two middle-aged men.

Swoon with K and Christos in this heartfelt discussion of romance, regret, desire and hope.

THURSDAY 23 MAY

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WRITERS' FESTIVAL

8-9AM



A.C. GRAYLING: THE MEANING OF LIFE IN A TECHNOLOGICAL AGE

Finding answers in changing times

"It shouldn't be the business of a philosopher today to tell people what to think", says A. C. Grayling, but rather "how to think".

The quest for a life worth living has been the business of philosophers for millennia. How can we pursue answers to life's big questions in a world that feels increasingly dangerous and unstable thanks to big tech and AI?

Unpack the 'how' in this unmissable talk from the pre-eminent philosopher, who returns to Australia following his sell-out public lectures last year.

10-11AM



THE WAR ON JOURNALISTS

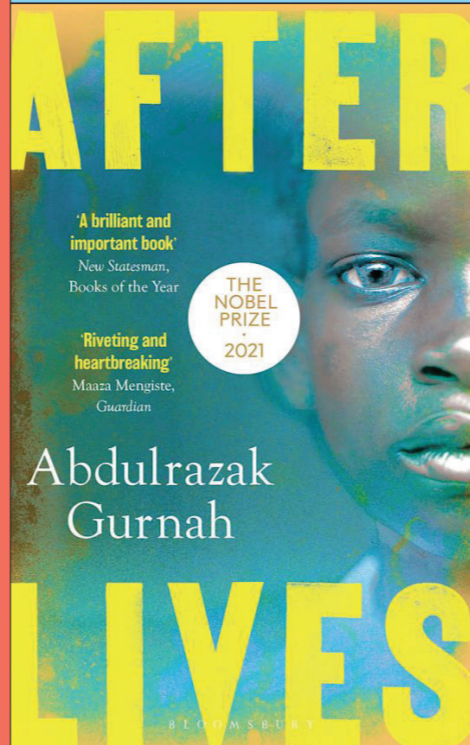
News from the frontlines

War correspondent Marie Colvin stated: "It has always seemed to me that what I write about is humanity in extremis, pushed to the unendurable, and that it is important to tell people what really happens in wars."

With conflict continuing in Ukraine, and the death toll of journalists in the Gaza conflict reaching alarming proportions, we look at the role of journalists in war – on and off the frontlines – and how vital the protection of journalists is to news we can trust about the realities of war.

Join us to hear from those with firsthand experience from the most conflict-ridden parts of the world: Global Affairs Editor for the ABC, John Lyons, *The Guardian* World Affairs Editor, Julian Borger and Ukrainian journalist Alisa Sopova of the 5km From the Frontline project. In conversation with journalist and broadcaster Hamish Macdonald.

12-1PM



ABDULRAZAK GURNAH: AFTERLIVES

Nobel Prize winner's saga of colonialism in Africa

At 18, Abdulrazak Gurnah arrived in England as a refugee from the *Zanzibar Revolution*. Receiving the Nobel Prize more than 50 years later, he reflected that the "prolonged period of poverty and alienation" he experienced made him a writer.

From the contemporary immigrant experience in his debut, *Memory of Departure*, to colonial wartime conscription in Booker Prize shortlisted *Paradise*, Abdulrazak's unflinching yet humane oeuvre interrogates the legacies of empire, centring that which is often too marginalised.

Listen as he and writer Sisonke Msimang discuss his tenth novel, *Afterlives* – an intergenerational portrait of love and loss under German occupation in East Africa.

2-3PM



FEMINIST FIREBRANDS

Plot the pathways forward with these incendiary feminist voices

Four waves in, the feminist fight for gender equality is far from over. This panel brings together the powerful and incendiary feminist voices of Hannah Ferguson, Sisonke Msimang and Jennifer Robinson. Hear from these leading writers and activists who between them offer daring feminist opinions on topics ranging from freedom of speech, right-wing politics, racism, xenophobia, belonging and identity, taboos around sex and pleasure, as well as the legal judgements that continue to silence and disadvantage women.

Be inspired by the feminist firebrands who are fighting for meaningful social change. Hosted by the inimitable Jo Dyer, this is an important examination of the most pressing issues facing women today.

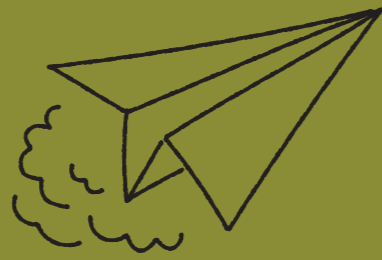
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FRIDAY 24 MAY

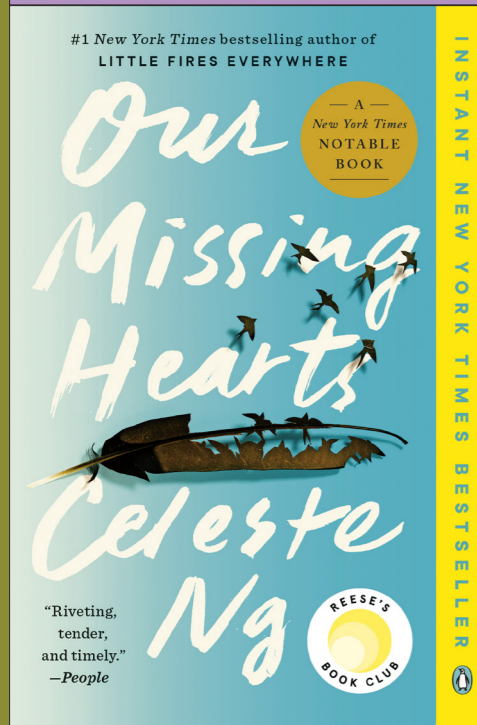
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WRITERS' FESTIVAL

8-9AM



CELESTE NG: *OUR MISSING HEARTS*

The gripping, heart-rending follow-up to *Little Fires Everywhere*

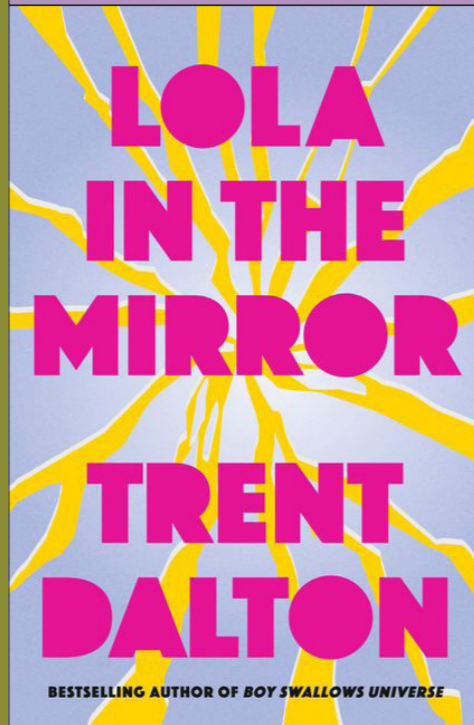
Banning books, waving flags and persecuting racial minorities. Sound familiar? Celeste Ng's third novel, *Our Missing Hearts*, is set in a marginally more dystopian version of Trump's America as a patriotic new law removes children from dissident parents.

After New York Times–bestselling novel *Little Fires Everywhere* – which was adapted into a popular miniseries starring Kerry Washington and Reese Witherspoon – comes a similarly moving tale about the unbreakable bond between a mother and son.

Sit down with Celeste and host Claire Nichols to discuss hope, hero librarians and the power of art to create change.

Celeste Ng appears thanks to the support of Sam Meers AO.

10-11AM



TRENT DALTON: FROM ELI TO LOLA

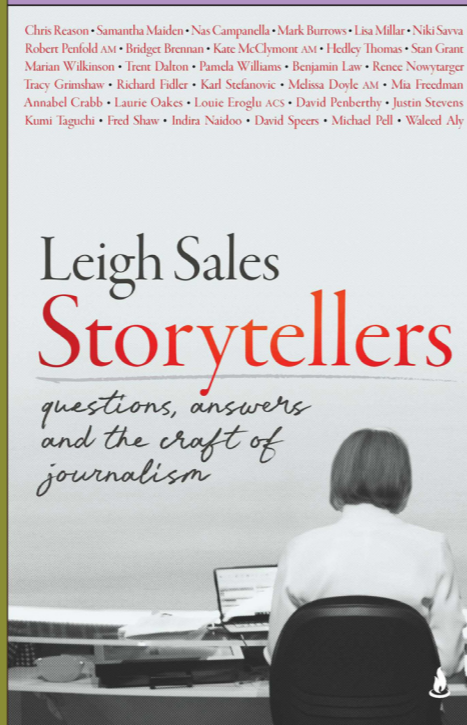
Beloved author returns to SWF in this career-spanning conversation

Trent Dalton has captured readers with books like *Boy Swallows Universe* and *All Our Shimmering Skies*. His storytelling voice and compelling characters cement him as a mainstay of Australian literature. His new novel, *Lola in the Mirror* is a darkly funny, and beautiful story of life, death and a country neck-deep in a national housing crisis.

Join Trent as he discusses his process of writing the intricacies of the real world, and real people, onto the page. A supremely compelling and entertaining speaker, Trent will be in conversation with Cassie McCullagh.

Supported by ARA.

12-1PM



STORYTELLERS: LEIGH SALES AND LISA MILLAR

Veteran journalists shine a spotlight on the craft of non-fiction

ABC legend Leigh Sales turns the spotlight on the best in the business in *Storytellers; Questions, Answers and the Craft of Journalism*, revealing coveted trade secrets in the process. Leigh is joined in conversation by fellow legend Lisa Millar, whose own book *Muster Dogs*, provides an insight into the craft of non-fiction writing. With a combined 65 years in journalism, the co-hosts of last year's hit *Newsreader* companion podcast, unpack the craft of non-fiction writing and discuss the fine art of turning real life events into a compelling narrative. This session is for anyone who's ever wanted to be a journalist or even just wondered how the news gets made.

Supported by ARA.



SATURDAY 25 MAY

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