

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL



QUIRINDI LIBRARY

*21-22 May
Live Stream
Schedule*



THURSDAY 21 MAY

10-10.55AM THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY: FIGHTING AUTHORITARIANISM WITH A.C. GRAYLING

12-12.55PM YANN MARTEL: *SON OF NOBODY*

2-2.55PM STEPHANIE ALEXANDER: *THE COOK'S COMPANION* 30TH ANNIVERSARY

4-4.55PM BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

FRIDAY 22 MAY

10-10.55AM BIG HISTORIES

12-12.55PM SUSAN CHOI: *FLASHLIGHT*

2-2.55PM TRENT DALTON: *GRAVITY LET ME GO*

4-4.55PM GREAT ADAPTATIONS



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SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

10-10.55AM



THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY: FIGHTING AUTHORITARIANISM WITH A.C. GRAYLING

Festival favourite philosopher on why democracy is something we can't lose

The Future of Democracy series, hosted by Nick Bryant and Rosalind Dixon, is a collaboration between Sydney Writers' Festival and the Resilient Democracy Lab at UNSW Sydney.

Professor of Philosophy and author A.C. Grayling outlines the fragility of democracy and the freedoms we take for granted and risk losing in *For The People: Fighting Authoritarianism, Saving Democracy*.

In recent years, the democratic foundations and civil liberties of Western nations that once seemed unshakeable have been shown to be remarkably fragile – vulnerable to authoritarianism, the whims of the wealthy and powerful and the erosion of civil liberties. As with previous works like *Who Owns the Moon?* and *Discriminations*, A.C. interrogates complex political realities and offers bold solutions.

Hear from a Festival favourite as he asks the critical questions of our time, followed by a discussion chaired by Nick Bryant (*The Forever War*) and Rosalind Dixon (*The People's Guide to the Australian Constitution*).

Presented in collaboration with the UNSW Resilient Democracy Lab.

12-12.55PM



YANN MARTEL: SON OF NOBODY

A Trojan War epic retold by the common man

The story of the Trojan War, like so many wars real and imagined, is a story most often told by the victors, the princes and the powerful.

In this new imagining of the ancient legend, *Son of Nobody*, Yann Martel tells the familiar tale from an unheard perspective: that of a commoner and goatherd who becomes a soldier, Psoas, the son of nobody. Acclaimed for his Booker Prize-winning *Life of Pi*, adapted into an Oscar-winning film, Yann's first novel in a decade sings a universal song about the power of story.

Unravel ancient traditions with Yann, in conversation with ABC Radio National's Claire Nichols (*The Book Show*).

Presented in partnership with ABC Radio National.

2-2.55PM



STEPHANIE ALEXANDER: THE COOK'S COMPANION 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Instilling a love of food one kitchen at a time

On a mission to spread the joy of good food, Australia's beloved chef Stephanie Alexander released *The Cook's Companion* in 1996.

Now, 30 years and half a million copies later, the book on everybody's kitchen shelf is back in a fully updated edition with new recipes and expanded information. Offering invaluable insights, tips and tricks from an Australian food icon, *The Cook's Companion 30th Anniversary Edition* is ready to inspire a new generation of cooks.

Hear from Stephanie – the creative and authoritative food thinker behind the essential resource – in conversation with fellow chef Adam Liaw in this special event.

4-4.55PM



BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

Novel and familiar stories of families across time

A favourite Festival event for historical fiction buffs returns with stories from near and far.

Robbie Arnott's *Dusk*, set in the mountains of Tasmania, and Tasma Walton's *I Am Nannertgarrook*, based on a true story from Tasma's family, were both awarded the ARA Historical Novel Prize for their brilliant stories from Australian history. While Booker Prize-winning writer Yann Martel's first book in a decade, *Son of Nobody*, features the discovery of a new perspective from the Trojan War.

Sink into these stories of the past with Robbie, Tasma and Yann, in conversation with ABC Radio National's Kate Evans.

THURSDAY 21 MAY

LIVE & LOCAL

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

10-10.55AM



BIG HISTORIES

If history is a story, we can change the narrative

What if we could change our future by rewriting our pasts?

For author Amitav Ghosh and researcher Luke Kemp, navigating the present means understanding the past. In two books, *The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis* and *Wild Fictions*, Amitav considers human history through our relationship with the environment, while Luke retells the collapse of empires to find solutions for our current existential crises in *Goliath's Curse: The History and Future of Societal Collapse*.

Revisit the past to find solutions for the present with Amitav and Luke in conversation with host Clare Wright.

12-12.55PM



SUSAN CHOI: FLASHLIGHT

A young girl searches for light after a tragic loss

Louisa goes for a walk along the beach with her father, but only she returns.

The new novel from Susan Choi, multi-award-winning writer including the National Book Award and a Lambda Literary Award, is a sweeping, international family drama that was shortlisted for the 2025 Booker Prize. *Flashlight*, described by *The Guardian* as a return to the great American novel of the 20th century, beguiled readers for its examination of absence and silence in a small family rocked by the assumed death of Louisa's father.

Join Susan as she discusses relationships and alienation in her new novel, in conversation with Beejay Silcox.

Supported by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea and the Korean Cultural Centre Australia.

2-2.55PM



TRENT DALTON: GRAVITY LET ME GO

Uncovering the truth isn't easy

After being crowned the number one book of the 21st century by ABC Radio National, Australian literary sensation Trent Dalton's newest book mixes gruesome true crime with a personal exploration of love and marriage.

Noah Cork had the scoop of his journalistic career hand-delivered to his mailbox. But his decision to pursue the lead of a cold-blooded killer while the case is still under investigation invites more chaos and destruction into his life than he anticipated. In *Gravity Let Me Go*, Trent returns to age-old themes of love and family in this story of ambition, truth and deception.

Join Trent for a discussion of his latest hit novel, in conversation with Cassie McCullagh.

Supported by Vision Australia.

4-4.55PM



GREAT ADAPTATIONS

Award-winning stories across page, stage and screen

Screen adaptations breathe new life into books, expanding their audiences and reimagining their worlds.

Crime writer Mick Herron's Slough House thriller series was adapted into the award-winning Apple TV series *Slow Horses*, starring Gary Oldman, and playwright Suzie Miller's *Prima Facie* received international acclaim, including a Laurence Olivier Award, before it was adapted into both a novel and a film.

Get behind-the-scenes insight into the adaptation process and how reimagining their stories has influenced their careers, with Mick and Suzie in conversation with host Benjamin Law.

FRIDAY 22 MAY

LIVE & LOCAL



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**Liverpool
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Shire Council



CNRL
1950-2025

Originally known as the Namoi Regional Library, the Central Northern Regional Library was established in September 1950 and is celebrating 75 years of service.