

THURSDAY, 24 AUGUST 2017

Professional Women's Forum pop-up - *Mia Freedman in conversation with Sharri Markson*
@ COMA Gallery

POP-UP
EVENT

MONDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2017

Nir Baram in conversation with Michaela Kalowski
@ Double Bay Library

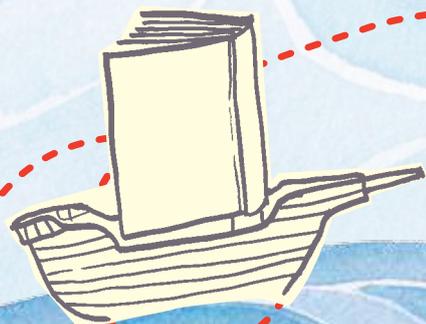
POP-UP
EVENT



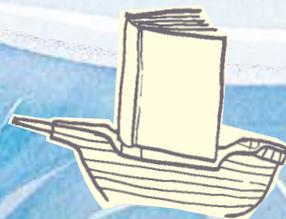
**Sydney Jewish
Writers Festival**

SATURDAY, 26 AUGUST 2017
SUNDAY, 27 AUGUST 2017
@ WAVERLEY LIBRARY

FULL PROGRAM INSIDE



Books are just the beginning



Book at www.shalom.edu.au or **9381 4000**



ShalomSydneyJewishWritersFestival



@SJWFestival

#SJWF2017

THURSDAY, 24 AUGUST @ COMA GALLERY

7.30 pm - 9.30 pm, COMA Gallery

This is a Professional Women's Forum event, for women only.

'Work, Strife, Balance'—Mia Freedman in conversation with Sharri Markson

Meet over wine, cheese and dessert. An honest chat with Mia Freedman.

POP-UP
EVENT

SATURDAY, 26 AUGUST @ WAVERLEY LIBRARY

7.45 pm - 8.15 pm, MAIN HALL

OPENING
EVENT

Sydney Jewish Writers Festival 2017 — official welcome with music and storytelling from *Masha's Legacy*, drinks and dessert, and mingling with our guest authors

● 8.30 pm - 10.00 pm, MAIN HALL

PANEL
DISCUSSION

Israel — from the inside and out *Megan Goldin, Alex Ryvchin & Gadi Taub, moderated by Michaela Kalowski*

Israel. The word and the place inspire in us all such different extreme emotions and responses. Whether you sit on the left or the right, no one can deny that Israel receives more media attention than any other country. In this discussion, three very different writers and Israel experts reflect on the country and writing about it. They will share their views about Israel: its social fabric, its place in global politics and its future. How do they, and we, write and talk about Israel? Where should the discourse go if we want to see Israel flourish? Gadi Taub brings us the perspective from inside Israel, Alex Ryvchin the view from outside looking in and journalist Megan Goldin offers insights between these two positions.

● 8.30 pm - 10.00 pm, THEATRETTE

'A Boy in Winter' — in conversation with Rachel Seiffert with Leah Kaminsky

Award-winning British author Rachel Seiffert asks the brave question: how does it feel to be on the wrong side of history? Set in November 1941, *A Boy in Winter* steers clear of overt descriptions of Nazi horror and focuses instead on the particulars of place and people to disclose the deep and inescapable dread of this era in our history. Seiffert's writing is compelling and spare and continuously informed by her own family history and the knowledge that her grandparents were themselves Nazis.

SUNDAY, 27 AUGUST @ WAVERLEY LIBRARY

● 9.45 am - 12.15 pm, CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

All art materials supplied. Includes morning tea.

JCA together with Live Love Learn Calling all kids who love to CREATE, WRITE or ILLUSTRATE!

Drop off your kids (ages 5-10) for a fun morning of creativity brought to you by JCA and Live Love Learn. The kids will construct their own mini zines to take home as well as creating a mixed-medium collaborative artwork that will be featured in JCA's Art Project.

● 10.00 am - 11.00 am, MAIN HALL

Facing the Darkness — from text to film

Rachel Seiffert & Cate Shortland, moderated by Caroline Baum

Rachel Seiffert was 28 when her confronting novel *The Dark Room*—based on her mother's story—was nominated for the Booker Prize. Award-winning Australian film director Cate Shortland brought the novel to life in her film *Lore*. Cate and Rachel will explore dealing with Germany's catastrophic history and the challenges and rewards of the reciprocal text-to-film process.

● 10.00 am - 11.00 am, THEATRETTE

'Jewish Anzacs'

— in conversation with Mark Dapin with Ruth Balint

More than 7,000 Jewish men and women have fought in Australia's military conflicts—from Julius Neustadt, who observed Yom Kippur the day after landing at Anzac Cove, to one of Australia's most remarkable leaders, General Sir John Monash, to Private Greg Sher, killed in action in Afghanistan. In conversation with historian Dr Ruth Balint, Mark Dapin discusses the fascinating and extraordinary stories of Jewish Australian servicemen and servicewomen.

● 11.15 am - 12.15 pm, MAIN HALL

BOOK
LAUNCH

BOOK LAUNCH: 'Thirty Days' — in conversation with Mark Baker with Geraldine Doogue

In his heartachingly tender memoir *Thirty Days*, Mark Baker shares what he calls a "journey to the end of love". Mark's wife of 33 years, Kerry, died just ten months after being diagnosed with stomach cancer. Mark describes himself as a gravedigger, a cartographer of Kerry's soul, travelling the orbits with her.... This moving and insightful session is guided by Geraldine Doogue.

● 11.15 am - 12.15 pm, THEATRETTE

'The Beautiful Possible' — in conversation with Amy Gottlieb with Miriam Hechtman

Written in an epic style, Amy Gottlieb's debut novel explores some challenging concepts and contexts—the impact of the Holocaust, life as a refugee, identity issues, and the struggle of a Jewish woman to find her own space in a conservative religious community. But mostly Gottlieb's book is about love and friendship. Through the eyes of three different characters, each imbued with deep passion and grace, Gottlieb traces a rich trajectory that reminds us all of our own potential and the sustaining power of a dream.

● 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm, CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Navigating Postnatal Depression—in conversation with Jessica Friedmann with Lana Sussman

Parents are invited to this informal session in which Jessica will talk about some of the raw truths of her experience with postnatal depression, examined in her book of essays *Things That Helped*. Child minding (bubs and toddlers) is available and parents will be able to ask questions and engage with Jessica in this casual space. Pram parking available.

● 12.45 pm - 1.45 pm, MAIN HALL

North Korea: Today's Conspiracy Theory ... Tomorrow's Reality with John Green

John M. Green's latest book, *The Tao Deception*, is described in an ABC review as 'Australian thriller writing at its very best'. John was driven to write the book by 'a deep worry about the kind of technology a rogue nation like North Korea already possesses—technology that could fry the electrics and electronics of any Western country, sending it back to the dark ages'. John will talk about real-world concerns in literature and the powerful messages fiction can send.

● 12.45 pm - 1.45 pm, THEATRETTE

'Only' — in conversation with Caroline Baum with Diane Armstrong

In her moving and frank memoir *Only—A Singular Memoir* Caroline Baum discloses her unusual childhood in a privileged yet explosive London household. Baum unflinchingly scrutinises her upbringing and experiences, revealing conflicted feelings that informed her early life. She will talk about the process of writing a memoir and the ramifications of deep exploration of her relationship with her parents and her only-child status.

SUNDAY, 27 AUGUST @ WAVERLEY LIBRARY

<p>● 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm, MAIN HALL</p> <p>Zionism in the 21st Century — in conversation with Gadi Taub <i>with Debbie Whitmont</i></p> <p>Israeli academic and political commentator Gadi Taub has written extensively about Israel and the dynamics between the various sectors of its society. In this discussion Gadi will share his insights into the divergence between religious and secular Zionism and what he sees as the paths for moving forward with the creation of a viable and strong Israeli society. Gadi and Debbie will also canvass prospects for peace both in Israel and in the region in general.</p>	<p>● 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm, THEATRETTE</p> <p>GripLit <i>Megan Goldin, Lexi Landsman & Nicole Trope, moderated by Tali Lavi</i></p> <p>Nothing beats a great thriller with captivating characters, a gripping plot and a clever twist. In this session, three authors discuss their experiences with this genre—GripLit. Megan Goldin, Lexi Landsman and Nicole Trope have written three very different books, each of which will have you on the edge of your seat. What is their secret?</p> <p>PANEL DISCUSSION</p>
<p>● 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm, STUDY ROOM</p> <p>Navigating the Unknown: An Introduction to Crafting Fiction <i>with Amy Gottlieb</i></p> <p>The notion of beginning a work of fiction—short story or novel—is daunting, and yet one can begin writing from curiosity, intuition, an ear for language, and a basic understanding of narrative. In this generative workshop we'll discuss the foundations of literary fiction, the writing process and how to read like a writer. We'll conclude with some inspiring prompts and a brief workshop. Suitable for beginning or seasoned writers.</p> <p>WORKSHOP</p>	
<p>● 3.15 pm - 4.15 pm, MAIN HALL</p> <p>Going Rogue with Australian Deplorables — in conversation with John Safran <i>with Scott Whitmont</i></p> <p>Drinking shots with nationalists and gobbling falafel with radicals, John Safran was there the year the extreme became the mainstream. Meeting diverse Australians—ISIS supporters, anarchists, white nationalists and more—Safran has written a hilarious and disorienting adventure which is a startling and confronting portrait of contemporary Australia. We all think we know what's going on in our own country, but this larger-than-life, timely and alarmingly insightful true story will make you think again ...</p>	<p>● 3.15 pm - 4.15 pm, THEATRETTE</p> <p>Stories I Had to Tell <i>Sara Dowse, Jessica Friedmann & Mark Tedeschi, moderated by Tali Lavi</i></p> <p>Whether a book comes into existence through a rush of white heat or years of labour, it is the will of the writer that drives the project. Join Sara Dowse (<i>As the Lonely Fly</i>), Jessica Friedmann (<i>Things That Helped</i>) and Mark Tedeschi (<i>Murder at Myall Creek</i>) as they discuss their works, which explore national and personal histories, and their need to tell these stories of justice, passion and the individual's sometimes tenuous place within society. These fascinating writers all exemplify humanity's quest for meaning.</p> <p>PANEL DISCUSSION</p>
<p>● 4.30 pm - 5.30 pm, MAIN HALL</p> <p>Remembering and Imagining — three ways to unravel the past <i>Su Goldfish, Bram Presser & Henry Rosenbloom, moderated by Rita Nash</i></p> <p>A film, a memoir, a novel ... Su Goldfish's moving documentary retraces her family's steps and helps lay some ghosts to rest. Henry Rosenbloom tenderly brings his parents' 1994 Holocaust memoirs back to life. And in an extraordinary first novel, Bram Presser, with masterful inventiveness and brilliant prose, imagines the survival of his grandparents, using family myths, photographs, documents and Jewish folklore.</p> <p>PANEL DISCUSSION</p>	<p>● 4.30 pm - 5.30 pm, THEATRETTE</p> <p>BOOK LAUNCH: 'Escape From Berlin' — from writing your story to self-publishing <i>Peter Nash and Tony Nash, with Shirli Kirschner</i></p> <p><i>Escape from Berlin</i> is the culmination of Peter Nash's research and dedication to honouring family members who lost their lives in the Holocaust and to ensuring that his descendants and other family members know as much as possible about their ancestors. Peter and his son Tony, one of the founders of the Nash family's online book company Booktopia, together with Shirli Kirschner, will discuss self-publishing and marketing.</p> <p>BOOK LAUNCH</p>
<p>● 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm, CHILDREN'S LIBRARY</p> <p>Join your kids at the flicks Hotdogs, popcorn and a movie—what better way to spend a Sunday afternoon? One parent can head upstairs to enjoy 'Story Tasting' with the Monday Morning Cooking Club while the rest of the family enjoy a movie and dinner. Get comfy on beanbags and enjoy popcorn at the flicks! For parents and kids of all ages (kids under 5 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian).</p>	
<p>● 5.45 pm - 6.45 pm, MAIN HALL</p> <p>Story Tasting — Monday Morning Cooking Club <i>with Yaron Finkelstein</i></p> <p>Join Monday Morning Cooking Club's Lisa Goldberg and Merelyn Chalmers in conversation with Yaron Finkelstein as they take you on a delicious journey through our global food-obsessed community. Listen to stories of generations past and present from their latest book, <i>It's Always About the Food</i>. Monday Morning Cooking Club started with a seed of an idea over a decade ago and has grown into an inspiring charitable project with three bestselling books and a collection of curated and treasured recipes from around the world.</p>	<p>● 7.15 pm - 8.15 pm, MAIN HALL</p> <p>BOOK LAUNCH: 'The Anti-Israel Agenda' <i>Alex Ryvchin</i></p> <p><i>The Anti-Israel Agenda</i> reveals how the institutions of greatest moral and political influence—including Western governments, the campus, the United Nations, and the Church—are being turned against Israel. This telling exposé reveals how the conflict with Israel has shifted from the battlefield to the corridors of power, the media we consume, the campuses we attend, and every forum that touches our lives.</p> <p>BOOK LAUNCH</p>



SESSIONS KEY

- Israel
- Holocaust
- People and stories
- Kids and kid friendly
- Politics and history
- Workshop

BIOGRAPHIES



DIANE ARMSTRONG

Diane is a child Holocaust survivor who was born in Poland. She is an award-winning freelance journalist and has written five books, including her family memoir and three novels that are based on historical events and explore Jewish identity, Polish-

Jewish relations, the impact of Holocaust experiences, and the difficulties encountered by migrants in Australia. Her books have been shortlisted for major literary awards and published in many countries. Diane is currently writing a novel set in Hungary, Israel and Australia, provisionally titled *'The Collaborator'*.



MARK BAKER

Mark is the author of the prize-winning *The Fiftieth Gate*. He is the Director of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University and an Associate Professor of Jewish Studies in the School of History, Philosophy and International Studies (SOPHIS),

where he leads a program in Holocaust and Genocide studies. Written in the weeks after Shiva, the seven days of mourning, *Thirty Days* is a portrait of grief, of a marriage and of a family.



RUTH BALINT

Ruth is a senior lecturer in history at UNSW. She teaches and writes on transnational histories of migration, displacement, refugees and family. Her background as a filmmaker has led to her interest in making Australian history accessible in engaging and creative ways. In

2014 her radio documentary *The Somerton Man: A Mystery in Four Acts* aired on Radio National's 'Hindsight'. She is currently researching a documentary-film project exploring the stories of European refugees who came to Australia via Shanghai and Harbin, China, in the late 1940s.



NIR BARAM

Nir was born into a political family in Jerusalem in 1976. His grandfather and father were both ministers in Israeli Labor Party governments. He has worked as a journalist and an editor and as an advocate for equal rights for Palestinians. Nir's novels have been

translated into more than ten languages and have received critical acclaim around the world. He has been shortlisted several times for the Sapir Prize and in 2010 received the Prime Minister's Award for Hebrew Literature.



CAROLINE BAUM

Caroline is a writer, journalist and broadcaster. The founding editor of *Good Reading* magazine and former features editor of *Vogue Australia*, Caroline was the editorial director of *Booktopia* and has also been a presenter for ABC TV and an ABC Radio National producer.

In 2015 Caroline was awarded the Hazel Rowley Fellowship. Her first book, *Only—A Singular Memoir*, is an exploration of the often fraught terrain that she negotiated as the only child of parents with a troubled European past.



MARK DAPIN

Mark is a multi-award-winning journalist, an historian and an author. He has written for *The Times* and the *Guardian*, in London, and almost every major daily newspaper in Australia, from the *Sydney Morning Herald* to the *Melbourne Herald Sun*. He has published many novels

and short stories, including *Spirit House*. He has edited two anthologies of war writing for Penguin Books. Mark's most recent book is *Jewish Anzacs: Jews in the Australian Military* (published in 2017).



GERALDINE DOOGUE

Geraldine is a renowned Australian journalist and broadcaster. During her career with both the ABC and commercial media she has won two Penguin Awards for excellence in broadcasting from the Television Society of Australia and a United Nations Media Peace

Prize. In 2000 Geraldine was awarded a Churchill Fellowship for social and cultural reporting. In 2003 she became an Officer in the Order of Australia in recognition of her services to the community and media. Geraldine tackles a wide range of subjects with rigour, optimism, humour and warmth.



SARA DOWSE

Sara is an award-winning Jewish writer and artist who, in the 1970s, headed the inaugural Office of Women's Affairs in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. She held this position under Prime Ministers Whitlam and Fraser and was responsible for policy

formulation on a wide range of issues. Considered Australia's first 'femocrat', her first novel, *West Block*, drew on her experience in the department. Four novels followed. *As the Lonely Fly* was 25 years in the writing and is Dowse's most important work to date.



YARON FINKELSTEIN

Yaron is a political and campaigns consultant who regularly swaps the knifings and bloody world of politics for, well, the knifings and bloody world of the kitchen. A former amateur food/restaurant reviewer with a professional appetite for great food, Yaron has amassed

one of Australasia's largest cookbook collections. He's a founding director of the Sydney Jewish Food Festival, a regular MC and speaker at food events and forever searching for the ultimate cholent recipe.



MIA FREEDMAN

Mia is a writer, broadcaster, author, columnist, former editor-in-chief of *Cosmopolitan*, TV executive ... and a digital empire builder. Mia is the co-founder and creative director of the Mamamia Media Company, Australia's largest women's digital media and podcast company,

with more than 100 employees in five global offices and a monthly audience of millions. Mia is the host of two podcasts, makes regular appearances on TV and radio, and is the author of four books. She is married with three children and lives in Sydney. Her wheels fall off regularly.

BIOGRAPHIES



JESSICA FRIEDMANN

Jessica is a Canberra-based writer and editor who has established a reader base both in Australia and internationally. *Things That Helped* is her first published collection.



SU GOLDFISH

Su is producer and manager of the Creative Practice Lab at UNSW. Su studied documentary at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (2010). Her latest project, *The Last Goldfish*, a feature documentary which she wrote and directed, screened at the

2017 Sydney Film Festival, was nominated for the Documentary Australia Foundation Documentary Award and came second in the Audience Awards for Best Documentary. *The Last Goldfish* will be released nationally in October 2017.



MEGAN GOLDIN

Megan worked as a foreign correspondent for the ABC and Reuters in Asia and the Middle East, where she covered war zones and wrote about war, peace and international terrorism. After she had her third child, she returned to her hometown of Melbourne to raise her sons

and write fiction, often while waiting for the children at their sports training sessions. *The Girl in Kellers Way* is Megan's debut novel.



AMY GOTTLIEB

Amy's debut novel *The Beautiful Possible* was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award and the Edward Lewis Wallant Award. Her fiction and poetry have appeared in many journals and anthologies, including *The Bloomsbury Anthology of Contemporary Jewish American Poetry*. She lives in New York City.



JOHN GREEN

John's latest thriller, *The Tao Deception*, is his second novel featuring the fiery, smart surfer and ex-spy Dr Tori Swyft and his third with the inspiring US President Isabel Diaz, the first woman to 'actually' win the White House. As well as writing novels, John has straddled the

worlds of story and business, having twice been on the board of a book publisher and having co-founded, in 2008, Pantera Press, home to some of Australia's finest new (and prize-winning) writing talents. John now also sits on the boards of the National Library of Australia, the Centre for Independent Studies and two listed companies.



MIRIAM HECHTMAN

Miriam is a journalist, researcher and producer. She has written for various publications including the *Australian Financial Review*, researched for Discovery Channel and was Associate Producer on Showtime's documentary 'Outwitting Hitler'. Miriam grew

up in Melbourne with four Holocaust survivor grandparents, a fate that has informed and developed her interest in dealing with trauma and more specifically trans generational trauma. *Survivor – A Portrait of the Survivors of the Holocaust* is Miriam's most recent project in collaboration with UK photographer Harry Borden. She is also very passionate about women's rights, rituals and community and feels particularly alive when meeting new people, listening to their stories and connecting with them. She is mother to two daughters and wife to one man.



MICHAELA KALOWSKI

Michaela is an interviewer and facilitator. She has interviewed writers and thinkers from the worlds of the arts, science and politics, for radio and on panels at the Sydney Writers' Festival, Sydney Jewish Writers Festival, Sydney Film Festival, and All About Women at

the Sydney Opera House. Michaela was the researcher/producer for the long-running *Margaret Throsby Program* (ABC Classic FM) and was a producer/writer on the SBS TV political interview series *The Observer Effect*. Highlight interviews include Amos Oz, Tom Keneally, Charlotte Wood, Elliot Perlman, Laura Marling, Gideon Raff, Ben Lee and Emile Sherman.



LEAH KAMINSKY

Leah won the prestigious Voss Literary Prize for her debut novel *The Waiting Room* (Vintage 2015, Harper Perennial US 2016). Leah's other works include *We're all Going to Die* (Harper Collins 2016), *Writer MD* (Knopf US), *Stitching Things Together* and the co-

authored *Cracking the Code* (Vintage 2015). Her forthcoming second novel is titled *The Hollow Bones* (Vintage 2019). She holds an MFA in fiction from Vermont College of Fine Arts.



SHIRLI KIRSCHNER

Shirli is a consultant providing business with strategy and dispute resolution services.

She has won a number of awards for dispute resolution, including the SPAN award for her work in dispute resolution in the telecommunications industry and a LEADR

NSW practitioner award for innovation. *Who's Who International* has listed Shirli for commercial mediation since 2015. She is currently a board member of Jewish Care NSW and a former board member of the Shalom Institute.



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BIOGRAPHIES



LEXI LANDSMAN

Lexi is an Australian author, television producer and journalist. She began her career as a print journalist and progressed to an arts, books and lifestyle newspaper editor. She then moved into commercial television as a producer of factual and reality shows. Her

debut novel *The Ties That Bind* was released in 2016. Her second book—*The Perfect Couple*—will be released in August 2017.



TALI LAVI

Tali has written and reviewed for *Magpies*, *Australian Book Review*, *Overland* and *The Melbourne Review*. Her fiction has appeared in *Kids' Book Review*, *Manifesto* and the *Short and Scary Anthology* (Black Dog Books). Tali is Co-Director of Programming at Melbourne

Jewish Book Week. She believes that speaking to authors about their work is a form of biblio-archaeology and looks forward to many such moments of revelation during the festival.



SHARRI MARKSON

Sharri is an Australian journalist. She is National Political Editor for the *Daily Telegraph*. Born and raised in Sydney, Sharri worked for the *Sunday Telegraph*, where she was twice named News Limited's Young Journalist of the Year.



MASHA'S LEGACY

A unique synergy of expert performers from a diversity of musical and cultural backgrounds, Masha's Legacy explores frontiers of creative expression while

maintaining a deep respect for tradition. The performance is an integrated multi-sensory experience of sound and movement built upon deep groove, oriental sounds and compelling improvisation. Led by celebrated composer and reeds player Stuart Vandegraaff and featuring peak musicians from Anglo-Australian and Middle Eastern backgrounds, the vast musical experience within the group allows Masha's Legacy to delve into jazz, klezmer, flamenco, European classical and Turkish, Arabic, Latin American, and various folk styles. The group has played at Shir Madness, Diversity Fest, Global Rhythms on the Bay and is a regular at clubs, including Camelot, Venue 505 and Foundry 616.



MONDAY MORNING COOKING CLUB

In 2008, six women from Sydney's Jewish community came together as friends every Monday morning to cook their favourite recipes and talk about food. Three words became their mantra: they wanted to SHARE

the stories and recipes of their community, INSPIRE people to preserve their recipes, and GIVE all the profits to charity. They've never looked back!



PETER NASH

Peter was among 18,000 European Jews who escaped Nazi persecution by fleeing to Shanghai, where no entry visa was required. He and his parents migrated to Australia in 1949. Peter is a trained volunteer guide at the Sydney Jewish Museum. *Escape From Berlin* is his first book.



RITA NASH

Rita managed a successful independent bookshop for 13 years after many years of teaching and librarianship in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. Twenty years ago she finally came to terms with her Holocaust demons and described this process

in her story *The Last Barrier*. The story was selected for reading on Radio National's 'First Person' program. As well as devoted grandmotherhood, Rita is a guide at the Sydney Jewish Museum and continues to volunteer in the Museum Library. This is her 8th year on the SJWF Programming Committee.



TONY NASH

Tony started his first internet business in 1996 and has been working with his brother, sister and brother-in-law since 1998. He started *Booktopia* on a \$10 per day budget back in February 2004. It took three days

to sell the first book; thirteen years on, Booktopia sells one product every eight seconds. In 2014 Booktopia won the Telstra Medium Sized Business of the Year award for NSW and in 2016 became the first-ever company to make the BRW Fast 100 for seven years. Booktopia also won the Smart Company Community Award for its philanthropic program, supporting indigenous literacy, writers festivals and readers conferences.



BRAM PRESSER

Bram was born in Melbourne in 1976. His stories have appeared in *Best Australian Stories*, *Award Winning Australian Writing*, *The Sleepers Almanac* and *Higher Arc*.



HENRY ROSENBLOOM

Henry is the founder and publisher of Scribe. A son of Holocaust survivors, he was born in Paris in 1947 and was educated at the University of Melbourne, where he became the first full-time editor of the student newspaper *Farrago*. He later worked in the

Whitlam Labor government for Dr Moss Cass. The author of *Politics and the Media* (1976), he has been a book printer, freelance journalist, book reviewer and occasional newspaper op-ed and feature writer. In 2010 he was presented with a George Robertson Award for service to the publishing industry.



ALEX RYVCHIN

Alex's family left the Soviet Union as refugees and refuseniks in 1987, when Alex was 3 years old. He attended Sydney Boys High School and went on to study law and politics at the University of New South Wales. A prominent speaker and

writer on the Arab-Israeli conflict, foreign and national affairs, and religion and identity, he writes for leading publications in Australia and throughout the world and is a regular commentator on TV and radio. His first book is *The Anti-Israel Agenda—Inside the Political War on the Jewish State*.

BIOGRAPHIES



JOHN SAFRAN

John first hit TV screens in 1997, shooting and presenting 10 mini-documentaries for 'Race Around the World' (ABC). The ABC then commissioned two Safran specials, including 'John Safran: Media Tycoon', satirising the world of foot-in-door journalism. His first 10-part series, 'John Safran's Music Jamboree' (SBS), ripped the lid off the music industry and his next ('John Safran vs. God', SBS) saw John travel the world, diving into the most extreme religious experiences and earning him four Australian Film Institute awards and two Logie nominations. In 2015 John hung up his headphones after co-hosting 'Sunday Night Safran' (Triple J) for 10 years with Father Bob Maguire and he returned to our screens in 2016 with 'The Goddam Election! Special' for SBS, focusing on the minor parties in Australia and the role that religion plays in setting their agendas. His new book—*Depends What You Mean By Extremist*—documents the two years he's spent Going Rogue with Australian Deplorables.



RACHEL SEIFFERT

Rachel is one of the UK's most critically acclaimed contemporary novelists. Her first book, *The Dark Room* (2001), was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and made into the feature film *Lore*. In 2003 she was named one of Granta's Best of Young British Novelists; in 2011 she received the E. M. Forster Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Rachel's subject is ordinary lives in extraordinary times. Her characters have included the 12-year-old daughter of an SS officer in 1945, a Polish seasonal worker on a German farm after the fall of the Iron Curtain, and—in her latest novel, *A Boy in Winter*—a young Ukrainian man faced with the choice between resistance and collaboration during the Nazi occupation.



CATE SHORTLAND

Cate writes and directs for film and television. She has a BA in Fine Arts from Sydney University (1991) and a Graduate Diploma in Directing from the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (2000). Her early short films, *Pentuphouse*, *Flowergirl* and *Jo*, all received film festival awards. Her first feature *Somersault*, which premiered at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival, won many awards, including 13 Australian Film Institute Awards (e.g. Best Director and Best Original Screenplay). Cate's second feature, *Lore* (2012), based on Rachel Seiffert's *The Dark Room*, received the Feature Film Production of the Year Award at the 2013 Screen Producers Australia Awards. *Lore* also received the Bronze Award for Outstanding Feature Film at the German Film Awards and internationally the film has received a further 17 awards.



LANA SUSSMAN

Lana is a mum, counsellor, social worker and co-founder with Kirsty Levin of The Parents Village. Together they are passionate about connecting, preparing, nurturing and empowering expectant and new parents in Sydney by providing prenatal and postnatal preparation and support services.



GADI TAUB

Gadi teaches at the Department of Communication and the School for Public Policy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He contributes op-ed columns to the Israeli and international press, including *Haaretz*, the *New York Times*, the *New Republic* and various European newspapers. His books in Hebrew include several works of fiction as well as a bestselling collection of essays. He appeared regularly on channel 10's political TV show 'Council of the Wise', Israel's (loud) version of 'Washington Week in Review', and is known for his polemics against post-Zionism. His bestselling novel *Allenby Street* (Hebrew) was adapted to a successful prime-time TV drama (which he created and co-wrote with Erez Kavel).



MARK TEDESCHI

Mark Tedeschi AM QC is the NSW Senior Crown Prosecutor. Head of Chambers of the 94 New South Wales Crown Prosecutors, a visiting Professor at the University of Wollongong, a Director on the Board of the National Art School, and a Trustee of Sydney Grammar School, Mark has written a legal textbook and three true-crime books—*Eugenia: a true story of adversity, tragedy, crime and courage*; *Kidnapped: the crime that shocked the nation*; and *Murder at Myall Creek: the trial that defined a nation*. Mark is also a keen photographer. A book of his photography over 25 years—*Shooting Around Corners*—was published by Beagle Press in 2012.



NICOLE TROPE

Nicole is a former high-school teacher with a Master's in Children's Literature. In 2005 she was one of the winners of the Varuna Award for Manuscript Development. In 2009 her young adult novel titled *I Ran Away First* was shortlisted for the Text Publishing Prize. *Forgotten* is Nicole's sixth novel. Her previous titles include the acclaimed *Blame*, *The Boy Under the Table*, *Three Hours Late*, *The Secrets in Silence* and *Hush, Little Bird*.



DEBBIE WHITMONT

Debbie, a lawyer by training, first joined ABC Television's 'Four Corners' as a researcher in 1986 and later became a producer, associate producer and reporter (which is her current role). From 1993 to 1996 Debbie was ABC TV's Middle East Correspondent, based in Jordan and then Jerusalem. She reported from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Pakistan among others and filed stories for 'News', 'Foreign Correspondent', 'Lateline' and '7.30 Report'. She is also the author of the book *An Extreme Event*.



SCOTT WHITMONT

Scott owns and operates Lindfield Bookshop and Lindfield Children's Bookshop. Passionate about books, he is a former President of the Australian Booksellers' Association (NSW) and a former member of the ABA's Federal Executive Committee. Scott is a member of the 2017 SJWF Program Committee and he happily serves as the Festival's official bookseller.

TICKET PRICES

Discounted tickets if you book online. Additional discounts for volunteers.

Thursday, 24 August 2017 Adult \$25
(includes wine, cheese and dessert)

Saturday, 26 August 2017 Adult \$40
from 7:45 pm Concession \$25

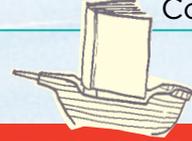
Sunday, 27 August 2017 Adult \$140
full-day pass Concession \$80

Saturday + Sunday Adult \$170
full pass Concession \$95

Writing Workshop Adult \$50
Sunday, 2 pm - 4 pm Concession \$30

Single Session Adult \$25
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Monday Morning Cooking Club Session Adult \$30
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