



Media Release

Friday 8 March 2024

The Wheeler Centre announces new events for its 2024 program, featuring Fern Brady, Katy Hessel, Ma Thida and more.

The Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas last night announced a spectacular new series of events for its 2024 program, featuring influential international voices and local talent with perspectives that are too often overlooked.

Upcoming Events

- For one night only, on 3 April, UK stand-up sensation **Fern Brady** will be in conversation with **Laura Davis** to discuss how her experiences with religion, homelessness and a late diagnosis of autism inspired her bestselling book *Strong Female Character*. Presented in partnership with the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.
- **Dervla McTiernan** will travel to Ballarat and Geelong to discuss her suspenseful new novel *What Happened to Nina?* McTiernan will be in conversation with **Lexie Jeuniewicz** at Ballarat Mechanics' Institute on 23 April and with **J.P. Pomare** at Geelong Library & Heritage Centre on 24 April.
- On 6 May lawyer, advocate and Next Chapter recipient **Sam Elkin** will speak about his debut memoir *Detachable Penis: A Queer Legal Saga*, which is part-love letter and part-cautionary tale about his bumpy journey from lesbian to transgender lawyer.
- The Wheeler Centre will also host a special evening with rising Singaporean literary stars **Shivram Gopinath, Amanda Chong, Balli Kaur Jaswal, Daryl Lim Wei Jie, Daryl Qilin Yam, Joshua Ip** on 22 May. Presented in partnership with RMIT Culture, supported by Liminal Magazine, the National Arts Council of Singapore and Sing Lit Station.
- On 27 May, the May edition of Next Big Thing: Into the Ether will feature debut writers **Manisha Anjali, Alex Creece, Cher Tan** and **Ruby Todd** at a special event at The Moat.
- UK-based art historian and Instagram sensation **Katy Hessel** comes to Melbourne on 29 May to discuss her new book *The Story of Art Without Men* and the incredible women artists that the art history canon has left out. Presented in partnership with the National Gallery of Victoria as part of Melbourne Art Book Fair.
- Burmese activist and former prisoner of conscience **Ma Thida** will be in conversation with host **Michelle Aung Thin** about her incredible personal story and Myanmar's current political situation on 6 June. Presented in partnership with PEN Melbourne, a portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to PEN International Myanmar.



- The Wheeler Centre will also host a school holidays series for the young and young at heart in collaboration with Orchestra Victoria from 11 to 13 April. At these musical storytime events set to the sounds of wind and percussion instruments, **Davina Bell** and **Allison Colpoys'** charming picture book *Tomorrow is a Brand-New Day* comes to life.

Quotes attributable to The Wheeler Centre CEO Erin Vincent

'Our annual program continues to go from strength to strength and is reaching audiences in Melbourne and across the state.'

She continues, 'The forthcoming events in Autumn will leave audiences thinking deeply about the world around us, as they hear perspectives that are too often overlooked. As Australia's home for intelligent, engaging and passionate public talks, we are thrilled to offer Victorian audiences more opportunities to engage with passionate speakers.'

The full list of events and dates are listed below. For more information, please visit wheelercentre.com/events

In Conversation with Fern Brady: Strong Female Character

Wednesday 3 April, 6pm, The Wheeler Centre

Tomorrow is a Brand-New Day

Thursday 11 April, Friday 12 April, Saturday 13 April
10am and 11.30am sessions daily, The Wheeler Centre

Dervla McTiernan: What Happened to Nina?

Tuesday 23 April, 6pm, Ballarat Mechanics' Institute
Wednesday 24 April, 6pm, Geelong Library & Heritage Centre

Sam Elkin: Detachable Penis

Monday 6 May, 6.30pm, The Moat

Rising Stars: An evening with Singaporean writers

Wednesday 22 May, 6.30pm, The Wheeler Centre

Next Big Thing: Into the Ether

Monday 27 May, 6.30pm, The Moat

Katy Hessel: The Story of Art Without Men

Wednesday 29 May, 7pm, NGV International, Great Hall

Ma Thida: Myanmar's Struggle for Democracy

Thursday 6 June, 6.30pm, The Wheeler Centre



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Books Writing Ideas

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The Wheeler Centre is Melbourne's home for smart, passionate and entertaining public talks, and exists to support writers, readers and thinkers. Through live and digital conversations, debates, readings, performances and discussions, it deepens public engagement with the most pressing topics of the day. It is dedicated to creative collaboration, community engagement, diversity, and innovation.

- ENDS -

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