



MEDIA RELEASE: Thursday, 31 October 2019

BIG THEMES DRIVE PERTH FESTIVAL'S LITERATURE & IDEAS

Land. Money. Power. Sex. These four big themes drive Perth Festival's 2020 Literature & Ideas program curated for the first time by Sisonke Msimang.

Novelists, social commentators, journalists and comedians come together to wrestle with the most pressing issues of our time in a program packed with all the things that matter. Land. Money. Power, Sex.

The weekend hub is once again at the University of Western Australia from 21-23 February with activities popping up all over town leading up to the weekend. These include the first-ever Australian Lit Crawl Perth showcasing local talents in special venues along Beaufort Street in Mount Lawley, the mobile book club A Bus, a Book & A Bite, and events at The Literature Centre in Fremantle.

Bruce Pascoe, acclaimed author of Dark Emu and Salt, kicks off the 2020 Literature & Ideas Weekend in conversation with Noongar academic and musician Dr Clint Bracknell at the Octagon



Image: Beowulf Sheehan

Theatre on 21 February. Dark Emu is a ground-breaking book which questions preconceived ideas of Australia's Aboriginal past and has topped bestseller lists since it was first published.

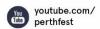
Superstar writer **Neil Gaiman**, left, the award-winning author of Sandman, American Gods, The Ocean at the End of the Lane and Norse Mythology, shares his stories in a captivating afternoon event at Perth Concert Hall on 23 February 2020. Neil is rare to Australia's shores and this event will be a highlight for booklovers and fans of his television and movies, with works like Coraline, American Gods and Good Omens (with Terry Pratchett) having been adapted for television or the big screen

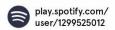
The weekend also includes our popular Family Day on 23 February, with a huge range of free activities including the interactive words-and-music adventure of *Dumazi and the Big Yellow Lion* led by Matt Ottley, Valanga Khoza and members of WASO in The Sound of Picture Books. We will release more details on when we unveil the full program on 16 January.

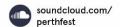
Other Literature & Ideas highlights include Melissa Lucashenko, Josephine Wilson and Charlotte Wood discussing writing, money and the politics of prizes in Prize & Prejudice on 22 February. We're thrilled to have these three pillars of Australian writing, with between them decades of experience and accolades, in this highlight event.

















In the first Perth edition of *Story Club*, a themed live storytelling night, comedian *Ben Jenkins* hosts some of Australia's finest raconteurs including *Jane Caro*, *Matt Okine*, *Benjamin Law*, *Holden Sheppard* and *Sukhjit Kaur Khalsa*.

And our most clear-eyed thinkers will be riffing on the big topics of Sex, Power and Money in *Unmoderated: The Gauntlet Series* at the Octagon Theatre with **Rick Morton, Maria Tumarkin and Sanam Maher**. In this brand new mini-lecture series we ask these thinkers to throw down the gauntlet, to burst our bubble and unsettle our preconceptions.

Come listen, talk and play.

We will announce the full Perth Festival Literature & Ideas program on 16 January 2020.

For further information, interviews or images please contact:

Stephen Bevis +61 8 6488 8618 / 0448 927 281 sbevis@perthfestival.com.au

Tracy Peacock +61 8 6488 2000 / 0410 45 4090 tpeacock@perthfestival.com.au

Perth Festival acknowledges the Noongar people who continue to practise their values, language, beliefs and knowledge on their kwobidak boodjar.

They remain the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara of this place and we honour and respect their caretakers and custodians and the vital role Noongar people play for our community and our Festival to flourish.

Perth Festival

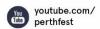
Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 67 years, the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

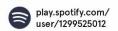
Iain Grandage is the Artistic Director 2020–23.

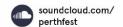




































Supported by Creative New Zealand International Promotional Fund for Literature and Vision Australia Radio





