

**SPECULATIVE FICTION FESTIVAL**  
**Saturday 16 March 2013, 10am-6pm**

**PATRICK WHITE ROOM**

**10-10.45 The International Speculative Fiction Scene**

Dirk Strasser talks to Ian Irvine and Juliet Marillier about the state of the international speculative fiction industry.

**11-11.45 Publishing into the Future**

What are publishers looking for? How can you use new publishing possibilities to get your writing out there? From selling global rights to e-books to self-publishing, Zoe Walton, Joel Naoum, Russell Farr and Dionne Lister share their experience.

**12-1pm The Allure of Epic Fantasy**

Join Melina Marchetta, Duncan Lay, Pamela Freeman and Ian Irvine to discuss the joys, challenges and opportunities in writing and publishing epic fantasy fiction.

**1-2pm LUNCH**

**2-2.45 Keeping it Fresh: Writing Speculative Fiction for Children**

John Flanagan, Belinda Murrell, Garth Nix and Ben Chandler on how to write speculative fiction for kids that stands out, stays fresh and sells well.

**3-3.45 Once Upon a Time: Retelling Fairy Tales**

How do you rewire much loved fairy tales to create a new story? Fairy tale experts and writers Kate Forsyth, Juliet Marillier, Sophie Masson and Kim Wilkins discuss this evolving genre.

**4-5pm Q & A with Bestsellers and Prize winners:**

Get answers to your writing questions from very successful authors Garth Nix, Juliet Marillier, John Flanagan, Ian Irvine, Melina Marchetta and Kate Forsyth.

**5pm On the Verandah Networking Drinks**

Launch of *Prickle Moon* by Juliet Marillier for Ticonderaga Press

**Mini-mentorships:**

One-on-one coaching from authors, editors and publishers. Each session is ten minutes long. Mentors include: Dionne Lister, Joel Naoum, Russell Farr, Cat Sparks, Dirk Strasser, Zoe Walton, Melina Marchetta, Garth Nix, Ian Irvine and Pamela Freeman.

**PLUS** You can book ahead via telephone or on the day. Places are limited so booking before the day is recommended. Mentorships are \$10.

**JUDITH WRIGHT ROOM**

**12-12.50 Gothic Tales for Teens: Cracking the Teen Market**

Find out how to capture the hearts and minds of the notoriously fickle teen market with Marianne de Pierres, Richard Harland and Alison Croggon

**2-2.45 Oh the Horror! The Future of Weird Fiction**

What is weird fiction? Who reads it and what is the future of this genre and horror writing in the brave new world of publishing? With Robert Hood, Jason Nahrung, Kirstyn McDermott and Deborah Biancotti.

**3-3.45 Short and Not-So-Sweet: writing and publishing short fiction**

Cat Sparks, Angela Slatter, Lisa Hannett and Dirk Strasser discuss the art and craft of short story writing, and the role of short stories in the speculative fiction industry.

THE NSW  
**writers**  
CENTRE

# SPECULATIVE FICTION FESTIVAL

## SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2013



KATE FORSYTH

Whether you love fairy tales or stories that make your flesh creep with dread, short fiction or mighty epics that span vast imaginary worlds, the 2013 Speculative Fiction Festival will inspire and exhilarate you.

Coming together from all over Australia, our panellists include publishers, editors, authors, critics and academics, all sharing their own personal insights into the many-headed monster that is speculative fiction.

Listen to your favourite authors talk about the joys and challenges of writing in one of the world's most popular genres of fiction. Pitch your own idea to a publisher, or have a private mentoring session with one of Australia's top writers. Find out how to publish a short story, or how to tap into the sizzling hot teen market. Be swept away on the back of a dragon, battle with dark lords and darker ladies, and be transported back in time, sideways in space, or headlong into a heroic journey.

Panelists include Juliet Marillier, Ian Irvine, Marianne de Pierres, Tara Moss, Alison Croggon, Richard Harland, Melina Marchetta, Duncan Lay, Garth Nix, John Flanagan, Kim Wilkins, Sophie Masson, Pamela Freeman, Cat Sparks, plus many more.

Saturday 16th March promises to be a day of wonder and wild surmise. I do hope you will join us!

Kate Forsyth  
Festival Director

**“Speculative fiction” is a realm and category of fiction that plays with the boundaries of what is possible in our known universe. It includes science fiction, fantasy, horror, ghost stories, paranormal romance, alternative fiction, utopian and dystopian fiction, cyberpunk, steampunk, fairytale retellings, post-apocalyptic fiction, time travel adventures and magic realism.**

**HOW TO BOOK TICKETS**

Online at [www.nswwc.org.au](http://www.nswwc.org.au) or by phone 02 9555 9757

**Cost: NSW Writers' Centre Members \$55  
Member Concession \$45  
Non-Members \$80**

**There is plenty of free parking at the Centre and a café with deli-style food is open all day.**

## FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS

**DEBORAH BIANCOTTI** is a writer based in inner-city Sydney. Her first short story won an Aurealis Award, her first collection, *A Book Of Endings*, was shortlisted for the William L. Crawford Award for Best First Fantasy Book and her first novella was nominated for a Shirley Jackson Award.

**BEN CHANDLER** holds a PhD in Creative Writing and has published two YA Fantasy novels: *Quillblade* and *Beast Child* in the Voyages of the Flying Dragon series. He has also published academic work on popular culture, video game narrative theory, Japanese heroism, anime and manga.

**ALISON CROGGON** is the author of the best-selling fantasy quartet *The Books of Pellinor*, which has been published worldwide, shortlisted for two Aurealis Awards and named one of the Notable Books of 2003 by the Children's Book Council of Australia. Her new novel *Black Spring* has just been released in Australia and the UK. She has published several multi-award winning collections of poetry. From 2004-2012 she ran the review blog THEATRE NOTES for which she won the 2009 Geraldine Pascall Prize for Critic of the Year. She has also written several works for theatre.

**MARIANNE DE PIERRES** is a multi-award winning Australian author who publishes novels in the science fiction, fantasy, crime and young adult genres. Her stories have been translated into other languages, adapted into a role playing game and an animation. Marianne is an active supporter of speculative fiction and mentors many writers.

**RUSSELL B. FARR** is the founding editor of Ticonderoga Publications and has published over thirty titles since 1996. Previous works as editor include the award-winning anthology *Fantastic Wonder Stories*, award-winning collections *Magic Dirt: the Best of Sean Williams*, Angela Slatter's *The Girl With No Hands* and other tales, and Lisa L Hannett's *Bluegrass Symphony*, and Australia's first work-themed anthology *The Workers' Paradise*.

**KATE FORSYTH** is the bestselling, award-winning author of 26 books, translated into 13 languages. Her latest book for adults, *The Wild Girl*, is the story of Dortchen Wild, the young woman who loved Wilhelm Grimm and told him some of the most famous fairy tales in history. Kate's previous novel, *Bitter Greens*, was called 'the best fairy tale retelling since Angela Carter'. A direct descendant of Charlotte Waring, the author of

the first book for children ever published in Australia, Kate is currently studying a doctorate in fairy tales at UTS.

**PAMELA FREEMAN** is an award-winning author of fantasy for both children and adults. Her most recent adult novel, *Ember and Ash*, won the 2012 Aurealis Award for Best Fantasy Novel. Pamela's new series for children, the Princess Betony series, is set in the same universe as her much-loved books, *Victor's Quest* and *Victor's Challenge* (which won the Aurealis for Best Children's Fantasy). *Victor's Quest* is being transformed into a musical, set to hit the stage within the year!

**LISA HANNETT** hails from Ottawa, Canada but now lives in Adelaide, South Australia – city of churches, bizarre murders and pie floaters. She has published nearly 50 short stories. Lisa has won three Aurealis Awards, including Best Collection 2011 for her first book, *Bluegrass Symphony*, which was also nominated for a World Fantasy Award.

**RICHARD HARLAND** lectured for ten years at the University of Wollongong before becoming a full-time author of speculative fiction. He has collected six Aurealis Awards, the A Bertram Chandler Award (Australia) and the Tam-Tam Je Bouquine award (France). His sixteen novels have spanned adult, YA and children's, and fantasy, horror and science fiction. His big international successes have been his two steampunk fantasies, *Worldshaker* and *Liberator*.

**IAN IRVINE** is a marine scientist who has developed some of Australia's national guidelines for protection of the marine environment, and has also written 29 novels. These include the bestselling *Three Worlds* fantasy sequence, which has sold over a million copies, a trilogy of thrillers set in a world undergoing catastrophic climate change.

**DIONNE LISTER** works as an author, editor and copywriter and is two thirds of the way through a creative writing degree. She released her debut epic fantasy novel, *Shadows of the Realm*, in April 2012 and is madly writing the sequel, due to hit the shelves (virtual and otherwise) in March 2013.

**MELINA MARCHETTA** is a Sydney writer. The final novel of her fantasy trilogy, *Quintana of Charyn* was released in October 2012. Her 2011 novel, *The Piper's Son* was longlisted for the Miles Franklin Award and her YA work include *Looking For Alibrandi*, for which she also wrote the screenplay, *Saving Francesca* and *On the Jellicoe Road*, as well as a children's book, *The Gorgon in the Gully*.

**JULIET MARILLIER** lives in Western Australia. Her historical fantasy novels for adults and young adults have been translated into many languages and have won a number of awards including the Aurealis, the American Library Association's Alex Award, the Sir Julius Vogel Award and the Prix Imaginales. Her lifelong love of folklore, fairy tales and mythology is a major influence on her writing.

**SOPHIE MASSON** is an internationally published author of more than 50 novels for children, young adults and adults. She has won the children's category of the NSW Premier's Awards and the YA category of the Aurealis Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards. Several of her other books have also been shortlisted for various awards. Sophie is currently the Chair of the Australian Society of Authors and Chair of the New England Writers' Centre.

**KIRSTYN MCDERMOTT** is a Melbourne author whose work has been published in various journals, magazines and anthologies, including Aurealis, Southerly, GUD, Southern Blood and Island. She has received various awards including an Aurealis Award in 2010. Kirstyn also produces and co-hosts *The Writer and The Critic*, a literary discussion podcast with a focus on speculative fiction.

**BELINDA MURRELL** is an internationally published, bestselling children's author currently writing her fifteenth book. Belinda's books have been shortlisted for various awards, including the KOALA (Kids Own Australian Literary Awards) in 2011 and 2012, a 2012 CBCA Notable Book and highly commended in the Prime Minister's Literary Awards.

**JASON NAHRUNG** grew up on a Queensland cattle property and now lives in Melbourne with his wife, the writer Kirstyn McDermott. A journalist and editor by trade, his fiction is invariably darkly themed, perhaps reflecting his passion for classic B-grade horror films and '80s goth rock. His most recent long fiction is the Gothic tale *Salvage* (Twelfth Planet Press) and the outback vampire novel *Blood and Dust* (Xoum).

**JOEL NAOUM** is a Sydney-based book publisher, editor, blogger, and writer. He is running Pan Macmillan Australia's new digital-only imprint Momentum. In 2012 he completed a three-month stint in London for the Unwin Fellowship researching digital publishing experimentation. He is passionate about the possibilities that social media and digital publishing opens up for authors, publishers, booksellers and the whole book industry and is especially excited to work with genre fiction authors in this role.

**GARTH NIX** is an internationally published, award-winning author. He has worked as a literary agent, marketing consultant, book editor, book publicist and bookseller. More than five million copies of Garth's books have been sold around the world, his books have appeared on the bestseller lists of *The New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Guardian* and *The Australian*, and his work has been translated into 40 languages.

**ANGELA SLATTER** writes dark fantasy and horror. She is the author of the Aurealis Award-winning *The Girl with No Hands and Other Tales*, and several other books. She has a British Fantasy Award for "The Coffin-Maker's Daughter" (*A Book of Horrors*, Stephen Jones ed.), a PhD in Creative Writing and blogs.

**CAT SPARKS** is fiction editor of *Cosmos Magazine*. She managed Agog! Press, which produced ten anthologies of new speculative fiction, from 2002-2008. She has received a total of seventeen Aurealis and Ditmar awards for her writing, editing and art. In 2011 she was the recipient of an Australia Council emerging writers grant. She is currently a provisional candidate for a Doctorate of Philosophy in Media, Culture and Creative Arts.

**DIRK STRASSER** has written over 30 books for major publishers in Australia and has been editing magazines and anthologies since 1990. He has won multiple Australian Publisher Association Awards and a Ditmar for Best Professional Achievement, and has been short-listed for the Aurealis and Ditmar Awards a number of times. He founded the Aurealis Awards and has co-published Aurealis magazine for over 20 years.

**ZOE WALTON** is Publisher – Children's and Young Adult Books at Random House Australia. Zoe is the publisher and editor of John Flanagan's *Ranger's Apprentice* series, which has sold more than seven million books worldwide and has been on the New York Times bestseller charts for more than 60 weeks. She is proud to publish plenty of Australia's best authors of speculative fiction for children and teens.

**KIM WILKINS** has more than 2 million words of fiction in print, in over a dozen languages. She also writes epic romance under the pseudonym Kimberley Freeman. She teaches at the University of Queensland in their award-winning Writing, Editing, and Publishing Program.



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