

Primary School Days

Program Details – For Ages 8+

Dates and Venues

MONDAY 21 MAY 2012 Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay 22 Hickson Road, Walsh Bay

TUESDAY 22 MAY 2012 Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay 22 Hickson Road, Walsh Bay

WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 2012 A FREE EVENT for NSW Priority Schools Sydney Town Hall 483 George Street, Sydney

THURSDAY 24 MAY 2012 Riverside Theatres Parramatta Cnr Church & Market Streets, Parramatta

FRIDAY 25 MAY 2012 Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre 597 High Street, Penrith

TRISTAN BANCKS

tristanbancks.com

Tristan loves telling inspiring, fast-moving stories for young people. He has a background as an actor and television presenter and his short films have won a number of awards. Tristan has written several books for children and teens including the explosive Mac Slater, Coolhunter series, the illustrated Nit Boy series, and young adult novel *It's yr life*. Tristan's latest enthralling adventures for kids are *My Life and Other Stuff I Made Up* and *Galactic Adventures: First Kids in Space*.

OLIVER JEFFERS

oliverjeffers.com

Oliver makes art and tells stories. His picture books have won many prestigious awards. *Last and Found* was made into an award-winning animated film and *The Heart and the Bottle* has been made into a highly acclaimed iPad application. His latest picture book is *Stuck* and will be followed by *The New Jumper*, the first book in his brand new series, The Hueys. Born in Australia, Oliver grew up in Belfast, Northern Ireland and now lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Line-up

- 9.40 **Thai-riffically Silly Stuff with Oliver Phommavanh**
From blow-the-top-of-your-head-off curries to renegade cartooning, Oliver Phommavanh's stories will make you laugh so hard you'll cry. Join the author of *Thai-riffic!* and *Con-nerd* for a freewheeling session filled with jokes, anecdotes and animated discussion. Discover the inspiration behind Oliver's characters and their adventures as he shares his tips on comic writing. Come ready to LOL.
- 10.25 **Ask Emily Rodda Anything!**
Are you itching to find out what happens next in Emily Rodda's explosive new series? In an exclusive event, the bestselling author of the Deltora Quest novels introduces the next instalment in The Three Doors and answers those burning questions you've been dying to ask. This is your chance to unlock the door to Emily's world, so come prepared!
- 11.10 **Lunch break and book signings with Oliver Phommavanh and Emily Rodda**
- 12.10 **Galactic Adventures with Tristan Bancks**
Have you got what it takes to plunge from the sky in a Vomit Comet, hold down your lunch on the Death Chair, spin at 270 kilometres an hour in a centrifuge and leap out of a plane at 4000 metres? Tristan Bancks delves into his latest novel, *Galactic Adventures: First Kids in Space*, for advice on how to survive Space School and become an astronaut. Guaranteed to be a blast!
- 12.55 **Storytelling with Oliver Jeffers**
Oliver Jeffers creates unique, whimsical tales filled with penguins, space adventures and tiny characters with lots of heart. Join this gifted storyteller and illustrator on a creative journey as he brings his eccentric cast to life before your eyes. Be sure to bring paper, pencils and a soaring imagination.
- 1.40 **Finish and book signings with Tristan Bancks and Oliver Jeffers**

Please ensure you arrive half an hour before the event start time. We strongly recommend students bring their own lunch.



OLIVER PHOMMAVANH

oliverwriter.com

Oliver loves to make people laugh, whether it's on the page writing humour for kids or on the stage as a stand-up comedian. He also shares his passion for writing with the children he teaches at a primary school in Western Sydney. As a comedian, Oliver has appeared on national TV and radio. He's a die-hard Nintendo fan and cheers for the Wests Tigers! He is the author of *Thai-riffic!* and *Con-nerd*.

EMILY RODDA

emilyrod.com

Emily is one of Australia's most popular and successful children's authors. A former publisher and editor of *The Australian Women's Weekly*, she also writes adult fiction under her real name, Jennifer Rowe. She has won the CBCA Book of the Year (Younger Readers) an unprecedented five times. Her Deltora Quest series, published in 35 countries and translated into 29 languages, has sold close to 16 million copies. *The Silver Door* is the second book in her new series, The Three Doors.

Secondary School Days

Program Details – For Ages 13+

Dates and Venues

MONDAY 21 MAY 2012 Sydney Town Hall 483 George Street, Sydney

TUESDAY 22 MAY 2012 Riverside Theatres Parramatta Cnr Church & Market Streets, Parramatta

J.C. BURKE

jcburke.com.au

J.C. Burke was born in Sydney in 1965. With writers for parents, she grew up in a world of noise, drama and books but decided to become a nurse after her mother lost a long battle with cancer. Since 2000 J.C. Burke has published a number of acclaimed books for young adults including *Pig Boy*, *Faking Sweet*, *The Red Cardigan* and *The Story of Tom Brennan*, which won the 2006 CBCA Book of the Year (Older Readers) and is on the NSW HSC syllabus.

LUCY CHRISTOPHER

lucychristopher.com

Lucy grew up in Australia but now works at Bath Spa University in the UK, where *Stolen* was part of her PhD in Creative Writing. *Stolen* won the Branford Boase Award and the Gold Inky Award. It received a Printz Honor Award and was shortlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year (Older Readers). Both of Lucy's novels have been shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards and longlisted for the Carnegie Medal. *Flyaway* was also shortlisted for the Costa Book Award.

EINO COLFER

einoconf.com

Eoin was born and raised in Wexford in the south-east of Ireland. He began writing plays at an early age and now writes for both children and adults. *Artemis Fowl*, his first book featuring the brilliant young antihero, was an immediate international bestseller and won several prestigious awards.

Line-up

- 9.10 **Presentation of The Sydney Morning Herald Young Writer Years 7 to 9 competition winners**
Supported by Pilot Pen. Monday 21 May Sydney Town Hall event only.
- 9.40 **Into the Wild with Lucy Christopher**
Lucy Christopher spins tales that draw upon our spiritual and emotional connection to the natural world. Her award-winning debut, *Stolen*, took the arid immensity and beauty of the Australian desert as the backdrop to an unusual and disturbing kidnapping. Join this bright new literary talent as she talks about the wild places that inspire her.
- 10.25 **Think Twice with J.C. Burke and Vikki Wakefield**
Bestselling author J.C. Burke's latest novel, *Pig Boy*, is a compelling portrait of a bullied and volatile teenager. Vikki Wakefield's dazzling debut, *All I Ever Wanted*, looks at what lies beneath the grimy veneer of life on the wrong side of the tracks. In this special event, two authors explore their novels and talk about judging others, confronting prejudice and what it means to 'belong'.
- 11.10 **Lunch break and book signings with Lucy Christopher, J.C. Burke and Vikki Wakefield**
- 12.10 **Fowl Play with Eoin Colfer**
Artemis Fowl, star of high-tech adventures in the fairy realm, is everyone's favourite antihero. Displaying his signature quick wit, Eoin Colfer takes us on an adrenaline-fuelled ride inside the dangerous world of this teenage criminal mastermind. A rare opportunity to meet the hilarious author behind the international bestsellers and hear about the much-anticipated finale to the series.
- 12.55 **The Exploding Diagram with Mal Peet**
Mal Peet is a master of language and observation, producing compelling fiction that defies classification. *Life: An Exploded Diagram* tells a story of first love, in all its innocence and ignorance, seen within a bold historical sweep that takes in a century of social change and the events leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Join Mal as he explores the genesis of his superb new novel and lobs a few firecrackers at received ideas about 'young adult fiction'.
- 1.40 **Finish and book signings with Eoin Colfer and Mal Peet**

Please ensure you arrive half an hour before the event start time. We strongly recommend students bring their own lunch. Details of *The Sydney Morning Herald* Young Writer creative writing competition for Years 7 to 9 will be released in February 2012.

MAL PEET

malpeet.com

Mal has established himself as a strong and distinctive voice in young adult fiction. His first novel, *Keeper*, won the Branford Boase Award and the Bronze Nestlé Children's Book Award; *Tamar* won the Carnegie Medal; and *Exposure* was the 2009 winner of the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. Mal's latest novel is *Life: An Exploded Diagram*. As well as his young adult novels, Mal has produced many books for children, most of them in collaboration with his wife, Elspeth Graham.

VIKKI WAKEFIELD

vikkwakefield.com

Vikki is the author of the highly acclaimed debut *All I Ever Wanted*. Vikki worked in banking, journalism, communications and graphic design before enrolling in TAFE's Advanced Diploma of Arts (Professional Writing) in 2009. Her articles have since been published in Australia and overseas and she is an award-winning short story writer. Vikki lives with her family in the Adelaide foothills. She writes late at night and vividly remembers the young adult novels she read by torchlight until the pages were see-through.