



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 2 August 2023

The Wheeler Centre's Spring Fling returns in 2023

The Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas today unveiled its [Spring Fling event series](#) which features 60 esteemed thinkers, writers, musicians and performers taking part in a series of intimate conversations, podcast recordings and panel discussions across Melbourne in October.

The program of 24 events features international guests Hernan Diaz (*Trust*), musician and artist Lonnie Holley, Rebecca Makkai (*I Have Some Questions for You*), Caroline O'Donoghue (*The Rachel Project* and host of the hit podcast *Sentimental Garbage*) and Ed Yong (*An Immense World*), alongside local luminaries including Leigh Sales, Trent Dalton, Melissa Lucashenko, Thomas Mayo, Pia Miranda and Andrew Quilty.

The Wheeler Centre's Head of Programming, Veronica Sullivan, said Spring Fling offered a diverse line-up of experiences to suit every taste.

'Spring Fling is for everyone in Melbourne and Victoria who is hungry for nourishment from storytelling, ideas, and conversation as we emerge from the cold winter months,' she said.

'Last year, our inaugural Spring Fling program drew almost 5000 audience members to Melbourne's CBD. This year, we hope even more audience members join us at Spring Fling 2023 for inspiring and thought-provoking events with an incredible array of writers and thinkers.'

Spring Fling 2023 highlights

- Spring Fling Opening Night featuring Melissa Lucashenko, Hannah Diviney, Jelena Dokic, Thomas Mayo, Rufaro Zimbudzi and Emma Donovan (4 October 7.30-9.30pm)
- Iconic American artist Lonnie Holley speaking about his life and work and delivering a special musical performance (2 October 7-8pm)
- Author and historian Santilla Chingaipe delivering the annual E.W. Cole Lecture on who gets to write history (5 October 7-8pm)
- A special conversation about humanity's relationship with space for World Space Week presented in partnership with Museums Victoria (5 October 7-9pm)
- Miles Franklin Literary Award winner Melissa Lucashenko discussing her new novel *Edenglassie*, an exploration of Queensland's colonial history (6 October 6pm-7pm)
- Leigh Sales speaking about her new book *Storytellers: Questions, Answers and the Craft of Journalism* at Montalto (6 October 6-9pm) and at the Wheeler Centre (7 October 6.30-7.30pm)
- Performance artist DANDROGYNY leading a children's storytelling event complete with art and a dress up parade (7 October 11am-12.30pm)
- Cousins Andrew Quilty and Ben Quilty in conversation for the first time publicly, alongside Afghan researcher and advocate Shuja Jamal (7 October 4-5.15pm)
- Live recordings of podcasts including local cult favourite *See Also* (10 October 7.30-8.30pm), *Everybody's Trying to Find Their Way Home* (14 October 12.30-1.45pm) and the globally popular *Sentimental Garbage* (14 October 8.30-9.30pm).



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Among the 24-event program are events co-curated by artist Frankie van Kan, musician Jen Cloher and space archaeologist Dr Alice Gorman.

Spring Fling runs from Monday 2 to Saturday 14 October. Events will be presented at the Wheeler Centre, Melbourne Town Hall, The Capitol, Scienceworks and Montalto.

Spring Fling is part of a bumper season of creative events taking place across the state throughout October including Melbourne International Games Week, Melbourne Fringe Festival, Melbourne International Jazz Festival, the inaugural Eighty-Six festival and more.

The full Spring Fling program is available on the [Wheeler Centre's website](#).

Spring Fling is proudly supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria and is supported through the Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund – a \$200 million partnership of the Victorian Government and the City of Melbourne.

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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.

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