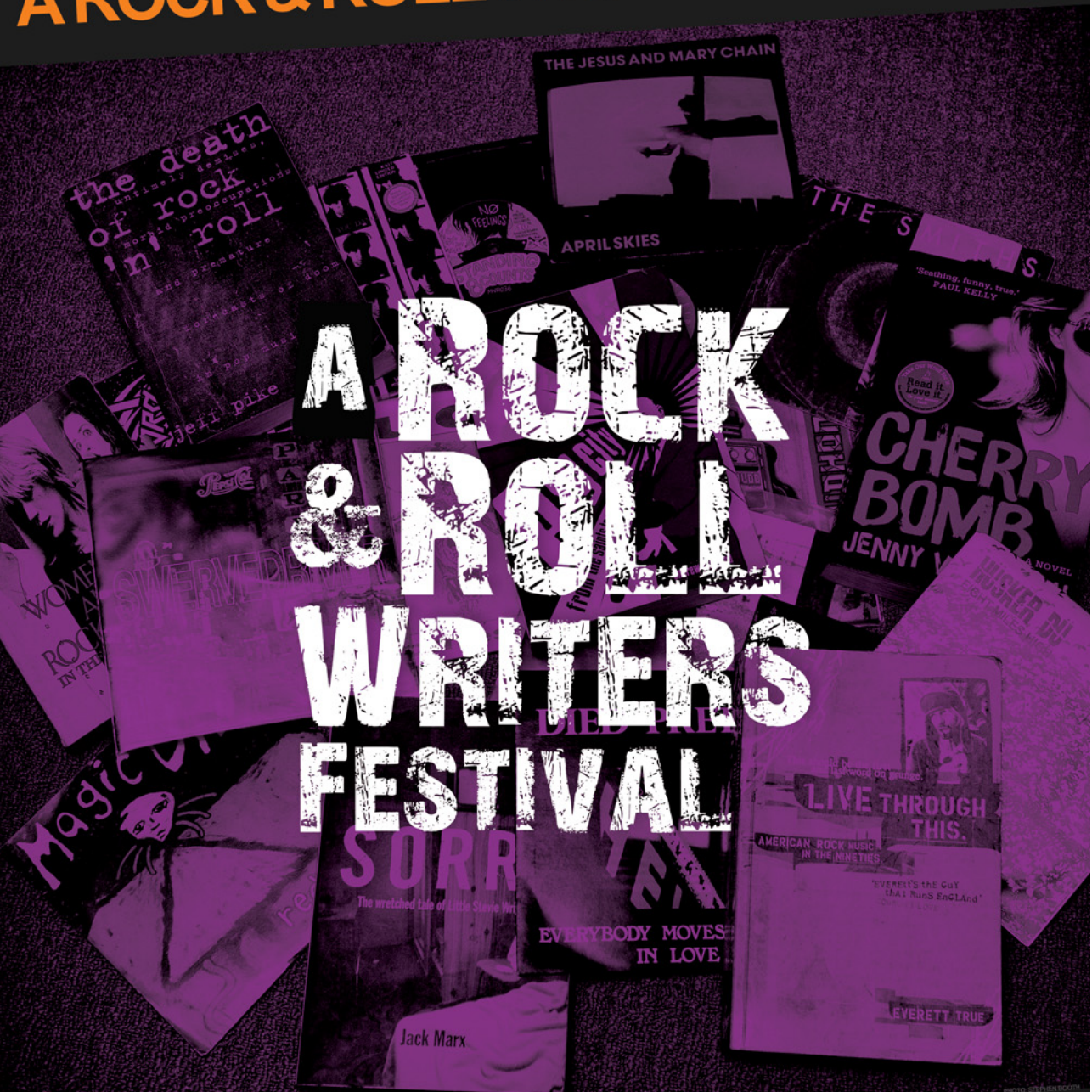


40 AUTHORS, SONGWRITERS, NOVELISTS, MUSICIANS, COMMENTATORS &
BROADCASTERS EXPLORE THE CREATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WRITING AND MUSIC

A ROCK & ROLL WRITERS FESTIVAL

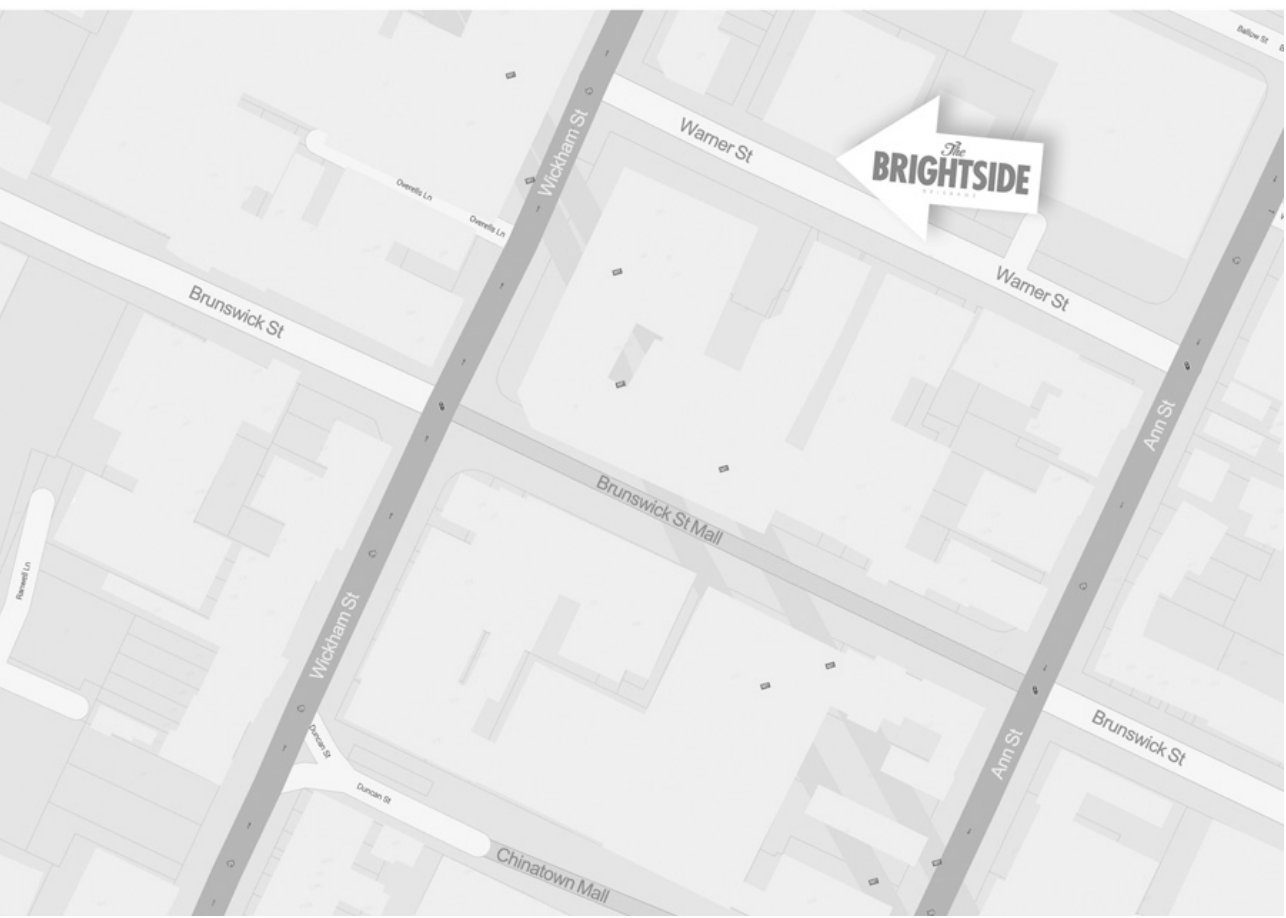


SATURDAY 2ND & SUNDAY 3RD APRIL, 2016

THE BRIGHTSIDE

WARNER STREET
FORTITUDE VALLEY

We would like to pay respect to and acknowledge the
Turrbal and Jagera/Yuggera Peoples as the Traditional
Owners of the lands where we work and live.



Welcome to the inaugural Rock and Roll Writers Festival at the Brightside on Jagera/Yuggera and Turrbal country.

I believe songs and stories are the fabric of life. They help us to make sense of ourselves, our relationships and the world we live in. I read and listen to music every day, together they make life simply, better!

Rock and Roll means doing what is in your heart, with conviction and not giving a fuck what others think about it - an attitude.

I am genuinely excited to share this weekend with all of you - the fans, the authors and the songwriters. I truly believe, it is when we come together as a community, get out of our everyday lives and routines, we then push the boundaries of our routine thinking and find deeper meaning in our lives and the whole human experience.

It is vitally important we support and value both art forms in every way we can - creating this event is my way of doing that.

Thank you to my producer and long time colleague Joe Woolley for his commitment to grow the genesis of the idea. This year's R&RWF program represents our common values and the stories and songs that resonate with us personally - it has been so much fun to work together to now share these with all of you.



Thank you to all the speakers, staff, volunteers, supporters, champions, sponsors and partners - the vision is realised thanks to each and every one of you.

The Rock and Roll Writers Festival is for the fangirl/boy in all of us. Listen, ask questions, have those passionate conversations, meet the writers and have a quality drink (or a few), enjoy yourselves immensely and we hope to see you again next year!

Leanne de Souza, Director 23/2/16

A ROCK & ROLL WRITERS FESTIVAL PROGRAM - SATURDAY

10.15 AM MY BACK PAGES

In our opening session, we'll examine how books bring to life stories, experiences and circumstances through music biographies, autobiographies and memoirs, and look at the process of writing them – what was included or left out, why, and how those decisions affected the creative process. How much honesty is enough, and what do readers really want to know?

MODERATOR Sean Sennett

PANELLISTS Chris Salewicz, Ritchie Yorke, Don Walker

11.15 AM THOU SHALT NOT STEAL

An indigenous focus on cultural authority, and who has the authority to tell a story – black and white. Are we defined by the words in our anthems, songs, and narratives? What are they, and how do they inform traditional storytelling and contemporary indigenous music & literature?

MODERATOR Tammy Lee Rock

PANELLISTS Clinton Walker, Samuel Wagan Watson, Kazman, Bob Weatherall

12.15 PM THE CALL UP

Music can be a powerful force for raising awareness and promoting a cause. From Dylan in the '60s to Kendrick Lamar's commentary on being black in the US today, popular music has long reflected the zeitgeist. A great song can draw you in with a catchy hook, a melody, a sing-along chorus, or a driving rhythm. But it's the lyrics that can tell a story, start a conversation, and – perhaps – spread a message. Songs can be an agent for social change, or a vehicle for telling important stories – how do you do that effectively, and who's been the best at it?

MODERATOR Paul Barclay

PANELLISTS Don Walker, Don McGlashan, Andrew Stafford

2.15 PM EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

What is it about your favourite song or written piece that hooks you in? Likely, it's some little thing – a plaintive melody, a lyric or line, or a perfectly evocative passage of time, place or sound. Here we talk to writers and songwriters about the dark art of detail, from lyric-writing, being observational and channelling introspection to tips on how to trust your instinct.

MODERATOR Kate Hennessy

PANELLISTS Sally Breen, Deborah Conway, John Busby, Jess Rebeiro

A ROCK & ROLL WRITERS FESTIVAL PROGRAM - SATURDAY

3.15 PM FREAKIN' AND PEAKIN'

Substances. Alcohol. Powders and pills. They're part of the cliché of sex, drugs and rock & roll, but do they help or hinder the creative process? Our panel will look at the ways in which these things can be used in creative endeavours, and why – for better or for worse. Are the outcomes the ones that the creators expect, and if not, why?

MODERATOR Geoff Corbett

PANELLISTS Andrew McMillen, Jenny Valentish, Jake Stone, BC Michaels

4.15 PM TRUE BLUE

Aussie slang is often funny, sometimes crude and occasionally incomprehensible. Still, local writers know how to use swearing, jokes and humour to communicate something about ourselves that can often be missed. Our panel looks at the lighter side of writing for locals, and how a message might be delivered via laughter.

MODERATOR Bernard Zuel

PANELLISTS Thomas Violence, Mandy Nolan, Chris Endery, Keir Nuttall



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A ROCK & ROLL WRITERS FESTIVAL PROGRAM - SUNDAY

10.00 AM STRANGER THAN FICTION

There are many novels that have music at the centre of the narrative, sending us coded signals about the characters and adding context to the story with a soundtrack in the mind. But how do you add a soundtrack that the reader can hear and why is it so important to the writer to get the sound and the words just right?

MODERATOR **Rhianna Patrick**

PANELLISTS **Noel Mengel, Nicole Hayes, Jenny Valentish, Daniel Herborn**

11.00 AM LET'S GET IT ON

Love can determine the destiny of our lives, sex and lust is a double-edged sword of pleasure or pain. These experiences can be a sensory overload, so how can their full girth of passion, excitement and ultimately climax be captured through words in songs and fiction? Here, our panel discusses matters of the heart, the battle of the sexes, the craft of making love with a pen and maybe read fictional letters to a musician/writer they love or lust after.

MODERATOR **Bec Mac**

PANELLISTS **Jackie Marshall, Nicole Hayes, Thomas Violence, Nikki McWatters**

12.00 PM I SECOND THAT EMOTION

Music can express feelings too powerful for words, while great writing can make our souls sing. Yet where's the wellspring of all this emotion? The creator, the listener, somewhere in between, or somewhere else? Our panel will uncover intimate connections between people, music and emotion and how writers combine words and music to unlock and understand joy, sorrow, grief, anger and love.

MODERATOR **David Megarrity**

PANELLISTS **Samuel Wagan Watson, Peter Milton-Walsh, Jess Ribeiro**

2.00 PM HISTORY NEVER REPEATS

Music has documented the major events of the last half of the 20th century – from the Vietnam war, to the punk movement in the UK, to the social commentary offered by rap and hip hop. Our writers talk about the way in which those changes and upheavals are remembered by, and can be put into context through, the music that they inspired.

MODERATOR **Leanne Kelly**

PANELLISTS **Andrew Stafford, Clinton Walker, Chris Salewicz**

3.00 PM DANCING IN THE DARK

From novel-length saga to three-minute pop song, choosing the right words and correct structure is paramount in getting your message across. But how do you effectively combine the two? And how different is writing for a reader, as opposed to writing for a listener?

MODERATOR **Samuel J. Fell**

PANELLISTS **Deborah Conway, Don McGlashan, J.M. Donellan**

4.00 PM BRING THE NOISE

Let's put the music critics under the spotlight. We'll find out what motivates them, how they keep their writing fresh, the best and worst reactions to their work, and their thoughts on the state of music criticism. We live in an age dominated by direct access to artists, with less and less filtering via 'expert' channels. Are critics still relevant? Or are 'expert' portals like Spotify programming and Pitchfork the new place for music writers to reach and influence an audience?

MODERATOR **Jake Stone**

PANELLISTS **Bernard Zuel, Noel Mengel, Kate Hennessy, Dave Faulkner**

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A ROCK & ROLL WRITERS FESTIVAL

SIDE SHOWS

Not content with bringing some of Australia's finest authors, songwriters, commentators and troublemakers to Brisbane, we are also very proud to present three special events, as follows..

DON MCGLASHAN

JUNK BAR, FRIDAY 1 APRIL, 7PM

DON MCGLASHAN is universally recognised as one of New Zealand's foremost songwriters, artists and performers, with five entries in APRA New Zealand's "Top 100 Songs Of All Time". His career spans from the seminal post-pop-punk of Blam Blam Blam, to art experimentalists The Front Lawn, to platinum-selling and internationally-acclaimed band The Mutton Birds. He has worked and performed with Crowded House, Paul Kelly, Johnny Marr, Wilco, Brian Ritchie and members of Radiohead and has scored a number of feature films. His songs have been described by Q Magazine as 'from the same cerebral power-pop mother lode as Big Star and early REM'. Don returns to Australia to unveil a rich new collection of highly personal songs ("Lucky Stars") exploring love, regret and mortality, infused with hopefulness and joy.



DOORS OPEN 7pm

TICKETS \$25 + Booking Fee through Oztix

IN CONVERSATION: CHRIS SALEWICZ ON THE CLASH THE TRIFFID, SAT 2 APRIL, 5.30PM

A conversation with CHRIS SALEWICZ, the acclaimed author of Redemption Song: The Ballad of Joe Strummer (the definitive biography of the much-loved Clash frontman). As an NME journalist in the 70's, Salewicz was an on-the-scene observer to (and often, participant in) the birth and explosion of punk rock. Chris will be reading a few lines from his book, talking about The Clash, the early days of

punk in the UK, all things reggae, and of course, his long personal friendship with Joe Strummer. He'll be interviewed by Clash tragic and local identity Graham Ashton, before the Stiff Little Fingers show later that evening.

DOORS OPEN 5pm

TICKETS \$12 + Booking Fee through Oztix



A ROCK & ROLL WRITERS FESTIVAL **SIDE SHOWS**

DEBORAH CONWAY

BLACK BEAR LODGE, SATURDAY 2 APRIL, 7PM

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS JESS RIBEIRO AND JACKIE MARSHALL

MC: JENNY VALENTISH

The legendary singer & songwriter, from Do-Ré-Mi in the 80's right up to her recent "Stories of Ghosts" album with Willy Zygiel, creates music that holds loss leavened with happiness, tragedy with humour and sadness with joy.

To accompany her speaking appearance in the Rock and Roll Writers Festival program, Deborah Conway is performing an exclusive intimate show upstairs at Black Bear Lodge.

Also performing will be other festival speakers, the insightful songwriters Jess Ribeiro (whose album Kill it Yourself has been shortlisted for the AMP) and local star Jackie Marshall.

To introduce the audience to the evening's artists, their songs and stories, will be the playful and fierce Melbourne-based author and journalist Jenny Valentish as the MC.

DOORS OPEN 7pm

TICKETS \$32 + Booking Fee through Oztix



Andrew McMillen is a Brisbane-based award-winning freelance journalist and author. His work has been published in Rolling Stone, The Australian, The Monthly, Qweekend and BuzzFeed. In 2015, he was named Freelance Journalist of the Year at the Queensland Clarion Awards. Andrew's first book, *Talking Smack: Honest Conversations About Drugs*, was published by UQP in 2014. He also hosts Penmanship, a podcast about Australian writing culture. andrewmcmillen.com | [@Andrew_McMillen](https://twitter.com/Andrew_McMillen)



Andrew Stafford is the author of *Pig City*, a history of music and politics in Brisbane during and after the Bjelke-Petersen years. The book inspired a festival of local bands held in 2007, headlined by the original line-up of the Saints. He writes regularly for The Guardian, The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald, and is working on a second book. andrewstaffordblog.com | [@staffo_sez](https://twitter.com/staffo_sez)



BC Michaels is the drummer & songwriter for Brisbane's indie-garage-punk heroes *Dune Rats*. He's been quoted as being on a "self-proclaimed quest to play music and fuck shit up" but in fact is a modern philosopher, as evidenced by the song *Dalai Lama, Big Banana, Marijuana*. However, he has zero friends on LinkedIn. Make of that what you will.



Bec Mac is a provocative, performance-based artist and commentator whose work straddles performing arts, visual arts, broadcast media and photography. Bec produced and presented her legendary live art event LOVE TV over the last 10 years having presented it throughout Australia and New York's City's 5 Boroughs. Bec is the presenter of Friday Neon on 4ZZZ, has produced and hosted 2 seasons of her TV series The Bec Mac Show and MCs festivals and events.



Ben McLeay is a Brisbane-based writer and musician known primarily for tweeting as Thomas Violence and writing for SBS Comedy's *The Backburner*, also to a much lesser extent for being really incredibly good at Railroad Tycoon 3. He plays keys in Brisbane band The Keepaways and will until he earns experience enough points to move up to a cooler instrument. [@thomas_violence](https://twitter.com/thomas_violence)



Bernard Zuel has been writing about music since typewriters, C90 mixtapes and coming home stinking of everyone else's smokes. He's written for RAM, Rolling Stone and street press, and talked on TV and radio for anyone who asked. He's been covering arts at the Sydney Morning Herald/Fairfax Media for more than 20 years, the past 12 or so as senior music writer and chief critic. He still buys records and discs and sound files because it's great. [@BernardZuel](https://twitter.com/BernardZuel)



Bob Weatherall is a traditional owner of the Kamilaroi Nation from the Balonne River region in South West Queensland. For almost 40 years, he has been an advocate for Aboriginal rights, land rights and Aboriginal self-governance. In the 1980s, he and other Aboriginal and Islander leaders campaigned successfully and forced the Queensland government to revoke Queensland's apartheid laws (The Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders Acts) which governed the lives of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders since 1895. He continues to fight governments, museums, universities, medical schools and art galleries across the world for the rights of the dead and repatriation of the thousands of stolen Aboriginal ancestral human remains and Aboriginal cultural property.



Chris Endrey is an involved artist of various worlds, hoping to engage people in their lives and society. The frontman for cult sex-pop band Fun Machine writes on politics and culture and has been touring his one-man stand-up comedy show to sold out crowds across the continent.



Chris Salewicz documents popular culture in print, on film, television and radio. A senior features writer for NME from 1975 to 1981, Salewicz subsequently worked for The Sunday Times, the Independent, the Daily Telegraph, Q, MOJO, and Conde Nast Traveller, and newspapers and magazines across the globe. Chris is the author of seventeen books, including *Rude Boy: Once Upon a Time in Jamaica*; *Redemption Song: the Definitive Biography of Joe Strummer*, and *Bob Marley: the Untold Story*. His most recent book is *Dead Gods: The 27 Club*, an analysis of the deaths of seven 27-year-old musical maestros including Amy Winehouse, Kurt Cobain, and Jimi Hendrix, published in July 2015.





Clinton Walker is a Sydney-based writer and producer described by the Sun-Herald as "*our best chronicler of Australian grass-roots culture*". Born in Bendigo in 1957, he is an art school drop-out and recovering rock critic

who since the late '70s has written 9 books. His greatest hits include *Inner City Sound*, *Highway to Hell*, *Buried Country*, *Studio 22*, *Golden Miles*, *History is Made at Night* and *Silver Roads*. He is currently working on *Deadly Woman Blues* — about the great black ladies of Australian music, on a cultural history of Saturday Night Fever called *Blood and Money*, and on a stage musical called *God's Whore*. clintonwalker.com.au



Daniel Herborn is the author of young adult novel *You're the Kind of Girl I Write Songs About*, released in 2015. A tale of first love, indie rock and dive bars set in Sydney's Inner West, it has been described as "*the perfect mixtape of a novel*". His writing about pop culture regularly appears in The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age. danielherborn.com | @danielherborn



Dave Faulkner is a rightly considered to be Australian musical royalty. The Hoodoo Gurus frontman and member of Persian Rugs, The Victims and other rock bands, is funny, articulate, and he knows a lot about music. He's a songwriter of immense achievement, having penned some of this country's best-loved hit records. He is also The Saturday Paper's music critic, where his insightful, intelligent reviews have placed him at the vanguard of Australian rock writers.



Dr David Megarrity is a writer, composer, musician, academic and player creating at the intersection of music, performance and projected image. Completely focussed on the creation of new work, often musicalising theatre and theatricalising music, he has a long and colourful track record of innovating across artforms while continuing to entertain. Currently playing with Warmwaters and Tyrone and Lesley.



Deborah Conway has been a contributor to Australian music for over 30 years. Her first band Do Re Mi topped the charts; her first solo album achieved platinum sales and she continues to release albums that attract critical acclaim and appreciative audiences. Alongside being a musician, Conway's side projects include producing Broad, an all-female singer/songwriter concert that toured between 2005 & 2008; Artistic Director for the Queensland Music Festival 2009 - 2011 & currently, Festival Director for Shir Madness Melbourne Jewish Music Festival.



Don McGlashan is unquestionably one of New Zealand's foremost songwriters, artists and performers with five entries in APRA NZ's Top 100 Songs Of All Time. His career spans from the seminal post-pop-punk band Blam Blam Blam, to art experimentalists The Front Lawn, to the platinum-selling The Mutton Birds. His songs have been described by Q Magazine as "*from the same cerebral power-pop mother lode as Big Star and early REM*". His 2015 album *Lucky Stars* is a collection of highly personal songs exploring love, regret and mortality, infused with optimism and a deep joy. donmcglashan.com



Don Walker has few peers in illuminating the darker underbelly of the Australian psyche, whether he's performing with Cold Chisel, Tex, Don and Charlie or solo. Angry women, luck-chasers, heartbroken prodigals who don't smell good and anyone who just wants to throw the afternoon away on a game of pool — they're all still there. *Shots*, his extraordinary memoir had The Age stating that "*Shots rings out like a whip crack across a landscape of rural Australia, lonely highways and endless gigs*".



Geoff Corbett has fronted seminal Brisbane rock and roll band SixFiHick for more than 20 years and has lived to remember some of it. SixFiHick has toured nationally and internationally forging a reputation as one of Australia's most dangerous live acts. Geoff also fronts alco-core dive bar denizens Shifting Sands. Paradoxically, it would seem, Geoff has worked for the past decade in frontline AOD treatment, across inpatient detox, emergency department, dual diagnosis and outreach settings. With a foot in both camps he is torn between two lovers.



J.M. Donellan is a teacher, slam poet, DJ, musician, collaborator and writer. Josh is also one half of the spoken word/electronic band Poetry is Dead. He has almost been devoured by a tiger in the jungles of Malaysia, nearly died of a lung collapse in the Nepalese Himalayas, fended off a pack of rabid dogs with a guitar in the mountains of India and been sexually harassed by a half-naked man while visiting Oscar Wilde's grave in Paris. His latest novel, *Killing Adonis* is described as "*the book that Agatha Christie and Tim Burton would have written together if they'd ever met.. the perfect blend of mystery and the mysterious.*"

Jackie Marshall will release her new album *Lillith Shrugs* in 2016, recorded by The Re-Mains' Leigh Ivin in a converted tobacco shed outside of Tamworth featuring too many excellent musicians to name drop in one hit. She currently tours and performs with The Soldier's Wife production and is the host of weekly live-streaming music program The Pineapple Lounge on BandViews.com. "*That rare thing: an Aussie original*" The Weekend Australian. jackiemarshall.com | @jackiemarshall



Jake Stone is best known as the extroverted frontman for beloved Australian band Bluejuice, but is also a writer and presenter for television, radio and print media. Jake has written for The Sydney Morning Herald's News Review section, and recently contributed a lead feature to the Guardian's arts section. He also contributes to Hhhhappy.com and Junkee.com, and works as a freelance host for online and television music broadcasting, often with a satirical bent.



Jenny Valentish is the author of *Cherry Bomb*, a psychodrama set in the Australian music industry. She is the former editor of Time Out (Melbourne) and Triple J's Jmag, and writes profiles for The Sydney Morning Herald and The Saturday Paper. Her music career started in London, where she played in bands, had a column in the NME and was a publicist. She secretly writes artist bios for record labels. jennyvalentish.com | @JennyValentish



Jess Ribeiro's second album *Kill It Yourself* came after a three-year hiatus, in which she travelled the world and submitted herself to the kind of soul searching that only a restless artist is capable of. She credits its producer - and her collaborator - Mick Harvey (PJ Harvey, Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds) as the catalyst for rediscovering her muse. Beguiling and poetic reflections of youth, love and life find solace in Harvey's subtle production; sympathetic strings, languid tempos and gothic blues swagger. It shrewdly balances darker, haunting themes with rays of optimism, nostalgia, wit and beauty.



John Busby is a key songwriter in Brisbane rock band Halfway. Over the past decade they've released four albums, and in 2008 Busby was awarded the Grant McLennan Memorial Fellowship along with co-writer Chris Dale. Halfway's fifth studio album, recorded in Nashville, is due for release in 2016. halfway.com.au



Kate Hennessy's music and arts criticism runs in The Guardian, ABC Arts, SMH, The Quietus, Australian Book Review and Mess+Noise. Kate appears on ABC TV and has spoken at Vivid Ideas, Darwin Writers' Festival and BigSound. Travel journalism has taken Kate to Africa, Papua New Guinea, Turkey, Solomon Islands and Peru. She is an Australian Music Prize judge, a founding member of LISTEN and teaches at the Australian Writers' Centre. Kate is not writing a book. thesmallestroom.com.au | @smallestroom



Kazman is a vocalist, lyricist, freestyler, performer, actor, dancer and frontman of dance attack act Dubmarine, delivering the high energy performances which have become synonymous with the band. Kazman's writing inspiration comes from solving injustices to all people and living things as well as showing insight on spirituality from a modern indigenous perspective. He gets inspiration from esoteric ideas to help elevate the human experience. Kaz finds ultimate joy in performing his words and hearing his own thoughts through recordings as well as seeing other people getting some type of realisation from his point of view.



Keir Nuttall is a guitarist, songwriter and performer who co-produced and co-wrote both Kate Miller-Heidke's albums *Nightflight* and *Curiouser*, which surpassed double-platinum sales. Their song *Caught in the Crowd* was the first Australian song to win the International Songwriting Competition. As his alter ego Franky Walnut, he has released an Aria-nominated album (Best Comedy Release) and toured extensively. He has appeared in many stand up comedy venues and at the Sydney Comedy Festival.





Leanne Kelly is Program Manager at Museum of Brisbane, and a Brisbane girl through and through. With an ever-evolving career in the arts, from design through to projects in regional Queensland and Australia, the thing that unites it all is a love of story. For now, she's focussed on digging into the stories of her beloved home city. What's the best part of her job? *"Meeting people nothing like myself, hearing their stories. I am fascinated with human diversity – and when we find our tribe it can all make sense."*



Mandy Nolan is a true renaissance woman. Stand up comedian, author, journalist, humour therapist, comedy coach & music writer: Nolan is the author of three memoirs *What I Would Do If I Were You*, *Boyfriends We've All Had And Shouldn't Have*, and *Home Truths*. She is also an artist, a creative writing teacher, a regular columnist for Mamamia and social commentator. Oh, and by the way, Nolan is also the mother of 5 children, who she credits as the true source of her creativity. mandynolan.com.au



Nicole Hayes's debut novel *The Whole of My World* was shortlisted for the 2014 YABBA award and longlisted for the 2014 Gold Inky Award. Her second novel *One True Thing*, exploring politics, music, and feminism, was awarded the 2015 Children's Peace Literature Award. Most recently, she co-edited *From The Outer: Footy Like You've Never Heard It*, with Alicia Sometimes. @nichmelbourne



Nikki McWatters is a former Gold Coast girl who grew up with a passion for rock 'n' roll.. or more specifically for rock 'n' rollers. After an early career as a television actor, Nikki raised five children and returned to university where she completed a law degree. Her memoir *One Way or Another: The Story Of A Girl Who Loved Rock-Stars* was shortlisted for a Queensland Premier's Literary Award in 2010. She has written a young adult book, *Sandy Feet*, released in 2014 and has a new novel *Hexenhaus*, being released in 2016. nikkimcwatters.wordpress.com | @nikkimcwatters



Noel Mengel has worked as a journalist in newspapers and magazines since 1980. For 25 years he worked as a music writer for Queensland's daily newspaper The Courier-Mail. In 2010 he won the Queensland Premier's Literary Award for the manuscript of his first novel, *RPM*, published by University of Queensland Press in 2011. He lives in Brisbane, where his passions include playing in bands, writing songs and trying to find room for his record collection. @NoelMengel



Paul Barclay is a Walkley Award-winning journalist and broadcaster. He is currently the presenter and producer of Big Ideas on ABC RN. He was previously presenter of the national talkback program on ABC RN, Australia Talks, has produced award winning radio documentaries for Background Briefing, appears on ABC TV, and has produced countless stories for most ABC radio networks. He can be seen MC-ing and conducting interviews, forums and debates at various cultural events.



Peter Milton Walsh formed The Apartments in Brisbane, 1978. Since leaving Australia a few years later, The Apartments have been acclaimed by critics and fans alike all over the world. 2015 saw two new album releases from the band; in March, Brooklyn's Captured Tracks reissued the 1985 Rough Trade debut, *The Evening Visits*, and in April, *No Song, No Spell, No Madrigal* was released by French label, Microcultures. By year's end, the album had been named #1 Album of the Year by France's leading music blog/magazine, Magic.



In her 14 years at the ABC, Rhianna Patrick has worked in news, television and radio documentaries and at one time, led the triple j news team. She currently presents #ABCRhi nationally on ABC Local Radio. The 1990s were her heyday and she's still struggling to leave her Britpop past behind. @RhiannaPatrick



Ritchie Yorke is one of Australia's most revered writers, an author of numerous music books including acclaimed biographies on Led Zeppelin and Van Morrison. Leaving Australia in 1966, he became the first full-time rock writer at Canada's national paper, The Globe and Mail, and went on to become one of the most widely syndicated rock writers in the world. He was also Canadian editor of Billboard magazine and Rolling Stone for several years, and has interviewed (and often became friends with) many of the biggest names in rock music. Ritchie returned to Brisbane in 1986 as Senior Music Writer for The Sunday Mail. His latest book, *Christ You Know It Ain't Easy: John and Yoko's Battle for Peace*, is an account of his involvement with John and Yoko Lennon on their peace campaign.



Sally Breen is the author of *The Casuals* (2011) and *Atomic City* (2013), shortlisted for the Queensland Literary Awards People's Choice Award in 2014. *The Casuals*, a memoir, focuses on the grunge era in the 1990s and won the Varuna Harper Collins Manuscript Prize. Her short-form fiction and non-fiction work has been featured widely both nationally and internationally including appearances in the Griffith REVIEW, The Asia Literary Review, Overland, The Age, The Australian, Review of Australian Fiction and Best Australian Stories. Sally is a senior lecturer in Creative Writing at Griffith University.



Samuel J. Fell is a freelance writer and author. He is assistant editor at Rhythms magazine and is a regular critic and feature writer for The Sydney Morning Herald, Rolling Stone and The Big Issue. His music writing has also appeared in The Saturday Paper, Crikey, the Australian Financial Review, Cleo, Tracks and Australian Guitar amongst others. Concurrently, Samuel is writing his first novel, and a history on 50 years of Australian music press, which will hopefully see the light of day in 2016.



Samuel Wagan Watson is an award winning poet published by University of Queensland Press. "I take all of my writing influences from pop culture. Never was classic literature responsible in handing me great epiphanies of alchemy like David Bowie's musings of Ashes, Cheech and Chong taught me comical timing and Sting's Police hinted that science would propose to art in a beneficial communion for walking on the moon. I had my first kiss at the age of 5 to Debbie Harry's Heart of Glass." @rogue_poetWatto



Sean Sennett was the editor / owner of Time Off for twenty years, and has done over 1500 interviews, with everyone from unsigned artists to the likes of Bono, Bowie, McCartney and Springsteen (he wrote a series of essays for Bruce's tour programs here and overseas). He co-edited *Off The Record: 25 Years Of Street Press* (UQP) and has been published in Rolling Stone, Word, The Age and the Australian. He has recorded and written songs with Rob Hirst, Steve Kilbey, Kate Ceberano and more, and co-hosts ABC Radio's Friday Countdown. seansennett.com | @seansennett



Tammy Lee Rock is a proud Palawa woman from Tasmania, who now lives in Melbourne. An actor and writer, she is a graduate of the Swinburne University Indigenous Performing Arts course. She appeared in the world premiere of *Stolen*, and has toured nationally and internationally with the play. *I Don't Wanna Play House* premiered at Playbox in 2001 and has since toured to regional Victoria, Sydney and Tasmania. Tammy has been actively involved with Ilbjerri with the aim of developing Indigenous theatre, and is currently studying her Masters in Writing for Performance at Melbourne University.



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From the outset, this was something that we believed would be fun.

Something we'd like to go to ourselves. Something that connected our love of music and writing, to our community in Brisbane and around the country. Something that would be a catalyst for a new kind of gathering, where ideas and conversations were the purpose, not just an accident that happened in between bands. We believed there would be value in hearing from great creative minds – people who allow us to receive new ideas and inspiration, perhaps in ways we hadn't expected and maybe from viewpoints we didn't know about. That's the goal, anyway. You'll be the judge of how well we pull that off.

There are people who must be thanked for their commitment to the festival. First of all – our tremendously talented speakers and moderators, who've decided to take a chance on this new concept. We're extremely grateful to each of them. Our retailers have come on board to offer the best in music and books – Fiona and Kev at Avid Reader, Steve and Simon at Sonic Sherpa. Please give them all your money. And our corporate sponsors, who were good enough to see the opportunity to connect with a new audience, and willing to offer their help in delivering the event. Remember their brand names, and support them wherever you can.

We've been fortunate enough to have been offered unqualified support from our peers, our families, our friends, our networks, our community, and of course our audience and our volunteers. Special thanks must go to Tim Steward who has worked tirelessly on the website, artwork, posters and program, and deserves a shout out. If you see him around, buy him a lager.



And my personal thanks goes out to Leanne for sharing this (sleepless) journey, and for being patient while we made this up as we went along. It's been a huge amount of fun and I hope we get to do it again.

So here we are at the pointy end of a long process. I'm delighted to welcome all of you to this event, this celebration of the power, the mystery, the emotion and the joy of music and writing, and that incredible thing that happens when they collide.

Thank you. Have fun!

Joe Woolley, Producer, Feb 2016

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