



- Festival Week Press Pack [HERE](#) - To be updated with event photography daily
- Interviews Available

THE 28TH SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL OPENS THIS WEEK!

Sydney Writers' Festival, one of the world's leading literary festivals, opens this week—bringing an unmissable program of ideas, discussion, and storytelling to the city from **19–27 May**.

With over **200 events**, **37 international guests** and **250+ Australian authors**, the 28th edition of the Festival invites readers and writers to explore the theme ***In This Together***—from intimate author talks to major debates on the world's most pressing questions.

Artistic Director, Ann Mossop said, “We’re moments away from welcoming audiences to the 2025 Festival, and we couldn’t be happier with the breadth and depth of the program.”

“From iconic literary voices to bold new thinkers, this year’s Festival is bursting with unmissable conversations. Audiences will experience everything from **Samantha Harvey’s** Booker Prize-winning cosmic novel ***Orbital*** to the trio of literary talents ***The Moriarty Sisters***, and a celebration of some of the world’s brightest debut authors in ***Big Beginnings***.”

CEO, Brooke Webb said, “The response to this year’s program has been extraordinary, demonstrating a strong passion for the written word, ideas, and the meaningful discussions and connections the Festival nurtures across our communities. Everybody is invited and we cannot wait to welcome you to the 2025 Festival. It promises to be an unforgettable year. Let the conversations begin!”

Here are the must-see Festival events and hidden gems:

OPENING NIGHT – 20 May

A powerful evening of readings and performances that bring this year’s theme ***In This Together*** to life. Hosted at Carriageworks, the event features Torres Strait Islander writer and activist **Thomas Mayo**, Guest Curator **Nardi Simpson**, Sunday Times–bestselling poet **Lemn Sissay**, and internationally acclaimed author **Jeanette Winterson**.

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FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Liane Moriarty and David Nicholls (21 May) reveal what happens when an author's everyday life stories become global sensations! They will be comparing experiences of seeing their novels turn into bestsellers, bingeable television series, and films.

Bestselling author **Jeanette Winterson** and leading AI expert **Toby Walsh** explore how artificial intelligence is redefining creativity, consciousness and what it means to be human in ***The Art and Science of AI*** (21 May). This urgent conversation explores the future of storytelling—and the storytellers of the future.

Four brilliant literary minds: **Rumaan Alam, Samantha Harvey, Robbie Arnott** and **Torrey Peters**, take a pulse check on the artform in ***State of the Art: The Novel*** (22 May), hosted by The Bookshelf radio presenter **Kate Evans**.

Australian Indigenous leader **Thomas Mayo**, historian **Clare Wright** and Walkley award winning journalist **Lorena Allam** reflect on the history of Australian First Nations movements for change and discuss the path forward in ***Past and Future of Indigenous Recognition*** (22 May).

Three of 2024's most acclaimed debut authors—**Kaliane Bradley, Ferdia Lennon** and **Dominic Amerena**—reveal what it takes to break through with a first novel in ***Big Beginnings*** (23 May). From viral bestsellers to award-winners, they share the highs, hurdles and surprises of launching a literary career.

Queens of Australian pastry **Nadine Ingram, Natalie Paull** and **Kate Reid** cook up a light, airy, heartwarming chat with host **Jennifer Wong** on the art and business of baking in ***Bakers' Delight*** (23 May).

New York Times journalist **Edward Wong** traces China's seismic transformation through the intimate lens of his own family's experience in ***At the Edge of Empire*** (24 May). Blending memoir and reportage, he offers a powerful portrait of a nation—and a world—on the cusp of dramatic change.

The neuroscientist dubbed 'the world's number one sleep expert', **Matthew Walker** makes his first live appearance in Australia to reveal the life-changing science behind ***Why We Sleep*** (27 May). In conversation with journalist **Sana Qadar**, he uncovers how better rest can boost memory, creativity, immunity—and even extend your life.

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THE DETAILS

What: Sydney Writers' Festival 2025

When: 19–27 May

More Info: <https://www.swf.org.au/>

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EDITOR'S NOTES

ABOUT SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

From Monday 19 to Tuesday 27 May 2025, the 28th Sydney Writers' Festival brings together some of the world's most exciting literary voices for a week of insightful discussions, thought-provoking ideas, and unforgettable storytelling. The Festival features a dynamic program of in-person and livestreamed events, including author talks, panel discussions, workshops, and special events across Sydney. For more information, visit swf.org.au.

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