

23 SEPTEMBER

Short Sharp Script 2: Circa Theatre

More exciting work in progress from the second group of International Institute of Modern Letters scriptwriters, at Circa Theatre. This week the spotlight falls on work from **David Mamea**, **Helmut Marko**, **Monica Pausina**, **Sophie Scott**, and **Rachael Stokes**. Introduced by **Ken Duncum**.

30 SEPTEMBER

Flight Across Worlds: Elizabeth Knox and Craig Cliff

Elizabeth Knox's new novel *The Absolute Book* is set in London, Norfolk, the Wye Valley, and Auckland, as well as in the hospitals and train stations of Purgatory. Old acts of revenge return with force, as three people are driven towards a reckoning felt in more than one world. **Craig Cliff's** second novel *Nailing Down the Saint* explores the life of St Joseph of Copertino, as recreated by the movie industry. Can rational materialism explain everything? Join **Kate Duignan** to discuss parallel worlds, moral reckonings and religious borrowings in these novels.

7 OCTOBER

This Hostile Place: Carl Shuker and Lawrence Patchett

Lawrence Patchett's first novel, *The Burning River*, is a work of fictional futurology set in a version of New Zealand where a plastic miner who survives by alliances and trade is swept into a perilous inland journey with new companions. In **Carl Shuker's** novel *A Mistake*, a gifted female surgeon at Wellington Hospital must make her way in a male-dominated world.

Fergus Barrowman explores the allegiances and codes these characters must navigate to survive, and the different types of world-building that have gone into each of these novels.

Events run from 12.15 to 1.15 pm, Te Marae, Level 4, Te Papa Tongarewa with the exception of the two Short Sharp Script events, which are at Circa Theatre.

ADMISSION IS FREE, ALL WELCOME

WRITERS ON MONDAYS IS PRESENTED WITH THE MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE PAPA TONGAREWA, PHANTOM BILLSTICKERS NATIONAL POETRY DAY, AND CIRCA THEATRE

Please note that no food may be taken onto Te Marae.



For more information, contact the International Institute of Modern Letters or go to our website.

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TE PŪTAHI TUHI AUAAHA O TE AO

WRITERS ON MONDAYS JULY–OCTOBER 2019



MONDAYS 12.15–1.15 PM

TE MARAE, LEVEL 4, TE PAPA TONGAREWA

A series of events highlighting the very latest work of writers active in Wellington and further afield. All in all, a lively and stimulating way to begin the week—and it's free!

PROGRAMME 2019



22 JULY

Hot and Cold: Lynda Chanwai-Earle

The 2019 Creative New Zealand/Victoria University Writer in Residence Lynda Chanwai-Earle is a ground-breaking poet and playwright, whose work *HEAT* was the first-ever play to be powered by solar and wind power. This year, she is working on the second and third plays in her 'Antarctic Trilogy', and co-writing a television drama drawing on the real-life murder of a Chinese student in Auckland that was also the basis for her play *Man in a Suitcase*. Lynda is a well-known public broadcaster with RNZ, and has toured in a Māori theatre company visiting schools and prisons. She explores her interlocking creative lives with producer/playwright **Miria George**.

29 JULY

Poetry Quintet

New York poet **Amy Leigh Wicks** finds a new home in Kaikōura in *The Dangerous Country of Love and Marriage*, and New Zealander **Nikki-Lee Birdsey** plumbs the fault lines between her lives in America and Aotearoa in *Night As Day*, while Chicago poet **Steven Toussaint** composed the deeply musical poems of *Lay Studies* in the United States, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand. **Sugar Magnolia Wilson** hails from Fern Flat, but the poems of *A Woman's Heart is like a Needle at the Bottom of the Ocean* travel to Korea and into intimate and distant histories. **essa may ranapiri** (Ngāti Raukawa) is a non-binary/takatāpui poet whose *Ransack* rummages through language and history in a search of a place to call their own. All five poets layer place and history, love and loss in their books, yet all five voices are utterly distinctive. Introduced by **Chris Price**, they read poems from here, there, and everywhere.

5 AUGUST

Dig Deeper: Dinah Hawken and Lynn Jenner

Dinah Hawken's urgent yet contemplative poems have been celebrated in Aotearoa since her award-winning début, *It Has No Sound and is Blue* (1987). In *There Is No Harbour*, Hawken sets the depth of injustice Māori have endured in Taranaki against her own family history in search of greater clarity in the present. In her new book, *PEAT*, **Lynn Jenner** enlists poet and *Landfall* editor Charles Brasch to help her think through aspects of the land and the national character unearthed by the construction of the Kāpiti Expressway. Two Kāpiti writers, who share a conviction that the past is not a foreign country but everywhere at hand if only we know how to look, join chair **Bill Manhire** in what promises to be a fascinating discussion.

12 AUGUST

Axiomatic: Maria Tumarkin

Cultural historian and writer **Maria Tumarkin** moved from the Ukraine to Australia at age 15. Her latest book applies a freewheeling intelligence to five common axioms such as 'time heals all wounds', interrogating their accuracy and adequacy in the face of trauma. "Maria Tumarkin's shape-shifting *Axiomatic* deploys all the resources of narrative, reportage and essay," writes Pankaj Mishra in the *Guardian*. "It is a work of great power and beauty." Tumarkin is the author of three other acclaimed books of ideas: *Traumascapes*, *Courage*, and *Otherland*. She also collaborates with visual artists, psychologists and public historians, and teaches writing at the University of Melbourne. She appears in conversation with **Chris Price**.

19 AUGUST

Best New Zealand Poems

Best New Zealand Poems is published annually by Victoria University of Wellington's International Institute of Modern Letters. Get ready for Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day (on 23 August) by coming along to hear nine of the best read work selected for *Best New Zealand Poems 2018*—and be sure to visit www.bestnewzealandpoems.org.nz to view the full selection. Join 2018 editor **Fiona Farrell** as she introduces **Nikki-Lee Birdsey**, **Jenny Bornholdt**, **Doc Drumheller**, **Sam Duckor-Jones**, **Bernadette Hall**, **Anna Jackson**, **Therese Lloyd**, **Mary McCallum**, and **Chris Tse**.

26 AUGUST

Electric/Antarctic: Rebecca Priestley and Helen Heath

In *Are Friends Electric?*, 2019 Ockham NZ Book Award for Poetry winner **Helen Heath** explores the merger of human beings with technology, and asks questions about the potential of a digital afterlife to assuage human desires and griefs. She talks with Royal Society Science Book Prize and the Prime Minister's Science Communication Prize winner **Rebecca Priestley** about her memoir of science on the icy continent, *Fifteen Million Years in Antarctica*. This deeply personal tour of the place Priestley had longed to visit since childhood also explores her anxieties, both for herself, and for the threatened place she loves.

2 SEPTEMBER

The Next Page 1

A wonderful opportunity to hear a fresh mix of prose and poetry by the current cohort of writers in the Master of Arts in Creative Writing Programme at Victoria University of Wellington's International Institute of Modern Letters. **Caleb Harris**, **Ash Davida Jane**, **Elaine Webster**, **Cris Cucerzan**, **Rebecca Reilly**, **Geraldine Warren**, **Stacey Teague**, **Una Cruickshank**, **Mikee Sto-Domingo**, and **Fiona Lincoln** are introduced (in that order) by **Kate Duignan**.

9 SEPTEMBER

The Next Page 2

Part 2 of the popular Next Page sessions features readings from (in order) **Danyl McLauchlan**, **Preya Gothanayagi**, **Melanie Ansell**, **Jane Cherry**, **Catarina de Peters Leitão**, **Tanya Ashcroft**, **Manon Revuelta**, **Dave Glynn**, **Louisa Buchanan**, and **Janey Thornton**. They are introduced by **Chris Price**.

16 SEPTEMBER

Short Sharp Script 1: Circa Theatre

Actors perform dynamic new work by MA scriptwriting students from the International Institute of Modern Letters. This week, scripts by **Sally Bollinger**, **Mitchell Botting**, **Emily Callam**, **Emilie Hope**, and **Jonathan King** are introduced by **Ken Duncum**.