

Melbourne Writers' Festival

New program

The Guest List Barry, Ethel, Publishers, Token Young Writer, Writer Who Is Under Forty-Five At Any Rate, Token Ethnic Writer A, Token Ethnic Writer B, Token Ethnic Writer C, Someone from *Big Brother*, A Publisher, An Innovative Writer, Marty, Jess, The Marketing Department of *Penguin Books*, Y'know... That Guy, Chick Lit Writer, Ethnic Brit Lit Writer, Grunge Lit Guy, *Penguin Books*.

Program

Friday, any given year of the festival

11am Barry In Conversation with Ethel

Ethel asks Barry about Some Topics Related To His New Book. Barry responds as required. Possibly some time left at the end for audience questions. Barry signs books afterwards. The festival continues as usual. Trees grow. Spring follows Winter. Babies are born. The years go by. Yep, yep, yep. Features Barry and Ethel.

2pm The Publishing Industry

Publishers talk about themselves. Features Publishers. Back by popular demand. **Note:** E-books will not be discussed in any detail so please stop asking questions about them.

4pm Young Writers

They're young. They're hip. They're even writers. This is their panel. Grunge drugs sex risk-taking behaviours swearing those young scallywags youth of today no respect for their elders coloured hair multiple piercings bla bla blee. Features Token Young Writer and Writer Who Is Under Forty-Five At Any Rate.

8pm The Great Australian Novel: Think You Can Write The Next Great Australian Novel? Mate, You've Got No Idea.

Extroverted writers pitch their novels to bemused publishers. Publication is sooo not guaranteed.

Note: No poetry or short stories collections allowed. If you're a star of *Home and Away*, see us afterwards and we'll really talk.

Saturday, any given year of the festival

11am The Ethnic Writers Panel

A panel of ethnic writers answers questions like "Do you think you have an advantage getting published because you're from a minority group?" Hey, we're giving these writers a voice and a chance to talk about their ethnicity so stop complaining. Features Token Ethnic Writers A, B, and C.

1pm Someone from *Big Brother* Signs a Publishing Deal

A publisher buys one of the people from the TV show *Big Brother* a café latte. They talk and the new celebrity gets a 3-book publishing deal. An innovative writer gets voted off the island. After questions from the audience, Marty and Jess will have sex with the marketing

department of *Penguin Books*. Features Someone from *Big Brother*, A Publisher, An Innovative Writer, Marty, Jess, The Marketing Department of *Penguin Books*.

3pm Topic To Be Confirmed

Topic to be confirmed, but it's either going to be a panel or an 'in conversation with'. Maybe a reading. Features Barry.

5pm Didn't he used to be... A reading

Retired politician you can't quite remember (possibly deputy shadow minister for something under John Hewson) reads from his long-awaited memoirs. Features Y'know... That Guy.

7pm Literary Dinner with Barry

Barry hosts a literary dinner. He tells a good anecdote about spaghetti, by the way. God, he's clever. Must buy his latest book.

Sunday, any given year of the festival

11am Panel on Zine-Making

Yeah, right.

1pm Hip Young Lions of Brit Lit

The Hip Young Lions of Brit Lit discuss the difficulties of buying good quality drugs on British Council grants and who they shagged at the Embassy Cocktail party. Features Chick Lit Writer, Ethnic Brit Lit Writer and Grunge Lit Guy.

3pm Advertisement for *Penguin Books*

Penguin Books Penguin Books Penguin Books Penguin Books Penguin Books Penguin Books Penguin Books Penguin Books ha ha made you read this. Features *Penguin Books*.

6pm Book Launch

Launch of any of the following: 1) issues-based book of young adult fiction, 2) Barry's latest book, 3) *Bridget Jones' Diary* clone.

8pm Controversial Topic!!!

Barry talks about Some Topics Related To His New Book. May involve controversy. Barry signs books afterwards. Features Barry.

Note: E-books will not be discussed in any detail so please stop asking questions about them.

Festival Personnel

Programming Committee

- He works for one of the festival's major sponsors.
- She's from a publishing company.
- He knows everyone there is to know.
- Don't knock this guy. He's really prestigious.
- Ethel.

Acknowledgements

This festival could not take place without the publishers. And the festival's untiring band of volunteers.