

# READ A facebook

Your students write fantasy, autobiography,  
and tales of adventure every day.  
Without even knowing it.  
Book them in with the world's best children's authors.  
They might learn something they don't realise they already know.

**Sydney Writers' Festival School Days 2010**

17-21 May | The best of children's literature for primary and secondary schools. | [www.swf.org.au](http://www.swf.org.au)



# Welcome to School Days 2010

**Sydney Writers' Festival** invites teachers and their students to join us for School Days in May 2010. School Days is your very own festival of children's and young adult literature, featuring a handpicked line-up of writers for both primary and secondary schools.

Teachers, this is a wonderful opportunity for your students to engage with, and be inspired by, their favourite authors in an educational, fun and interactive day.

Our **Primary School Days** line-up features some of Australia's finest authors for children, **Kate Forsyth, Andy Griffiths, Belinda Murrell** and **Leigh Hobbs**, as well as one of the UK's most popular children's authors and creator of the bestselling Alex Rider series **Anthony Horowitz**.

Due to overwhelming demand we will hold four sessions of Primary School Days in 2010 across Sydney, Parramatta and Penrith. We are also thrilled to announce that for the first time, a fifth session of Primary School Days will be held at Sydney Town Hall, free for NSW Priority Schools.

Returning to Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay and Riverside Theatres in Parramatta, **Secondary School Days** showcases the very best local talent in young adult writing, with **Melina Marchetta, Anthony Eaton, Boori Monty Pryor** and **John Danalis**. We are also pleased to present the UK's **Charlie Higson**, author of the phenomenally successful Young Bond series.

The writers will talk about their craft, read from their work and take questions from the audience. Students also have the chance to meet the writers and have their books signed. Books by participating writers will be available for purchase at the Gleebooks Festival Bookshop at each venue.

Sydney Writers' Festival is committed to educating young readers and writers. We give them the opportunity to meet the people behind the books they know and love and those they will enjoy discovering.

**We look forward to seeing you at School Days 2010.**

## For general information please contact

Sydney Writers' Festival, Ground Floor, 10 Hickson Rd, The Rocks NSW 2000  
Tel 02 9252 7729 Email [info@swf.org.au](mailto:info@swf.org.au) Website [www.swf.org.au](http://www.swf.org.au)

## SWF School Days is supported by



# Primary School Days Program Details – For Ages 8+

## DATES & VENUES

### MONDAY 17 MAY 2010

Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay  
22 Hickson Road, Walsh Bay

### TUESDAY 18 MAY 2010

Riverside Theatres at Parramatta  
Cnr Church & Market Streets, Parramatta

### WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2010

Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay  
22 Hickson Road, Walsh Bay

### THURSDAY 20 MAY 2010

Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre  
597 High Street, Penrith

### FRIDAY 21 MAY 2010

A FREE EVENT FOR  
NSW PRIORITY SCHOOLS  
Sydney Town Hall  
483 George Street, Sydney

## LINE-UP

- 9.40 Ask Anthony Horowitz Anything!**  
Anthony Horowitz introduces his latest Alex Rider mission, *Crocodile Tears*, before leading a fast and lively question-and-answer session that you can take whichever way you want. Whether you're a budding writer after some hints or you want to get inside the mind of a teenage superspy, come prepared with some good questions!
- 10.25 Sharing Stories with Kate Forsyth & Belinda Murrell**  
Sisters, Kate Forsyth and Belinda Murrell grew up writing stories, reading voraciously and imagining fantastic adventures. They share tales about their family legacy, the inspiration behind their books, the uncanny coincidences in their stories and living in one family with two authors.
- 11.10 Lunch break and book signings with Anthony Horowitz, Kate Forsyth and Belinda Murrell**
- 12.10 Creating a Character with Leigh Hobbs**  
Join Leigh Hobbs as he shares illustration techniques and brings some of his most beloved characters to life, including Old Tom and Mr Chicken. Be sure to bring along a clipboard, some sheets of plain paper and pencils or textas so you can join in on the fun!
- 12.55 *The Very Bad Book* with Andy Griffiths**  
Andy Griffiths will be previewing pieces from *The Very Bad Book* as well as discussing dancing bananas, rioting robots, lethal pencils, flat cats, exploding cows, practical jokes, Macbeth and how to annoy your friends, parents and teachers.
- 1.40 Finish and book signings with Leigh Hobbs and Andy Griffiths**

Please ensure you arrive half an hour before the event start time.  
We strongly recommend students bring their own lunch.

# Primary School Days

## About The Writers



**Kate Forsyth** (NSW) is the internationally bestselling author of more than 20 books for children and adults, including the fantasy series *The Chain of Charms* and *The Witches of Eileanan*. Her books have sold nearly one million copies in 12 countries and been shortlisted for numerous awards. In 2007, Kate became the first author to win five Aurealis awards in a single year when *Chain of Charms* Books 2–6 were jointly awarded the Aurealis Award for Children’s Fiction. *The Wildkin’s Curse* will be published in May 2010.

[www.kateforsyth.com.au](http://www.kateforsyth.com.au)

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**Andy Griffiths** (VIC) is one of Australia’s funniest writers for children. His books have sold over four million copies worldwide, have featured on the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestseller lists, and have won over 40 Australian children’s choice awards. In 2008 *Just Shocking!* was the first book to win all six children’s choice awards in one year. Most recently his stage adaptation of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, *Just Macbeth!*, toured Australia to glowing reviews. *The Very Bad Book* will be published in September 2010.

[www.andygriffiths.com.au](http://www.andygriffiths.com.au)

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**Leigh Hobbs** (VIC) is an artist and an author whose work spans across a wide range of media. He is probably best known for the children’s books which he has written and illustrated, featuring his characters Old Tom, Horrible Harriet, Fiona the Pig, the Freaks in 4F and Mr Chicken. Leigh’s books have won every major children’s choice award in Australia and his Old Tom books have been adapted into a highly successful French / Australian animated TV series. His latest book is *Mr Chicken Goes to Paris*.

[www.leighhobbs.com.au](http://www.leighhobbs.com.au)

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**Anthony Horowitz** (UK) is the UK’s most popular male children’s author, best known for his creation of Alex Rider – the reluctant teenage superspy. 2010 marks the 10th anniversary of the Alex Rider phenomenon. Alex Rider’s seven missions to date have sold over ten million copies worldwide. Anthony also writes two other sequences – the supernatural *Power of Five* novels and the comic detective adventures featuring the *Diamond Brothers*. Anthony unleashes Alex Rider’s eighth mission *Crocodile Tears* in November 2009.

[www.anthonhorowitz.com](http://www.anthonhorowitz.com)

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**Belinda Murrell** (NSW) has worked as a travel journalist, technical writer, editor and public relations consultant. While Belinda studied Children’s Literature at university, her passion for children’s books was reignited when she had her own three children and began telling and writing stories for them. Author of the fantasy adventure series the *Sun Sword* trilogy, Belinda’s most recent novel *The Locket of Dreams* is set in Scotland and outback Australia in the 1850s. *The Ruby Talisman* will be published in May 2010.

[www.belindamurrell.com.au](http://www.belindamurrell.com.au)

# Secondary School Days Program Details – For Ages 13+

## DATES & VENUES

### TUESDAY 18 MAY 2010

Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay  
22 Hickson Road, Walsh Bay

### WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2010

Riverside Theatres at Parramatta  
Cnr Church & Market Streets, Parramatta

## LINE-UP

- 9.20 Presentation of writenow! competition winners**  
Tuesday 18 May Sydney Theatre event only.
- 9.40 Two True Fellas with Boori Monty Pryor & John Danalis**  
*Maybe Tomorrow* and *Riding the Black Cockatoo* are two brutally honest accounts of growing up in a divided country. Join two friends as they trade books and read from each other's stories, offering reflections and responses. A journey across an emotion-charged landscape to a place of understanding and joy.
- 10.25 Realism versus Fantasy with Melina Marchetta**  
Bestselling young adult author Melina Marchetta has explored both realism and fantasy genres in her writing. She discusses the process of character development and dialogue in realism in contrast to the language skills and world building that is required when writing fantasy.
- 11.10 Lunch break and book signings with Boori Monty Pryor, John Danalis and Melina Marchetta**
- 12.10 Darklands with Anthony Eaton**  
Anthony Eaton's *The Darklands Trilogy* took him almost ten years to write. He discusses the trials and terrors of such an enormous project, the good and bad bits about writing sci-fi and fantasy, and the ideas and inspirations behind the books.
- 12.55 *The Enemy* with Charlie Higson**  
Charlie Higson talks about being a writer of fast-paced adventure books and introduces readers to his brand new, heart-stopping series, *The Enemy*, a series with mind-blowing action, terrifying zombies and an epic fight for survival. Come along ... if you dare!
- 1.40 Finish and book signings with Anthony Eaton and Charlie Higson**

Please ensure you arrive half an hour before the event start time.  
We strongly recommend students bring their own lunch.  
Details of the writenow! creative writing competition for Years 7 to 9 will be released in February 2010.

# Secondary School Days

## About The Writers



**John Danalis** (QLD) is a writer, illustrator and designer. He is the author and illustrator of three children's books *Bath Monster*, *Uncle Lou's Tattoos* and *Dog 37*, and has illustrated numerous other titles including *Girl in the Cave* and *Loku and the Shark Attack*. John shares a studio with acclaimed illustrator Stella Danalis, the two recently joining forces to create *Schumann the Shoeman*, their first picture book collaboration. His latest book *Riding the Black Cockatoo* explores indigenous issues from a white man's perspective, and tells the extraordinary true story of John's own journey of reconciliation.



**Anthony Eaton** (ACT) is the award-winning author of 11 books for children, young adult and adult readers, including *The Darkness*, *Fireshadow* and *The Darklands Trilogy*. In 2008, Anthony won an Aurealis award for *Skyfall*, the second book in his Darklands Trilogy and, in 2009, his horror novel *Into White Silence* was named a CBCA honour book and shortlisted in the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards. *Daywards*, the third and final book in *The Darklands Trilogy*, will be published in March 2010.

[www.anthonyeaton.com](http://www.anthonyeaton.com)



**Charlie Higson** (UK) is the author of the phenomenally successful Young Bond series – *Silverfin*, *Blood Fever*, *Double or Die*, *Hurricane Gold* and *By Royal Command* – which has sold over a million copies in the UK and has been translated into 24 different languages. He is also a well-known writer of screenplays and adult thriller novels, as well as a performer and co-creator of UK TV program *The Fast Show*. Charlie will be in Australia to talk about his new adventure series *The Enemy*.

[www.the-enemy.co.uk](http://www.the-enemy.co.uk) and [www.youngbond.com](http://www.youngbond.com)



**Melina Marchetta's** (NSW) first novel, *Looking for Alibrandi*, was an instant success with young adults and in 2000 it was released as a major Australian film. Melina has since published a number of award-winning novels including *Saving Francesca*, *On the Jellicoe Road* and *Finnikin of the Rock*, winning the prestigious American Library Association's Michael L Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature in 2009 for *On the Jellicoe Road*. Melina's next novel, *The Piper's Son*, will be published in March 2010.

[www.melinamarchetta.com.au](http://www.melinamarchetta.com.au)



**Boori Monty Pryor** (QLD) is from North Queensland. His mother's people are Kunggandji and his father is from the Birra-gubba Nation. Boori is a performer, storyteller and writer. He has co-written a number of books with Meme McDonald including *The Binna Binna Man*, which won Book of the Year at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards 2000 and *Njunjul The Sun*, which received the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Young Adult Fiction. The 10th Anniversary Edition of Boori's bestselling memoir, *Maybe Tomorrow* (co-written with Meme McDonald), will be published in January 2010.

# Primary and Secondary School Days Booking Form

## STEP 1: YOUR CONTACT DETAILS (please complete all fields)

School name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (school) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 2: CHOOSE THE EVENT(S) AND INDICATE THE NUMBER OF SEATS YOU WISH TO BOOK

School Days sessions can only be booked for a full day and bookings are essential.  
 One (1) free teacher's ticket for every twenty (20) paying students. Family and general public bookings are also welcome.

EVENT & VENUE	DATE	PRICE	NO. OF STUDENTS	NO. OF TEACHERS	TOTAL NO. OF TICKETS	TOTAL COST
<b>Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay (bookings through Sydney Theatre Box Office)</b>						
Primary School Days	Monday 17 May 2010	\$20				
Secondary School Days	Tuesday 18 May 2010	\$20				
Primary School Days	Wednesday 19 May 2010	\$20				
<b>Riverside Theatres at Parramatta (bookings through Riverside Theatres Box Office)</b>						
Primary School Days	Tuesday 18 May 2010	\$20				
Secondary School Days	Wednesday 19 May 2010	\$20				
<b>Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre in Penrith (bookings through JSPAC Box Office)</b>						
Primary School Days	Thursday 20 May 2010	\$20				

Do you have any specific needs?  Yes  No. If yes, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 3: PAYMENT TERMS & CONDITIONS

To secure your reservation, a 50% non-refundable deposit is required within ten (10) working days of making the reservation. You will be sent a tax invoice that confirms your booking once your deposit has been received. Your deposit will be credited against the total amount due. Confirmation of final numbers and final balance is required by Thursday 1 April 2010. Requests for additional tickets should be submitted in writing. Additional seats are subject to availability. Payment can also be made in full. Payments for families and general public to be made in full on day of booking.

Please indicate chosen payment option:  full amount now  deposit now with balance to follow

## STEP 4: PAYMENT METHOD

Cheque or money order (payable to **Sydney Theatre Company** OR **Riverside Theatres** OR **Penrith Performing & Visual Arts Ltd** depending on venue chosen)

or

Credit card (please circle one): Visa Mastercard American Express

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 5: WHERE TO SUBMIT YOUR FORM

Please send your form and payment to Sydney Theatre OR Riverside Theatres OR Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre accordingly:



Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay  
 Attn: Box Office (SWF School Days)  
 PO Box 777, Millers Point NSW 2000  
 Fax: 02 9247 3584  
 Ph: 02 9250 1999



Riverside Theatre Parramatta  
 Attn: Box Office (SWF School Days)  
 PO Box 3636, Parramatta NSW 2124  
 Fax: 02 9683 3267  
 Ph: 02 8839 3399



Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre  
 Attn: Box Office (SWF School Days)  
 PO Box 2, Penrith NSW 2751  
 Fax: 02 4731 3701  
 Ph: 02 4723 7600

Disclaimer: Details in this brochure are correct at time of publication. Sydney Writers' Festival reserves the right to add, withdraw, or substitute artists, and to vary the program and prices should the need arise. Please note that a waiting list is kept for booked out School Days events.

# Free at Town Hall

## Primary School Days for Priority Schools

### Information and Booking Form

Sydney Writers' Festival is committed to providing as many students as possible with the opportunity to experience our School Days program. In 2010, we are thrilled to be holding a session of Primary School Days exclusively for NSW Priority Schools at Sydney Town Hall on Friday 21 May. Up to 1200 tickets will be available **free of charge** to primary schools in the NSW Department of Education's Priority Schools Funding Program 2009-2012.

Sydney Writers' Festival is grateful to the NSW Government for its contribution towards this event through its ConnectEd Arts Funding Program.

#### STEP 1: YOUR CONTACT DETAILS (please complete all fields)

School name \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (school) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### STEP 2: INDICATE THE NUMBER OF SEATS YOU WISH TO BOOK

Primary School Days can only be booked for a full day and bookings are essential. A maximum of fifty (50) tickets per school (applies, but please book only as many tickets as you will need.

EVENT & VENUE	DATE	PRICE	NO. OF STUDENTS	NO. OF TEACHERS	TOTAL NO. OF TICKETS
Sydney Town Hall (bookings through Sydney Theatre Box Office)					
Primary School Days for NSW Priority Schools	Friday 21 May 2010 9.40am - 2.10pm	FREE			

Do you have any specific needs?  Yes  No. If yes, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

#### STEP 3: BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

This form must be completed and submitted to Sydney Theatre in order to secure your reservation. Bookings will be served on a first come, first served basis.

Successful schools will be notified and will be required to provide confirmation of final numbers in writing to Sydney Theatre by Thursday 1 April 2010.

Once the allocation of tickets is exhausted, unsuccessful schools will be notified and placed on a wait list.

Sydney Writers' Festival is providing free tickets to the event. Schools will need to provide their own transport to and from the venue and students will need to bring their own lunch. Sydney Town Hall is easily accessible by public transport and is located above Town Hall Train Station.

#### STEP 4: WHERE TO SUBMIT YOUR FORM

Please send your form to Sydney Theatre:



Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay  
Attn: Box Office (SWF School Days)  
PO Box 777, Millers Point NSW 2000  
Fax: 02 9247 3584  
Ph: 02 9250 1999