

WITHIN REACH



**A FESTIVAL
FOR READERS,
WRITERS AND
THINKERS.**

Fri 30 April – Sun 2 May

FRIDAY APRIL 30

10–11am **Barrie Cassidy & Friends: Biden's America**

12–1pm **Are You There, Sydney? It's Me, Judy Blume**

2–3pm **But Not Forgotten**

4–5pm **The Larrikin Lie**

SATURDAY MAY 1

10–11am **Barrie Cassidy & Friends: Opposition and Dissent**

12–1pm **Isabel Wilkerson: Caste – The Lies That Divide Us**

2–3pm **Sarah Krasnostein & Helen Garner**

4–5pm **Richard Flanagan & Laura Tingle**

SUNDAY MAY 2

10–11am **Barrie Cassidy & Friends: The Canberra Bubble**

12–1pm **George Miller: Beyond Thunderdome**

2–3pm **Jan Fran & Judith Lucy**

4–5pm **Great Adaptations: Margaret and David Return**

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10-11AM



Barrie Cassidy & Friends: Biden's America

Evan Osnos, New Yorker journalist and award-winning author of the biography *Joe Biden: American Dreamer*, has spent years studying the newly minted 46th President of the United States. Based on hundreds of interviews – with Biden and his political peers, allies and opponents – Evan appears live via video to speak with **Barrie Cassidy** about his insights into the man taking the presidency in a time of extraordinary turmoil. Following Barrie's interview a panel of experts will reflect on what to expect next from Biden and America.

12-1PM



Are You There, Sydney? It's Me, Judy Blume

For generations of readers, **Judy Blume** is an icon. Beginning in the late 1960s, her celebrated novels were formative for young readers and future writers alike. Her children's stories, including *Fudge* and *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, were funny, irreverent and riotous precursors to the blockbuster kids' series of today. While her young adult books were beloved – and sometimes banned – for their free and frank depictions of puberty and sexuality. Join Judy (appearing live via video) as she talks with **Sophie Black** about her body of work, which exceeds some 85 million in sales, and on her life now happily running a bookstore on an island in Florida.

2-3PM



But Not Forgotten

When a beloved author dies, there is consolation in knowing that their books – the culminated words of a lifetime in letters – outlive them and tether us to their memory. However the beauty of those words isn't simply a static point in time; it continues to evolve in the minds of the writers and thinkers who follow them. Four Festival guests reflect on the powerful work of four writers taken from us in the past year. A session of reflection, tribute and celebration featuring **Michelle de Kretser** on Sydney literary great Elizabeth Harrower; **Kerry O'Brien** on legendary political reporter Mungo MacCallum; **Michael Robotham** on spy master John le Carré; and **Sally Warhaft** on Jan Morris.

4-5PM



The Larrikin Lie

One of the enduring beliefs of Australian identity is the idea that we as a nation embody the larrikin spirit, that our population is easy going, anti-establishment, laissez-faire. But arguably, our success in responding to COVID-19 points to a different truth. Perhaps, behind our 'she'll be right' veneer, we're an anxious, obedient, state-regulated people. **David Marr**, **Patricia Cornelius** and **Rebecca Huntley** separate the shit-stirrers from the boot-lickers, with ABC's **Laura Tingle**.

10–11AM



Barrie Cassidy & Friends: Opposition and Dissent

What does it mean to live your politics? Is a life of protest and dissent good for the soul or is it soul destroying? Former deputy leader of the Australian Greens **Scott Ludlam** was a senator from 2008 to 2017. Scott speaks to **Barrie Cassidy** about his new book *Full Circle*, which explores a new approach to political and environmental change.

Barrie and Scott are then joined by a panel of experts to discuss the triumphs and disappointments of activism and advocacy, and the challenges and advantages of expressing dissent from an institutional base.

12–1PM



Isabel Wilkerson: *Caste – The Lies That Divide Us*

Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste: The Lies that Divide Us* fast became one of the world's most talked about books this past year for its clear-eyed survey of the unspoken social hierarchy that pervades history and our lives today. Drawing parallels between America, India and Nazi Germany, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author argues that race and class divisions are largely informed by a powerful, unacknowledged caste system that everyone knows in their bones. Isabel speaks about the myths of meritocracy, the endurance of white supremacy and what we can do to dismantle the corrosive social hierarchy that persists throughout the world today.

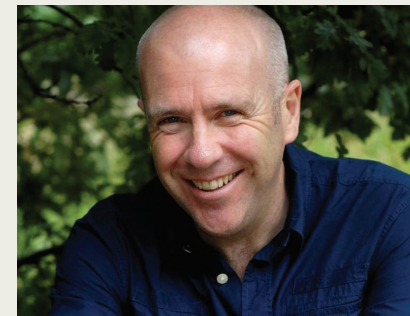
2–3PM



Sarah Krasnostein & Helen Garner

After the runaway success of **Sarah Krasnostein's** debut *The Trauma Cleaner: One Woman's Extraordinary Life in Death, Decay & Disaster*, Sarah spent time in Australia and the US talking to six extraordinary people who held fast to a belief even though it rubbed against the grain of conventional wisdom. Her research culminated in *The Believer: Encounters with Love, Death & Faith*, a deeply humane and deftly drawn enquiry into the power of belief. Sarah is joined by fellow observer of human nature, **Helen Garner**, to explore what we believe in and why – from ghosts and UFOs to God and the devil, dying with autonomy and beyond.

4–5PM



Richard Flanagan & Laura Tingle

Richard Flanagan is a legend of Australian letters. His much-lauded novels are published in 42 countries. He won the Booker Prize for *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* and the Commonwealth Prize for Gould's *Book of Fish*. His latest book *The Living Sea of Waking Dreams* offers a tender, haunting portrait of a world disappearing around us. With ABC's **Laura Tingle**, he reflects on capturing in words the things we're losing.

10-11AM



Barrie Cassidy & Friends: The Canberra Bubble

Political biographies give us insight into the individuals behind the politics, but can also play an integral role in shaping how our political leaders are more widely understood. **Peter van Onselen's** new book *How Good is Scott Morrison?* kicks off a conversation with Barrie about how to write about our leaders beyond their carefully cultivated images. **Christine Wallace** and **Niki Savva**, both authors of significant political biographies, join the chat to see how deep dives into the lives of the people running the show allow us to better understand what's really going on in Canberra.

12-1PM



George Miller: Beyond Thunderdome

George Miller is a legend of cinema. From *Mad Max* to *Babe* to the recent triumph of *Fury Road* (with a *Happy Feet* or two along the way), it's hard to think of a more revolutionary creative figure in Australia today.

2-3PM



Jan Fran & Judith Lucy

Judith Lucy is known for her radical, even brutal honesty. Over a celebrated career as one of this country's finest stand-ups, she's sardonically laid herself bare in the name of laughs. But as an author she's equally forthcoming, her memoirs *The Lucy Family Alphabet* and *Drink, Smoke, Pass Out* both bestsellers. Now she's back with her new book *Turns Out, I'm Fine*. She discusses humour, memoir, coping and not coping, and what it means to be fine with Walkely Award-winning reporter **Jan Fran**.

4-5PM



Great Adaptations: Margaret and David Return

Greatly missed on TV screens, the nation's favourite film critics **Margaret Pomeranz** and **David Stratton** reunite in a special event discussing movie adaptations of Australian books. The famously sparring duo settle back into their critics' chairs to offer their top five standout movies that do justice to the original text, the five-star films that bested the books and the flops that lost their lustre when transposed from page to screen.