

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE BIG ISSUE ANNOUNCES BUMPER FICTION EDITION

STREET magazine *The Big Issue* is releasing its 13th annual Fiction Edition on **25 August**, featuring work by acclaimed authors **Paulo Coelho**, **Elliot Perlman** and **Matthew Reilly**.

The Big Issue recruited popular novelist **Nick Earls** as a guest judge for the bumper edition, which attracted more than 550 short story submissions. Writers including **Romy Ash**, **Toni Jordan** and **Anna Spargo-Ryan** also feature in the edition.

The Fiction Edition is 20 pages longer than regular editions of *The Big Issue* thanks to a grant from the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

The Big Issue editor Amy Hetherington said the 2017 Fiction Edition included 14 captivating stories from both established and emerging writers.

“There’s something really special about the Fiction Edition. It’s a highlight of the year for *The Big Issue* and the literary community. It gives us a chance to showcase incredible work by writers of all experience levels,” she said.

“This year we have a story from author Paulo Coelho, whose books have been translated into more than 70 languages, along with a story from a writer being published for the first time. It’s a joy to show the country how much talent is out there.”

Over the past 12 years, the annual Fiction Edition has featured work from leading Australian authors including Maxine Beneba Clarke, John Marsden, AS Patric, Graeme Simsion and Christos Tsiolkas, among many others.

Guest judge Nick Earls said the number of people who submitted stories for the 2017 Fiction Edition demonstrated its impact on the Australian literary scene.

“An entry pool that size pretty much guarantees an impressive shortlist,” he said.

“I’ve always been a fan of *The Big Issue*, in terms of both its purpose and its content.”

The Big Issue is a fortnightly publication that provides a work opportunity for people experiencing homelessness, marginalisation and disadvantage. Vendors buy copies of the magazine for \$3.50 and sell them for \$7, earning a meaningful income.

Since *The Big Issue* launched in Australia in 1996, vendors have sold 11 million copies of the magazine and collectively earned more than \$25 million. For more information visit www.thebigissue.org.au.

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THE BIG ISSUE FICTION EDITION AUTHORS

Romy Ash is a writer of fiction and nonfiction. Her first novel, *Floundering*, was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award and many others. Her non-fiction can be found regularly in *The Saturday Paper*.

Allison Browning's writing has appeared in publications including *Australian Love Stories*, *Best Australian Poems* and *Kill Your Darlings*. She is now working on her novel manuscript.

Paulo Coelho is a Brazilian lyricist and novelist and the recipient of numerous international awards. He is best known for his novel *The Alchemist*, which has been translated into at least 70 languages. In 2014 he created the Paulo Coelho Institute, which uses royalties to help underprivileged Brazilians.

Nina Cullen is a Sydney writer whose fiction and non-fiction has been published in Australia and abroad. She is working on a novel and an anthology of short stories.

Fiona Hardy is a bookseller at Readings Books in Melbourne. Her book reviews have appeared in various publications. In 2016, her manuscript *Rosebud* made the Text Prize shortlist.

Toni Jordan wrote the international bestseller *Addition* (2008), *Fall Girl* (2010) and *Nine Days* (2012). Her latest novel is *Our Tiny, Useless Hearts* (2016).

Emily O'Grady is a writer from Brisbane. Her fiction and poetry have appeared in *Review of Australian Fiction*, *Westerly*, *The Lifted Brow*, *Mascara Literary Review* and *Award Winning Australian Writing*.

Elliot Perlman is the bestselling author of *The Street Sweeper*, *Seven Types of Ambiguity*, *The Reasons I Won't Be Coming* and *Three Dollars*. His work has been translated into numerous languages and published to international acclaim.

Nicola Redhouse has been published in *Best Australian Stories*, *Meanjin*, *Kill Your Darlings* and *Rebellious Daughters*, among other places. She is writing a book funded by Creative Victoria and Australia Council grants.

Matthew Reilly is the international bestselling author of ten novels. His books have been published in more than twenty countries, and eight million copies of his books have been sold around the world.

Helen Richardson is a writer and editor from the Blue Mountains, NSW. Her work has appeared in *Sleepers Almanac*, *Little Fictions* and *The Great Unknown*.

Rochelle Siemienowicz is a film critic, journalist, editor and columnist. Her first book, *Fallen*, is published by Affirm Press and she is currently working on a novel.

Anna Spargo-Ryan is the author of *The Gulf* and *The Paper House*, both from Picador. She won the 2016 Horne Prize and writes widely on mental health, loss, love, and breakfast.

Aleksandra Stapmanns is a student of RMIT's associate degree in Professional Writing and Editing. 'Making Room' is her first published fiction piece.



ABOUT THE BIG ISSUE

The Big Issue is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that develops solutions to help homeless, marginalised and disadvantaged people positively change their lives.

The Big Issue magazine is a fortnightly, independent magazine sold on the streets. Vendors buy copies of the magazine for \$3.50 and sell them for \$7, earning a meaningful income. Since the magazine hit Australian streets in 1996, vendors have sold more than 11 million copies and earned more than \$25 million. For more information, please visit www.thebigissue.org.au.

ABOUT THE COPYRIGHT AGENCY AND CULTURAL FUND

The **Copyright Agency** is a not-for-profit rights management organisation that ensures artists, writers and publishers are fairly rewarded for the reproduction of their work. The agency's **Cultural Fund** provides grants to creative individuals and organisations for a diverse range of projects which aim to enrich Australian cultural life.