

# MEDIA ALERT

Friday 19 August, 2016



## ***THE BIG ISSUE* FICTION EDITION LAUNCH**

*The Big Issue* magazine's 12<sup>th</sup> annual Fiction Edition will hit the streets on Friday 26 August, featuring work from acclaimed author John Marsden alongside 11 other stories from established and emerging writers.

The Fiction Edition is 16 pages longer than regular editions of *The Big Issue* thanks to a grant from the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund. It will be on sale until 8 September.

Over the years, the Fiction Edition has featured stories from leading Australian authors such as Christos Tsiolkas, Graeme Simsion, Charlotte Wood, Peggy Frew and Frank Moorhouse, among many other well-known writers.

Two of the stories in this year's edition, from Gregory Day and Tegan Bennett Daylight, have also been selected to appear in 2016's *Best Australian Stories*. The edition has been illustrated by up-and-coming illustrator and graphic designer Eirian Chapman.

The annual Fiction Edition is also an opportunity for emerging writers to gain national recognition through publication in the much-loved street magazine. This year, almost 350 writers submitted stories for consideration.

The magazine will launch with a panel at the State Library Victoria. The panel, chaired by State Library Victoria chief executive Kate Torney, will explore the concept of 'Literature as a force for good'.

*The Big Issue* editor Amy Hetherington said the annual Fiction Edition had become a highlight on the Australian literary calendar. "Every year our readers, vendors and the wider community look forward to the release of this special edition, which showcases short stories from both established authors and promising new talent from around Australia. This year's edition promises 12 great reads: belly laughs, meditations, mysteries and stories that will get you in the heart."

By buying a copy for \$7, fiction lovers will not only enjoy a great read but support a worthy cause, with \$3.50 from each sale going into the pockets of homeless and disadvantaged people. Vendors have sold *The Big Issue* on Australian streets for 20 years. In that time, they have sold more than 10 million copies and earned more than \$23 million.

### ***The Big Issue* fiction edition launch:**

Date: Friday 26 August  
Time: 11am-12pm  
Venue: Courtyard, State Library Victoria  
328 Swanston St, Melbourne  
Panelists: *The Big Issue* editor Amy Hetherington  
*The Big Issue* books editor Thuy On  
*The Big Issue* Fiction Edition author Miles Allinson  
Topic: Literature as a force for good

Photo and interview opportunities are available. Please contact The Big Issue communications coordinator Nicole Engwirda to discuss.

...ENDS...

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## THE BIG ISSUE FICTION EDITION AUTHORS

**Miles Allinson** lives in Melbourne and is the author of the novel *Fever of Animals*, which was published by Scribe in 2015.

**Bridgitte Cummings** was born and raised in England, but now lives in Adelaide. She has been published in the UK and was shortlisted last year in the Scarlett Stiletto Short Story awards. Bridgitte is currently working on her first novel.

**Gregory Day** is a novelist, musician, poet and literary critic. His work has won the prestigious Australian Literature Society Gold Medal and the Elizabeth Jolley Prize. His most recent novel is *Archipelago of Souls* (Picador 2015). He lives on the southwest coast of Victoria. His story in the Fiction Edition has been selected to appear in 2016's *Best Australian Stories*.

**Tegan Bennett Daylight** is a fiction writer, teacher and critic. She is the author of three novels, as well as several books for children and teenagers. Her collection of short stories, *Six Bedrooms*, was published by Random House in 2015 and shortlisted for the 2016 Stella Prize and the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal. Her story in the Fiction Edition has been selected to appear in 2016's *Best Australian Stories*.

**Jennifer Down** is a writer, editor and translator whose work has appeared in *The Age*, *The Saturday Paper*, *Australian Book Review* and *The Lifted Brow*. Her debut novel *Our Magic Hour* was released earlier this year. Her short story collection *Convalescence* will be published in 2017.

**Daniel Harper** lives and writes in Melbourne. His travel-related short stories have appeared in *Sleepers Almanac X*, *page seventeen* and *1000 Words or Less*.

**Marion Howes** has been a teacher of English and communication skills in Australia and overseas. She has now returned to live in Adelaide and is enjoying writing short stories. Marion is especially delighted that *The Big Issue* is the first to publish one of them.

**John Marsden** has written more than 40 books, mostly for teenagers and children, including *Tomorrow When the War Began*, *So Much to Tell You* and *Letters from the Inside*. *South of Darkness*, John's recent novel for adults, won the Christina Stead Award for Best Novel of 2015.

**Ellena Savage** is a writer. Her work has been published and presented widely across Australian literary journals, periodicals, institutions, writers festivals, and art spaces. Ellena is currently undertaking a PhD at Monash University, and is a contributing editor at *The Lifted Brow*.

**Karenlee Thompson** is a writer of fiction and non-fiction. She has been published by *The Weekend Australian*, *Antipodes*, *Woman's Day*, *The Big Issue* and *Writing Queensland*, among others. She has written short stories for children and her novel *8 States of Catastrophe* (Brolga) was published in 2011.

**Claire Varley** is a writer and community development worker. Her writing has appeared in places such as *The Big Issue*, *Kill Your Darlings* and *page seventeen*. Her debut novel *The Bit in Between* was published in 2015 and she is working on her second novel.

**Donna Ward** established Inkerman & Blunt Publishers in 2013 and *Indigo: Journal of West Australian writing* in 2007. She was previously the editor of *Sotto Magazine* and her prose has appeared in *Island Magazine*, *Ext2012*, *Fish Anthology 2012*, *Southerly Magazine* and *The Huffington Post*.

## THE BIG ISSUE FICTION EDITION CONTRIBUTING ARTIST

**Eirian Chapman** is an illustrator and graphic designer based in Melbourne. She creates work for advertising, editorial, digital and retail campaigns and her work explores colour and shape through abstract concepts.

## ABOUT THE BIG ISSUE

**The Big Issue** is Australia's longest-standing and most successful social enterprise. It 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, keeping the difference. Since the magazine hit Australian streets in 1996, vendors have sold more than 10 million copies and earned more than \$23 million. For more information, please visit [www.thebigissue.org.au](http://www.thebigissue.org.au).

## ABOUT THE COPYRIGHT AGENCY AND CULTURAL FUND

The **Copyright Agency** is an Australian not-for-profit organisation that has been standing up for creators for more than 40 years. It enables the reuse of copyright-protected words and images in return for fair payment to creators. Its vision is for a world that encourages and supports creativity, communication and learning. The Copyright Agency provides simple ways for people to reproduce, store and share words, images and other creative content, in return for fair payment to creators. It is committed to encouraging the development of lively and diverse markets for published works with its range of commercial licences and through its Cultural Fund.

The **Cultural Fund** is the philanthropic arm of the Copyright Agency, providing support to individuals and organisations developing projects that will support Australia's publishing and visual arts industries.