



The Wheeler Centre
Books Writing Ideas

176 Little Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000 Australia
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PERCIVAL EVERETT AND NELL ZINK JOIN THE WHEELER CENTRE'S 2026 PROGRAM OF INTERNATIONAL LITERARY ICONS

Tuesday 28 October



In early 2026, The Wheeler Centre will showcase two of the most original and acclaimed voices in contemporary fiction, hosting Pulitzer Prize-winner Percival Everett and acclaimed author Nell Zink live in Melbourne.

QUOTE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ERIN VINCENT, THE WHEELER CENTRE CEO:

'As Melbourne's home for books, writing and ideas, The Wheeler Centre is proud to champion storytellers that shape our understanding of the world. We're thrilled to welcome Percival Everett and Nell Zink to our stages next year, connecting Melbourne audiences with two of the most original voices in contemporary literature.'

'Melbourne was Australia's first, and the world's second, UNESCO City of Literature and that legacy of literary excellence runs deep in our city. These events reflect our ongoing commitment to enriching Australia's literary culture, fostering a love of reading and ensuring ideas continue to thrive.'

In February, revered American writer **Percival Everett** joins journalist and broadcaster **Osman Faruqi** to discuss his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *James*, a bold and transformative reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. In *James*, Everett flips the perspective of Mark Twain's American classic, giving voice and agency to Huck's enslaved companion Jim. The result is a gripping, funny and profoundly relevant work – a sharp reckoning with identity, race and the American canon. Everett will also reflect on his decades-spanning career and the acclaimed adaptation of his novel *Erasure* into the Oscar-winning film

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American Fiction. In his first visit to Australia and only event in Melbourne, Everett appears exclusively at University of Melbourne's Union Theatre, presented by The Wheeler Centre.

The following month, novelist **Nell Zink** takes The Wheeler Centre stage to discuss her seventh and much-lauded novel *Sister Europe* with author **Jaclyn Crupi**. Set at a literary award ceremony in Berlin, Zink's dazzling satire unpacks the pretensions, contradictions and longings of modern life through an ensemble of sharply drawn characters. A Guggenheim Fellow and author of *Avalon*, *Doxology* and *Nicotine*, Zink has been hailed as one of contemporary fiction's most distinctive and fearless voices. She is celebrated for her biting humour, intellectual precision and unflinching insight into the absurdities of our age.

Building on the momentum of the previously announced ***An Evening with Sir Salman Rushdie***, these appearances underscore The Wheeler Centre's commitment to bringing the world's most influential literary voices to Australian audiences.

Appearing in conversation with **Sisonke Msimang** at Melbourne Town Hall in August 2026, Rushdie will reflect on his extraordinary life and career – from the Booker Prize-winning *Midnight's Children* to his recent memoir *Knife* – and explore the ideas that have shaped a generation. Marking his first visit to Australia in over a decade and the first since the brutal attack that almost cost his life, Rushdie's exclusive Melbourne appearance is set to be one of the most anticipated literary events of the year.

The general public Early Bird ticket on sale for ***An Evening with Salman Rushdie*** and the forthcoming events with **Percival Everett** and **Nell Zink** begins today.

Salman Rushdie's only Melbourne appearance is presented by The Wheeler Centre. Salman Rushdie's Australian appearances are presented with Festival of Dangerous Ideas.

Media contact

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Media centre: Images available [here](#)

For more information, please visit wheelercentre.com/events

Percival Everett: James

Percival Everett, Osman Faruqi

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7pm, Thursday 26 February
Union Theatre, University of Melbourne

Nell Zink: Sister Europe

Nell Zink, Jaclyn Crupi
6.30pm, Tuesday 3 March
The Wheeler Centre

An Evening with Salman Rushdie

Salman Rushdie, Sisonke Msimang
7pm to 8.15pm, Monday 17 August 2026
Melbourne Town Hall

Salman Rushdie appears in Melbourne presented by The Wheeler Centre (17 August 2026) and in Sydney as part of the Festival of Dangerous Ideas (22-23 August 2026).

The Wheeler Centre is Melbourne's home for smart, passionate and entertaining public talks, and exists to support writers, readers and thinkers. Through live and digital conversations, debates, readings, performances and discussions, it deepens public engagement with the most pressing topics of the day. It is dedicated to creative collaboration, community engagement, diversity, and innovation.

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