



## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 13 March

**Jeanette Winterson, David Nicholls and Ben Macintyre join The Wheeler Centre's autumn events calendar**

**An array of international literary superstars arrive in Melbourne this May as The Wheeler Centre's autumn program continues to expand. Guests include acclaimed novelist Jeanette Winterson; master of espionage and historical non-fiction, Ben Macintyre; cherished British author David Nicholls; American Jewish journalist Peter Beinart; and the mastermind behind the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* phenomenon, Jeff Kinney.**

Of the big-name billings, **The Wheeler Centre's CEO, Erin Vincent** said: 'From a fun-filled event for kids and families to a special edition of our popular Fifth Estate series, we're pleased to add a dynamic mix of programming to our lineup of year-round events. Throughout May, The Wheeler Centre's events will cover a breadth of incredible stories, for Melbourne and regional audiences with our partners at Montalto and in Geelong and Castlemaine.'

Four decades on from the publication of her groundbreaking debut, *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit*, **Jeanette Winterson** remains one of our most distinguished writers, renowned for her singular voice and restless curiosity. Her work spans a vast landscape of ideas, from artificial intelligence to religion, from myth to memory. Reflecting on her remarkable career in an exclusive Melbourne in-conversation appearance, Winterson will also open the floor for an extended Ask Me Anything, offering a rare chance to engage with one of literature's most provocative and original minds.

From *Operation Mincemeat* to *Agent Sonya*, **Ben Macintyre's** meticulously researched true stories of spies, deception, and wartime intrigue have sold millions of copies around the world. In a special edition of **The Fifth Estate**, the British historian joins **Sally Warhaft** to dissect his latest, *The Siege*, which details the dramatic story of the SAS' storming of the Iranian embassy in 1980 London – and the daring rescue mission that followed.

British novelist **David Nicholls**, beloved for his poignant and humorous modern classics *One Day* and *Starter for Ten* amongst many others, visits The Wheeler Centre to discuss his new novel, *You Are Here*. In an evening of warmth, wit, and literary insight, Nicholls will dive into the complexities of love, friendship and the passage of time as experienced both on and off the page.

Drawing on Jewish tradition and history, and global efforts at moral reconstruction, **Peter Beinart's** *Being Jewish After the Destruction of Gaza* offers a powerful reexamination of identity, responsibility, and the ethical imperatives of Jewishness amid the unfolding crisis in the Middle East. The American journalist and political commentator joins host **Sarah Schwartz** to analyse one of the most pressing issues of our time and share his vision for a future of peace and equality.

In a Melbourne-exclusive event, author and cartoonist **Jeff Kinney** unveils *Hot Mess*, the 19th book in his blockbuster *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. In this interactive show, Kinney takes audiences behind the scenes of Greg Heffley's latest adventure – a hilarious quest to uncover his Grandma's secret meatball recipe. With nearly two decades of delighting young readers and their families, Kinney promises an entertaining and engaging experience for fans of all ages.



Award-winning photographer **Julian Kingma** and broadcaster and voluntary assisted dying advocate **Andrew Denton** come together for a powerful discussion about dignity, compassion and the revolution of end-of-life care in Australia. With host **Marieke Hardy**, they will explore the vital role of choice and dignity in this experience – and why it's a conversation we may all eventually need to have.

Broadcaster and social policy expert **Jamila Rizvi** and comedian and podcaster **Rosie Waterland** will join audiences for two regional events hosted by The Wheeler Centre this May. Following the release of their deeply personal new book, *Broken Brains*, Rizvi and Waterland reflect on their personal journeys with illness – Rizvi's rare brain tumour diagnosis and Waterland's ongoing psychological trauma from childhood abuse – and the unexpected ways these struggles intersect. Appearing in Geelong for one night only, they'll sit down with **Charlotte Guest** for a candid conversation brimming with their trademark levity and wisdom. In Mornington, they'll meet with **Tracee Hutchison** for a moving and insightful edition of Books and Ideas at Montalto.

Creative couple **Mikaella Clements** and **Onjuli Datta** lift the curtain on their bold and unsettling new novel, *Feast While You Can*, in an event at Shedshaker Brewery in Castlemaine. They'll explore modern life's hidden monsters and the novel's dark and sensual queer love story with **Mel Fulton**.

Developed with the assistance of **The Wheeler Centre's Next Chapter Fellowship** in 2021, *Find Me at the Jaffa Gate*, is a moving and genre-defying contemplation of place, memory and Palestinian diaspora by **Micaela Sahhar**. For the book's launch event, Sahhar is joined by prominent Wiradjuri poet and academic **Jeanine Leane** and award-winning author **André Dao** to celebrate this unique contribution to Australia's literary landscape.

There will also be an evening of readings and performance at The Moat to launch **Next Chapter Fellowship** recipient **Anne-Marie Te Whiu's** debut poetry collection, *Mettle*. A defiant tribute to her Māori lineage, language and culture, each verse boldly explores the complexities of family, identity and trauma while revising what it means to be Indigenous – both for Te-Whiu herself and those around her.

– ENDS –

#### Media contact

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#### Media centre

Images available [here](#)

The full list of events and dates are listed below. For more information, please visit [wheelercentre.com/events](http://wheelercentre.com/events)

#### Anne-Marie Te Whiu: Mettle

Anne-Marie Te Whiu, Nam Le, Micaela Sahhar, Tony Birch  
6.30pm, Monday 14 April  
The Moat



**Jamila Rizvi and Rosie Waterland: Broken Brains**

Jamila Rizvi, Rosie Waterland, Charlotte Guest

6.30pm, Thursday 8 May

Geelong Library and Heritage Centre (The Dome)

**Books and Ideas at Montalto: Jamila Rizvi and Rosie Waterland – Broken Brains**

Jamila Rizvi, Rosie Waterland, Tracee Hutchison

6.30pm, Friday 9 May

Montalto Winery

**Mikaella Clements and Onjuli Datta: Feast While You Can**

Mikaella Clements, Onjuli Datta, Mel Fulton

6.00pm, Tuesday 13 May

Shedshake Brewery, Castlemaine

**Micaela Sahhar: Find Me at the Jaffa Gate**

Micaela Sahha, Jeanine Leane, André Dao

6.30pm, Wednesday 14 May

The Institute of Postcolonial Studies

**Julian Kingma and Andrew Denton: The Power of Choice**

Julian Kingma, Andrew Denton, Marieke Hardy

6.30pm, Monday 19 May

The Wheeler Centre

**You Are Here with David Nicholls**

David Nicholls

6.30pm, Tuesday 20 May

The Wheeler Centre

**The Fifth Estate: Ben Macintyre on 35 Years Since Operation Nimrod**

Sally Warhaft, Ben Macintyre

6.30pm, Thursday 22 May

The Wheeler Centre

**Jeanette Winterson: Forty Years of Storytelling**

Jeanette Winterson

1.00pm, Saturday 24 May

The Capitol

**Being Jewish After the Destruction of Gaza**

Peter Beinart, Sarah Schwartz

6.30pm, Tuesday 27 May

The Wheeler Centre

**Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Hot Mess Show**

Jeffy Kinney

11.00am, Saturday 31 May

Goldfields Theatre, Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre



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Books Writing Ideas

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15 Years

*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.*