

PROGRAM KEY INFORMATION
SYDNEY POETRY FESTIVAL
P - - TCODE: 2010 [10 – 12 APRIL 2020]

03	PROGRAM SCHEDULE
04	FESTIVAL HQ : POETS READING SCHEDULE
05	FRIDAY 100420
06	SATURDAY 110420
08	SUNDAY 120420
10	POETS BIOS
15	ARTIST BIOS
16	VENUES
17	PARTNERS/SUPPORTERS

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

FRIDAY				10-04-20
1	7.00pm – 10.30pm	10-20: Gala Opening Night	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	TICKETED
SATURDAY				11-04-20
2	11.00am – 6.00pm	Festival HQ	Disorder Gallery	FREE
3	12.00pm – 1.30pm	Centering Subaltern Voices: <i>Verity La</i> Editors Speak Out!	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	FREE
4	1.45pm – 3.00pm	Multiplicity: multilingual poetry	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	FREE
5	3.00pm – 4.00pm	Song cycle First peoples performance	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	FREE
PARTICIPATE				
6	3.00pm – 5.00pm	Darling's Poetry Post: Open reading	Lord Roberts Hotel	FREE
PERSPECTIVE				
7	11.00am – 6.00pm	Video art produced for Laureate Productions	Disorder Gallery	FREE
8	3.00pm – 4.00pm	Media poetics and language art	Rydges Sydney Central Cinema	FREE
9	4.00pm – 4.45pm	Poetry Portal: Girl's on Key	Rydges Sydney Central Cinema	FREE
10	5.00pm – 6.00pm	Preview screening: Text Messages from the Universe	Rydges Sydney Central Cinema	FREE
PERFORMANCE				
11	4.00pm – 6.00pm	Datson Hughes: music performance	Sydney Brewery Surry Hills	FREE
12	7.00pm – 10.00pm	Romantics: an evening of poetry and piano in two parts	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	TICKETED
SUNDAY				12-04-20
13	11.00am – 6.00pm	Festival HQ	Disorder Gallery	FREE
14	12.00pm - 2.00pm	Sydney poets on the Australian Psyche: <i>To End All Wars</i>	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	FREE
15	2.00pm – 3.30pm	Australian Poetry Members: Inner City Life	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	FREE
PERFORMANCE				
16	4.00pm – 5.30pm	Text Messages to the Universe: screening and live performance	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	FREE
17	4.00pm – 9.00pm	The BIG 'O': Festival closing performance and reading event	Hollywood Hotel	FREE
PERSPECTIVE				
18	11.00am – 6.00pm	Blood in the Water: multi-media poetic documentary	Disorder Gallery	FREE
19		Song Cycles performance Datson and Hughes	Disorder Gallery	FREE
PARTICIPATE				
20	4.00pm – 9.00pm	The BIG 'O': Festival closing performance and reading event	Hollywood Hotel	FREE

FESTIVAL HQ

POETS READING SCHEDULE

Disorder Gallery

FREE

SATURDAY

11-04-20

11.00am - 11.20am
 11.40pm – 12.00pm
 12.20pm – 12.40pm
 1.00pm – 1.20pm
 1.40pm – 2.00pm
 2.40pm – 3.00pm
 3.00pm – 4.00pm

 4.20pm – 4.40pm
 5.00pm – 5.20pm
 5.40pm – 6.00pm

Brenda Saunders
 Halee Isil Cosar
 Neera Handa
 Tatiana Bonch-Osmolovskaya
 Alise Blayney
 Saba Vasefi
 Jocelyn Deane: book launch of *The Second Person*, Girls on Key 2020
 Launch address by Toby Fitch
 Toby Fitch
 Tricia Dearborn
 Mitchell Charman

SUNDAY

12-04-20

11.00am - 11.20am
 11.40pm – 12.00pm
 12.20pm – 12.40pm
 1.00pm – 1.20pm
 1.40pm – 2.00pm
 2.40pm – 3.00pm
 3.00pm – 4.00pm
 4.20pm – 4.40pm
 5.00pm – 5.20pm
 5.40pm – 6.00pm

Les Wicks
 Ali Whitelock
 Martin Langford
 Andy Kissane
 Richard James Allen
 Geoffrey Datson
 Datson Hughes: song cycle performance of *Blood in the Water*
 Anne Casey
 Michele Seminara
 Peter Boyle

- 20 minutes
- Book sales managed through Poetry Sydney, EFTPOS [10% ps administration 10% gallery]
- Coffee Vendor: Nomadic Café 11am – 3.30-4pm
- Alcohol available at a recommended gold coin donation amount

FRIDAY				
1	7.00pm – 10.30pm	10-20: Gala Opening Night	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	TICKETED
10-20		GALA OPENING NIGHT	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	TICKETED \$20 / INVITATION ONLY
		MC: Terry Serio		
		P O E T S :		
		Bjorn Stewart		
		Alise Blayney		
		Toby Fitch		
		Anne Casey		
		Saba Vasefi		
		Andy Kissane		
		David Stavanger		
		John Carey		
		Ali Whitelock		
		Peter Boyle		
		Disorder Award: Mitchell Charman		
		Danny Gardner: Live Poets at Don Bank celebrate 30 years		
		Interview with Brook Emery		
		PERFORMANCE		
		Charles Freyberg and Peter Urquhart		
		Anton Koritni		
		- order TBC and a runsheet with times will be set two-weeks prior to the event reading		
		- microphone + mic stand		
		- lectern		
		- audio-visual technician		
		- 150 audience capacity		
		- alcohol available at a recommended gold coin donation amount		
		- special staging arrangements need to be forwarded two-weeks prior		

SATURDAY

2	11.00am – 6.00pm	Festival HQ	Disorder Gallery	FREE
	11.00am - 11.20am	Brenda Saunders		
	11.40pm – 12.00pm	Halee Isil Cosar		
	12.20pm – 12.40pm	Neera Handa		
	1.00pm – 1.20pm	Tatiana Bonch-Osmolovskaya		
	1.40pm – 2.00pm	Alise Blayney		
	2.40pm – 3.00pm	Saba Vasefi		
	3.00pm – 4.00pm	Jocelyn Deane: book launch of <i>The Second Person</i> , Girls on Key 2020 Launch address by Toby Fitch		
	4.20pm – 4.40pm	Toby Fitch		
	5.00pm – 5.20pm	Tricia Dearborn		
	5.40pm – 6.00pm	Mitchell Charman		
3	12.00pm – 1.30pm	Centering Subaltern Voices: <i>Verity La</i> Editors Speak Out!	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	FREE
	<p>Centering Subaltern Voices: <i>Verity La</i> Editors Speak Out!</p> <p><i>Verity La</i> online creative arts journal provides specialised publishing platforms for the work of subaltern voices: <i>Clozapine Clinic</i> (for writers experiencing mental health issues); <i>Out of Limbo</i> (for the 'coming out' stories of LGBTQIA writers); <i>Disrupt</i> (for the work of disabled creatives); <i>Discoursing Diaspora</i> (amplifying voices of displacement); and <i>Bilirr</i>, <i>Black Cockatoo</i> (Emerging First Nations Australia writing project). Each publishing stream is run by passionate editors who have life experience and expertise in their field of interest.</p> <p>This panel affords community members and writers a unique chance to meet some of these exceptional editors as they discuss the importance and rewards of elevating marginalised voices, as well as read from their own work. Join Alise Blayney, Tricia Dearborn, Brenda Saunders, Gaele Sobott and Saba Vasefi as they speak to <i>Verity La</i> Co-Managing Editor Michele Seminara about their vital work on the journal, and get a chance to ask your own burning questions and spend some time connecting with the editors after the panel.</p>			
4	1.45pm – 3.00pm	Multiplicity: multilingual poetry	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	FREE
	<p>Multiplicity</p> <p>A one-hour feast of multilingual poetry in Hindi, Russian, Turkish, Urdu and English. The featured poets will be Tatiana Bonch-Osmolovskaya, reading her poems in Russian and English, Halee Isil Cosar, reading in Turkish and English, and Neera Handa, reading in Hindi, Urdu and English. Poems in languages other than English will be followed by the poets' translations, and there will be a brief discussion at the end of each set.</p>			
5	3.00pm – 4.00pm	Song cycle First peoples performance	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	FREE
	The song cycle is a special presentation of song in aboriginal language and dance by indigenous performers curated by Djon Mundine OAM. More TBA.			
6	3.00pm – 5.00pm	PARTICIPATE Darling's Poetry Post: Open reading	Lord Roberts Hotel	FREE
	<p>Darling's Poetry Post: Open reading</p> <p>Strictly no pre-registrations and poets are encouraged to get there early to register in the open reading.</p>			

P E R S P E C T I V E

7	11.00am – 6.00pm	Video art produced for Laureate Productions	Disorder Gallery	FREE
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JULIAN D YOUNG video art work features in productions for Laureate Productions, for musical interpretations of Kenneth Slessor's, *Darlinghurst Nights* and a collection of Australian love poems, *Love at the Bar*, performed at the Sydney Writers Festival.

8	3.00pm – 4.00pm	Media poetics and language art	Rydges Sydney Central Cinema	FREE
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Media poetics and language art

A song-cycle performance of *Blood in the Water*, a multi media documentary work which investigates the space between thought and action, the poetic and the political; where the individual and public self overlap. The work emerges from contemplation of the relationship between the concepts of flight and displacement and the body. Blood in the Water tells the story of Oscar Charles, Hungarian waterpolo champion who defected from Soviet controlled Hungary and wound up migrated to Australia. Oscar survived German occupation in WW2 and the seige of Budapest whilst in training for Olympic competition. Comprising film, song and text, Blood in the Water investigates the experience of the immigrant to strive and fail, to flee and survive. The work, comprising film, song and installation, was written, produced and first exhibited by **Geoffrey Datson** and **Annette Hughes** as artists in residence in Hungary at Art Quater Budapest 2018-19.

A series of first nations presentation of media poetics and language art curated by **Djon Mundie OAM**. A spoken word performance is a mediation of colonisation through an reimagining and reinterpretation of Gil Scott Heron's, *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* titled *The Colonisation Will Be Televised*, written and performed by **Bjorn Stewart**. A video poem performed as part of Bungaree: The First Australian, an exhibition examining the first person described in print as being Australian (c.1775-1830), 2012. I saw the Sun a video poem that captures the human soul through the light of the sun at dawn on the Brisbane shoreline when the shadow casts the living spirit in dance, 2003.

9	4.00pm – 4.45pm	Poetry Portal: Girl's on Key	Rydges Sydney Central Cinema	FREE
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Poetry Portal is a 40 minute event screening of poetry on film presented by Girls on Key. Girls on Key is a poetry organisation featuring women and gender diverse poets and spoken word artists. The feature screening includes: *For the anxious*, **Peter Roads**; *When we lose ourselves in hurting*, **Trixi Rosa**; *Wild Things 2*, *A serenade*, **Beth Spencer**; *Dog Daze*, **Ian Gibbons** and *Without Distortion*, **Mark Niehus**. <https://www.girlsonkey.com/>

10	5.00pm – 6.00pm	Preview screening: Text Messages from the Universe	Rydges Sydney Central Cinema	FREE
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Text Messages from the Universe is a film that immerses its audience in subjective states of consciousness they might experience when they die. It imagines what they can see and think and hear in a seamless but fragmentary flow of poetic images, words, dance and music. It places the viewer in the position of going through a journey into their own interior world of dreams and projections in which time and space, and cause and effect logic, are turned on their heads. The film is inspired by *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, a text which guides souls on their 49 day transmigration through the 'Bardo', or intermediate state, between dying and rebirth. It also draws on the Yogic idea of the seven Chakras, or psychic energy centres, in visualizing this odyssey of movement, colour and consciousness. Directed by **Richard James Allen** and produced by The Physical TV Company, 2019. The event screening includes a special poetry performance by **Richard James Allen**.

P E R F O R M A N C E

11	4.00pm – 6.00pm	Datson Hughes: music performance	Sydney Brewery Surry Hills	FREE
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Datson Hughes: music performance

With two albums to their credit, **DATSON HUGHES's** own-brand folk noir weaves traditional themes of murder and mystery into beautiful tales of misadventure and road-trips-gone-wrong, set to the twanging drone of Datson's hand-crafted Appalachian Mountain dulcimers - 'the sound of The Velvet Underground jamming with Incredible String Band.' <https://www.datsonhughes.com/>

12 7.00pm – 10.00pm Romantics: an evening of poetry and piano in two parts East Sydney Community Arts Centre TICKETED \$20

PART I The Crumbling Mansion by Charles Freyberg

A group of wildly imaginative eccentrics twist the English language in a series of love poems, upending the world around them. Hellen fights to save her crumbling mansion from gangsters and property developers in Victoria Street Kings Cross in the 1970s. Vanessa, a frightened boy from the suburbs, discovers the sensual thrill of Hellen's roomful of dresses and plays her dusty collection of records. She transforms into a star performer at Les Girls. Charles mourns his dead friend in a lush rainforest. The energy of the scenery helps him remember the vitality of his friend, who sparked his imagination in a boarding house room filled with staring portraits and the poetry of Rimbaud and Beckett. Charles transforms into a darkly sarcastic clown in grease paint, but the forest withers with drought and explodes into a bushfire. **Peter Urquhart's** original music for viola, voice and keyboard enriches both the scenery and the characters. Set design includes **James Whittington's** portraits on screen. A performance full of laughter, pain and transformation, and thrilling music.

PART II Tragic Romantic by Anton Koritni

Tragic Romantic is a concert of original music composed by **Anton Koritni** inspired by the histories of the great romantic poets, including Blake, Keats, Shelley and Rimbaud. Anton's dynamic piano and vocal performance is set to electronic backing tracks, which are further enhanced by images. Anton shares the workings of his creative process and relates intriguing stories of the poets who provided the inspiration. Anton combines his modern Blues/Jazz influences, with a love of 19th century Romantic piano-music to create a unique contemporary classical composition. *Tragic Romantic* takes you on a journey through a Romanticism of modernity from the perspective of an artist/musician who has much life experience. Immerse your senses in this transcendent musical experience. Surrender to it.

SUNDAY

13	11.00am – 6.00pm	Festival HQ	Disorder Gallery	FREE
	11.00am - 11.20am	Les Wicks		
	11.40pm – 12.00pm	Ali Whitelock		
	12.20pm – 12.40pm	Martin Langford		
	1.00pm – 1.20pm	Andy Kissane		
	1.40pm – 2.00pm	Richard James Allen		
	2.40pm – 3.00pm	Geoffrey Datson		
	3.00pm – 4.00pm	Datson Hughes: song cycle performance of <i>Blood in the Water</i>		
	4.20pm – 4.40pm	Anne Casey		
	5.00pm – 5.20pm	Michele Seminara		
	5.40pm – 6.00pm	Peter Boyle		

14	12.00pm - 2.00pm	War and Peace	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	FREE
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War and Peace: Sydney poets on the Australian Psyche; *To End All Wars*

Poetry that addresses the legacy and influence of Anzac Day on the Australian psyche. Sydney poets come together to read poems from the anthology, *To End All Wars*. This title reflects the hopeful, triumphal spirit during 'The Great War', suggesting that this might be the last war of all. These words remind us today that armed conflict is always a possibility, a social catastrophe threatening world peace. This anthology was launched in October 2018 to celebrate the centenary of the Great War 1914 – 1918. Poets from diverse backgrounds responded to the call. Some were inspired by family memories of loss and sacrifice: others from personal experiences in new wars. Poems from Turkish Australians speak of remembered conflicts and the problems they face adjusting to the 'Anzac Spirit'!

The presentation of poetry varies from a focus on the 'Gallipoli' conflict and its legacy to looking beyond war to a future peace. Poets cover the full range of emotion and imagery, offering a dynamic collection and a valued depth of understanding. Poets include: **Susan Adams, Seber Audjinlik, Margaret Bradstock, Halee Isel Cosar, Anna Couani, Mark O'Flynn, Andy Kissane, Yota Krill, Cervet Kordeve, Chris Mansell, Norm Neill, Willem Tibbens, Saba Vasliyi, and Les Wicks.**

15	2.00pm – 3.30pm	Australian Poetry Reading: Life in the Inner City	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	FREE
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Australian Poetry Reading: Life in the Inner City

Australian Poetry subscribers and invites present the world of 2010, and beyond. Poets TBA. MC: **Martin Langford**, Australian Poetry Chair and Sydney based poet.

		P E R F O R M A N C E		
16	4.00pm – 5.30pm	Text Messages to the Universe: screening and live performance	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	FREE

Text Messages from the Universe is a film that immerses its audience in subjective states of consciousness they might experience when they die. It imagines what they can see and think and hear in a seamless but fragmentary flow of poetic images, words, dance and music. It places the viewer in the position of going through a journey into their own interior world of dreams and projections in which time and space, and cause and effect logic, are turned on their heads. The film is inspired by *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, a text which guides souls on their 49 day transmigration through the 'Bardo', or intermediate state, between dying and rebirth. It also draws on the Yogic idea of the seven Chakras, or psychic energy centres, in visualizing this odyssey of movement, colour and consciousness. Directed by **Richard James Allen** and produced by The Physical TV Company, 2019. The event screening includes a special poetry performance by **Richard James Allen**.

17	4.00pm – 9.00pm	The BIG 'O': Festival closing performance and reading event	Hollywood Hotel	FREE
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The Big 'O' and Festival wrap party showcases original music and spoken word by **Suburban Bukowskis**, **Adam Gibson** and **Datson Hughes** at the Hollywood Hotel. Spot prizes include a night at the Hollywood Hotel. It is also the Festival big open reading with MC **Benito DiFonzo**. To register in the open read: mail@poetrysydney.org

P E R S P E C T I V E

18	11.00am – 6.00pm	Blood in the Water: multi-media poetic documentary	Disorder Gallery	FREE
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Blood in the Water, a multi-media documentary work which investigates the space between thought and action, the poetic and the political; where the individual and public self overlap. The work emerges from contemplation of the relationship between the concepts of flight and displacement and the body. Blood in the Water tells the story of Oscar Charles, Hungarian waterpolo champion who defected from Soviet controlled Hungary and wound up migrated to Australia. Oscar survived German occupation in WW2 and the seige of Budapest whilst in training for Olympic competition. Comprising film, song and text, Blood in the Water investigates the experience of the immigrant to strive and fail, to flee and survive. The work, comprising film, song and installation, was written, produced and first exhibited by **Geoffrey Datson** and **Annette Hughes** as artists in residence in Hungary at Art Quater Budapest 2018-19.

19	3.00pm – 4.00pm	Song Cycle performance Datson Hughes	Disorder Gallery	FREE
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Song Cycle performance Datson Hughes

A song-cycle performance of ***Blood in the Water***, a multi media documentary work which investigates the space between thought and action, the poetic and the political; where the individual and public self overlap.

P A R T I C I P A T E

20	4.00pm – 9.00pm	The BIG 'O': Festival closing performance and reading event	Hollywood Hotel	FREE
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POETS BIOS

Susan Adams is an Australian poet published in nine countries. She was awarded 'commended' in the 2012 O'Donoghue International Poetry Competition (Ire) and Highly Commended in the Val Vallis Award 2012. She has been read numerously on ABC Radio National. Recent publications include *Quadrant*, *Westerly*, *Eureka Street*, *Hecate*, *Social Alternatives*, *Cordite*, *Visible Ink*.

Richard James Allen writing has appeared widely in journals, anthologies, and online over many years. Creator of #RichardReads, an online compendium of Global Poetry, Read Aloud, he has written ten books of poetry and edited a national anthology of writing for performance. Richard is also well known for his multi-award-winning career as a filmmaker and choreographer with The Physical TV Company (www.physicaltv.com.au), and as a performer in a range of media and contexts.

Alise Blayney completed a Creative Writing degree at the University of Wollongong in 2007. She is intrigued by the relationship between mental / emotional distress, and creativity. What trips her trigger is how word weaponry has the power to transmogrify reality, transcend trauma, dispel distress and make meaning of adverse experience. She has worked in varied roles for mental health services as a Peer Support Worker since 2013, and is currently a Senior Educator and Peer Learning Advisor at the Recovery & Wellbeing College in Sydney. She is proud to be a part of the Mental Health Consumer, Psychiatric Survivor & Mad Pride Movements. Alise has been a Co-Editor with Tim Heffernan for the Clozapine Clinic at online creative arts journal *Verity La* since 2016. Clozapine Clinic is a creative writing project inspired by the late Benjamin Frater that aims to support writers with mental health issues who are wanting to HOWL. Alise is also thrilled to have recently come on board at *Verity La* as Co-Managing Editor with Michele Seminara, and to have her first publication, *Grief for Hire*, published by Verity La Press in May 2020.

Tatiana Bonch-Osmolovskaya was born in the former Soviet Union and moved to Australia in 2002. She has a degree in physics and a PhD in philology. Tatiana is an author of a great number of publications in Russian, including award-winning collections of short stories and essays. Her texts in English have appeared in the *Don Bank Anthology*, the *Bridges anthologies*, *The POEM*; *Rochford Street Review*, *Not So Quiet*, *The Esthetic Apostle*, and *Cagibi*. Tatiana is interested in beauty in mathematics and mathematics in arts. She is a Board member of Moscow PEN and an editor of the *Articulation* literary journal (in Russian). Her latest book, *Eucalyptus leaves: Letters from Australia to Russian political prisoners* was recently launched in the Moscow Sakharov Centre and St Petersburg PEN Club.

Margaret Bradstock is a Sydney poet, critic and editor. She has seven published collections of poetry, including *The Pomelo Tree* (winner of the Wesley Michel Wright Prize) and *Barnacle Rock* (winner of the Woollahra Festival Award, 2014). Editor of *Antipodes: poetic responses to 'settlement'* (2011) and *Caring for Country*, she won the national Earth Hour poetry competition in 2014, and the Banjo Paterson Award in both 2014 and 2015. *Brief Garden* is her latest collection published by Puncher Wattmann, 2019.

Peter Boyle is a Sydney-based poet and translator of poetry. He is the author of seven books of poetry, most recently *Ghostspeak* which won the 2017 Kenneth Slessor Prize and was shortlisted for the Adelaide Festival Award for Poetry. In 2017 he was also awarded the Philip Hodgins Memorial Medal for Excellence in Literature. His poetry has appeared in journals, poetry magazines, ezines and books in 12 countries. As a translator of poetry from Spanish and French he has had six books published. Last year he was commissioned to write a poem for Look Magazine, AGNSW membership magazine in association with the Poetry Sydney program at the Brett Whiteley Studio.

Anne Casey is originally from the west of Ireland, Anne Casey is a poet and writer living in Sydney, Australia. Over a 30-year career, she has worked as a business journalist, writer, magazine editor, media communications director and legal author. She is author of two poetry collections; Vice President of *Voices of Women Incorporated*, a not-for-profit literary and performance arts initiative; a member of the Advisory Board for *Verity La Magazine*; and served as Senior Poetry Editor for the two literary journals of Swinburne University in Melbourne - *Other Terrain Journal* and *Backstory Journal* from 2017 to 2020.

Jocelyn Deane was born in London, 1993 before moving to Australia in 2001. They have been published in *Voiceworks*, *Australian Poetry*, *Seizure*, and were shortlisted for the 2015 Marsden and Hachette prize for poetry. They currently live in Melbourne, where they study creative writing and linguistics, in addition to working as a freelance programmer.

Benito DiFonzo Born into an Irish-Italian working class family in Sydney's Inner West, Journalist, playwright, poet, performer and satirist Benito Di Fonzo has written for,

and been profiled by, the best and worst of publications including The Sydney Morning Herald, The Sun Herald, The Australian, CNN, and Bardfly Magazine (where he was editor).

Geoffrey Datson is a sound artist, combining spoken word, electronica and instrumentation in his recordings. Many poets recite their work to music, but few are also composers. Datson's work is a unique synthesis of forms of sonic expression in which the voice and the sound field are interdependent. In 2013 he published *Protest Singer*, a collection of war/political poetry and was shortlisted and screened in the QPF filmmaker's challenge. Most recently he edited *when they came/for you* by Christopher Barnett (Wakefield)

DATSON HUGHES is the artistic collaboration of poet, songwriter, sound artist, instrument maker and musician, Geoffrey Datson and Annette Hughes — author, songwriter, musician and cultural producer. Their multidisciplinary joint practice draws on long immersion in Australian visual, musical and literary culture, combining forms to produce multi-media performance and installations.

John Carey is an ex-teacher of French and Latin and a sometime actor. He is known for his comedy and satire. The latest of his five collections is *Duck soup & swansongs*, published Ginninderra Press 2008.

Halee Isil Cosar is a Sydney based teacher, poet and community artist who writes for both page and stage. Her first collection of poems, *Hijabi in Jeans* was published in 2018 by Guillotine Press. Her work has been published in the anthologies *Poetry without Borders*, *On Second Thought* and *Can I Tell You a Secret* and in the journals *Mascara* and the *Australian Poetry Journal*. She likes working on projects that are platforms where poetry meets other art forms. She has performed as a featured poet at *Live Poets* and *Gugubarra*, and in the experimental theatre *The Prophet – Remix* and *Night Sky*. <http://www.haleecosar.com>

Anna Couani is a Sydney teacher, writer and visual artist and has degrees in architecture, art education and TESOL. She also studied Fine Arts, painting (Western & Chinese), video production, photography, sculpture, printmaking and music. She worked as an art teacher for 30 years, mostly in Intensive English Centres in Sydney and more recently for 10 years, as an ESL teacher in high school. She also gave adult creative writing classes at Parramatta TAFE and Bankstown Library.

Tricia Dearborn's critically acclaimed third collection of poetry, *Autobiochemistry*, was released in 2019 by UWAP. Her previous collections are *The Ringing World* and *Frankenstein's Bathtub*, and *She Reconsiders Life on the Run* (an International Poetry Studies Institute Chapbook) also came out in 2019. Her work is represented in anthologies including *Contemporary Australian Poetry*, *Australian Poetry since 1788* and *The Best Australian Poems*. She is on the editorial board of *Plumwood Mountain: An Australian Journal of Ecopoetry and Ecopoetics*, and is Project Editor for *Verity La's* *Out of Limbo*, publishing work by LGBTQIA+ writers. In 2019, she was a Poet in Residence at the Poetry on the Move festival, and a judge of the University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor's International Poetry Prize.

Brook Emery lives near the surf in Sydney, where he was born in 1949. He has published three books of poetry, *and dug my fingers in the sand* (FIP, 2000), which won the Judith Wright Calanthe Prize in the Queensland Premier's Awards, *Misplaced Heart* (FIP, 2003) and *Uncommon Light* (FIP, 2007). All three were short-listed for the Kenneth Slessor Prize in the NSW Premier's Awards. A former teacher, he directed the Australian Poetry Festival in 2008 and 2010 and was until recently Chairperson of the Poets Union.

Charles Freyberg is a Kings Cross poet and playwright. His book *Dining at the Edge*, published by Ginninderra Press (2019). He explores the theatricality of poetry and performs his poetry around Sydney. His writing has appeared in a number of journals.

Toby Fitch is the current poetry editor of *Overland* and a lecturer in creative writing at the University of Sydney. He is the author of *Rawshock* (Puncher & Wattmann 2012), which won the Grace Leven Prize for Poetry; *Jerilderies* (Vagabond 2014); *The Bloomin' Notions of Other & Beau* (Vagabond 2016); *ILL LIT POP* (Cerberus/Flying Island Books 2018); and, most recently, *Where Only the Sky had Hung Before* (Vagabond 2019) and *Object Permanence: Selected Calligrammes* (Penteract Press UK 2019).

Danny Gardner is a poet, journalist, novelist and editor from Sydney. Since 2003 he has convened and curated programs for Live Poets at Don Bank, North Sydney - the city's longest-running poetry event at the same address. Danny's work has appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies in Australia, in newspapers and magazines in Palestine and Beirut, and on radio in Russia. His last book of poetry is 'Before I Press the Trigger' (Ginninderra, 2009), his last book is 'Brains in My Feet: Encounters While Travelling' (Ginninderra, 2015). He has appeared with Auburn Poets & Writers Group at the Sydney Writers Festival every year since 2008.

Adam Gibson is a Sydney writer, performer, lyricist, musician, journalist and artist whose work covers music, songs, spoken word storytelling. He performs regularly with his band **The Aerial Maps**, after several years playing with **The Ark-Ark Birds**, that band having released their second album, 'Cities of Spinifex' in 2017. This followed on from the 2015 album 'Australia Restless' and two albums with **The Aerial Maps**, plus earlier releases with Modern Giant. A new Aerial Maps album will be released in late 2019 or early 2020

Neera Handa was born in India where she spent a few decades, studying, teaching and starting a family before migrating to Australia. In her journey in Australia from again being a student, to a teacher and a university lecturer, Neera finds herself both an insider and an outsider in her community and in the wider Australian society. She expresses herself in Hindi, Urdu and English, the three languages that have shaped her childhood memories, her fantasies of youth and her academic self. An avid follower of the sustainability movement, and a believer in human ingenuity, Neera's prose and poetry explore alternative and philosophical approaches to living sustainably on the earth.

Andy Kissane lives in Sydney and writes poetry and fiction. He has published a novel, a book of short stories, *The Swarm*, and five books of poetry. His latest book is *The Tomb of the Unknown Artist* (Puncher & Wattmann, 2019). He was joint winner of ABR's 2019 Peter Porter Prize for Poetry. His fourth collection, *Radiance*, was shortlisted for the Victorian and Western Australian Premier's Prizes and the Adelaide Festival Awards. www.andykissane.com

Martin Langford (NSW) worked for the NSW Department of Education until 1998, at which time he left teaching to pursue his interest in poetry. He joined the Poets Union in 1984, and for many years, was active in the organisation of poetry events, directing three Australian Poetry Festivals (2001, 2004, 2006). He has published six books of poetry including *The Human Project* (Puncher & Wattmann, 2009) and *Ground* (P&W 2015). *Eardrum*, a book of poems about music, will be published in 2020. He is the editor of *Harbour City Poems: Sydney in Verse 1788-2008* (P&W, 2009) and co-editor (with J. Beveridge, J. Johnson and D. Musgrave) of *Contemporary Australian Poetry* (P&W, 2016). He has been a poetry critic and essayist for *Meanjin* since 2012. His work has been translated into French, Chinese, Italian, Spanish and Arabic. He joined the Board of Australian Poetry in 2011 as a Foundation Board Member.

Chris Mansell began publishing poetry in the late 1970s and her first collection, *Delta*, was published in 1978. She has since published some nine further collections. She has also written much short prose, a number of plays, and a children's book, *Little Wombat* (1996). Her poetry is noted for its varied explorations of human relationships, philosophies and ethics.

Norm Neill poems have appeared in journals, in edited anthologies and in the *Sun-Herald* newspaper. He has read at various venues, including the Sydney Writers' and Newtown festivals. He has been convenor of a weekly poetry workshop for a little under twenty years, and is a member of Youngstreet Poets.

Mark O'Flynn was born in Melbourne and now lives in the Blue Mountains. After studying at the Victorian College of the Arts, and working for a number of years in the theatre where he produced several plays, Mark turned to fiction and poetry. He has published three poetry collections and a novella, *CAPTAIN COOK* (Pascoe, 1987). Mark's first full-length novel, *GRASSDOGS*, was published in 2006 after he participated in the HarperCollins Varuna Manuscript Development Program. His short stories, articles, reviews, and poems have appeared in a wide range of journals and magazines both here and overseas.

Michele Seminara is a poet and Co-Managing Editor of online creative arts journal *Verity La*. She has published *Engraft* (Island Press, 2016) and two chapbooks: *Scar to Scar* (with Robbie Coburn, PressPress, 2016) and *HUSH* (Blank Rune Press, 2017). Her second full-length collection, *Suburban Fantasy*, is forthcoming from UWA Publishing in 2020.

Gaele Sobott is a disabled writer living in Sydney, Australia. Her published works include, *Colour Me Blue* (Heinemann), *My Longest Round* (Magabala Books) and recent short stories in *Hecate*, *Verity La*, *Meanjin*, *Prometheus Dreaming*, *New Contrast* and the anthology, *Botswana Women Write* (University of Kwazulu-Natal Press). She is the founding director of *Outlandish Arts*; a disabled-led, not-for-profit arts organisation which focuses on words as the catalyst for experimentation and improvisation across various art forms. Gaele is co-editor of */dis'raʔt/*, an online platform for D/deaf and disabled artists, with *Verity La*. She has a Ph.D. in literature from the University of Hull, UK.

Brenda Saunders is a Wiradjuri writer and artist living in Sydney. She is an active member of FNAWN (First Nations Aboriginal Writers Network) and is a mentor for *Black Cockatoo*, the Emerging Indigenous Poets site at *Verity La*. Brenda has written three poetry books and is completing a new manuscript 'Inland Sea' for publication. Her poems and reviews appear in anthologies and journals, including *Australian Poetry Journal*, *Overland*, *Southerly*, *Westerly* and *Plumwood Mountain*. She has won several awards including the 2014 Scanlon Book Prize (Australian Poetry) and in 2018 the Oodgeroo Noonuccal Prize (Queensland Poetry) and the Joanne Burns Award (Spineless Wonders).

David Stavanger is an Australian poet, performer, cultural producer, editor and lapsed psychologist. His first full-length poetry collection *The Special* (UQP, 2014) was awarded the Arts Queensland Thomas Shapcott Poetry Prize and the Wesley Michel Wright Poetry Prize. David co-directed Queensland Poetry Festival (2015-2017) and is a Senior Project Manager at Red Room Poetry. He is the co-editor of Australian Poetry Journal 8.2 *Spoken*, *Rabbit 27 Tense* and *SOLID AIR: Collected Australian & New Zealand Spoken Word* (UQP, 2019.) His next collection is *Case Notes* (UWAP, 2020). David is also sometimes known as Green Room-nominated spoken weird artist Ghostboy. These days he lives between the stage and the page.

Bjorn Stewart is a Sydney based actor, writer and director ranging mediums across from theatre to multimedia. He was a writer and cast member of the Logie nominated series *Black Comedy*. Bjorn is one of the founding members of the Cope ST collective that works in pushing boundaries in theatre and online content. His work with Cope ST has lead to their first theatre production debut *One of the Good Ones*, a comedy about Indigenous take of science fiction. In 2017 Bjorn directed the short film *Last Drinks at Frida's*, a love story of an Indigenous soldier and a Diva set in 1940's Sydney during World War II and segregated Australia which has been shown across the world.

Willem Tibben came from Holland to Camden in 1954 where he grew up on dairy farms. He worked in the NSW Public Service for 43 years and retired in 2007. His first published poems were in Neucleus (University of New England's student newspaper – 1977) and since then he has published four books: *near myths* (1986), *the conscious moment* (1996), *the fascination of what's simple* (2005), and *suburban veneer* (2017). Willem is President of Youngstreet Poets; member of Auburn Poets and Writers' Group; and a regular attendee at Live Poets at Don Bank.

Saba Vasefi is a multi award-winning writer, poet, filmmaker and journalist. She researches her PhD on exilic feminist cinema studies and teaches at Macquarie University. Her poems have appeared in a variety of journals including *Transnational Literature* and *Wasafiri Magazine of International Contemporary Writing*. She was twice a judge for the Sedigheh Dolatabadi Book Prize for the Best Book on Women's Literature and Women's Issues. She has received an Honorary Brave Rising Star Award for her courageous writing on women's detention narratives and diasporic feminist discourse in The Guardian.

Ali Whitelock is a Sydney based Scottish poet and writer. Her first book, (a memoir), *Poking Seaweed with a Stick and Running Away from the Smell*, was published to critical acclaim in Australia and the UK. Her debut poetry collection, *And My Heart Crumples Like a Coke Can*, published by Wakefield Press, 2018. Many of her poems have appeared in magazines and journals in Australia, the UK and the USA, and she has featured in literary festivals in Australia and the UK. She is the coordinator of the regular reading event The Sydney Poetry Lounge, at the Australian Youth Hotel, Glebe.

Les Wicks has featured in numerous national and international literary festivals. He has been published extensively in newspapers, anthologies and magazines across 29 countries in 15 languages. He is the co-founder and director of Meuse Press, an organisation publishing a range of poetry outreach projects such as the recent collection, *To End All Wars*, (2018) released to coincide with the centenary of the World War I Armistice. He conducts poetry workshops throughout Australia. His 14th book of poetry is *Belief*, Flying Islands, 2019.

P O E T S : B I O [TBC]

Seber Aydjink
 Mitchell Charman [Disorder Award]
 Yota Krill
 Cervet Kördeve
 Trixi Rosa
 Beth Spencer
 Ian Gibbons
 Mark Niehus

ARTISTS BIOS

DATSON HUGHES is the artistic collaboration of poet, songwriter, sound artist, instrument maker and musician, Geoffrey Datson and Annette Hughes — author, songwriter, musician and cultural producer. Their multidisciplinary joint practice draws on long immersion in Australian visual, musical and literary culture, combining forms to produce multi-media performance and installations.

Anton Koritni is a pianist, composer and vocalist who draws on a wealth of experience, in many different genres. He creates a unique, contemporary-classical style that is dynamic and emotionally mature. He combines his diverse vocal performances of rock and classical to musical theatre, conducting choirs, composing film-music, writing big-band arrangements and publishing children's music. Having travelled the nationwide and the world, Anton's experiences influence each of his performances. He is known for his well-crafted energetic live-performances. <https://antonkoritni.com/>

Djon Mundine OAM is an activist, writer, critic, and commentator. He is a Bundjalung man of northern New South Wales and is a distinguished pioneer of contemporary indigenous art and the curating of aboriginal artists. He is also a practicing artist.

Julian D Young's video art work features in productions for Laureate Productions, for musical interpretations of Kenneth Slessor's, *Darlinghurst Nights* and a collection of Australian love poems, *Love at the Bar*, performed at the Sydney Writers Festival. He has worked with a musical ensemble Deprogram, creating video for live performance, television and the internet for festivals that include; Electrofringe, Vivid Festival, Beams, Underbelly, TINA, MCA London and many other independent cultural events. He has worked with Lanie Lane, The New Christs and is a current member of Hoax Trinket, engaging in music/video explorations. His work can be viewed online under his web presence pseudonym dvd2u.

Suburban Bukowskis features award-winning poet and playwright **Benito Di Fonzo**, who brings his comedic wordplay and neo-beatnik style to The Suburban Bukowskis. Benito pens and sings upbeat folk, blues and country-swing influenced neo-beatnik tales of fun, failure and excess in the wild inner-west.

James Whittington is a biomorphic artist identifying with the Confucius concept of "Ren Tian" which translates as extending human benevolence to the natural world. He worked as a master printmaker with many distinguished Australian artists including Brett Whiteley, Charles Blackman, Tim Storrier, David and Arthur Boyd through 1977-2000. <https://www.crownstreetpress.com/james-whittington>

Terry Serio is one of Australia's most accomplished and versatile performers. His film roles include the break-out lead in 1982's *Running on Empty*, *He Died With a Felafel in his Hand*, *Dirty Deeds* and in 2010 Pauline Chan's *Mei Mei* alongside Guy Pearce. Terry has appeared in over 50 of Australia's most well-known television productions which include *Shout! The Story of Johnny O'Keefe* (playing Johnny – received AFI nomination for best actor), *Police Rescue*, *Blue Heelers*, *Water Rats*, *Wildside*, *Stingers*, *Blackjack*, *Stupid Stupid Man & A Model Daughter* *televmovie*. Terry's theatre accomplishments cross comedy, drama and musical genres in independent theatre, large-scale productions and national and international touring productions. Credits include *Rasputin*, *Hair*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Blasted*, *4.48 Psychosis*, *Summer Rain*, *Concussion*, *Under Ice*, *Way To Heaven* and *Machinal*. Terry played the roles of Bob Hawke and John Howard in the runaway success of 2006-08, *Keating!* (Company B – Belvoir Street Theatre), which earned him the 2007 Helpmann Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical. (Terry is also an accomplished musician singer/song-writer and can be seen frequently playing in his band (Ministry of Truth) His radio show STAGEFRIGHT on the cult radio station Fbi 94.5fm has become a mainstay of the Sydney theatre scene.

Peter Urquhart is a violinist and composer who has worked as a session musician for Sony Music and Blind Faith Records. Urquhart has composed and performed music for Australia's Got Talent finalists and has studied in Composition Research at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Urquhart studied violin and composition at the Darius Milhaud Conservatoire in Aix-en-Provence, France including The Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He is the founder of the Mid Season Recital group and The Museum of Fleas that fosters encouragement and performance of Contemporary Australian Performance Art in Sydney since 2010.

V E N U E S

Disorder Gallery	Door 108, Corner of Stanley and Bourke Street, Darlinghurst https://www.disordergallery.com/	NSW 2010
East Sydney Community Arts Centre	34-40 Burton Street, Corner of Burton and Palmer Street, Darlinghurst BRAND-X: https://www.brandx.org.au/escac-rehearsal-space-darlinghurst City of Sydney	NSW 2010
Hollywood Hotel	2 Foster Street, Surry Hills https://www.facebook.com/hotel.hollywood.sydney/	NSW 2010
Lord Roberts Hotel	64 Stanley Street, Darlinghurst http://www.lordrobertshotel.com.au/	NSW 2010
Rydges Sydney Central	28 Albion Street, Surry Hills https://www.rydges.com/accommodation/sydney-nsw/sydney-central/	NSW 2010
Sydney Brewery Surry Hills	28 Albion Street, Surry Hills https://www.sydneybrewery.com/surry-hills/	NSW 2010

DISTINGUISHED PARTNER

Rydges Sydney Central

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

BRAND X

Creative Spaces City of Sydney

Create NSW

Hollywood Hotel

Lord Roberts Hotel

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Australian Poetry

Girls on Key

Verity La

FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

Darling Darlos

Surry Hills Creative Precinct

EXHIBITION PARTNER

Disorder Gallery

MEDIA PARTNER

Eastside Radio

PRESENTING CULTURAL PARTNERS

Avant GaGa

Gugubarra Poetry at Rudolf Steiner House

Live Poets at Don Bank

North Shore Poetry Project

Poets at Petersham Bowlo

Poets Corner at Westwords Centre for Writing

Sydney Poetry Lounge

Word in Hand

Youngstreet Poets