

Secondary

Festival Author Visits: 4-9 February 2020

Alwyn Hamilton

Carlos Andrés Gómez and Afra Atiq

Farah Chamma

Gavin Thurston

Gelong Thubten

Harry Baker

Jeremy Hunter

Jonathan Phillips

Joshua Raven

Justin Marozzi

Linwood Barclay

Miriam Lancewood

Mitch Albom

Tamsin Winter

Month of Reading Author Visits:
1-10 March 2020

Afra Atiq

Allison K Williams

Annabel Kantaria

Dawn Metcalfe

Jessica Jarlvi

Karen Osman

Rehan Khan

Roudha Al Marri

Alwyn Hamilton



SECONDARY

Age Group: 14+

Year: Secondary Year 9+

Audience size: Large Group Talk (up to 100),
Workshop (class size)

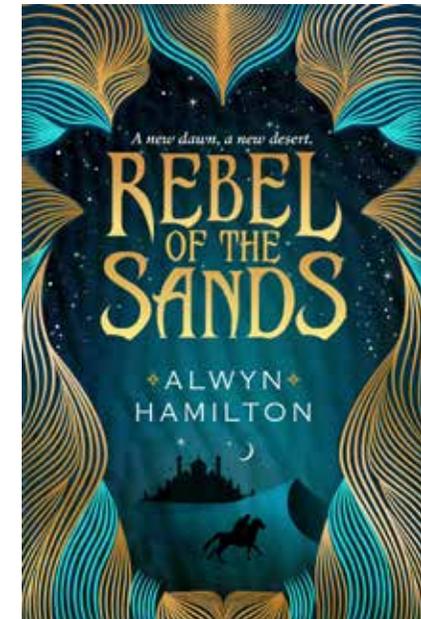
Date of session: Tuesday 4 February or
Wednesday 5 February

In her bestselling young adult Rebel of the Sands series, **Alwyn Hamilton**, ‘... decided to cross the Wild West with the Arabian Nights,’ to create a fictional world for her female heroine’s sharpshooter journey.

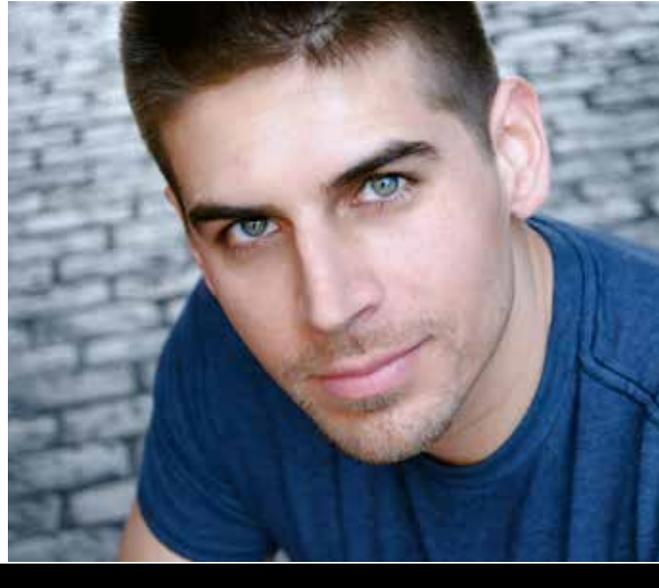
Join **Alwyn** in a large group talk followed by a whole group writing exercise

or a class sized workshop that challenges your students to think differently about their writing process, by helping them to establish the building blocks they need to create a well-rounded world that will inspire and inform their plot, characters and so much more.

Alwyn Hamilton is a Canadian author whose books include *Rebel of the Sands*, *Traitor to the Throne*, and *Hero at the Fall*.



Carlos Andrés Gómez and Afra Atiq



SECONDARY

Age Group: 14+

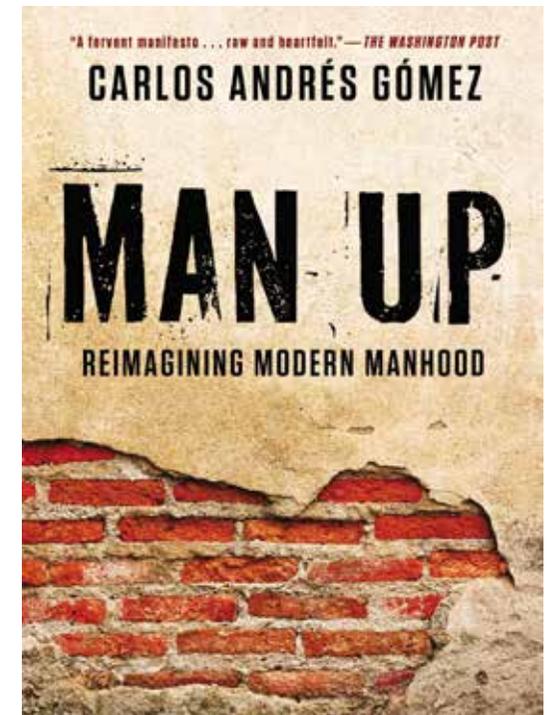
Year: Secondary Year 9+

Audience size: Small Group (up to 18)

Date of session: Thursday 6 February

Listen in, as two supremely gifted and award winning spoken word poets, **Carlos Andrés Gómez** and **Afra Atiq**, perform a few of their captivating poems. Then join in as they present a writing workshop for a small group, focusing on the power of personal narrative, allowing you to utilize whatever genre or style might be most generative.

Carlos Andrés Gómez is the author of the memoir *Man Up: Reimagining Modern Manhood*. A star of HBO's Def Poetry Jam, TV One's Verses and Flow, and Spike Lee's #1 movie Inside Man with Denzel Washington. **Afra Atiq**, is the first female Emirati spoken word poet and the winner of the 2017 Creativity Award for her performance of An Open Letter to Cancer.



Farah Chamma



Farah Chamma is a poet who writes in Arabic, English and French and who has made a name for herself as one of very few slam poets performing in Arabic. What **Farah** does is more than a performance. She tells a story, engages her audience and expresses herself while entertaining and moving her listeners.

Farah will present a workshop addressing the students' relationship to the languages they speak. The main exercise would include writing bilingual/trilingual texts and performing them.

Or she will present a performance/music improvisation workshop focusing on speaking texts to music.

Farah Chamma is a Dubai-born Palestinian spoken word poet. She started performing at the age of 15. She enjoys multilingual performances and performs in 6 different languages, but mostly writes in English, French and Arabic.

SECONDARY

Age Group: 14+

Year: Secondary Year 9+

Audience size: Workshop (class size)

Date of session: Sunday 9 February



Gavin Thurston

SECONDARY



Age Group: 14+

Year: Secondary Year 9+

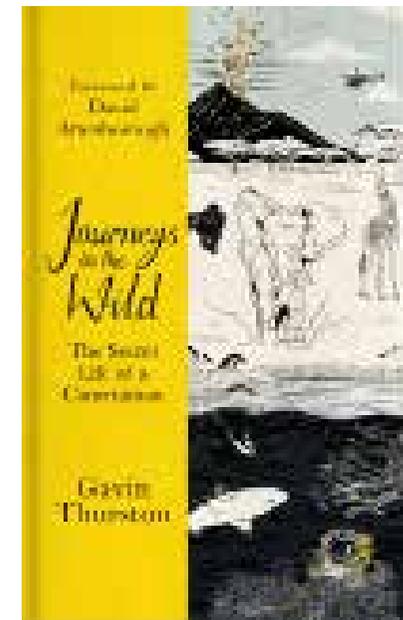
Audience size: Talk Large Group,
Workshop (up to 18)

Date of session: Wednesday 5 February or
Thursday 6 March

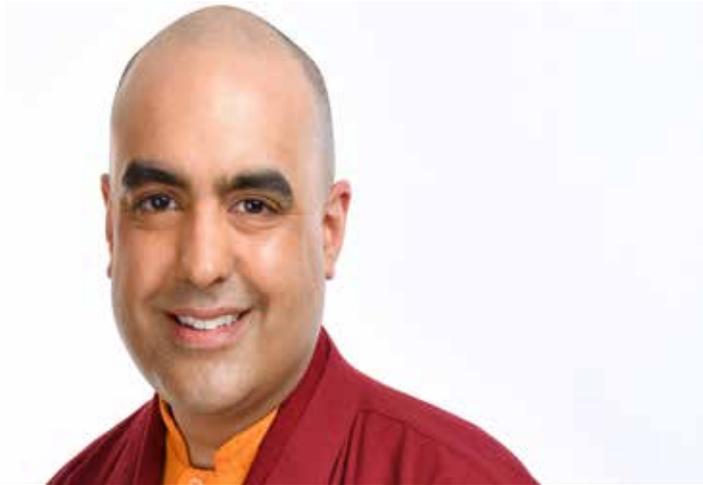
Come inside cameraman, **Gavin Thurston's** world and find out the skills needed and what the job entails to capture the natural world. **Gavin** will present a Talk to a large group of students, sharing his life's journey from his school days to his present career as photojournalist, with a few funny stories along the way and finish with a Q&A session.

Followed by a Workshop for a small group of students, interested in learning how to use their i-phones or a digital camera, to capture the best images to tell a story.

Gavin Thurston is a BAFTA award-winning wildlife cameraman who has worked on seventeen of Sir David Attenborough's series, including Blue Planet II, Planet Earth II and Our Planet. In his book, *Journeys in the Wild*, he reveals the extraordinary adventures and true stories of tracking down and filming the world's most captivating creatures.



Gelong Thubten



SECONDARY

Age Group: 12+

Year: Secondary Year 7+

Audience size: Flexible

Date of session: Thursday 6 February

Buddhist monk **Gelong Thubten**, is a world pioneer in the mindfulness movement. Mindfulness is a form of non-religious meditation, using breathing techniques, paying attention to the present moment, as well as developing positive thinking and clarity of mind. Recent scientific research has shown the beneficial effects mindfulness has upon brain activity.

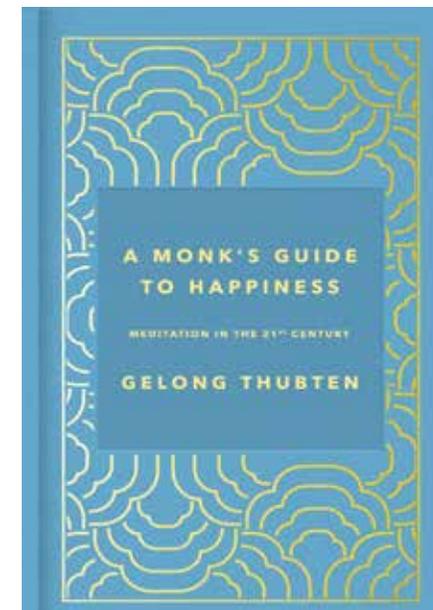
Thubten would like to present two sessions, one for Primary and one for Secondary during his visit to your school.

For Primary: He will discuss mindful moments, to develop greater focus and happiness.

For Secondary: He will discuss mindfulness and its benefits for reducing stress, improving focus and happiness and learning to keep a free mind in the modern age of social media and digital distraction.

Gelong Thubten teaches meditation and mindfulness at major global companies and organisations, as well as hospitals, prisons and schools. He was the meditation consultant on the set of Marvel's movie, Dr. Strange, where he trained Benedict Cumberbatch and Tilda Swinton. He is the author of the Sunday Times bestseller, *A Monk's Guide to Happiness* and co-author of *How to Be Human*.

<https://www.gelongthubten.com/>



Harry Baker



SECONDARY

Age Group: 12+

Year: Secondary Year 7+

Audience size: Large Group

Date of session: Thursday 6 February

Harry Baker loves words, and he has used his love of words, combined with puns and poetry, to travel the world giving awe-inspiring performances. **Harry** will share some of his work and talk about his personal journey of how he started writing in Secondary school and where it has taken him. He will touch on various themes while presenting some playful spoken word poems.

Harry Baker is a British slam-poet, winner of Poetry World Slam Championship 2012 and author of poetry collection *The Sunshine Kid*, which details the journey from performing Jay Z-Maths parodies in school competitions to representing his country in Paris and becoming the youngest ever World Poetry Slam Champion.

**The
Sunshine
Kid** Harry
Baker



Jeremy Hunter



SECONDARY

Age Group: 12+

Year: Secondary Year 7+

Audience size: Large Group (500+)

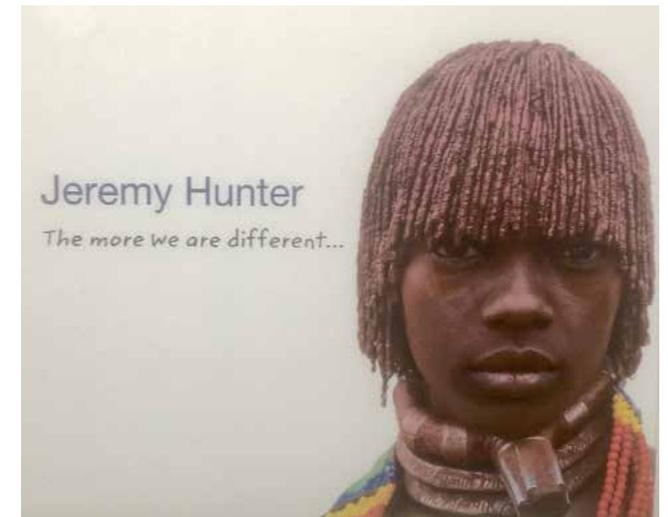
Date of session: Wednesday 5 February

Acclaimed photo-journalist **Jeremy Hunter** will present your choice of one of the following two talks:

North Korea Exposed: **Jeremy** has had unprecedented access to North Korea, and has compiled and shot an extraordinary record of daily life in one of the most secretive and isolated states on Earth. He utilises much of the country's actual propaganda (printed media, posters, portraits, and monuments) as well as his own photographs, obtained throughout DPRK, to shine a light into this darkest corner of the world.

Tribes: Exploring the DNA of the World's Cultures through their rituals and celebrations. Join **Jeremy** as he shares 35 years of travel through 65 countries across five continents to chronicle the diverse, often colourful and sometimes obscure festivals, ceremonies and rituals that showcase the world's diversity and celebrate our fascinating differences as a species.

Jeremy Hunter is a three time UNESCO awards reportage winner, photo-journalist, writer, broadcaster and lecturer. His books include, *Arirang: The North Korean Propaganda Phenomenon*, *Sacred Festivals*, *Let's Celebrate - Myth and Narrative*, *Let's Celebrate 365*, *Let's Celebrate - Tibet* and *The More We Are Different...*



<https://www.jeremyhunter.com/contact.html>

Jonathan Phillips



SECONDARY

Age Group: 14+

Year: Secondary Year 9+

Audience size: Flexible

Date of session: Sunday 9 March

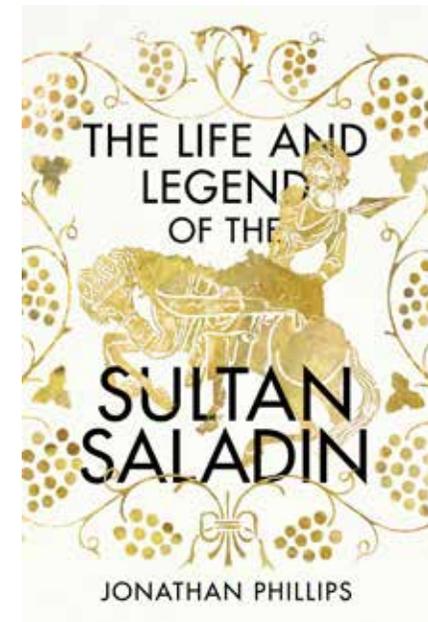
Join **Jonathan Phillips** to discover the story of the life of one of the world's greatest military leaders, Saladin, while exploring the memory and legacy of the Crusades.

Jonathan will present your choice of one of the following talks:

Saladin and the Crusades in a medieval context only, explaining how and why he was able to take back Jerusalem in 1187, as well as talking about his character and personal qualities.

Or, Saladin and the memory and legacy of the Crusades contrasting the Near East and the West.

Jonathan Phillips is Professor of Crusading History at Royal Holloway, University of London. He is the author of *The Life and Legend of the Sultan Saladin*, *The Crusades, 1095-1204* and *Holy Warriors: A Modern History of the Crusades*.



Joshua Raven



Joshua Raven has created a series of thrillers with adventure, action, mystery and more than a hint of the supernatural! Come and explore the world of 5fingers in the company of its creator, and decide whether you would have as much courage as the characters who fight for freedom against an enemy with a multitude of faces.

Joshua will present a Talk with readings accompanied by music and visuals, followed by Q&A.

Joshua Raven (@RavenWrites) has enjoyed 25 years as an international journalist and editor and the author of the 5fingers series of dystopian adventure-thrillers.

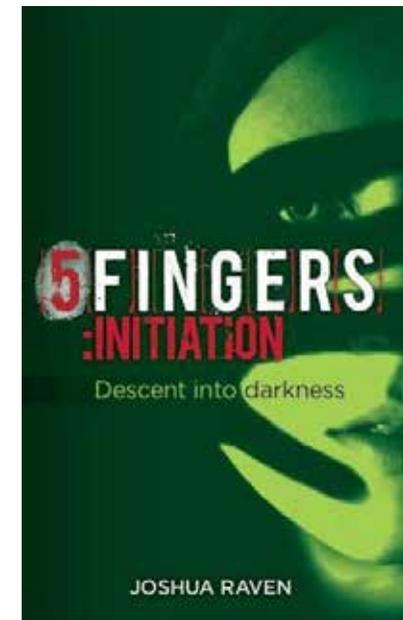
SECONDARY

Age Group: 12+

Year: Secondary Year 7+

Audience size: Large Group (500+)

Date of session: Wednesday 5 February or
Sunday 9 February.



Justin Marozzi



English journalist, historian and travel writer **Justin Marozzi** has travelled to, worked in, and written about many of the world's most interesting countries, including those throughout the Middle East.

Justin will present an illustrated talk about the rich and diverse history of Islamic civilisation told through its greatest cities over the fifteen centuries of Islam.

Justin Marozzi won the 2015 Ondaatje prize for *Baghdad: City of Peace, City of Blood*, the first new history of Baghdad to be published in a century. His newest book is *Islamic Empires: Fifteen Cities that Define a Civilization*.

<http://www.justinmarozzi.com/>

SECONDARY

Age Group: 15+

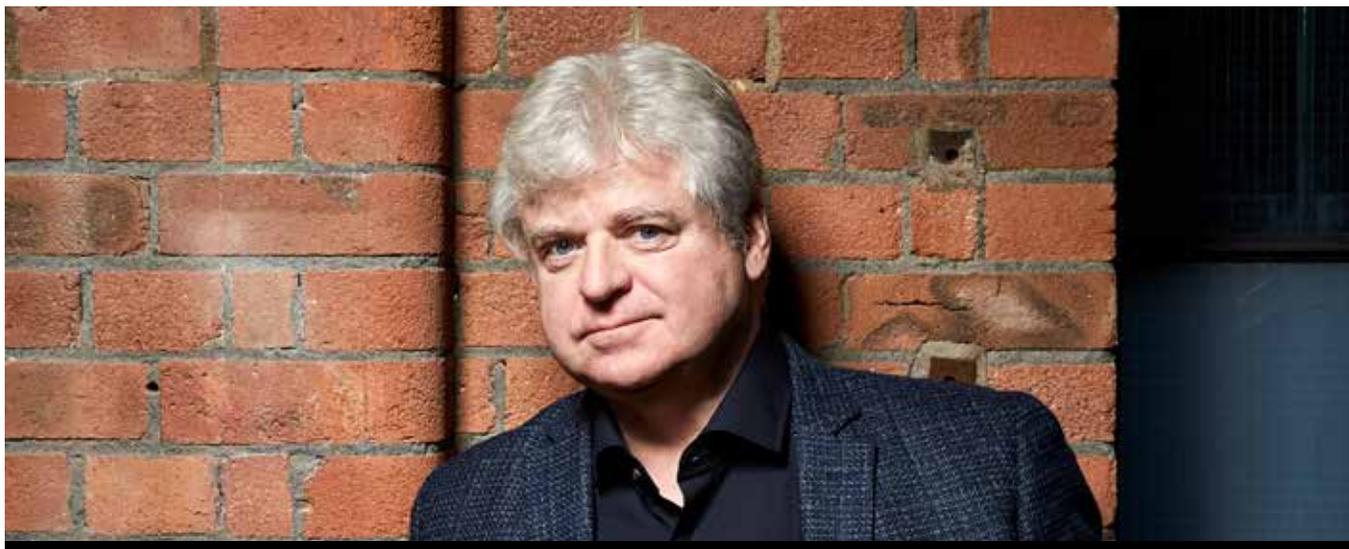
Year: Secondary: Secondary Year 10+

Audience size: Flexible

Date of session: Wednesday 5 February



Linwood Barclay



SECONDARY

Age Group: 12 to 13

Year: Secondary Year 7 to 8

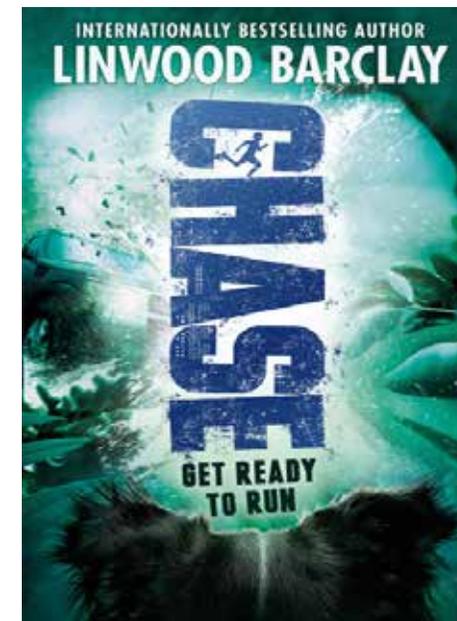
Audience size: Flexible

Date of session: Tuesday 4 February

International bestselling crime writer **Linwood Barclay** has written a children's mystery-adventure series inspired by his childhood that has all the characteristics of his adult novels - action-packed, filled with danger, secrets and thrilling suspense.

Join **Linwood** as he speaks about his books *Chase* and *Escape* and how much of his first children's book is actually taken from his own childhood experiences. He began writing stories at the age of eight and was told if he spent less time writing stories he might do better in maths. He will also speak about pursuing your dreams and doing what you're compelled to do.

Linwood Barclay is the author of seventeen novels for adults, including *No Time for Goodbye*, *Trust Your Eyes* and *A Noise Downstairs*. Both his children's novels, *Chase* and *Escape*, won the Arthur Ellis award for Best Kid's Crime Novel.



Miriam Lancewood



SECONDARY

Age Group: 12+

Year: Secondary Year 7+

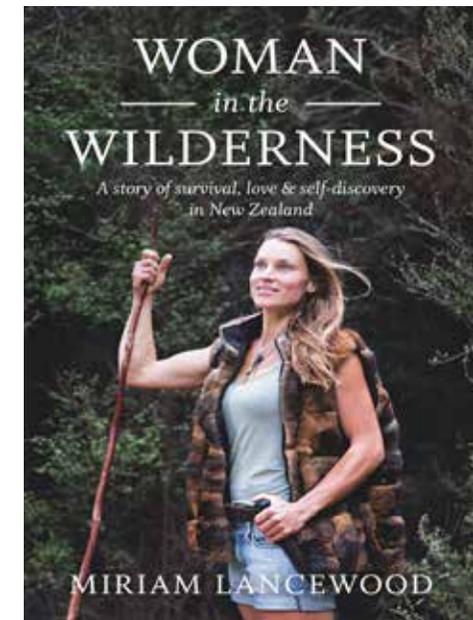
Audience size: Large Group

Date of session: Wednesday 5 February

Living in the wild is a dream many of us share. **Miriam Lancewood** made it her reality when she abandoned society's norms to take survival into her own hands. After journeying for years through the world's vast terrain, **Lancewood** and her husband Peter Raine gave up their worldly belongings to live alone in the midst of New Zealand's stunning mountainous landscape.

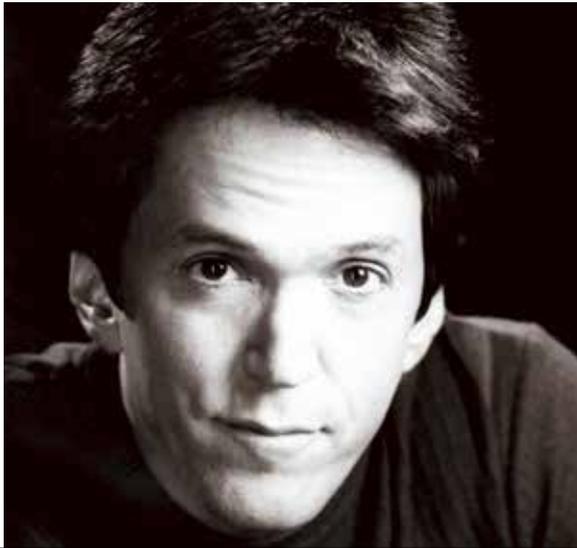
Come prepared with your questions and join the conversation as **Miriam** recounts her experiences, from hunting her first goat, to crossing a flooded river. You will hear her story of how she lived the dream and changed her life from being a teacher to living in the wilderness.

Miriam Lancewood is the author of *Woman in the Wilderness: My Story of Love, Survival and Self-Discovery*.



<https://miriamlancewood.com/>

Mitch Albom



SECONDARY

Age Group: 14+

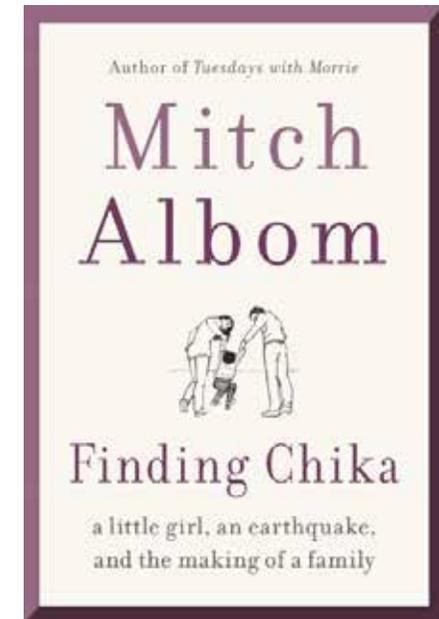
Year: Secondary Year 9+

Audience size: TBC

Date of session: Sunday 9 February

Come prepared to ask questions, as **Mitch Albom** talks about writing and his latest book, *Finding Chika*. Mitch requests that students read his book, *Finding Chika*, before his visit.

Mitch Albom is an internationally renowned and best-selling author, journalist, screenwriter, playwright, radio and television broadcaster and musician. His books have collectively sold more than 39 million copies worldwide and include, *Finding Chika*, *The Next Person You Meet in Heaven*, *The First Phone Call From Heaven*, *Have a Little Faith*, *The Time Keeper* and *Tuesdays With Morrie*.



Tamsin Winter



SECONDARY

Age Group: 12 to 13

Year: Secondary Year 7

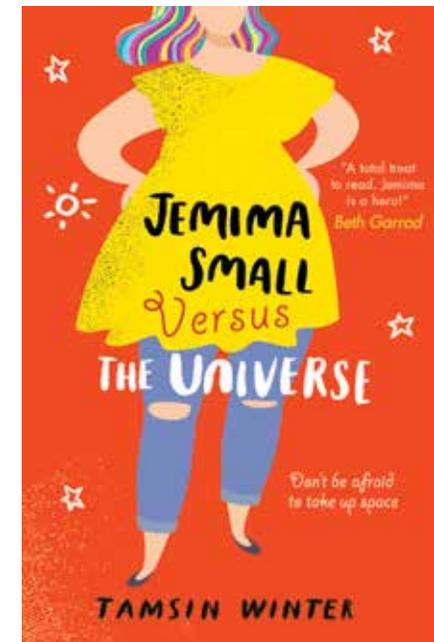
Audience size: Large Group

Date of session: Sunday 9 February

Have you ever felt that you don't belong? Have you ever been bullied? How did you cope? Join **Tamsin Winter** to find out how her characters deal with these issues, and discover how brilliant a writer she is!

Tamsin, a past winner of the Montegrappa Writing Prize at the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature, uses her writing to explore topics such as social media use, bullying, self-esteem and learning to be happy with who you are, all issues of relevance to today's young adult readers.

Tamsin Winter's debut novel *Being Miss Nobody* is the winner of the Brilliant Book Award 2019, was nominated for the 2018 Carnegie Medal and has recently been shortlisted for the Awesome Book Awards 2019 Book of the Year. Her second book is *Jemima Small Versus the Universe*



<https://www.tamsinwinter.com/>

Afra Atiq



Born in Dubai, **Afra Atiq**, the first female Emirati spoken word artist says, 'Where will the world be without the poets, writers, artists, painters and sculptors?' **Afra** will present some of her poems, share some tips about performing spoken word, talk about the importance of poetry and spoken word in today's world and answer questions.

Afra Atiq is a spoken word artist, the first Emirati to perform at the legendary Nuyorican Poet's café in New York and winner of the Poets NY poetry slam.

SECONDARY

Age Group: 12+

Year: Secondary Year 7+

Audience size: Flexible

Date of session: March 1 to 5, 8 to 10



Allison K Williams



SECONDARY

Age Group: 15+

Year: Secondary Year 10+

Audience size: Large Group followed by
Masterclass (up to 10)

Date of session: March 1 to 5

How many drafts does your essay or story really need? What common mistakes can you fix before submitting or publishing your work? How can you improve your own writing without spending big bucks on an editor? We'll talk about how all great books start, when to use (and violate!) structure and grammar, and finding your authorial voice. With in-class self-editing exercises; **Allison K Williams** will also live-edit on the projection screen for some courageous volunteers.

Allison will present to a Large Group followed by a Masterclass of up to 10 students. Masterclass students should bring 1-3 pages of written work, printed out and on a flash drive and paper and pens.

Allison K Williams is a guerrilla memoirist, essay writer, playwright, travel journalist and author of *Get Published in Literary Magazines: The Indispensable Guide to Preparing, Submitting, and Writing Better*.

2nd Edition • Revised and Expanded

Get Published in Literary Magazines



*The Indispensable Guide to Preparing,
Submitting...and Writing Better*

Allison K Williams

Annabel Kantaria



SECONDARY

Age Group: 12+

Year: Secondary Year 7+

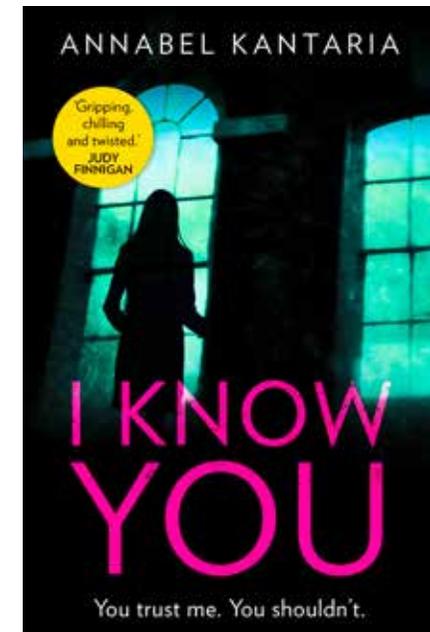
Audience size: Large Group

Date of session: March 1 to 5, 8 to 10

Annabel Kantaria, past winner of the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature Montegrappa Novel Writing Award, will present one of the following sessions to a large group:

- What's it like to be an author (Secondary Year 7 to 9)
- Pursuing a career as a writer (and using your English degree) (Secondary Year 10+)

Annabel Kantaria is a British journalist and author of *I Know You*, *The One That Got Away* and *The Disappearance*.



Dawn Metcalfe



SECONDARY

Age Group: 15+

Year: Secondary Year 10+

Audience size: Large Group

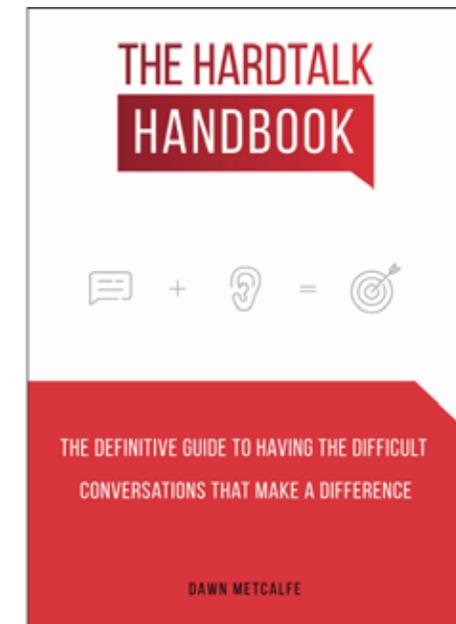
Date of session: March 1 to 5, 9 to 10

In a fast-paced world where things are changing all the time, making decisions about your future can be overwhelming. What essential skills should you master, even before you start thinking about your first job? The ones which will remove barriers, prime you for career success and help set you apart as you navigate the next few years of change? Find out what challenges you may face and how to deal with them when preparing for work experience, summer internships or entering the world of work for the first time.

Join **Dawn Metcalfe** as she presents ideas from her *HardTalk Handbook* and helps you on a journey of self-discovery and independence - a journey where anything becomes possible...

Dawn Metcalfe is a workplace culture advisor, trainer, speaker and author of *Managing The Matrix: The Secret to Surviving and Thriving in Your Organization* and *The HardTalk Handbook: The Definitive Guide to Having the Difficult Conversations that Make a Difference*.

<https://www.dawnmetcalfe.com/>



Jessica Jarlvi



Jessica Jarlvi's debut novel, the psychological thriller *When I Wake Up*, featured on bestseller lists in the US and Australia, and was selected 'Book of the Year' by *Magrudy's* in 2018. Her latest book, *What Did I Do?* deals with mental health and human trafficking. Born in Sweden, she's lived in the UK, the US and the UAE, has worked in publishing and PR and is a former Montegrappa Writing Prize winner at the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature.

Jessica would be happy to do a Talk about how to write a novel or create suspense in a novel. Or she can run a Workshop for a smaller group about building characters and creating dialogue.

<http://www.jessicajarlvi.com/>

SECONDARY

Age Group: 12+

Year: Secondary Year 7+

Audience size: Talk Medium Group,
Workshop Small Group

Date of session: March 1, 3 to 5, 8 to 10



Karen Osman



Karen Osman, the 2016 winner of the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature Montegrappa Writing Prize, will present a novel-writing Workshop for a small group of students.

Karen Osman is the award-winning author of two number 1 bestsellers, *The Good Mother* and *The Home*, and her third book, *The Perfect Lie* published in August 2019.

<http://www.karenosman.com/>

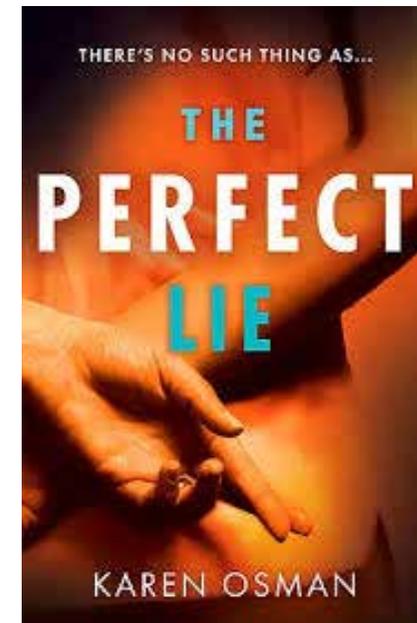
SECONDARY

Age Group: 15+

Year: Secondary Year 10+

Audience size: Workshop Small Group (up to 25)

Date of session: Wednesday 4 March



Rehan Khan



SECONDARY

Age Group: Masterclass 14+
Talk 12+

Year: Masterclass Secondary Year 9+
Talk Secondary Year 7+

Audience size: Masterclass Small (20 to 30)
Talk Large Group (50+)

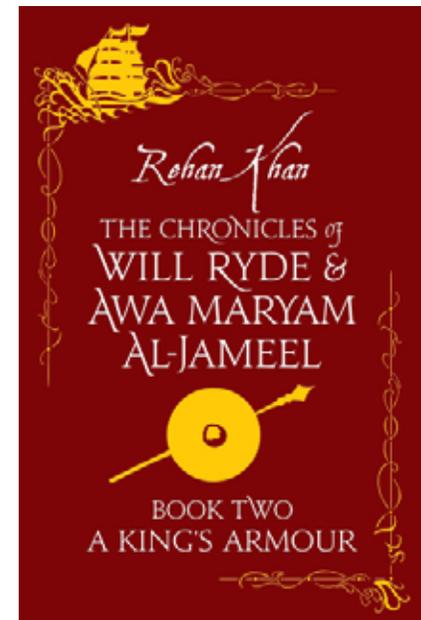
Date of session: Choice of Sunday 1 March or
Sunday 8 March

Rehan Khan has always been intrigued by the way in which legends and chronicles from all over the world have the power to cross time and space to delight and unite us centuries later. His latest book has his characters facing mystery and conspiracy in sixteenth-century Istanbul on a quest to locate a fabled suit of armour.

Rehan can present a Masterclass on 'How to Design a Novel', focusing on how to build conflict into the setting, characters and plot in order to create an emotional response in the reader. This session can last 60 mins (45 mins interactive presentation + Q&A) or 90 mins (in which he gets the students to do exercises as they go along, so they end up designing an outline of a novel).

Or he can do a year group Talk on 'What Makes a Great Story', focusing on the importance of storytelling and exploring the key ingredients that make a great story.

Rehan Khan's latest young adult series includes the titles, *A Tudor Turk* and *A King's Armour*.



Roudha Al Marri



Avid traveler **Roudha Al Marri**, enjoys learning about different cultures and sharing her Emirati culture to build relationships with those who have the curiosity to learn more. Her love for writing about her culture and being its advocate comes across in her latest book, *101 Misconceptions about the UAE, Explained!*

Roudha will present a talk about Emirati culture and her experience writing her two books.

Emirati **Roudha Al Marri**, is the author of *101 Misconceptions about the UAE, Explained!* and co-author of *UAE 101 Stories and Cultural Learnings: A Guidebook to the Emirati Culture*. Her publishing house, House 101, was established with the intention of bringing more talents to the industry.

SECONDARY

Age Group: 12+

Year: Secondary Year 7+

Audience size: Flexible

Date of session: 1 to 5, 8 to 10 March

