

Media Release

A whole weekend dedicated to the graphic novel at the Wheeler Centre, 23-25 April

The graphic novel attracts more than its share of stigma and snobbery, but its audiences are evangelical, its writers inspired and its sales enviable. And some of the most exciting developments in the form are coming out of Melbourne.



***Drawing Out, Drawing In: A Spotlight on the Graphic Novel* featuring Bernard Caleo, Queenie Chan, Dylan Horrocks, W. Chew Chan, Oslo Davis, George Dunford, Pat Grant, Nicki Greenberg, Bruce Mutard, Zoe Sadokierski, Shaun Tan, Andrew Weldon and many more...**

With panel discussions, workshops and talks, and the help of some of the leading artists and writers in the field the Wheeler Centre is going to colour in the picture.

Friday 23 April

Keynote Lecture: Shaun Tan

6:30-7:30 pm, the Wheeler Centre auditorium, 176 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

FREE EVENT, bookings recommended through wheelercentre.com

Shaun Tan's stunning picture books and illustrated fiction have delighted readers of all ages around the world. His multi-award winning titles *Tales from Outer Suburbia* (2008) and the brilliant wordless book, *The Arrival* (2006) have won international critical acclaim. Shaun's early solo work and collaborations with John Marsden (*The Rabbits*) and Gary Crew (*The Viewer* and *Memorial*) established him as a leading creator of sophisticated picture books.

In 1992 Shaun won the International Illustrators of the Future Contest, the first Australian to achieve this award. His many honours since include CBCA Picture Book and Older Readers awards (2009 + 2007), NSW Premiers awards (2002 + 2007), Spectrum Gold and Silver Awards, Aurealis and Ditmar Awards for Australian Science Fiction and Fantasy, the 2001 and 2009 World Fantasy Awards as Best Artist and the internationally prestigious Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis.

Shaun began drawing and painting images for science fiction and horror stories in small-press magazines as a teenager, and has since become best known for illustrated books that deal with social, political and historical subjects through surreal, dream-like imagery. Shaun has also worked as a theatre designer, and worked as a concept artist for the films Horton Hears a Who and Pixar's WALL-E. He is currently directing a short film. His most recently published book is *Tales from Outer Suburbia*.

Saturday 24 April 2010

Day of Comics Panels

All sessions held at the Wheeler Centre auditorium, 176 Little Lonsdale Street

10:30-11:30am *Origin Stories*: James Bradley, Zoe Sadokierski and Erica Wagner

From the first sniff of newsprint to an obsessive graphic habit, some unlikely fanboys and girls talk about the comics that hooked them.

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12:00-1:00pm *Comics Save the World: Bruce Mutard, Shaun Tan and Andrew Weldon, chaired by Nicki Greenberg*

Comics are jumping in to tackle the big issues of politics, social culture and literature. From re-working Shakespeare, to serving up a weekly slice of satire, to imagining the life of a refugee or a soldier, comics are working harder than ever. But can they create social change? Should they? What can they do to the minds of their readers?

1:30-2:30pm *That's Not a Graphic Novel: W. Chew Chan, Pat Grant and Andrew Weldon, chaired by Oslo Davis*

Sequential art? Graphic narratives? Defining the graphic novel has become a bloodsport. But out beyond the definitional battles, creators are producing work not to fit labels but to push the boundaries of the comics artform.

3:00-4:00pm *Publish or Perish: Queenie Chan, Oslo Davis and Nicki Greenberg, chaired by George Dunford*

From zine to seen, it's a long way to the shop for comics creators. Hear success stories (and tales of horror) about getting published, working with an agent and selling overseas.

**4:30-5:30pm *Australia 2050 : The Future of the Graphic Novel*
Bernard Caleo, W. Chew Chan, Dylan Horrocks and Zoe Sadokierski, chaired by George Dunford**

Where to for the Australian graphic novel? How will it adapt to the radical changes in print publishing? Will it be part of a brave new world in which comics become the future of narrative? Artists, commentators and publishers will speculate, deride, and egg each other on to ever greater claims...

Sunday 25 April 2010

Graphic novel workshops

All sessions held at the Wheeler Centre auditorium, 176 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

10:00am – 12:00pm

Unleashing the Cartoonist Within
Dylan Horrocks

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Editing Comics: The Uneditable Art?
Bernard Caleo

10:00am – 12:00pm

Making Mini Comics
Pat Grant

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Drawing Manga
Queenie Chan

Tickets & bookings through wheelercentre.com

Keynote address and Saturday sessions: Free, bookings recommended

Sunday sessions: \$25/ \$20 concession per workshop

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