



WORD  
travels  
PRESENTS



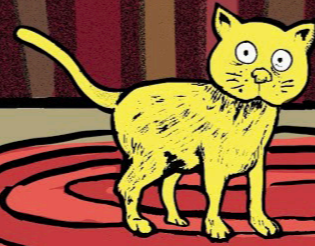
2020

# STORY WEEK

NOV 6-14



HOME  
SWEET  
HOME  
PAGE



# STORY WEEK

Welcome to Story Week!  
We're delighted you're here.



**Curtain up. Spotlight. Mic – Show.**

**This is a week to celebrate the links that keep us human even when we can't hug a friend. This is more than a show. These are your stories.**

**Friday 6 – Saturday 14  
NOVEMBER 2020**

# STORY WEEK

Hello



## Message from the Creative Director

Before we begin...

Word Travels is broadcasting on Gadigal Land. This land belongs to First Nations people. We pay respect and give thanks to elders, past, present and future. ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE INDIGENOUS LAND.



This land is full of stories. Most are not written. They are told. Around a fire. Around a backyard. Around a table. Around this glowing rectangle in front of you.

You're in your dining room, on the train or hunched over your seven-year old's bedroom table turned into "home office". You're on your device. Wherever you are, grab a seat.

Most of the events are on [www.wordtravels.info](http://www.wordtravels.info). You purchase a ticket. A door opens to a hidden stage with live digital events and a library of powerful videos.

Story Week brings together writers from across Australia and the world for an action-packed program in the cloud. Click for poetry slams. Eavesdrop on conversations. Share your stories and hear your virtual neighbour's experiences.

2020 is a tumultuous year. Our new mantra: "ADAPTATION, RESILIENCE, INNOVATE, PIVOT".

Story Week is Word Travels' Pivot. Through struggle, great stories come. Your stories/Our stories are at the forefront of this creative and challenging program.

## Everyday or Daily Events



### Aloud

Boom cha! Broadcasting live conversations, performances and non-print literary shouts every night. Straight up awesome shows streamed. Grab a drink from the home bar. Settle in for a 30-minute blast.

**The *Aloud* series is hosted by Hani Abdile and Zohab Zee Khan, live 7 – 7.30pm each night on November:**

- **Saturday 7** with Zohab Zee Khan
- **Sunday 8** with Priya Srinivasan and Apeksha Harsh from Pomegranate
- **Monday 9** with Phomolo Sekamotho (Hear My Voice) and Thando Fuze
- **Tuesday 10** with DOBBY and Barkaa
- **Wednesday 11** with Daiane Moret
- **Thursday 12** with Joshua Ip and Charlene Sheperdson of Sing Lit Station
- **Friday 13** with Arielle Cottingham and Hollie McNish
- **Saturday 14** with Hani Abdile

### Tickets

Book your All Access Pass at [www.wordtravels.info](http://www.wordtravels.info)

### Time zones

All listings are in Sydney time zone (AEDT). Morning and afternoon sessions fit North and South America times. Evening and night sessions fit Africa, Asia and Europe times.

### My Latest Epiphany

*My Latest Epiphany* is a collaboration with the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Write Bloody North and Edmonton Poetry Festival. Lunchtime talks and performances with a mix of musos, poets, and producers who share samples of their newest *a-ha!* moments, cracking open sealed pages and hitting play on their musings. Featuring a selection of fine Canadian and U.S. artists.

Supported by the Consulate General of Canada in Sydney

**Each day's unique line-up in the *My Latest Epiphany*, hosted by Emily Crocker and Miles Merrill, series takes place from 12.30 – 1.30pm on November:**

- **Monday 9** with Brandon Wint and Lucia Misch
- **Tuesday 10** with Jillian Christmas and J. F. Seary
- **Wednesday 11** with Nisha Patel and Darian Dauchan
- **Thursday 12** with reg e gains and Ian Keteku
- **Friday 13** with Silla + Rise and Ruby Singh



# Opening Night House Party!

PERFORMANCE • CONVERSATION

**Friday, November 6**

**6 – 7 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Welcome to your Living Zoom. Take a seat on the lounge with a cuppa. Imagine those moments when your mate said, 'I'll go order the pizzas. Shall we get another round?' You down your meal and hustle along the harbour. Pick up your tix at box office. Seated. Lights down. Curtain up. Spotlight. Mic. Show.

Featuring a selection of Story Week artists, staff, partners and friends in a roulette of conversation and performances.

**Platform: Zoom**



WORKSHOP • EDUCATION

## Spoken word for a living

Saturday, November 7

12:30 – 1:30pm

(Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Join Executive Director of the Nuyorican Poet's Cafe, Daniel Gallant for a discussion about how to market, fund and promote spoken word and literary programming.

Webinar with Q&A

**Hosted by** Miles Merrill

**Featuring** Daniel Gallant, Executive Director of the Nuyorican Poet's Cafe



PERFORMANCE • CONVERSATION

## Aloud with Zohab Zee Khan

Saturday, November 7

7 – 7:30 pm (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Live from London and Australia with Zohab Zee Khan and Hani Abdile – boom cha!

Zohab Zee Khan performs and chats with Hani Abdile about where he comes from (Wagga), where he is (London) and where he's going...

**Hosted by** Hani Abdile

**Featuring** Zohab Zee Khan



Book tickets: [www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow](http://www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow)

## POETRY SLAM

# Sydney Poetry Slam Final

**Saturday, November 7**

**8 – 10 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

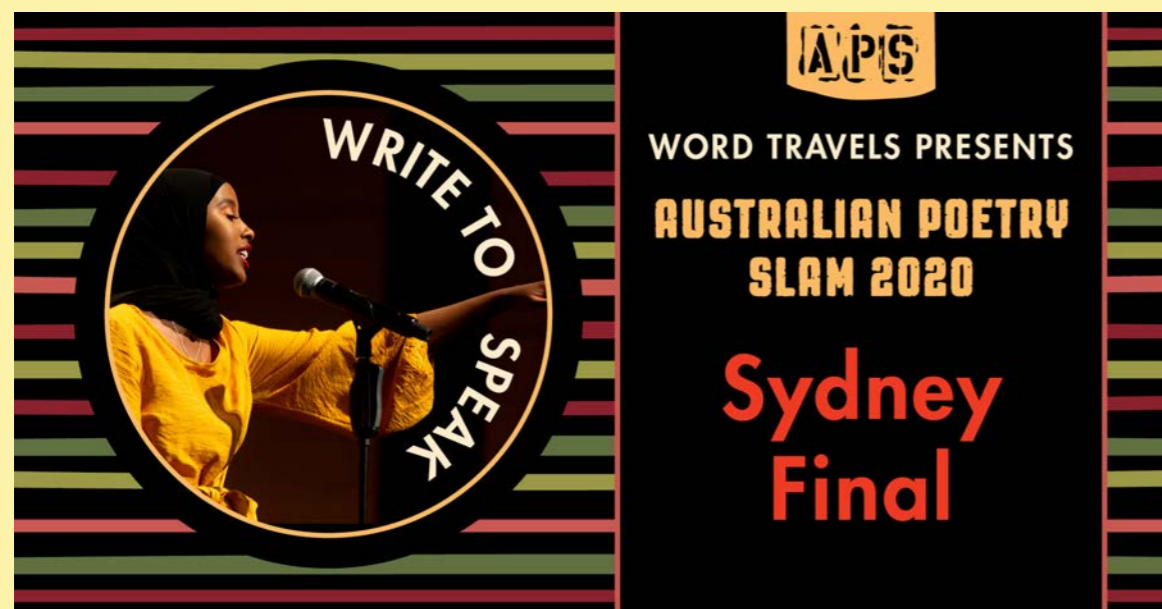
Sydney's best slam stars duke it out in this Zoom-tacular finale. Poets from Katoomba to Randwick, Mount Druitt to Double Bay, CBD to Northern Beaches and several stops in between compete for two spots to represent Sydney at the NSW State Final.

**Hosted by** Mel Ree

**Featuring** Pola Fanous

**Sacrificial Poet** Miles Merrill

**Music** Trevor Brown



## PERFORMANCE

# Word for Word

**Sunday, November 8**

**12 – 1:30 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Edmonton, Canada is deadly cold in winter. Like most places with crap weather (Melbourne) they breed a rich indoor culture. Their spoken word and literary scene is vibrant, diverse and perfect for an indoor arts community. Annually the Edmonton Poetry Festival (EPF) rocks all kinds of local and greater Turtle Island poets, like Ruby Singh from Vancouver plus a slew of international names.

Now EPF travels South searching for wordsmiths to match verses with. Three award-winning Australian writers meet the Edmontonians with multiple rounds of poetry slinging on a cloud stage over Sydney.

**Hosted by** Nisha Patel



**Featuring** Ruby Singh, Cobra Collins, Andi Stewart, Eunice Andrada and Andrew Cox



**Book tickets:** [www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow](http://www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow)

CONVERSATION • PERFORMANCE

## Aloud with Pomegranate

**Sunday, November 8, 2020**

**7 – 7:30 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Live from Mumbai and London Pomegranate's Priya Srinivasan and Apeksha Harsh speak with Zohab Khan – boom cha!

Priya Srinivasan directs The Pomegranate Workshop. This dynamic and inspiring company runs creative education programs with schools and youth centres throughout Mumbai.

**Hosted by** Zohab Khan

**Featuring** Priya Srinivasan & Apeksha Harsh of Pomegranate

**Free on Instagram Live**



CONVERSATION • PERFORMANCE

## Wordsmith Podcast Launch

**Sunday, November 8, 2020**

**8 – 9 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Join us for the launch of WORDSMITH the poetry podcast. Listen to and learn from an eclectic mix of Australian and international poets as they reveal what's behind their words. From how poetry played out in childhood to what time of day divine intervention visits. WORDSMITH delves deep into the lives of poets.

This free event will be live-streamed via @wordsmithpoetrypodcast on Facebook – and if you'd like to join in the Zoom room and really be part of the fun, contact the team by email (hurry, limited places apply!).

**Featuring** Miriam Hechtman and Kelly Van Nelson.

**Guest poets include:** Analysis (USA), Ali Whitelock (AUS), Thabani Tshuma (AUS), Scott-Patrick Mitchell (AUS), Juan Garrido-Salgado (AUS), Jeff Cottrill (CAN), Elizabeth McGeown (Northern Ireland), Special K (USA) and more.

Poets will be performing their poems on the night.

**Free on Facebook Live**



**Book tickets:** [www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow](http://www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow)



CONVERSATION • PERFORMANCE

## **My Latest Epiphany** **Brandon Wint + Lucia Misch**

**Monday, November 9**

**12:30 – 1:30 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Canada showtime meets Australian lunchtime on the first live episode of *My Latest Epiphany*, we meet Brandon Wint and Lucia Misch – two Canadian spoken word poets on the cusp of publishing their first books with Write Bloody North.

**Hosted by** Emily Crocker

**Featuring** Brandon Wint + Lucia Misch



CONVERSATION • PERFORMANCE

## **Aloud with** **Hear My Voice**

**Monday, November 9**

**7 – 7:30 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Live! Meet members of Hear My Voice, the South African spoken word organisation. They give us insight into what it's like on the ground for young black poets in Tshwane.

Live from South Africa and London with Phomolo Sekamotho from Hear My Voice, Thando Fuze and Zohab Zee Khan.

**Hosted by** Zohab Zee Khan

**Featuring** Phomolo Sekamotho (Hear My Voice) and Thando Fuze



**Book tickets:** [www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow](http://www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow)

CONVERSATION • PERFORMANCE

## My Latest Epiphany Jillian Christmas + J.F. Seary

**Tuesday, November 10**

**12:30 – 1:30 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Showtime in New York and Canada meets Australian lunchtime – one of Canada’s most remarkable poets Jillian Christmas and Nuyorican Poetry star J.F. Seary chat with Emily Crocker about where their craft comes from.

**Hosted by** Emily Crocker

**Featuring** Jillian Christmas and J. F. Seary



## Tickets

**Book your All Access Pass, or to view free events, visit :**

**[www.wordtravels.info/story-week2020](http://www.wordtravels.info/story-week2020)**

CONVERSATION • PERFORMANCE

## **Aloud with** **Dobby + Barkaa**

**Tuesday, November 10**

**7 – 7:30 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

'*I Can't Breathe* is a song that Australia needs to hear. It's a direct reflection of our country's disregard for the health of our indigenous people.' Watch this powerful music clip then hear DOBBY and Barkaa unpack their heads for Hani Abdile.

**Hosted by** Hani Abdile

**Featuring** DOBBY and Barkaa

**Free on Instagram Live**



FILM + PHOTO

## **First Person View:** **Concepts of Country**

**Screening with Q & A**

**Tuesday, November 10**

**8 – 8:45 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

*Concepts of Country* is a collection of 5 x one-minute videos made in the Kimberley region of Western Australia to explain the meaning of words that are vital to living with Country; words that when translated into English lose their value and meaning.

The words share the value of relationships, and how these connections can provide a framework for identity, well-being and sustainability.

**Hosted by** Cornel Ozies

**Featuring** *Concepts of Country* director, Marlikka Perdrisat



**Book tickets:** [www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow](http://www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow)

CONVERSATION • PERFORMANCE

## **My Latest Epiphany** **Nisha Patel + Darian Dauchan**

**Wednesday, November 11**

**12:3 – 1:30 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Live from New York and Edmonton - A Beatboxing Loopstation Vice Champion and a Canadian Poetry Slam Champion unveil their newest stuff. Electric and wild.

*My Latest Epiphany* is a collaboration with the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Write Bloody North and Edmonton Poetry Festival to create lunchtime talks and performances with a mix of musos, poets, and producers who share samples of their newest - Aha! moments. Cracking open sealed pages and hitting play on their musings. Featuring a selection of fine Canadian and U.S. artists.

**Hosted by** Emily Crocker

**Featuring** Nisha Patel and Darian Dauchan



CONVERSATION • PERFORMANCE

## **Aloud with** **Daiane Moret**

**Wednesday, November 11**

**7 – 7:30 pm**

(Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Having spent most of 2020 in her Brazilian hometown, Daiane Silva Moret brings new poems that expose difficult topics, not losing focus that the personal is the political. Her aim is to bridge the gap between Latin America and Australia with her art.

Boom cha! Broadcasting live conversations, performances and non-print literary shouts every night. Straight up awesome shows streamed. Grab a drink from the home bar. Settle in for a 30 minute blast. Featuring artists from Oz, Asia, Africa and the Euro-side of the globe.

**Hosted by** Hani Abdile

**Featuring** Daiane Moret

**Free on Instagram Live**



**Book tickets:** [www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow](http://www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow)

POETRY SLAM

# NSW Poetry Slam Final

Wednesday, November 11

8 – 10 pm (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Join the best spoken wordsmiths from across NSW as they lay their stories on the line. From Murwillumbah to Albury, Bathurst to Wollongong, Coffs Harbour to the Hunter, these storytellers tell it all for the chance to go on to the APS 2020 National Final.

**Hosted by** Zohab Zee Khan

**Sacrificial** Poet Erica Hacker

**Featuring** Thando Fuze



PERFORMANCE •  
CONVERSATION • WORKSHOP

# Habla

Thursday, November 12

10 am – 12 pm

(Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Primary kids get all multilingual; sharing poetry in languages other than English through workshops, performances and conversation.

**Hosted by** Eunice Andrada and Andrew Cox

**Free registration for schools**



Book tickets: [www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow](http://www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow)

PERFORMANCE • CONVERSATION

## My Latest Epiphany reg e gaines + Ian Keteku

Thursday, November 12

12:30 – 1:30 pm (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Live from New York and Toronto - reg e gaines legend of New York's poetry slam community. From his Def Jam appearances to his hit broad way shows, reg is an artist you must experience. Followed by Ian Keteku World Poetry Slam Champion from Toronto.

**Hosted by** Miles Merrill

**Featuring** reg e gaines  
and Ian Keteku



PERFORMANCE • CONVERSATION

## Aloud with Joshua Ip + Charlene Shepherdson, of Sing Lit Station

Thursday, November 12

7 – 7:30 pm (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Live from Singapore and London with Joshua Ip, Charlene Shepherdson and Zohab Zee Khan.

In the heart of Singapore lives a bustling literary arts organisation, Sing Lit Station, they've been making great waves in the writing and reading community since 2016.

**Hosted by** Zohab Zee Khan

**Featuring** Joshua Ip and Charlene Sheperdson  
of Sing Lit Station



SING LIT  
STATION

Book tickets: [www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow](http://www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow)

FILM + PHOTO

# First Person View: Footprints

Screening with Q&A

Thursday, November 12

7 – 8 pm (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

It's 2014 and a group of young Aboriginal men from a tribe on the verge of losing their songlines have just discovered that a law boss from a neighbouring tribe knows some of their cultural songs and dances. They have not been performed for more than 50 years and it was thought they had been lost forever. The songs and dances were given to the men's tribe, the Djugun tribe, by their creator during the Buguragarri (the Dreamtime).

**Hosted by** Miles Merrill

**Featuring** Q&A with *Footprints* and *Our Law* Director Cornel Ozies



PERFORMANCE

# Word Travels Round the World

Thursday, November 12

8 – 9:30 pm

(Time zone AEDT, Australia)

We can't travel true. What can we do? A big showcase where wordy wild things spit and gyrate across lands near and far. Using that COVID bonus, streams have no borders. Tune in for a heady melange of UK/Asian/African artists.

**Hosted by** Duckie L'Orange

**Featuring** Busisiwe Mahlangu, Hollie McNish, Joshua Ip (Sing Lit Station), Tshepo Molefe and Hope Masike



Book tickets: [www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow](http://www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow)

POETRY SLAM • WORKSHOP

## APS Youth

Friday, November 13

10 am – 2 pm (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

High school students dive into the deep end of spoken word getting a 4 hour immersion in the art-form that includes watching great poets perform, learning to do it and jumping on the mic in a mini-slam. Includes social break times.

**Featuring** Jillian Christmas, Narcisa Nozica, and Andi Stewart

**Free registration for schools.**



APS YOUTH



PERFORMANCE • CONVERSATION

## My Latest Epiphany Ruby Singh + Silla And Rise



Friday, November 13

12:30 – 1:30 pm (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Live from Vancouver and Ottawa – Silla and Rise blend traditional aspects of Inuit throat singing and futuristic dance floor beats. Ruby Singh's creativity crosses the boundaries of music, poetry, visual art, photography and film.

**Hosted by** Miles Merrill

**Featuring** Silla + Rise and Ruby Singh



Book tickets: [www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow](http://www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow)



PERFORMANCE • CONVERSATION

## **Aloud with** **Friday night double bill with** **Arielle Cottingham + Hollie McNish**

**Friday, November 13**

**7 – 8 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Live from Berlin, the UK and Australia with Arielle Cottingham, Hollie McNish and Hani Abdile for this one hour long Friday night double bill edition of *Aloud*.

**7 – 7.30 pm** In 2016, Australian Poetry Slam had its first international winner. Texas-born Afro-Latinx performance artist, dancer, and Pushcart-nominated poet Arielle Cottingham. They are now based in Berlin, making new creative explosions.

**7.30 – 8 pm** Winner of the Ted Hughes Prize for New Work in Poetry, Hollie McNish, joins us from the UK for part two of the *Aloud* Friday night special.

**Hosted by** Hani Abdile

**Featuring** Arielle Cottingham and Hollie McNish

**Free on Instagram Live**

**Book tickets:** [www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow](http://www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow)



PERFORMANCE

## **Answer Story**

**Friday, November 13**

**7 – 8 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)



**This event takes place live at The Red Rattler Theatre (6 Faversham St, Marrickville) as well as being streamed as part of the Story Week program – both ticket types are available below.**

Answers tore me / ancestry / answers or me / ANSWERSTORY

Papua New Guinean Australian poet Mel Ree presents her latest body of work / birthed on Wodi Wodi and Yuin country / speaking in diasporic tongue / honouring the struggle and strength of the POC experience.

Joining her to enlighten truth / family / community / Hip Hop royalty Kween G Activist / poet / leader / Auntie Lizzy Jarrett / Vogue House Kiki House of Silky join forces for the first time / a blend of artistic disciplines / radical in their own right / a call to arms / rise up community / bring your ears / voices / hearts / activate the activism.

Answer Story proceeds will go towards BUS FOR BLACK FAMILIES an important movement to raise funds to transport first nations families and those directly effected by Black Deaths in Custody.

**Featuring** Kween G, Mel Ree, Auntie Lizzy Jarrett and Kiki House of Silky

CONVERSATION • PERFORMANCE

## First Person Voice

**Saturday, November 14**

**11 am – 12:30 pm**

(Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Indigenous artists from the colonised lands Australia and Canada throw their words and songs into the stream with their own micro shows highlighting their flow and their powerful messages. Then they participate in a Q&A with host DOBBY.

**Hosted by** DOBBY

**Featuring** DOBBY, Barkaa, Cobra Collins, Auntie Lizzy Jarrett and K'alii Luuyaltkw



**Book tickets:** [www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow](http://www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow)

**WORD**  
travels 

**10<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**Party & Auction**

**Saturday, November 14**

**11 am – 12:30 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

On the last day of Story Week, we invite you to join us in celebrating 10 years of paving the way for poetry and spoken performance in Australia. Grab a drink and some (virtual or otherwise) friends for an afternoon of celebration, conversation, and silent auction.

What's up for grabs at the auction? Well, we will be releasing more prizes in the weeks to come, but for now we will leave you with details of yoga classes, gorgeous retreats and holidays, tours, paintings, and bespoke poems...you can even get legal advice from a Word Travels board member. For now, the rest are a sur-prize!

We couldn't celebrate spoken word in Australia without your support and the support of audiences around the world.

We look forward to sharing our birthday with you! Just purchase our all-access \$100 ticket for an invite!

**Featuring** Miles Merrill, Hani Abdile and Jesse Oliver

PERFORMANCE • CONVERSATION

## Aloud with Hani Abdile

**Saturday, November 14**

**7 – 7:30 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Hani Abdile travelled from Somalia to Australia by land, sea and Christmas Island detention. Through this journey she found herself writing poetry then entering the Sydney spoken word community with wow performances.

**Hosted by** Zohab Zee Khan

**Featuring** Hani Abdile

**Free on Instagram Live**



**Book tickets:**

**[www.wordtravels.info/  
storyweek2020-booknow](http://www.wordtravels.info/storyweek2020-booknow)**



## POETRY SLAM

# Australian Poetry Slam National Final

**Saturday, November 14**

**8—10 pm** (Time zone AEDT, Australia)

Eight states, sixteen poets, but only one will be named the 2020 Australian Poetry Slam Champion. Join us as we stream the nation's biggest and best slam event to an international audience and witness which incredible word-wielder takes out this year's crown.

**Hosted by** Miles Merrill

**Featuring** Hope Masike

**Sacrificial** Poet Elliot York Cameron

**Music by** the SICK Orchestra

(Sydney Improvisers Composers Kollektiv Orchestra)



## AUSTRALIAN POETRY SLAM

# National Finalists

### SYDNEY APS FINALISTS

Andrew Kennedy

Daiane Moret

Eleanor Hall

Elizabeth Whitehead

Janice Fereti

Jing Gandy

Marie McMillan

Melodie Grafton

Mohammad Awad

Munira Tabassum Ahmed

Oscar Newsome

Page Sinclair

Peter Hines

Sara Crane

Tina Huang

### NSW APS FINALISTS

Damien Becker

Jason John

Joanna Savage Coleman

Joshua Cowell

Lekhika Bhadu

Matthew A.J. Anderson

Miranda Clark

Olivia Wolfe

Oscar Newsome

Rebecca Rushbrook

Rob Waters

Rudi Astarot

Sophie Parente

Tina Huang

Tiph Harris

Xanthe Levi Littlemore

Zacharey Jane

### NATIONAL APS FINALISTS

Tamati Atea (ACT)

Audrey McCormick (ACT)

Lekhika Bhadu (NSW)

Rob Waters (NSW)

Kirra Voller (NT)

Cyra Sebastian (NT)

Huda Fadlemawla (QLD)

Devika Krishnan (QLD)

Jill Wherry (SA)

Chris Jaksa (SA)

Brittany Cook (TAS)

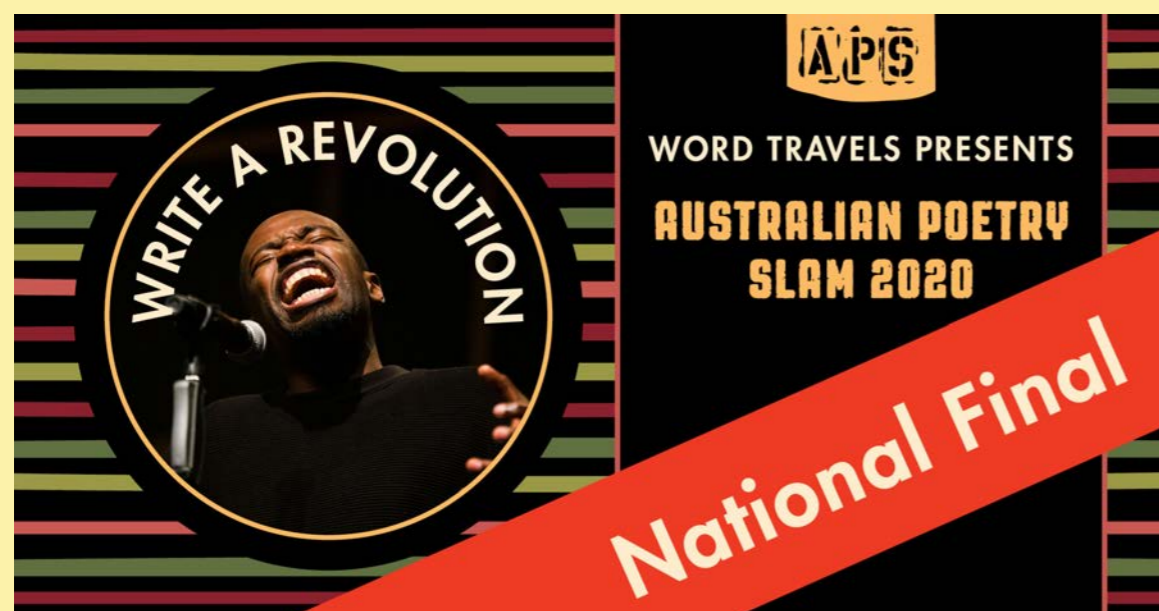
Rohan King (TAS)

Andi Stewart (VIC)

Ren Alessandra (VIC)

Danny Love (WA)

Moonchi (WA)



APPS AUSTRALIAN POETRY SLAM

## Story Week Featured Artists

### ANDI STEWART

#### Melbourne

Andi is a performance poet living in Melbourne after being a fixture in the Hobart poetry scene. His work is a conglomeration of rap, hip hop, rhythm, and classical poetry, focussing on themes of queer Christianity, LGBTQ issues, and privilege. He represented Tasmania at the APS National Final in 2017-2019.

Featured in *Word for Word* and *APS Youth*



### ANDREW COX

#### Canberra

Andrew is a Filipino/Australian educator and performer who has featured at festivals competitions Australia-wide. In 2018, he released *The Space Between the Words*, his first collection of poetry. He has performed at Art Gallery of NSW, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney Town Hall, ICC and Parliament House Canberra.

Featured in *Word for Word* and *Habla*



## APEKSHA HARSH

### Mumbai

With an MA in Writing from the University of Warwick, Apeksha has worked with the Warwick Writing Programme for Schools, Writing West Midlands, and has written libretto for an opera. Her poetry and prose has appeared in NITRB, Under the Radar, Ambit, Fusion, Here Comes Everyone and Eunoia Review.

Featured in ***Aloud w/ Pomegranate***



## ARIELLE COTTINGHAM

### Berlin

Texas-born Afro-Latinx performance artist, dancer, and Pushcart-nominated poet Arielle is an internationally touring whirlwind. With a theatre degree and an Australian Poetry Slam Championship under their belt, they merge elements of dance and physical theater with written poetry to create multidisciplinary short works they have toured across continents.

Featured in ***Aloud Friday Night Double Bill w/ Arielle Cottingham + Hollie McNish***



## AUNTY LIZZY JARRETT

### Dunghutti, Bundjalung

Aunty Lizzy Jarrett is a proud Dunghutti, Gumbaynggirr, Bundjalung warrior woman, poet, educator, activist fighting on the frontline for JUSTICE for all.

Featured in ***Answer Story*** and ***First Person Voice***



## BARKAA

### Sydney

Barkaa is a Malyangapa, Barkindji woman from Western NSW, now living on Gandangara land. She released her debut single this year “For My Tittas” and made waves within her community with the “Pass The Ochre” challenge. Her most recent collaboration with DOBBY “I CAN’T BREATHE” highlighted Black Deaths In Custody.

Featured in ***Aloud w/ DOBBY*** and ***Barkaa and First Person Voice***



## BRANDON WINT

### Ontario

Brandon is an Ontario-born poet and spoken word artist. His work casts a tender but robust attention toward the movements and impacts of colonial, capitalist logic, and how they might be undone. In this way, Brandon is devoted to a poetics of world making, world altering and world breaking.

Featured in ***My Latest Epiphany w/ Brandon Wint + Lucia Misch***



## BUSISIWE MAHLANGU

### Edmonton

Busisiwe is a poet from South Africa. Her debut collection 'Surviving Loss' has been adapted and produced for the South African State Theatre. Mahlangu has toured her work internationally including Washington DC, Sweden, Lesotho, Mozambique and Nigeria. Busisiwe is currently studying Creative Writing at the University of South Africa.

Featured in ***Word Travels Round the World***





## CHARLENE SHEPHERDSON

### Singapore

Charlene is a poet and community organiser focused on language in written, performative and visual forms. She is interested in heritage, technology and creative education. She is the Station Control of Sing Lit Station, an arts charity developing the literary arts through community building, writer development and technology.

Featured in *Aloud w/ Joshua Ip + Charlene Shepherdson*



## COBRA COLLINS

### Edmonton

Cobra is a Métis poet and spoken word artist based in Mohkinstsis (Calgary). She has been published in “Drifting Like a Metaphor” and was nominated for The Alberta Magazine Award for best ‘Featured Writing, Short’ in 2019. Cobra was shortlisted as a nominee for Calgary’s 2016 & 2018 poet laureate.

Featured in *Word for Word* and *First Person Voice*



## CORNEL OZIES

### Dugun, Yawuru

Cornel is a Dugun, Yawuru, Gooniyandi and Jabirr Jabirr man from the Kimberley region of WA and the director of Our Law. He has worked on productions for NITV, SBS and the ABC. He is currently a senior videographer and learning media specialist at the University of Sydney.

Featured in ***Concepts of Country - Screening with Q&A*** and ***Songlines on Screen - Footprints Screening with Q&A***



## DAIANE MORET

### Sydney

Dai is a Brazilian woman living in Gadigal Land since 2010. Her art navigates personal experiences whilst deconstructing given identities, embracing elements of the Brazilian culture and retelling narratives. She has performed at Sydney Writers' Festival, Vivid, Melbourne Spoken Word Festival, Poetica and Sydney International Women's Jazz Festival.

Featured in ***Aloud w/Daiane Moret***



## DANIEL GALLANT

### New York

Daniel is the Executive Director of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe. His writing has appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Time Out, New York Post, Daily News, Applause Books and Vintage Books and elsewhere. He is the recipient of fellowships from Eisenhower Fellowship and National Arts Strategies and the Devos Institute.

Featured in ***Spoken Word for a Living***



## DARIAN DAUCHAN

### New York

Darian is the 2016 Loop Station Vice Champion of the American Beatbox Championships and a 2019 Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship finalist. He recently completed The Brobot Johnson Project. The New Adventures of Brobot Johnson won awards at 2017 LA Web Festival, 2017 Escape Velocity Festival and 2018 Independent Television Festival.

Featured in ***My Latest Epiphany w/ Nisha Patel + Darian Dauchan***



## DOBBY

### Sydney

DOBBY is a rapper, drummer, speaker and workshop facilitator. A Filipino and Aboriginal musician, his family is from Brewarrina on Ngemba land, and is a member of the Murrawarri Republic in Weilmoringle, NSW. He is a skilled music composer, and is the 2017 recipient for the bi-annual Peter Sculthorpe Fellowship.

Featured in ***Aloud w/ DOBBY*** and ***Barkaa and First Person Voice***



## DUCKIE L'ORANGE

### Berlin

Duckie L'Orange is a performance artist with a twist. She's performed at Sydney Opera House, Sydney Festival, touring Deutschland with the Berlin Puppetry Slam, telling stories at the Au Chat Noir in Paris or cheeky fun with BIZARRE Bushwick in NYC.

Duckie's skills span from puppetry, children's entertainment, burlesque, mc-ing, producing and visual arts. She likes to produce interesting events, such as the hugely successful Sydney Fringe Festival Mystery Bus, spoken word events for Word Travels, and arts activities at Skyvillage Festival. She also ran Umbrella Theatre Company with a bunch of other puppetry babes.



Featured in ***Word Travels Round the World***

## EMILY CROCKER

### Sydney

Emily is a performing poet who grew up in Western Sydney and came of age in Wollongong's spoken word scene. Her debut chapbook *Girls and Buoyant* was released by Subbed In in 2017. Other poems can be found in *Solid Air* (UQP, 2019), *Cordite*, *Verity La*, *Southerly*, and *Baby Teeth*.

Featured in *My Latest Epiphany w/ Brandon Wint + Lucia Misch*, *My Latest Epiphany w/ Jillian Christmas + J. F. Seary*, and *My Latest Epiphany w/ Nisha Patel + Darian Dauchan*



## EUNICE ANDRADA

### Sydney

Eunice is a Filipina poet and educator. Her poetry collection *Flood Damages* (2018) won the Anne Elder Award and was a finalist for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Poetry (2019) and the Dame Mary Gilmore Award (2019). She currently lives and writes on unceded Gadigal Land.

Featured in *Word for Word* and *Habla*



## HANI ABDILE

### Sydney

Hani is a spoken word poet based in Gadigal land of the Eora Nation, Sydney. Her first book, 'I will rise', was published in 2016. Hani is an honorary member of PEN International, a lead member of Writing Through Fences, and an Ambassador for the Refugee Advice and Casework Service.

Featured in ***Aloud w/ Zohab Zee Khan, Aloud w/ DOBBY and Barkaa, Aloud w/ Daiane Moret, Aloud Friday Night Double Bill w/ Arielle Cottingham + Hollie McNish, Aloud w/ Hani Abdile*** and ***Word Travels 10th Birthday Celebration***



## HEAR MY VOICE

### Tshwane

Hear My Voice is a non-profit organization based in Tshwane, South Africa. Their focus is developing young spoken word artists and creating platforms for youth to express themselves through spoken word poetry. They organise local and international exchange programs, workshops, live spoken word shows, open mics and other literature programs.

Featured in ***Aloud w/ Hear My Voice***



## HOLLIE McNISH

**Cambridge + Glasgow**

Hollie is a UK writer who has published three collections of poetry, a play, and one poetic memoir, *Nobody Told Me*, which won the Ted Hughes Prize for New Work in Poetry. Her forthcoming title, *Slug: and other things I've been told to hate*, will be released in May 2021.

Featured in ***Word Travels Round the World*** and ***Aloud Friday Night Double Bill w/ Arielle Cottingham + Hollie McNish***



## HOPE MASIKE

**Zimbabwe**

Hope emerged on the Zimbabwean music scene last decade. Inspired by the Zimbabwean traditional music of Mbira, her music is a hybrid of many music styles tied together by her signature sublime Mbira playing, poetic song-writing and highly-charged performances. In February 2020, Hope self-published her first book, *Ask Me Again*.

Featured in ***Word Travels Round the World*** and ***Australian Poetry Slam - National Final***



## IAN KETEKU

### Toronto

Ian's is an internationally-acclaimed spoken word poet, national slam champion and 2010 World Poetry Slam champion. Ian's work is influenced by his upbringing and journeys throughout Africa. He teaches creative writing and community activism at OCAD University in Toronto. His debut book, *Black Abacus*, is published by Write Bloody North.

Featured in *My Latest Epiphany w/ reg e gaines + Ian Keteku*



## JESSE OLIVER

### Perth

Jesse is a Perth poet who has appeared on national platforms including National Young Writers Festival, Emerging Writers Festival and Digital Writers Festival. In 2018, Jesse launched Rap/Poetry show *Star-Crossed Poetry* at Perth Fringe World, and joined the Spoken Word Perth team. Jesse is the 2017 APS Champion – Adult.

Featured in *Word Travels 10th Birthday Celebration*





## J. F. SEARY

**New York**

J. F. Seary has performed at Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Bowery Poetry Club, and Le Poisson Rouge in NYC, and in London, Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Juan, Grand Rapids, and Orlando. She is working on *Necromancer* (pilot), and she is a co-creator/co-writer for the web-series *The New York Effect*.

Featured in ***My Latest Epiphany***  
w/ ***Jillian Christmas + J. F. Seary***



## JILLIAN CHRISTMAS

**Vancouver**

Jillian is a queer, afro-caribbean writer living on the unceded territories of the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam people (Vancouver, BC.). She has won numerous Grand Poetry-Slam Championship titles and represented both Toronto and Vancouver at 11 national poetry events. Jillian's first book, "The Gospel of Breaking" was published in 2020.

Featured in ***My Latest Epiphany***  
w/ ***Jillian Christmas + J. F. Seary***  
and ***APS Youth***



## JOSHUA IP

### Singapore

Joshua is a Singaporean poet who has published four collections with Math Paper Press, won the Singapore Literature Prize for his debut, sonnets from the singlish, and placed in three categories of the Golden Point Award. He received the Young Artist Award from the National Arts Council (Singapore) in 2017.

Featured in ***Aloud w/ Joshua Ip + Charlene Shepherdson*** and ***Word Travels Round the World***



## K'ALII LUUYALTKW

### Nass Valley, Canada

K'alii Luuyaltkw is an Indigenous poet from the Nisga'a Nation located in the beautiful, mist-covered mountains of the Nass Valley region of British Columbia, Canada. K'alii considers her poetic practice as a means for healing and bringing people together. Exploring Indigenous identity and intergenerational trauma are central to her work.

Featured in ***First Person Voice***



## KELLY VAN NELSON

### Sydney

Kelly Van Nelson is the #1 bestselling author of *Graffiti Lane* and *Punch and Judy* poetry collections. She is a KSP First Edition Fellowship recipient and AusMumpreneur 'Big Idea Changing the World', Roar Success Best Book and Most Powerful Influencer Award winner. She is represented by The Newman Agency.

Featured in **WORDSMITH the Poetry Podcast – Launch**



## KIKI HOUSE OF SILKY

### Sydney

Kiki House of Silky is a collective body of Sydney based QTPOC artists. Silky combines a diverse blend of cultures performing together to pay homage to both their ancestry and the iconic legends past and present of the ballroom scene.

Featured in **Answer Story**



## KWEEN G

### Sydney

Hip Hop artist and cultural leader renowned for provocative, unflinching and authentic hip hop content, Kween G is a strong advocate for inclusion, social justice, human rights and women's representation within the music industry. She currently sits on the advisory panel of the Australian Women in Music Awards.

Featured in ***Answer Story***



## LUCIA MISCH

### Vancouver

Lucia is a writer, performer and facilitator from the Bay Area. Her work has published in Arc Magazine, The Post Feminist Post, and Room, and her first collection, *The Problem With Solitaire*, was released by Write Bloody North in 2020. She lives on unceded Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh territory, Vancouver.

Featured in ***My Latest Epiphany***  
w/ ***Brandon Wint + Lucia Misch***



## MARLIKKA PERDRISAT

### Nyikina Warrwa

Marlikka is a Nyikina Warrwa and Wangkumara Barkindji woman and the director of *Concepts of Country*. She is a digital storyteller focusing on documentary, as writer, producer, director and editor. She attained her Bachelor of Commerce, completing her Juris Doctor in Law, and will start her Postgraduate Doctorate in 2021.

Featured in ***Concepts of Country***  
– ***Screening with Q&A***



## MEL REE

### Sydney

Mel is part of the Sydney performance art community, featuring at Bankstown Poetry Slam, Enough Said Poetry Slam, Slamboree, That Poetry Thing, Sydney Writers' Festival as well as hosting and producing *Word In Hand*. Mel has performed at Melbourne Fringe Festival, Sydney Fringe, Bondi Feast and Batch at Griffin Theatre.

Featured in ***Sydney Poetry Slam Final***  
and ***Answer Story***



## MIRIAM HECHTMAN

### Sydney

Miriam is an Australian writer, producer and poet. She is the founder and creative director of POETICA, a community initiative and monthly live poetry and music event. She writes poetry under the Instagram handle @\_fourlines\_ and has been commissioned to write and perform her poetry for several organizations.

Featured in **WORDSMITH the Poetry Podcast – Launch**



## NARCISA NOZICA

### Sydney

Narcisa is an English teacher with over eleven years' experience. In 2016, she won a NSW Premier's English Teachers Association Scholarship to study how spoken word poetry can be used in schools. She has written articles in the ETA journal mETaphor and presented at an ETA conference on spoken word.

Featured in **APS Youth**



## NISHA PATEL

### Edmonton

Nisha is an award-winning queer poet & artist. She is the City of Edmonton's Poet Laureate, the 2019 Canadian Individual Slam Champion and a recipient of the Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund Award. She is the Executive Director of the Edmonton Poetry Festival. Her debut collection COCONUT is forthcoming with Newest Press.

Featured in *My Latest Epiphany w/ Nisha Patel + Darian Dauchan* and *Word for Word*



## NUYORICAN POETS CAFE

### New York

Since 1973, the Nuyorican Poets Cafe has served as home for groundbreaking works of poetry, spoken word, music, theater and visual arts. A multicultural, multi-arts institution, the Cafe champions artists existing outside the mainstream, promoting the use of spoken word to empower artists of color, immigrant artists and LGBTQIA+ artists.

Featured in *Spoken Word for a Living*



## PHOMOLO SEKAMOTHO

### South Africa

Phomolo (aka. Flex of He & I) is a South African artist incorporating spoken word into live music. In 2012 he headlined the House of Hunger Poetry Slam in Zimbabwe. In 2015 he facilitated workshops in schools across Washington DC. Flex is currently working on a live “poetry in music” album.

Featured in ***Aloud w/ Hear My Voice***



## POLA FANOUS

### Sydney

Pola is a spoken word poet, rap artist, educator, and activist from Western Sydney. An Egyptian-born immigrant, at age 22 he is a well-loved member of Sydney’s Spoken Word scene and has featured at the Parramatta, Granville, and Bankstown Poetry Slams, as well as at schools, rallies, and conferences state-wide.

Featured in ***Sydney Poetry Slam Final***





## THE POMEGRANATE WORKSHOP

### Mumbai

The Pomegranate Workshop is a Mumbai-based arts education organization whose student films have been screened at over 15 International film festivals and have won awards the world over. Pomegranate's theatre and music productions have been hosted at the National Center for the Performing Arts and the Royal Opera House, Mumbai.

Featured in ***Aloud w/ Pomegranate***



## PRIYA SRINIVASAN

### Mumbai

Originally a Journalist with over a decade of experience, Priya was afflicted with the idea that the inherent potential of children is best tapped by marrying creative expression and learning processes; that children need a space where they can let loose their imagination with all its absurdities and twisted wackiness.

Featured in ***Aloud w/ Pomegranate***



## reg e gaines

### New York

reg is author/lyricist of the Tony Award winning musical, *Bring In Da Noise/ Bring In Da Funk*, and is the artistic director of the Downtown Urban Theater Festival in New York. Most recently, reg directed *Through The Looking Glass* for Center Theatre Group's, and Rock WILK's *Brooklyn Quartet*.

Featured in ***My Latest Epiphany w/ reg e gaines + Ian Keteku***



## RUBY SINGH

### Vancouver

Ruby was born in the Crow's Nest Pass and now calls the lands of the Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh and Tsleil-Waututh home (Vancouver BC). As a composer and sound designer he has worked with theatre and dance companies across Canada, and created scores for the National Film Board and other independent films.

Featured in ***Word for Word*** and ***My Latest Epiphany w/ Ruby Singh + Silla and Rise***



## SYDNEY IMPROVISERS COMPOSERS KOLLEKTIV ORCHESTRA

### Sydney

The Sydney Improvisers Composers Kollektiv (SICK) Orchestra is Australia's foremost conducted improvisation ensemble. Members of the ensemble have performed in SSO, ACO, Synergy, Ensemble Offspring, Australian Opera, The Song Company, The Mothership Orchestra, as well as festival headlining acts as well as experimental and improvisational scenes in Australia and abroad.

Featured in ***Australian Poetry Slam – National Final***



## SILLA AND RISE

### Ottawa

Silla and Rise blend traditional aspects of Inuit throat singing and futuristic dance floor beats. They were nominated for a Juno Award for Indigenous Music Album of the Year (2017) for their self-titled debut: Silla + Rise, and their second album Galactic Gala for World Music Album of the Year (2019).

Featured in ***My Latest Epiphany w/ Ruby Singh + Silla and Rise***



## SING LIT STATION

### Singapore

Sing Lit Station is a Singaporean literary charity whose programmes include workshop-for-schools programme Book A Writer, community writing challenges SingPoWriMo / SEAPoWriMo, the first Manuscript Bootcamp in Asia, and the regional Hawker Prize for Southeast Asian Poetry. They are supported by a Major Company Grant from the National Arts Council.

Featured in ***Aloud w/ Joshua Ip + Charlene Shepherdson*** and Word Travels Round the World



## THANDO FUZE

### South Africa

Thando is a spoken word artist, writer, curator and author of self-published collection *Conversations with The Human*. She is the founder and director of Fuze Art, a literary arts and performance company prioritizing works by female artists. In 2016 Fuze started SHEfted Minds, a platform created to showcase female artists.

Featured in ***Aloud w/ Hear My Voice*** and ***NSW Poetry Slam Final***



## TREVOR BROWN

### Sydney

Trevor is an award-winning composer, multi-instrumentalist, sound designer, improviser, director, producer, DJ radio presenter. He is the Artistic Director of the Sydney Improvisers Composers Kollektiv Orchestra, and performs with a variety of projects from classical to jazz to electronica, theatre and spoken word to installation and sound design.

Featured in ***Sydney Poetry Slam Final***



## TSHEPO MOLEFE

### Johannesburg

Molefe is a Johannesburg-based multi-award winning poet, writer and spoken word artist. Molefe won the May 2016 Current State of Poetry Open Slam and the February 2017 edition of WordnSound. Molefe's work has featured in the Sol Paatje European Union anthology and the online Pan African poetry archive, Badilisha Poetry.

Featured in ***Word Travels Round the World***



## WANI LE FRÈRE

Melbourne

wani is a Congolese-New Zealander writer, visual storyteller and award-winning performance artist and poet. wani coached the first ever Australia poetry team in Chicago USA, won the 2019 Wyndham Art Prize, the Arts House Evolution award for his theatre work 'jana', and became the 2019 Australian Poetry Slam National Champion.

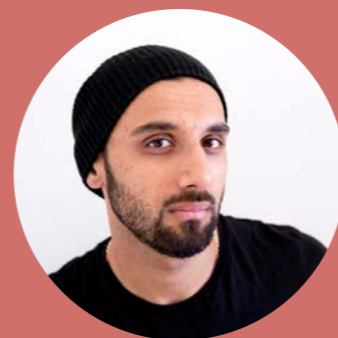


## ZOHAB ZEE KHAN

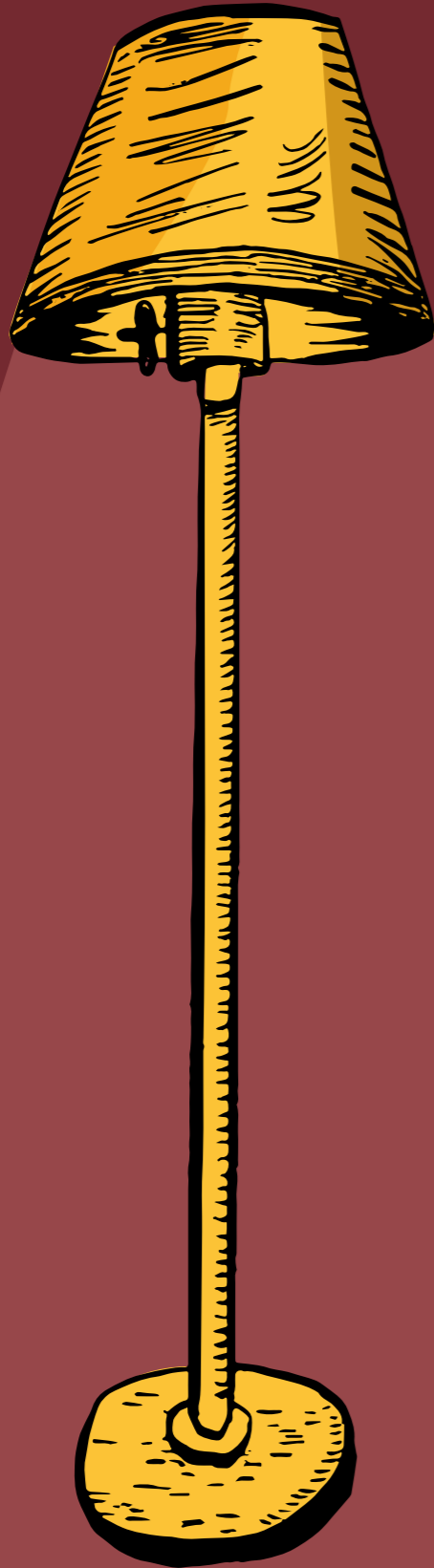
UK

Zohab is a performance poet, motivational speaker, hip hop artist and YouTuber. In 2014 he was crowned Australian Poetry Slam Champion and was runner-up at the International Poetry Slam in Madrid. His first poetry collection "I Write" reached best-seller status in Australia within months of its release.

Featured in *Aloud w/ Zohab Zee Khan, Aloud w/ Pomegranate, Aloud w/ Hear My Voice, NSW Poetry Slam Final, Aloud w/ Joshua Ip + Charlene Shepherdson* and *Aloud w/ Hani Abdile*



# Thank you



## Staff

Creative Director Miles Merrill, Education and Programs Officer Elliot Cameron, Head of Development Brynnie Goodwill, Head of Marketing Erica Hacker, Operations Manager Natasha Younger, Production Manager Shani Moffat, Digital Tech Support Andrew Bondfield, Junior Website Designer Indira Bhaskaran

## Interns

Bianca Arthur-Hall, Jasmyn Dawkins, Julie Epshteyn and Jason Nash

## Art

Illustrations by Rosie Di Wu, Graphic design by Rachel Stone

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These amazing people support Word Travels in many ways – donations, loaning out their house, serving food, lending an ear, attending meetings and being passionate about what we do.

## Board

Chairperson Louisa Graham, Treasurer Joe Achmar, Simon Bloomfield, Cathy Levins-Byres, Miles Merrill, Nadia Theore.

Word Travellers aka fundraising sub-committee Evelyn Hawkins, Kane Wylie, Kelly Douglas & Werrdan Khoury

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