

Secondary Years 9-13 Here's the Plan

Wednesday 15, Thursday 16 May | Wenerei 15, Taite 16 Mei

DAY 2 WEDNESDAY 15 MAY | WENEREI 15 MEI

SECONDARY YEARS 9-13, 10.00AM-2.45PM

Doors will open at 9.30am for a prompt start at 10.00am. Please note: schools will be seated in order of arrival from the front of the auditorium, rather than in pre-nominated blocks, so early arrival is recommended.

10.00am	-	10.45am	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre	Elizabeth Acevedo
10.55am	-	11.40am	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre	Natalie Haynes
11.40am			Lunch & Book Signing	
12.30pm	-	1.15pm	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre	Airana Ngarewa
1.25pm	-	2.10pm	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre	Steph Matuku
2.10pm			Finish & Book Signing	

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Workshops | Awheawhe

Hour-long writing workshops are offered each day for secondary students (maximum student numbers specified for each workshop; cost \$16 per student). These workshops provide students with a rare opportunity to learn from, and be inspired by, leading writers. Please note that spaces fill quickly, and bookings are on a first-come, first-served basis. An initial limit of five students per school per workshop will apply. Additional students can be waitlisted, pending available space once bookings close.

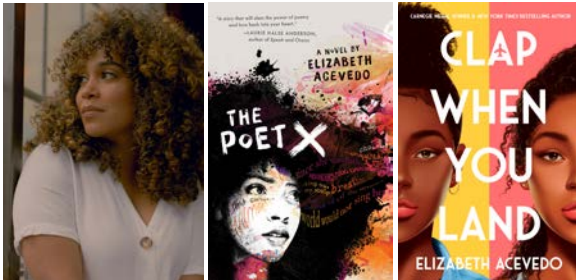
Wednesday 15 May and Thursday 16 May

Time	Workshop	Venue
9.40am-10.40am	Sophie Henderson	Waihorotiu Room
10.50am-11.50am	Amber Esau	Waihorotiu Room
12.15pm-1.15pm	Deborah Roberston	Waihorotiu Room
1.25pm-2.25pm	Zech Soakai	Waihorotiu Room

Workshop descriptions on page 3.

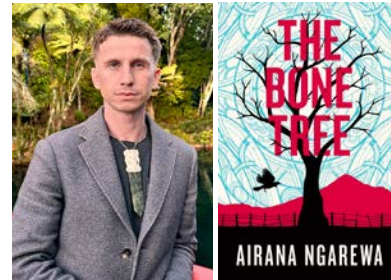
Secondary Sessions: Years 9-13

Wednesday 15, Thursday 16 May | Wenerei 15, Taite 16 Mei



Finding Your Creative Voice ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

Growing up in Harlem, award-winning author and US National Poetry Slam Champion, **Elizabeth Acevedo** was drawn to hip-hop as a means of expression and storytelling. Her love of rap morphed into slam poetry that then led into publishing poetry and fiction. Her *New York Times* bestselling YA novel, *The Poet X*, is set in New York where a young girl discovers slam poetry to understand her mother's religion and her own relationship to the world. This unique and searing novel, that is written entirely in verse and slam poetry, has resonated with readers across the globe. Join Elizabeth as she recounts her journey of finding her creative voice, and shares her tips on how you can find yours.



From Reluctant Reader to Bestselling Novelist AIRANA NGAREWA

Author and educator, **Airana Ngarewa** (Ngāti Ruanui, Ngā Rauru, Ngāruahine), shares his extraordinary personal story of going from competing in martial arts competitions nationally and professional cage fighting to becoming an award-winning writer. His unforgettable first novel, the Taranaki-set *The Bone Tree*, has sat at number one in the charts for 11 weeks. It follows two brothers navigating immense challenges that are a symptom of the impacts of colonisation and the loss of te reo for many Māori. From loathing English at school, to becoming a bestselling novelist, Airana will share his unconventional journey into writing and his thoughts on the power of reading. A unique talk that will have you amazed and inspired.



Reshaping Mythology NATALIE HAYNES

Greek myths have been retold many times, but never quite like this. **Natalie Haynes** is a classicist, writer, broadcaster, and comedian who is celebrated for breathing life, hilarity and an unapologetically feminist slant to Greek mythology, and for giving voice to the remarkable women that these stories have for too long ignored. In doing so, she has reinvented Classics for a new generation. Natalie will take the stage with folklore lover, **Rachael King** (*The Grimmelings*), to discuss the importance of reframing ancient stories through a modern lens. This talk will be empowering, educational and hilarious. Come for the comedy and stay for the mythology!



Writing for Page, Stage & Screen STEPH MATUKU

Spanning picture books, novels, stage plays and screenwriting, award-winning author **Steph Matuku** (Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Tama, Te Atiawa) is a highly versatile writer and isn't afraid to share that her career as a writer has been a long, hard journey

Steph will introduce her new YA book, *Migration* – a Māori speculative fiction novel that explores intergalactic worlds, alien invasions and family feuds – discusses her multifaceted writing career that spans different genres and working styles, and perhaps most importantly: discusses how to keep going with creative work you believe in.

Secondary Workshops: Years 9-13

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Morning Workshops



Your Story on Screen

SOPHIE HENDERSON

9.40am-10.40am (max 35)

Audiences often ask how writers got the idea for their story, and for internationally acclaimed screenwriter **Sophie Henderson** (*Fantail*; *Baby Done*; *The Justice of Bunny King*), much of the inspiration for her films come from personal experience. Celebrating the idea that 'everyone has a story to tell', Sophie will lead an engaging workshop on how to translate your personal story to the screen, examining the why, the what, and the how.

Afternoon Workshops



Creating Captivating Characters

DEBORAH ROBERTSON

12.15pm-1.15pm (max 35)

Ever wondered what it takes to create a captivating character? **Deborah Roberston** (Ngāi Tahu), author of the magnetic new novel, *Before George*, will share her tips and tricks in creating well-rounded characters; and lead students through practical and lively exercises that will help fiction fans craft multifaceted characters with strong motivations.



Ignite Your Creative Spark

AMBER ESAU

10.50am-11.50am (max 35)

Amber Esau is a Sā-Māo-Rish (Ngāpuhi / Manase) writer of things and knows how to spark creativity. She has contributed to an array of NZ poetry publications and anthologies, as well as co-editing Queer Poetry Anthology *Spoiled Fruit*. Providing some helpful creative writing prompts and playful exercises, Amber will share some techniques to help you get out of a writing rut.



Spoken Word: An Act of Liberation

ZECH SOAKAI

1.25pm-2.25pm (max 35)

"Everyone has a story to share, and in a time where the rest of the world is ready to define you, the power of the written and spoken word to carve out space for self-definition is an act of liberation" – Zech Soakai

Spoken word poet and educator **Zech Soakai** will guide students through a range of activities that support embracing their identity, and show them how to use spoken word as a healthy and empowering tool to express themselves. It's a session that's sure to inspire even the most reluctant of storytellers.

Secondary Sessions: About the Authors

Elizabeth Acevedo

Elizabeth Acevedo is a Dominican-American National Poetry Slam Champion and *New York Times*-bestselling author. She is the author of the young adult novels *The Poet X*, *With the Fire on High* and *Clap When You Land*. *The Poet X* is a *New York Times* bestseller, winner of the National Book Award and the Carnegie Medal, and was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. She was selected by The Poetry Foundation as the Young People's Poet Laureate of 2022.

Natalie Haynes

Natalie Haynes is a writer and broadcaster and – according to the *Washington Post* – a rock star mythologist. Her first novel, *The Amber Fury*, was published to great acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic, as was *The Ancient Guide to Modern Life*. Her second novel, *The Children of Jocasta*, was published in 2017. *A Thousand Ships*, was published in 2019. It was shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2020. Her non-fiction book, *Pandora's Jar: Women in the Greek Myth* was published in Oct 2020, and reached number 2 in the *New York Times* Bestseller chart. Her novel about Medusa, *Stone Blind*, was published in Sep 2022. Her latest book, *Divine Might*, was published in September 2023. She is a regular contributor to *BBC Radio 4*: nine series of her show, *Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics*, have been broadcast on Radio 4.

Airana Ngarewa

Born and raised in Pātea - Poi E Country, **Airana Ngarewa** (Ngāti Ruanui, Ngā Rauru, Ngāruahine) is a secondary school teacher in New Plymouth and author of the bestselling novel *The Bone Tree*. He won the short story and poetry competitions at the Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards in 2022. His writing has also been published by RNZ, *NZ Herald*, *Newsroom* and *Landfall*.

Steph Matuku

Steph Matuku (Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga, Te Atiawa) is an award-winning author of stories for young people. As well as short stories, plays and articles, she has written five books: *Flight of the Fantail* and *Falling Into Rarohenga* for young adults, the junior fiction series, *Whetū Toa*, and picture book, *The Eight Gifts of Te Wheke*, all published by Huia Publishers. Two of her books have been translated into te reo Māori, two were finalists in the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, and four were Storylines Notable Books. Steph's screen credits include *Mystic*, *Under The Vines* and *Shortland Street*. She has three more books due out this year, and is currently working on a novel for young adults about the indigenous response to climate change. Steph is the mother of two, and lives in Taranaki.

Sophie Henderson

Sophie Henderson is a New Zealand screenwriter working in the UK and New Zealand. Her first screenplay, *Fantail* premiered at the Rotterdam Film Festival and picked up a People's Choice Award at Melbourne International Film Festival. In 2021 her film *Baby Done* with Taika Waititi's Piki Films starring Rose Matafeo and Matthew Lewis, won over audiences both at home and overseas. The same year, Sophie's film *The Justice of Bunny King* starring Essie Davis and Thomasin McKenzie premiered at Tribeca Film Festival where it received a Nora Ephron Award Special Jury Mention. Sophie's most recent work includes writing Charles Upham's biopic *Mark of The Lion* for Lionsgate and Firefly Films, developing her series *Wall* with Southern Light Films and adapting a 1940s Beano comic book *Valda: The Immortal Girl* with Drama Republic for television. Her next feature, *Workmates* is currently in post-production and is due for release in 2024.

Amber Esau

Amber Esau is a Sā-Māo-Rish (Ngāpuhi / Manase) writer of things from Tāmaki Makaurau. She is a poet, storyteller, and professional bots. She is co-editor of *Queer Poetry Anthology*, *Spoiled Fruit* (Āporo press, 2023). Always vibing at a languid pace, her work has been published both in print and online including in *Puna Wai Kōrero*, *Rapture*, *Te Awa o Kupu*, *Skinny Dip!* and *Annual*, *NZ poetry shelf*, *Ora nui*, *Poetry New Zealand Yearbook* and *Going West Poetry Videos*. She is a recipient of the emerging Pasifika writer's residency from the Michael King Writers Centre and the ideas in residence residency from the Basement Theatre.

Secondary Sessions: About the Authors

Deborah Robertson

Deborah Robertson grew up in rural Northland where she lived off the land with her family, riding a bunch of ponies that were at least half-human and volunteering for everything, including Scouts, Riding for the Disabled and various children's camps, which provided much of the inspiration for *Before George*. She divides her time between teaching, film work, writing, engineering and pottery and has a master's degree in Creative Writing. She has also made lots of (mostly not useless) things ranging from a house to way too many patchwork quilts, to hydrofoils to quirky clay animals. Deborah lives in Whangārei with her giant rabbits, a flock of sheep and her husband.

Zech Soakai

Zech Soakai is a storyteller and educator from Poutasi, Upolu, Samoa and Ha'ato'u, Ha'apai, Tonga. Raised in South Auckland, he considers his work as a writer, orator and educator significant in village building and warrior raising – so that his communities may continue to flourish. Zech is an award winning performance poet and was privileged to go on the Rhodes Poetry Retreat in Monolithos under the tutelage of Greek-Australian Poet Luka Lesson. His written works can be found in: *Rapture: An Anthology of Performance Poetry in Aotearoa New Zealand* (AUP, 2023) and *Remember Me: Poems to Learn by Heart from Aotearoa New Zealand* (AUP, 2023).