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QUEENSLAND
WRITERS
CENTRE



Three Top Events for Writers

1

Masterclass with Jeff VanderMeer (USA) ***: the imagination and speculative fiction***



Direct from the Brisbane Writers Festival, join US author Jeff VanderMeer, a two-time winner of the World Fantasy Award who has made the year's best lists of *Publishers Weekly*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Los Angeles Weekly*, *Publishers' News*, and *Amazon.com*.

9.00am - 4.00pm Tuesday 27 September 2005

Meeting Room One, Cairns City Library, Abbott St., Cairns

Bookings essential: See costs on page 4

2

Meet the Authors: Jeff VanderMeer and Nick Earls ***free entry panel discussion on regional distinctiveness in writing*** ***chaired by Pat Morrish of ABC Radio Cairns***



6.30pm - 8.30pm Tuesday 27 September 2005

Main Library, Cairns City Library, Abbott St., Cairns

Free entry but bookings essential.

3

Authors with Authority with Martin Buzacott ***One-day workshop on how to be your own best critic*** ***and how to hone your skills to critique others***



10.00am - 4.30pm Saturday 15 October 2005

Meeting Room One, Cairns City Library, Abbott St., Cairns

Bookings essential: See costs on page 4



more...

1

Jeff VanderMeer (USA)



Jeff VanderMeer grew up in the Fiji Islands and spent six months traveling around the world before returning to the United States. These travels have deeply influenced his fiction. He is a two-time winner (six-time finalist) of the World Fantasy Award, as well as a past finalist for the Hugo Award, the Philip K. Dick Award, the International Horror Guild Award, the British Fantasy Award, the Bram Stoker Award, and the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award. VanderMeer is the author of several surreal/magic realist novels and story collections, including *City of Saints & Madmen*, *Veniss Underground*, and *Shriek: An Afterword*, which have been or will soon be published by Pan Macmillan, Tor Books, and Bantam Books, among others. VanderMeer's most recent books have made the year's best lists of Publishers Weekly, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Los Angeles Weekly*, *Publishers' News*, and *Amazon.com*.

He is the recipient of an NEA-funded Florida Individual Artist Fellowship for excellence in fiction (1995-96) and a Florida Artist Enhancement Grant (2004-2005). While attending the University of Florida, he won that institution's Michael J. Hauptmann Award for outstanding undergraduate achievement in creative writing. In 2001, Locus Online named him one of the ten best speculative fiction writers in the world. International bestselling author Peter Straub has called his work "brilliant...playful, poignant, and utterly, wildly, imaginative," while CNN.com has called it "Darkly distinctive! Not to be missed!"

VanderMeer's book-length fiction has been translated into ten languages, while his short fiction has appeared in several year's best anthologies, and been published in periodicals in more than twenty countries. His short story collection *Secret Life* was published in 2004 to widespread acclaim. Nonfiction by VanderMeer has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Publishers Weekly*, and many others, with a nonfiction collection published in 2004.

In addition to his writing, VanderMeer has run an award-winning publishing company for the past 15 years and edited or co-edited several anthologies, including the critically acclaimed *Leviathan* fiction anthology series and *The Thackery T. Lambshead Pocket Guide to Eccentric & Discredited Diseases*. His appearances in recent years include the Suncoast Writers Conference, the South Carolina Book Festival, the Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis, and the New Orleans Independent Book Fair, among others. He currently lives in Tallahassee, Florida, with his wife, Ann. He is 36 years old.

the Cairns masterclass with Jeff

Jeff says, "Fantastical literature is as much a unique way of viewing the world as it is a 'genre'. (For example, a work of fiction doesn't have to include 'fantastical' events or characters to be fantastical or speculative on the level of metaphor.) In this masterclass, we will explore speculative fiction as a style and state of mind, while unlocking new ways for you to focus your imagination in the service of character, place, and situation. Individual and group writing assignments will be interwoven with discussion and critique. You will be writing secret lives for your fellow students, among other activities.

Playful yet serious, fun yet illuminating, and of value to any beginning or intermediate writer, regardless of whether he or she writes speculative fiction. Bring writing materials with you and be prepared to read work aloud."

2

Nick Earls



Nick Earls is the author of ten books, including the bestselling novels *Zigzag Street*, *Bachelor Kisses*, *Perfect Skin* and *World of Chickens*. His work has been published internationally in English and also in translation, and this led to him being a finalist in the Premier of Queensland's Awards for Export Achievement in 1999.

Zigzag Street won a Betty Trask Award in the UK in 1998, and is currently being developed into a feature film. *Bachelor Kisses* was one of *Who Weekly's* Books of the Year in 1998, and is currently being adapted for television. *Perfect Skin* was the only novel nominated for an Australian Comedy Award in 2003.

He has written three novels featuring teenage central characters. *48 Shades of Brown* was awarded Book of the Year (older readers) by the Children's Book Council in 2000, and is scheduled to go into production as a film in Brisbane in August 2005. His earlier young-adult novel, *After January*, was also an award-winner.

After January, *48 Shades of Brown* and *Zigzag Street* have all been successfully adapted for theatre, and the *Zigzag Street* play is touring nationally in 2005.

Nick Earls is the chair of the Australian arm of the international aid agency War Child. He is also patron of Kids Who Make a Difference and Hands on Art, and an honorary ambassador for both the Mater Hospitals Trust and the Abused Child Trust in Queensland. On top of that, he was the face of Brisbane Marketing's *Downtown Brisbane-Experience Brisbane* campaigns.

In 1999, he appeared at the Livid Festival with the band Iczer One, and in the same year he toured several countries with a live show based on his short story collection *Headgames*. India's Chandigarh Tribune called it "hilariously boisterous".

His contribution to writing in Queensland led to him being awarded the Queensland Writers Centres inaugural Johnno award in 2001 and a Centenary Medal in 2003.

He has an honours degree in Medicine from the University of Queensland, and has lived in Brisbane since migrating as an eight-year-old from Northern Ireland in 1972. London's *Mirror* newspaper has called him "the first Aussie to make me laugh out loud since Jason Donovan".

His latest novel is *The Thompson Gunner*.

Meet the Authors: Jeff VanderMeer and Nick Earls

free entry evening panel discussion on regional distinctiveness in writing

chaired by Pat Morrish, Morning Show presenter, ABC Radio Cairns

6.30pm - 8.30pm Tuesday 27 September 2005

Main Library, Cairns City Library, Abbott St., Cairns

Free entry but bookings essential at Cairns Library T: 4044 3727



more...

Martin Buzacott



Well known as a broadcaster, pre-concert speaker, concert host and program note writer, Martin is a music and theatre critic for *The Australian*, CD reviewer for *Limelight*, a former Australian correspondent for *Gramophone Online*, and was opera reviewer for *24 Hours* magazine and music critic for *The Courier Mail*. Between 2001 and 2003 Martin was Artistic Administrator of *The Queensland Orchestra* and is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Writers Centre. With Andrew Ford he has recently co-written *Speaking in Tongues: The songs of Van Morrison*, released by ABC Books in 2005, as was his biography of tenor David Hobson.

the Cairns one-day workshop with Martin

It's the most demanding skill of any author—standing back and judging your own work. How can you tell if your manuscript is any good? What critical skills do you need to make professional judgements on your writing and to make improvements to guarantee your manuscript has a competitive edge when sent to a publisher? In this whole-day workshop, critic Martin Buzacott shows how to become confident in your opinions and act constructively upon them.

Bookings essential: Member of QWC? Member of Arts Nexus? Neither?

1

MASTERCLASS - Jeff VanderMeer

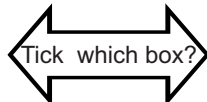
- \$195
- \$175 for QWC or Arts Nexus members

**DAY MASTERCLASS plus WORKSHOP
(No 1 and 3 BOOKED TOGETHER)**

- \$270
- \$215 for QWC or Arts Nexus members
- \$245 for concessions
- \$205 Conc. QWC/Arts Nexus members

2

MEET THE AUTHORS: Panel discussion
This event is free but bookings essential
at Cairns Library T: 4044 3727



3

WORKSHOP - Martin Buzacott

- \$90
- \$55 for QWC or Arts Nexus members
- \$65 concessions
- \$45 Conc. QWC/Arts Nexus members

ALREADY BOOKED No 3 now adding No 1?

- \$185
- \$165 for QWC or Arts Nexus members

QWC or Arts Nexus membership available W: www.qldwriters.asn.au or T: 07 3839 1243
or W: www.artsnexus.com.au or T: 4051 4433

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