

# ROCK & ROLL WRITERS FESTIVAL – TOUR EDITION



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**Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne | Sunday 9 April 2017**

## Speaker Bios

### ANDREW MCMILLEN

Andrew McMillen is an award-winning freelance journalist and author based in Brisbane, Australia.

His feature journalism has been published in *The Weekend Australian Magazine*, *Rolling Stone*, *Good Weekend*, *The Saturday Paper*, *The Monthly* and *BuzzFeed*. In 2015 and 2016, he was named Freelance Journalist of the Year at the Queensland Clarion Awards. He also hosts *Penmanship*, a podcast about Australian writing culture, which features in-depth interviews with people who earn a living from working with words.

Andrew's book *Talking Smack: Honest Conversations About Drugs* was published by UQP in 2014. *Talking Smack* is a collection of stories featuring 14 prominent Australian musicians – including Paul Kelly, Gotye, Tina Arena, Holly Throsby and Steve Kilbey – who Andrew interviewed about their experiences with illicit, prescription and legal drugs.

[andrewmcmillen.com](http://andrewmcmillen.com)

### ANDREW STAFFORD

**Andrew Stafford is a freelance journalist and the author of *Pig City*, a musical, political and social history of Brisbane, now in its third edition.**

In July 2007 the book was transformed into a key event as part of the Queensland Music Festival, headlined by the first performance by the original line-up of the Saints in nearly 30 years. His journalism appears across Fairfax Media, *The Guardian*, *The Saturday Paper*, *The Monthly* and more.

[Andrew's Blog](#) / [Twitter: @staffo\\_sez](#)

### BUNNA LAWRIE

Bunna Lawrie & Coloured Stone, originally came from Koonibba, South Australia on the Nullarbor Plains.

This year marks 40 years of constant touring by Bunna Lawrie and Coloured Stone; every performance is a memorable musical experience, full of Aboriginal culture and meaning.

In 2016 Bunna appeared in Norway and England and with two new albums ready for release 2017 will be a pinnacle year for Bunna Lawrie and Coloured Stone.

Bunna has penned over 250 songs in both English and Mirning Language.

## CASH SAVAGE

**Cash Savage is one of Australia's finest and most unique blues and rock singers, a charismatic and intense performer with an explosive live band The Last Drinks.**

The band's recent third full-length release *One Of Us* demonstrates her devastatingly honest lyrics backed by howling guitar and heartbreaking fiddle. The album explores beauty, freedom and the problems that seep into even the supposedly safest of realms: family, friendship, sleep and love. She's a formidable songwriter with a first-class reputation and a huge amount of respect from her peers.

## DOM ALESSIO

Dom Alessio is a broadcaster, writer and - occasionally - a DJ. For eight years he's been the host of *Triple J's* Australian music show *Home & Hosed*, so he's probably listened to more local music than anyone else in the country. Before his time at *Triple J* Dom was a music journalist, writing for publications such as *The Sun Herald*, *Beat Magazine*, *Mess & Noise* and *FasterLouder*, as well as being the Arts & Assistant Editor for Sydney street press publication *The Brag*.

## HUGO RACE

Hugo Race, formerly of The Wreckery and the Bad Seeds and now an internationally-acclaimed producer, performer and writer, delivers intense sonic soundscapes that merge folk, experimentalism, electronica and rock.

Originally from the 1980s Melbourne post-punk music scene, Hugo's eclectic collaborations and bands are spread over several continents. He's an articulate and dispassionate observer of people, in both song and prose.

Hugo's brilliant new book *Road Series* describes his musical journey over three decades, and his new album *24 Hours To Nowhere* has been hailed as his most intimate and personal yet.

## JENNY VALENTISH

**Jenny Valentish is the author of *Cherry Bomb* (Allen & Unwin, 2014), a psychodrama set in the Australian music industry.**

She is the former editor of *Time Out* (Melbourne) and *Triple J's Jmag*, and writes profiles for *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Saturday Paper*.

Her music career started in London, where she played in bands, had a column in the *NME* and was a publicist. She secretly writes artist bios for record labels.

[www.jennyvalentish.com](http://www.jennyvalentish.com) / Twitter: [@JennyValentish](https://twitter.com/JennyValentish)

## JESS RIBEIRO

**Jess Ribeiro's songs are cinematic in scope: its music that travels, across deserts like a Western, through city streets like Film Noir.**

Narrative and poetic, Ribeiro's lyrics are rhythmic and evocative, conjuring images that are dimly-lit, but nonetheless electric. Jess's debut album *Kill It Yourself* was produced by Mick Harvey, a founding member of The Birthday Party and Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, whose production for PJ Harvey drew Ribeiro's attention and admiration.

Preparing to record the follow up to *Kill It Yourself* in early 2017, Ribeiro's variety of brooding rock and roll promises to soundtrack sleepless nights and dark drives, never losing sight of the stories at its core.

## KATE HENNESSY

**Kate's music and arts criticism runs in *The Guardian*, *The Wire*, *ABC*, *The Lifted Brow*, *The Quietus*, *Vice/Noisey* and more.**

Kate appears on ABC TV and has spoken at Vivid Ideas, Darwin Writers' Festival and BIGSOUND.

Travel journalism has taken Kate on jobs around the world. She is an Australian Music Prize judge, a founding member of LISTEN and teaches at the Australian Writers' Centre. She developed and delivers the Guardian masterclass "How To Be A Music Journalist".

**Twitter:** [@smallestroom](https://twitter.com/smallestroom)

## MICHAEL DWYER

Michael Dwyer has written about music and the people who make it for 30 years and for countless publications, including *Rolling Stone*, *Melody Maker*, *The Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

He has been employed as a street press editor, a *Triple J* and community radio broadcaster, a copywriting contractor, a lecturer in arts reporting at Monash University, a film script consultant and a musician.

The thousands of artists he has interviewed and/or reviewed have taught him everything he knows.

## MICK THOMAS

**Mick Thomas is an Australian music legend!**

Mick was born in the Latrobe Valley and spent his childhood travelling Victoria with an itinerant SEC family. By his early twenties he was living in Melbourne playing in bands ultimately forming the Weddings, Parties Anything group which disbanded in 1998.

He is currently defying gravity with Squeezebox Wally and the Roving Commission and when not lugging his sorry arse down the highway is a card carrying member of the Old Fathers of Northcote Society.

Like most guitarists his age he is looking for a lighter amplifier.

## MIKE NOGA

**Mike Noga is one of Melbourne's most talented singer-songwriters.**

His darkly-brilliant third album *King* is partly based on *Woyzeck*, an unfinished 19<sup>th</sup> century play by George Buchner. The catalyst for this three-act record (and prologue) came in 2014 when Noga was living in London.

Asked to pen music for theatrical production *The Drowned Man*, he became inspired to continue that work for what would eventually become *King*.

It's a literate, thoughtful record that holds the listener in thrall as its characters struggle through madness and violence, and it redeems the "concept album" idea for the modern age.

## MIKEY CAHILL

**Mikey got his start with *Buzz Mag* in 1997 but it wasn't until he gave *Inpress* 20 Mentos sticks, his resume and a *Big Day Out A-Z Survival Guide* that things started happening.**

Full page, BAM. Since then he's scribed for: *DJ Mag*, *Mix Mag*, *Time Out*, *The Australian*, *J Mag*, *The Punch*, *Cleo* and *Resident Advisor*. Now he's been *News Corp's* Rock City columnist 10 years running. Gives great massages too.

## NICOLE HAYES

Nicole Hayes's debut novel, *The Whole of My World* (Random House), was shortlisted for the 2014 YABBA award and longlisted for the 2014 Gold Inky Award.

Her second novel, *One True Thing* (Random House), exploring politics, music, and feminism, was awarded the 2015 Children's Peace Literature Award.

Most recently, she co-edited *From The Outer: Footy like you've never heard it*, with Alicia Sometimes (Black Inc, April 2016).

**Twitter:** [@nichmelbourne](https://twitter.com/nichmelbourne)

## ROB SNARSKI

Rob Snarski is a singer, a velvet-voiced troubadour.

His musical life began as a ten-year-old, playing a very heavy 120 button accordion gifted to him by his grandmother, before taking up the guitar in his teens. Rob has toured the globe with The Blackeyed Susans and as a guest vocalist with The Triffids and graced the same stage as Johnny Cash, Leonard Cohen and Marianne Faithful amongst others.

He has released two solo albums. His first book *You're Not Rob Snarski: Crumbs from the Cake* was published by UWA Publishing in February 2017.