



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WALLY AND WARFARE AND WRITERS, OH MY!



Walker Books, Australia's leading children's publisher, is thrilled to announce a dynamic mix of local and international talent at this year's Sydney Writers' Festival.

Flying the flag for Walker Books at the Walsh Bay precinct from 14 – 20 May, will be an unmissable line-up of authors and illustrators including Mal Peet (UK), Bob Graham, Aleesah Darlison and Sue Whiting.

International YA superstar Mal Peet will be taking part in five sessions over the course of the festival. In particular, he will be discussing his latest novel, the critically acclaimed *Life: An Exploded Diagram*, a cinematic tale of life and love growing up in the 1960's under the shadow of the Cuban Missile Crisis. A topical tale as ever as the world takes note in 2012 of the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Cold War.

In a dynamic array of events, Mal will host a must-see master class on young adult literature "*Unexploded Diagrams with Mal Peet*", will feature in conversation with Ursula Dubosarsky about treading the line between autobiography and fiction "*Talkin' Bout My Generation*", and will hold a session on picture-book making with his wife, the award winning *Cloud Tea Monkeys* collaborator Elspeth Graham "*Picture This*".

Mal will also take part in the School Day's sessions on 21st and 22nd May.

Furthermore, in a Sydney Writers' Festival first, Sunday 20th May will see some of Australia's most-loved children's authors and illustrators converge on the Sydney harbour, including the incomparable Australian picture-book legend Bob Graham.

Bob will make his first ever appearance at the festival in a session called "*Stories with Bob*".

Joining him on the docks will be *Unicorn Riders* author Aleesah Darlison in a session called "*Unicorn Tails*" (fairy wings optional).

And, for those ready to give J.K Rowling a run for her money, author and Walker Books Publishing Manager Sue Whiting will join Emily Rodda, Chris Mophew and Hilary Rogers to dissect what it takes to "make it" (and stay on top) in the world of children's publishing in "*Cracking the Children's Market*".

Finally, and to celebrate his noteworthy 25th anniversary this year, everyone's favourite Wally of none other than international *Where's Wally* fame will make a guest appearance ...

Will you be able to find one of the FIVE Wallys hidden in the festival?

For more information visit www.swf.org.au. Tickets are on sale from Saturday 31st April 2012.

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