

# COLLECTIVE DNA: WE ARE MADE OF STORIES, POETRY AND SONG



**JUSTIN HEAZLEWOOD** is a writer, musician and humourist described as 'the Gen-Y commentator it's okay to like'. As The Bedroom Philosopher, he has released three albums, including the multi award-winning *Songs From The 86 Tram*, which his Nan described as 'fine'. Last year he published his first book *The Bedroom Philosopher Diaries* through Affirm and he is working on a second about being an artist in Australia. He has written for *frankie*, *The Big Issue*, *JMag* and *Mess+Noise*.



**PETE MCCRACKEN** is a writer and musician who was born into a farming family in regional Victoria. During his early life as a boarding-school student in Melbourne, he began a number of punk-rock bands and started writing songs and poetry. He was the bass player for seminal indie rock bands The Plums and Deadstar, and now plays guitar and bass in Caroline No! His solo albums include *You're Everywhere*, *Village Rounds* and *Patterns from a Bus Trip*. His poetry has been published in *Aedon 5.1*, *Bystander* and *Verso* and in 2011 he was editor of *11 Poets*, a collection of contemporary poetry. He is currently writing his first novel and studying creative writing at the University of Melbourne.



**BENJAMIN LAW** is a Brisbane-based writer and journalist. His work has been anthologised in *The Best Australian Essays* twice, and he is a frequent contributor to *frankie*, *Good Weekend*, *The Monthly* and *Qweekend*. He has been published in over 50 magazines, websites and journals in Australia and worldwide, and his debut book *The Family Law* (2010) was shortlisted for Book of the Year at the Australian Book Industry Awards. His second book is *Gaysia: Adventures in the Queer East* (2012). He holds a doctorate in creative writing and cultural studies from the Queensland University of Technology and still types with two fingers. No joke. [benjamin-law.com](http://benjamin-law.com)



**ROMY ASH** is a Melbourne-based writer. Her first novel *Floundering* was shortlisted for the 2011 The Australian/Vogel Literary Award and is published by Text Publishing.



**MICHAEL GURR** is a playwright, author, speechwriter, teacher, director and broadcaster. His plays have been performed Australia-wide, in the UK, the US, Ireland, Europe and South Africa and on ABC and BBC radio. His plays include *Julia 3*, *The Simple Truth*, *Jerusalem*, *The Hundred Year Ambush*, *Shark Fin Soup*, *Crazy Brave*, *Sex Diary of an Infidel*, *DesireLines*, *Intelligence*, *Underwear*, *Perfume* and *Crash Helmet and Mercy*. His awards include four State Literary Awards for Drama in Victoria and NSW.

His memoir *Days Like These* was published in 2006 and shortlisted for the NSW State Literary Awards. He has written screenplays, political commentary, television satire and worked as a script assessor and script editor for film and stage. He compiled *Something To Declare* for Actors for Refugees which has been performed hundreds of times around Australia.

Michael has worked extensively as a political speechwriter, notably as Principal Speechwriter for Steve Bracks, in both Opposition and Government, and on a number of state and federal election campaigns. He is currently writing a book for Penguin Australia, based on research among the lowest paid workers in Australia. In 2012, he adapted and directed Patrick White's last novel, *Memoirs of Many In One*, for ABC Radio.



**MATT BLACKWOOD** is an award winning writer of almost-readable novels and short stories, scripts and operettas, and has designed several bespoke Locative Literature projects, including *MyStory*, *4Stories* and *6Stories*.



**CATE KENNEDY** is the author of the highly acclaimed novel *The World Beneath*, which won the People's Choice Award in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards in 2010. It was also shortlisted for *The Age* fiction prize 2010 and the ASA Barbara Jefferis Award 2010, among others. She is an award-winning short-story writer whose work has been published widely. Her collection, *Dark Roots*, was shortlisted for the Steele Rudd Award in the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards and for the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal. Cate is also the author of the travel memoir *Sing*, and *Don't Cry*, and the poetry collections *Joyflight* and *Signs of Other Fires*. *The Taste of River Water: New and Selected Poems by Cate Kennedy*, was published in May 2011, and awarded the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for poetry in 2011 and her second collection of short stories, *Like a House on Fire* was released in late 2012.



**PEGGY FREW** is a musician and writer. She is the author of the novel *House of Sticks*. Her story 'Home Visit' won *The Age* Short Story Competition in 2009, and her debut novel *House of Sticks* was awarded the 2010 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript by an Emerging Victorian Writer, and was published by Scribe in September 2011.



**COLLEEN BURKE** originally trained in Theatre and Theatre Design at Rusden, followed by Fine Art and Textile Design at RMIT. She has practiced as a teacher, visual artist, arts events producer, curator, actor, director, script-writer, puppeteer, and designer/maker of theatre sets, costumes, puppets and props. She also designs and makes fashion, jewellery, furniture and textiles. Burke has worked with Melbourne Fringe, The L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival, Melbourne Museum and the Melbourne International Arts Festival.

She has completed numerous public art projects working with students from primary to tertiary levels across Melbourne. Burke received an Arts Victoria Grant in 2008 to design and build a wooden ship and steel fish sculpture in the grounds of a school. They will be used as play equipment and as an outdoor classroom. In 2009 she received a grant through the Australia Thailand Institute to devise a production in Thailand on the theme of Mail Order Brides.



**LACHLAN PLAIN** is artistic director of Sanctum Theatre. Lachlan has directed and designed *Lament: candles & compost* (2006) and *The Plains: a play* (2008). He has also puppeteered and performed in both *The Legend of Ned Kelly*, Festival Centre, Adelaide, and the Arts Centre Melb (2007); and also in *The Human Layer*, winner of the Melbourne Fringe Visionary Award (2005). He collaborated on design for *The Now Hour*, which also won the visionary award (2004). Lachlan has written two plays, including *Fish out of Water* in collaboration with Fenn Bailey, selected for the Next Wave Young Playwrights' Competition (1994) and *Prospect*, performed at La Mama (2003). He has exhibited in various group exhibitions and one solo exhibition, including paintings, installation and land art, and has completed several commercial murals. He completed a postgraduate diploma in puppetry at the VCA (2005) and has completed a Master of Theatre Practice, also at the VCA.



**GLENN COLQUHOUN** is a doctor, poet and children's writer. His first poetry collection, *the art of walking upright*, won best first book of poetry at the 2000 Montana New Zealand book awards. In 2003, he won the poetry category and also became the first poet to be awarded the coveted Montana readers' choice award. He has written several children's books and has been the convener of the New Zealand Post Book Awards. In 2004, Colquhoun was the recipient of the prize in modern letters.



**CYRIL WONG** is a Singaporean poet whose last book was *Satori Blues* in 2011. He is also a renegade, non-classical countertenor who has been invited to perform solo concerts at the Seoul Fringe Festival, the Hong Kong Fringe Club, and The Substation in Singapore.



**MEGAN SPENCER** has done a lot of things in her life — she's been a movie critic, broadcaster, filmmaker, writer — but one thing has always eluded her: rock stardom. It's the one thing she would give up everything for — to have a pair of pipes that people would swoon over. And a career in music where you're literally just three minutes away from enduring fame and an overflowing bank balance — be it as a 'one hit wonder' or a rock icon who just won't quit, like Patti Smith... That doesn't mean she doesn't like to sing; she does. It's just that it's always in private, and more often than not, to really bad 80s synth pop songs. (And her voice ain't that great.) But she's more than happy to share her hankering after music in her very first theatrical performance, at Castlemaine State Festival. Everything **will Stop Making Sense**.



**RODNEY CROOME** is the campaign co-ordinator for the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group and Australian Marriage Equality. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2003 for his LGBT human rights advocacy.



**ELIZABETH CAMPBELL** lives in Melbourne, where she was born in 1980. She has received the Vincent Buckley Prize and a residency for 2011 at the BR Whiting Studio in Rome. She teaches English and Literature at a government secondary school. Her two books of poems, *Letters to the Tremulous Hand*, and *Error*, are published by John Leonard Press.

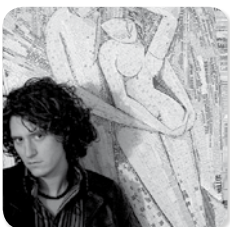


**ALICE GARNER** moves between work as an actor, historian, writer and musician. She is best known as an actor for her work in the feature films *Jindabyne* and *Love and Other Catastrophes*, and for her childhood role as Gracie in *Monkey Grip*. She also had regular roles in the much-loved Australian TV series *SeaChange*, and *Secret Life of Us*. Alice has published two books: *A Shifting Shore: Locals, Outsiders, and the Transformation of a French Fishing Town, 1823-2000* (Cornell University Press, 2005), an academic history of conflict over coastal tourist development, which was shortlisted for the NSW General History Prize, and *The Student Chronicles*, a memoir of her time at Melbourne University (MUP, 2006). Most recently, she has been writing a history of the Fulbright exchange between Australia and the United States since 1949, on a postdoctoral fellowship in the History Program at La Trobe University.

Alice plays cello and has recorded and performed over many years with Xylouris Ensemble and euphonium. Xylouris Ensemble will be releasing a new album in 2013. In 2001, Alice co-founded Actors for Refugees (AfR) with fellow actor Kate Atkinson, in an effort to counter the demonisation of asylum seekers and refugees in Australia, through simple storytelling by volunteer professional actors. AfR performed to hundreds of schools and urban and rural communities, and has inspired a UK branch. Alice is currently focused on supporting public education through hands-on involvement in her neighbourhood schools in Melbourne.

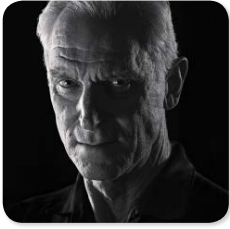


**JANE ROCCA** has been working as a journalist for 17 years and has been published by *The Age*, *The Sunday Age*, *Sydney's Sun-Herald* and *The West Australian*. Her work has also appeared in *Harper's Bazaar*, *Rolling Stone*, *HQ*, *Australian Style*, *i-D London*, *The Face UK* and *Cream Magazine* in Australia. She has written two books — *The Cocktail* (2005) and *Cocktails and Rock Tales* (2008). She is currently working on her third cocktail book for Hardie Grant.



**ANATOL KNOTEK** (born 1977 in Vienna) is an Austrian artist. Visual and concrete poetry, installation and conceptual art are in the centre of his artistic work, which has been exhibited internationally. His concrete and visual poems have been published in journals, chapbooks, schoolbooks and anthologies. He is a member of the Austrian Art Association.





**JOHN STANTON** is renowned for his work on stage and screen, including principal roles for the Melbourne Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre Company and the South Australian Theatre Company. He was lauded for his virtuoso performance as *Julius Caesar* in the MTC's now famous production and was nominated for a Helpmann Award for his Prospero in *The Tempest*.

His work for television includes *The Dismissal*, *Bellbird*, *Homicide*, *Bellamy*, *The Box* and *Macleod's Daughters*.

He has worked extensively as a voice-over artist, and was chosen as the voice of the Olympics for Sydney 2000. He was narrator for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's performance of *Mozart: His Life and Death*, and *Beethoven's Letters* with the Tin Alley Quartet. John has also twice narrated Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood* for the MTC and the SATC.



**GINGER BRIGGS** is a Melbourne writer. Her first book, *Staunch: Ward of the State* (2012), is published by Affirm Press.



#### **LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL DANTE (DAN) MORI (RET.)**

Major Mori was born on October 4, 1965 in Beverly, Massachusetts. He reported for recruit training at Parris Island, South Carolina in 1983. After completing calibration and electronics training at the Naval Air Station in Memphis, his first duty assignment was at Cherry Point, North Carolina.

In May 1991, Major Mori graduated from Norwich University in Vermont and was commissioned as a second lieutenant under the Platoon Leaders Class Law Program. In May 1994, he graduated from Western New England School of Law, Springfield. After being admitted into the Bar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, he received orders to The Basic School, Quantico, Virginia in June 1995. Following TBS, Major Mori completed Naval Justice School.

In March 1996, Major Mori was assigned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island and served as a legal assistance attorney and defense counsel. In August 1998, he was transferred to Naval Legal Services Office Pacific in Yokosuka, Japan where he served as Civil Law Department Head and Senior Defense Counsel.

In August 2001, Major Mori was assigned to Marine Corps Base Hawaii serving as the Military Justice Officer and Special Assistant US Attorney. In September 2003, Major Mori reported to the Pentagon as the US Marine Corps' representative to the Office of the Chief Defense Counsel to serve as a defense counsel.

His awards and decorations include the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and other service and unit awards, and in 2005 Major Mori was a recipient of the American Civil Liberties Union's Roger N. Baldwin Medal of Liberty Award, which was presented 'to the five military defense lawyers who represented the first round of defendants at the Guantánamo Bay tribunals and challenged the entire military commission system'.

Major Mori was presented, in June 2007, with an honorary membership of the Australian Bar Association for his defence of David Hicks. In October 2007, he was awarded a civil justice award from the Australian Lawyers Alliance as 'recognition by the legal profession of unsung heroes who, despite personal risk or sacrifice, have fought to preserve individual rights, human dignity or safety'.

In June 2009, Major Mori was promoted to a lieutenant colonel and made a senior military judge.

In July 2012, Dan Mori moved to Melbourne, Australia to practice with the law firm Shine Lawyers in their national social justice department, and is currently completing the study required to enable him to practice law in Australia.

Major Mori's retirement from the Marine Corps will take effect on 1 October 2012.



**JAYANTHI SIVA-LECOLLEY** has been involved in the classical dance for three decades. In 1999, she moved into contemporary dance theatre when she enrolled at the Queensland University of Technology, Australia in a BA in Drama followed by a Master of Fine Arts (Dance). In 2003, she was invited by the Substation to join them as an Associate Artist. Her 9 years of Singapore–Australian collaborative efforts led her to many international performances amongst which is the Queensland Poetry Festival in 2004 and 2005, with contemporary poets Michael Corbidge, Cyril Wong and Terry Jeansch. Jayanthi was selected for *Forty Under Forty* to represent dance, which showcased 40 Singaporeans under 40 who shine in their industry in their own special ways.

Jayanthi co-founded and was co-festival director of The Grey Festival (Singapore) in 2007 and 2008, taking on the challenge of creating a constructive and pro-active dialogue on the creation, standards and education of Indian Contemporary Dance Theatre in Singapore. Following this, she staged her first solo performance in 2008, choreographed by Padmasree Astad Deboo. She celebrated a decade of collaboration with British poet Michael Corbidge with *Body Chapters* in 2011 and *JUS reductions compote coulis* in 2011. Following that, Jayanthi was commissioned to choreograph for the acclaimed musical *The Expat Wives* by Australian, Audrey Currie. Before taking a break to start a family, Jayanthi was invited to Brisbane, Australia, to the 2high Festival 2011, where she presented her work and was also honoured to be a panelist at the Festival forum and mentor for the collaborative 5-day workshop held there.



**SABRINA ZUBER** started her 'vocal adventure' in Asia when she moved to Singapore in 2004. Since joining the Singapore Lyric Opera Choir in November 2004, she has been performing as a soloist and has graduated in voice at London College of Music.

Sabrina has premiered several works in Singapore: from Baroque music such as Buxtehude oratorium *Membra Jesu Nostri*, the role of Galatea in Haendel's pastoral masque *Acis & Galatea*; Serpina in *La Serva Padrona*, by Pergolesi, up to contemporary music with the world premiere of *Music from the Heart*, composed by Dr Robert Casteels.

An active art practitioner, she has founded the non-profit production company Bellepoque, which introduces the European music tradition of the operettas and cabaret to Singapore. The company aims to offer to the audience access to a seldom-performed repertoire and a new platform for emerging artists, providing them with professional exposure.

Sabrina is also a supporter of humanitarian causes and has produced *Pink beats*, a fund-raising concert for the Breast Cancer Foundation and *Bellepoque for Japan*, in aid of Japanese Tsunami victims.



**BHAGYA MURTHY** is well known for her versatility and talent in Indian classical, semi-classical and light music, and has performed extensively in India, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Cambodia, the UK and the USA. She has been a lead vocalist for several dance arangetrams, dance recitals, temple festivals, music concerts and contemporary dances. She has given her melodious vocal support for more than 250 Bharathanaty Arangetrams.

Bhagya has received several awards, including 'Singai Gamma', 'Geetha Kala Nipuna', 'Gaana Kogile', 'Sangeetha Saraswathy', and 'Naada Nidhi'. The title 'Sarva Rithu Kogile' was awarded to her in 2006 by the famous Keerthi Shilpa Sangeetha Vaahini, the largest audio cassette and CD producers in Karnataka for her record production of seven CD albums at a stretch. The most recent award to add to the list is the prestigious 'Singaara Puraskaara' by the Kannada Sangha, Singapore, for her lifetime achievement in the field of karnatic classical vocal music and 'Kala Ratna' by Sri Senpaga Vinayagar Temple Music and Dance Academy for her services to the organisation.

She has conducted the arangetram for one of her senior students in the field of vocal music, and has been lauded by Global Arts and Talents, Singapore, for her tireless enthusiasm, dedication and hard work in the field of semi-classical music of the arts scene of Singapore. She composes music for various stage shows and is a sought-after judge for local talent shows and music competitions. She has trained many young and upcoming artists in Singapore for more than three decades, for the love of the art and passion towards the music.



**ALICE PUNG** is a writer, lawyer and teacher. She was born in Footscray and grew up in Braybrook, attending local primary and secondary schools in Melbourne's western suburbs.

The author of *Her Father's Daughter* and *Unpolished Gem* and the editor of *Growing up Asian in Australia*, Alice has received enormous critical acclaim for her writing. *Unpolished Gem* won the 2007 Australian Newcomer of the Year award in the Australian Book Industry Awards and was shortlisted for several other awards, including the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, the New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards and *The Age* Book of the Year 2007. *Unpolished Gem* has been translated into other languages and is also published in the UK and US.

She has had stories and articles published in *Good Weekend*, *Meanjin*, *The Monthly*, *The Age*, *The Best Australian Stories 2007* and *Etchings*.

In 2008, Alice was the Asialink writer-in-residence at Peking University, and in 2009, the Australian representative at the Iowa International Writing Program. In 2011, Alice was the Australian representative to the US Department of State 'Fall and Recovery' writers' tour of disaster and conflict sites of America. She has also given guest lectures at Brown University, Vassar College, Peking University, the University of Bologna, the University of Milano and the University of Pisa.



**NATHAN CURNOW** is an award winning poet and past editor of *Going Down Swinging*. His books include *No Other Life But This*, *The Ghost Poetry Project* and *RADAR*, a joint book with poet Kevin Brophy (Walleah Press).



**ROSS DONLON'S** poems have been published widely in Australia, New Zealand and the US. His work has been broadcast on ABC Radio National's *Poetica* and community radio. He appears on the CD of a live reading, *You Have Been Chosen*. *The Blue Dressing Gown* was published in 2011 by Profile Poetry. *Tightrope Horizon* (Five Islands Press) was published in 2003. *Shh and other love poems* and *My Ship* were published by Mark Time Books in 2009. *Shh* has been anthologized in *Poems for All Occasions* and elsewhere.

In 2009, he was awarded the Varuna Writers' House Dorothy Hewett Flagship Fellowship for Poetry.

In 2010, Ross was awarded the Wenlock Festival Poetry Prize within the Arvon International Poetry Competition by chief judge, Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy.

In 2011, Ross won a second international poetry prize, The Melbourne Poet's Union International Poetry Prize with *Midsummer Night*, a poem he wrote while in residency in western Norway. He was also shortlisted for The Bridport Prize from 8,200 entries.



**JORDIE ALBISTON** lives in Melbourne. She is the author of six poetry collections, and works as an editor, manuscript assessor, proofreader and mentor. Sydney composer Andrée Greenwell has adapted two of her books (*Botany Bay Document* — retitled *Dreaming Transportation* — and *The Hanging of Jean Lee*) for music-theatre: both enjoyed recent seasons at the Sydney Opera House. Jordie's first collection *Nervous Arcs* won the Mary Gilmore Award, received runner-up for the Anne Elder Award, and was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Prize. Jordie's fourth collection, *The Fall*, was shortlisted for Premier's Prizes in Victoria, NSW and Queensland. Her most recent collection is *the sonnet according to 'm'* (2009). Jordie is currently working on a sequence of commissioned poems about the 1974 invasion of Cyprus, alongside another Sydney composer, Raffaele Marcellino. She was original editor of the first all-Australian all-poetry ezine *Divan*, and she holds a PhD in literature.



**BARRY DIVOLA** writes regularly for *Rolling Stone*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *the(sydney) magazine* and *Who*. He has published seven books, including *Fanclub*, *Searching For Kingly Critter*, *The Secret Life Of Backpackers*, *M Is For Metal* and *Nineteen Seventysomething*. Barry has won the Banjo Paterson Award for short fiction three times and the Jennifer Burbidge Short Story Award once. 'Hopelessly Devoted', a feature story about music fandom he wrote for *The Sydney Morning Herald*, was chosen by *New Yorker* critic Alex Ross for the 'notable music writing' list in the *Best Music Writing 2011* international anthology. Barry regularly appears as a critic on 702 ABC radio and teaches his Scribble writing course at Berkelouw Books in Newtown.



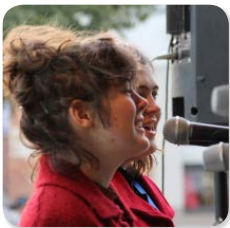
**IRRIS MAKLER** is an Australian foreign correspondent and author, and an award-winning broadcast journalist. Irris was one of the first journalists into Afghanistan after 9/11 and her book about covering the war there, *Our Woman in Kabul*, was an Australian bestseller. It focused on the experience of Afghan women as well the Western reporters seeing the country for the first time.

For the past nine years, Irris has been a corespondent based in Moscow and Jerusalem. She is now one of the longest serving Australian journalists in the Middle East. She has filmed from the frontline in Iraq and Israel and Palestine for the ABC, and Channels 9 and 7, and various international broadcasters, including the Canadian CBC, Deutsche Welle and Public Radio in the US. She is also well-informed about the effects of living with conflict, and the factors that lead to a successful negotiation, having reported attempts at reconciliation between enemies as well as within a society.

On a personal note, Irris was recently injured while on a story, covering riots in the old city of Jerusalem. She was hit in the face with a rock and her jaw was broken in three places. She talks movingly about recovery and resilience, and coming back better and stronger after a setback. Irris is brave, daring, and funny — and a spellbinding, inspiring speaker.



**JEFF SPARROW** is a writer and the editor of *Overland*, Australia's pre-eminent progressive literary journal. His most recent book is *Money Shot: A Journey into Porn and Censorship*.



**MAGGIE AND ELSIE RIGBY**, winners of the 2011 Lis Johnston Award for vocal excellence, write and perform many new songs written by Maggie, as well as tunes and songs picked up during their travels to all of Australia's major folk festivals and many of the smaller intimate ones. They also have overseas performing experience from tours to the UK and New Zealand.



**KAREN MCMULLAN** is an independent film maker whose work includes documentaries, community film projects, artist collaborations and feature films. Karen's films have a generosity that allows the story to evolve naturally and show the heart of the subject.