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Media Release

Stars of the writing world set to delight

Over 50 renowned writers and poets will be celebrating the written word at Hadley's Orient Hotel and beyond in September for the Tasmanian Writers and Readers Festival, including philosopher and humanist AC Grayling, 2016 Miles Franklin winner Alec Partic, New York Times Best Seller Bradley Trevor Grieve, firebrand feminist Clementine Ford and a host of Tasmanian writers including Heather Rose and Danielle Wood.

Director of the biennial festival, Chris Gallagher said that this is by far the biggest contingent of writers the biennial festival has seen and local writers and readers will be able to get up close and personal with some stars of the literary world in an intimate and very 'Tasmanian' settings.

"Our festival theme is '*other worlds in words*' and with such an array of talent appearing at this year's festival, we feel like Tasmanian audiences will be able to take themselves to all sorts of different worlds - from fiction, travel, food, comedy, poetry through to Tasmanian Aboriginals stories - there is something for everyone," Gallagher said.

"The opening evening at the Theatre Royal will be part oration, part conversation and part audience exchange, in an evening with extraordinary philosopher and humanist AC Grayling," she said.

"Grayling will be joined by Tasmanian writer Heather Rose and Distinguished UTAS Professor Jeff Malpas to open the festival and begin to explore our theme for this year, *Other Worlds in Words*," she said

Bradley Trevor Greive AM is a best-selling Tasmanian author and the world's highest selling humorist. His 20+ books include the hugely successful *The Blue Day Book*, and recent releases Penguin Bloom—*The Odd Little Bird Who Saved a Family*, and *In Praise Of Idleness—A Timeless Essay*.

"We are thrilled to have Bradley Trevor Greive running a master class to help local writers improve their chances of getting published, and he will be participating in a number of sessions and conversations over the four day festival," she said." Chris Gallagher said.

Benjamin Law is a television screenwriter, feature journalist and newspaper columnist. His books, *The Family Law*, and *Gaysia: Adventures in the Queer East*, were both nominated for Australian Book Industry Awards. *The Family Law*, now in its fourth reprint, is also a major SBS television series, created by Benjamin.

Also part of the festival is celebrated writer, historian and teacher Maria Tumarkin, author of *Otherland*, *Courage* and *Traumascapes*. Her work has been included in the Best Australian Essays collection in 2011, 2012 and 2015, and her essay *No Skin* was shortlisted for the 2015 Melbourne Prize for Literature.

The Festival will also be holding a special event at the Glenorchy Art Sculpture Park (GASP) and Montrose Bay Yacht Club on the Saturday evening of the Festival, called *'Present' Remedies Tasmania*.

International artists Sasha Huber (Switzerland/Haiti) & Petri Saarikko (Finland) will be joined by Arnold Zable and Jim Everett celebrating verbal story telling among the diverse multi cultural communities located in Glenorchy as well as enjoying an international banquet.

The Tasmanian Writers and Readers Festival is on from 14-17 September and is based primarily at Hadley's Orient Hotel. Tickets for the opening night address at the Theatre Royal are available from the Theatre Royal box office and website. Tickets to master classes are available through the Tasmanian Writers Centre website.

Festival Director Chris Gallagher will be joined by local writers involved in the festival for interviews and picture opportunities today at Hadley's Orient Hotel. 2pm Friday 11 August.

For more information contact Adrian Smith on 0417 529 826 or marketing@taswriters.org