



أبداع

Supporting intercultural capacity in the English classroom

MONDAY 5 JUNE, ISLAMIC MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA, THORNBURY

A PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PARTNERSHIP EVENT BETWEEN THE ISLAMIC MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA AND VATE

Equipping students with the intercultural knowledge, appreciation, skills and understandings is essential for their futures in an increasingly interconnected world. Developing students' capacity to become responsible local and global citizens, prepared to engage respectfully in multicultural interactions is an integral component of their participation in a culturally diverse yet cohesive community. أبداع (pronounced 'abde') translates to 'get creative' – what we hope the day will inspire you all to do with your students. Take inspiration from the artefacts and explore ways to enable students to appreciate their own cultures, languages and beliefs as well as appreciate the commonalities and connections to the diverse cultures that make up their society through the process of creative reading and writing.

Keynote speaker – Nazeem Hussain

Nazeem Hussain has fast become one of the biggest stars of Australian comedy, and a much loved television and radio personality. Nazeem won the Best Newcomer Award at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and has twice been nominated for the Helpmann Award for Best Comedy Performer. Nazeem's Netflix special *Nazeem Hussain: Public Frenemy* started streaming in 2019. Nazeem's TV work includes *Orange Is The New Brown* and *Legally Brown*. Furthermore, Nazeem entered the literary world with the release of his first hilarious new children's book series, *Hy-larious Hyena*, through Scholastic Australia.



Keynote address – Comedy in the classroom

Nazeem's stand-up comedy centres around identity and challenges the audience to consider their role in perpetuating discrimination. As English teachers, in what ways is the classroom failing to promote multiculturalism and celebrate diversity, and how might we take some of factors that motivate Nazeem to inspire our students in their creative writing? Writing comedy is a skill that students can perfect. It is a skill that employs the life that students have lived and for students from diverse backgrounds, telling jokes or writing comedy can be an experience that unites them as they reflect the shared racism, marginalisation and bullying that they may have experienced. In this keynote address, Nazeem will inspire with his creative writing processes as a debut author and share his cathartic comedy writing process to help students activate their voice and centre their experiences.

Artwork

Artist – Abdul Abdullah

You can call me troublesome (2019)

Manual embroidery, 150 x 120cm

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Register online here

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Program overview

9:00am		Registration and view IMA's gallery spaces			
9:30am		Welcome and housekeeping			
9:45am	Keynote	Comedy in the classroom Nazeem Hussain			
10:30am		Morning tea			
		Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
11:05am – 11:50am	Concurrent workshops	Workshop 1	Workshop 4	Workshop 3	Workshop 2
11:55am – 12:40pm		Workshop 2	Workshop 1	Workshop 4	Workshop 3
12:40pm		Lunch			
		Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
1:25pm – 2:10pm	Concurrent workshops	Workshop 3	Workshop 2	Workshop 1	Workshop 4
2:15pm – 3:00pm		Workshop 4	Workshop 3	Workshop 2	Workshop 1
3:05pm – 3:10pm		Concluding remarks			

Cost and registration

2023 Individual Member \$125 | Organisational Member \$145 | Concession Member \$115

All delegates will receive a copy of Nazeem Hussain's book [Hy-Larious Hyena!](#) as part of their registration.

Please [register online here](#) on the VATE website.

Please email events@vate.org.au with any queries.

Venue

Islamic Museum of Australia, 15A Anderson Rd, Thornbury.

Location and directions available [here](#).

Parking options

Some street parking is available. More details about additional parking options will be available closer to the event.

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Workshop sessions and presenters

Workshop 1 – Beyond The Magic Hat

Özge Sevindik Alkan, The Right Pen Collective

Librarian and author **Özge Sevindik Alkan** will give a thorough introduction to contemporary children and YA books by Muslim Australian authors and how English teachers can use these texts to support their curriculum goals.

Özge Sevindik Alkan is a librarian, freelance writer, and the director of the Australian Muslim Writers Festival. She cofounded The Right Pen Collective for Muslim Australian Writers in 2021. Özge holds an honours degree in Journalism and a Master of Information Studies (Children's librarianship). She works as the submissions coordinator for a literary agency that specialises in children's and YA books. Özge's work has appeared in *Meanjin Online*, *The Guardian*, *The Victorian Writer*, and *The Big Issue*. She is the co-author of the two *Hijabi Girl* junior fiction books published by Ali Gator.



Workshop 2 – Teaching creative writing to students with diverse backgrounds

Huda Hayek

With **Huda's** experience as a teacher and children's author, this workshop for teachers will address how to inspire students to create characters based on themselves and their own cultures. Whether teaching children from mainstream or diverse backgrounds, this workshop will provide strategies to promote engagement in writing by placing students at the forefront of the writing process. Huda Hayek will explore the 'own voices' movement, the importance of diverse characters and students using themselves as characters in their writing and offer suggestions for getting students to write storylines based on their own experiences.

Huda Hayek is the second-youngest of seven children, born to Lebanese-Australian parents. She was born in Adelaide, grew up in Perth and now lives in Melbourne. She struggled with reading and writing through her earliest years at school, but knew from the time she was a little girl that she wanted to work with words. After completing a degree in Mass Communication (Journalism and Public Relations), she went on to graduate with a degree in teaching. She has worked as a primary school teacher in Melbourne's west and as a journalist. But above all, writing stories involving unique kids, with unique backgrounds, has been her passion. Hayek enjoys exploring themes of identity - what it means to be Australian, Muslim, and Lebanese. She also enjoys writing about Muslim-Australian kids, from her own lived experience. Hayek's debut book *Huda and Me* was shortlisted for the prestigious CBCA Awards and has won the Muslim Bookstagram Awards in the Middle Grade category. Her next book, *Huda Was Here*, will be released in April 2023.



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Workshop sessions and presenters

Workshop 3 – Art inspired writing

Kym Wilton, Islamic Museum of Australia

Think outside of the box and come and explore the power of art to inspire creative writing. Using permanent gallery pieces, participants will explore themes, symbols, and the importance of language to inspire students to develop their own creative style.

Kym Wilton is the National Education Manager at the Islamic Museum of Australia. Prior to this appointment in September 2021, Kym was an AITSL certified Highly Accomplished Teacher with over ten years teaching experience in Victoria, the Northern Territory and the United Kingdom. Kym has a passion for inclusive education that allows every student to access their full potential. Kym holds a Bachelor of Arts (International Relations) from Deakin University and a Graduate Diploma of Education (Secondary) from Monash University – both with distinctions. She has presented at a number of different education conferences on engagement and differentiation strategies. She has also contributed to a number of newspapers and journals on the values of connecting and understanding Australia's uniquely diverse history.



Workshop 4 – Building Intercultural Understanding

Emma Jenkins, VATE Education Officer

In this workshop, Emma will unpack the Intercultural Understanding general capability and the cross-curriculum priority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures of the Australian Curriculum (v9) and will discuss ways to build, support and extend students in their appreciation of the diverse cultures they encounter in their communities.

Emma Jenkins is the Education Officer at VATE. She was an English teacher (Years 7–12) in Tasmania and Victoria, and the President of the Tasmanian Association for the Teaching of English (TATE). Emma has written units of work for *The Garret* podcast series and *Reading Australia*, and her first publication, *Micro Stories: Small fiction with big impact!*, was released in November 2019. She is the host of VATE's podcasts, VATE Village and YA Book Stack, as well as author of VATE's Literature Perspective on *The Yield*. She enjoys creating cross-curricular opportunities and is particularly interested in the middle years classroom as a place of fun, experimentation and creative expression.



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