

YOUNG WRITERS PROGRAMME

Media

Telling Our Stories Now

Alex Casey Senior Writer at *The Spinoff* &

Helen Sissons AUT Senior Lecturer in Communication Studies

FRIDAY 22 March
9.15am - 3.00pm

National Library Building
8 Stanley Street, Parnell

This **FREE** workshop is for Y11-Y13 students and YWP alumni. Teachers, please nominate up to two students using the form provided, and send it back, as a Word document, to: youngwriters@writerscentre.org.nz by **Fri 22 February**.

In due course, we will let you know which of your students have been selected, and **they will secure their places by returning acceptance and consent slips** signed by their parents/guardians.

What to Expect

This workshop will suit students with an interest in presenting current issues in the Digital Age. It is a workshop for students who are curious about shaping content to suit multiple platforms and audiences.

This is an opportunity to learn how to work with the dynamic content of breaking stories and the process involved in constructing news, commentary or opinion pieces. Students will also hear about the ways in which a writer of digital content seeks to engage and keep a reader's interest, and how a reader can be brought "on-side" by persuasive techniques.

Workshops always involve interacting with peers, the programme's facilitators and the guests.



Morning: Alex Casey

Alex's Bachelor of Arts is in Film, Television & Media Studies. An interest in sociology combined with these subjects to make her degree a very useful one for what came later: a lot of writing about pop culture at *The Spinoff*, and acting as ghostwriter for Jamie Curry (*Jamie's World: They Let Me Write A Book!*). Alex is also a columnist for *The Herald*, presenting her opinions on what's hot and what's not on TV. She currently hosts a feminist podcast for *The Spinoff* called "On the Rag".

Ros Ali and Jo Emeny are experienced teachers of English Language, Literature and Creative Writing. They coordinate the Young Writers Programme, facilitate the delivery of its content, and edit its annual literary journal, *Signals*, carrying on the work of the late Dame Chris Cole Catley who founded the YWP in 2008.

Please send all questions Ros and Jo:
youngwriters@writerscentre.org.nz



Afternoon: Helen Sissons

Helen spent 17 years as a journalist in the US and the UK, the last ten with the BBC as a television journalist and reporter. She is an author, researcher and university lecturer at AUT (Journalism and Communication) with an especial interest in the future of journalism, and the relationship between public relations and journalism. Helen was recently interviewed on Radio NZ about journalism as a career, and she is a frequent commentator on issues concerning the New Zealand Media.