

**North Lecture Theatre**

Old Arts, University of Melbourne,  
Parkville Campus

**Saturday 24 October 10am — 1pm**  
FREE

Bookings at [www.festival.melbourne](http://www.festival.melbourne)

#melbfest

AUSTRALIA // Forum

The University of Melbourne and Melbourne Festival present

## **IT'S ALIVE: Putting books on stage**

### **University of Melbourne Forum**

Featuring Elliot Gyger & Pierce Wilcox / *Fly Away Peter*, Daniel Raggett / *1984* and scholars from the School of Culture and Communication, The University of Melbourne

In a society where cultural materials are being constantly recycled and reproduced, what are the processes and possibilities of putting adaptations on stage?

The prevalence of adaptations in this year's Melbourne Festival, from Orwells' *1984* and Malouf's *Fly Away Peter* to children's books *The Rabbits* and *Masquerade*, highlights the great appeal to artists and audiences alike of bringing powerful and well-loved works of art and literature to life. But beyond the recognition factor, adaptations raise complex questions about influence and originality, memory and value. Adaptation is a creative process in its own right, presenting distinctive challenges to artists, and intriguing interpretive opportunities for audience members. And, once begun, adaptations never end, enjoying rich and inventive afterlives in other times, places and media.

During this half-day event, Melbourne Festival artists will join Literature and Theatre Studies scholars from the University of Melbourne in creative and critical dialogue on the theme of adaptation, with more speakers to be announced closer to the event. Talks on its history, theory and reception will combine with a roundtable discussion on the nitty-gritty of turning the words and pictures on a page into flesh and blood on the stage.

All in all, the event promises both to examine and to exemplify how the creative energies and intellectual provocations unleashed by stage adaptations live on long after the curtain comes down.

**MEDIA CONTACT**

TATIA SLOLEY M 0403 305 395  
[tatia@tpublicity.com.au](mailto:tatia@tpublicity.com.au)

EMMA COSTELLO M 0421 201 344  
[emma@tpublicity.com.au](mailto:emma@tpublicity.com.au)