

# First Edition

THE QUANT, IMPROBABLE AND SOMETIMES RIDICULOUS STORY OF HOW BOOKS ARE MADE, SOLD AND READ

**First Edition** is a small scale, one-person theatre show, devised and performed by **Simon Clews**. Part talk/lecture and part standup routine, part carefully scripted dialogue and part wildly improvised rant, **First Edition** takes Simon Clews' decades of experience working in books, writing, publishing and literary events, and uses this to tell the story of how books are created, published and sold to their readers.



The show is optimistically entitled **First Edition** on that basis that, if it is successful and garners critical acclaim, it can be quickly followed by **Reprint** and then **Second Edition**, and Simon can laugh all the way to the bank. On the other hand, if it's a dismal failure, it can always be relaunched for a brief farewell tour at a heavily discounted price under the title **Remaindered**.

Funny and quirky, but also offering insight into the mysterious and sometimes seemingly impenetrable world of publishing, the show is perfect for anyone who 'has a book in them.'

While relatively low-tech, the show uses PowerPoint presentations and video elements to help tell its story. It runs for 75 minutes and will be available in the second half of 2023.

## About Simon Clews



**Simon Clews** works with writers and academics around the world to help them improve their written and oral communication and develop their careers as effective communicators and providers of creative, well-written non-fiction for non-academic audiences. He does this both in-person and online and is one of the most in-demand trainers in this field. He is currently a Learning Advisor with **The Australian National University** and prior to that for 15 years he was the Director of the **Melbourne Engagement Lab** at **Melbourne University** where he enhanced the reputation of a world-leading and innovative university through training, encouraging and facilitating some of Australia's brightest minds to make their work accessible to non-academic audiences.

Before entering academia Simon ran **Melbourne Writers' Festival** and over fourteen years placed it firmly on the world stage. After that for many years Simon was Creative Program Director for Melbourne's **Reader's Feast** bookstore producing ten iterations of **Crime & Justice**, a celebration of crime writing and social justice, and the **History Writers Festival**. Simon was also responsible for programming **Stories Alive**, a large-scale celebration of writing for children at Hamer Hall, **Writers on Collins**, a city precinct-wide literary program and two site-specific literary celebrations – **Writers at the Convent** and **Writers at Como**. In total he has staged nearly forty major literary events, in addition to dozens and dozens of smaller events, and has presented well over 3,000 writers to a combined audience of nearly half a million book lovers. Put simply – Simon knows books, writing and events!

In his deep, dark past Simon worked in theatre (once being one of the official UK representatives of Grotowski), film and television, and festivals, both literary festivals and festivals with fairy floss, parades and fireworks. And for fun Simon even once learned how to fly planes and blow things up.

He is the author of **The New Academic** (NewSouth Publishing in Australia and SourceBooks in the States) and **Your Time Starts Now!** (Thesis Whisperer Books), with **Be Visible Or Vanish: Engage, Influence, and Ensure Your Research Has Impact**, co-written with Thesis Whisperer, Inger Mewburn, and coming out with Routledge in May of this year.

For more information visit [www.simonclews.com](http://www.simonclews.com).

## About First Edition

First Edition will be both informative and entertaining. Using the same dry sense of humour and lightness of touch that thousands of students around the world have enjoyed in Simon's teaching, not only will it shine a light on the sometimes bizarre process of getting the ideas from an author's head into the hands of their readers, but it will be peppered with decades worth of anecdotes about literary celebrity, publishing success stories (and the odd disaster or two) and the larger than life characters that populate this world. It is perfect for anyone with an interest in books, writing and publishing – from the multitude of would-be authors to the huge crowds who attend book launches, literary events and festivals of ideas.

To enquire about booking the show, contact Simon on [simonclews@simonclews.com](mailto:simonclews@simonclews.com).

