

## **KEYNOTES/ PANEL/SPECIAL EVENTS/WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS.**

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### **C.C. Humphreys: Young Writers' Workshop**

Friday, 11:00 am-1:00 pm Room #130 Okanagan College

#### **Great Characters: how to make them live and treat them bad!**



*Sponsored by Okanagan College*

#### **Michael Slade's *SHOCK THEATRE***

Saturday night, during the Banquet at the Prestige

Brain child of Michael Slade, *Shock Theatre* began as a one-off, and is now in its 11th year! Michael Slade, Grant Lawrence and Chris Humphreys will present the 1940s radio play that made one of the biggest names in the horror genre. Known to this day as "the one with the ..." Want to know more? We are not telling! You have to be there!

### KEYNOTES & PANEL INFORMATION

#### **Saturday Keynote: 'The Talisman' Michael Slade**

8:45 a.m. Balmoral Room Prestige

#### **Sunday Keynote: Conversation with Ian Weir**

9:30 a.m. Room # 130 Okanagan College

#### **Saturday Panel: The importance of creating back stories for your characters**

Panel: Michael Slade, Jacqueline Guest, Ian Weir, Patricia Donahue.  
Moderator: Howard White

Saturday, 3:30--5:00 p.m. Balmoral Room Prestige.

## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS (alphabetical, by presenter)

### **Victor Anthony: The Song Writing Process**

Saturday, 9:20 a.m. Monashee Room Prestige

In this session Victor talks about song writing, inspiration, and process. Using his own songs as examples, as well as those of other artists who have influenced him, he will illustrate particular points and techniques in the craft of song writing. He'll talk about the role of story, matching music to the mood of lyrics, and visual imagery in songs. He'll also take questions along the way.

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### **Gail Anderson–Dargatz: Overcoming Our Fears to Write Powerful Stories**

Sunday, 10:35am-2:00pm. Room 130, Okanagan College (**MASTER CLASS**)

Our fears can stop us from finishing a book, or even starting it. We may feel we need to stick to writing only what we know, and write from personal experience, but then worry about what Mom will think. And we so often avoid our protagonist's conflicts, for the same reasons we avoid our own. The result: passive protagonists and wandering storylines. Author and writing coach Gail Anderson-Dargatz will draw from more than twenty years of experience as a writer, teacher and developmental editor to explore the many ways we avoid conflict in our projects and our writing lives, and offer solutions that will help kickstart your writing and help you develop your project to the fullest. Writers, come prepared to do an exercise that will turn your project around.

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### **Patricia Donahue: The Romance Novel and its Trending Subgenres**

Saturday, 11:00 a.m. Monashee Room Prestige

Sunday, 10:35 a.m. Room #136 Okanagan College

Romance novel? Think formula! They go hand-in-hand. Ah! But in the last two decades, while remaining faithful to the outline, romance writing has spawned offspring types unseen in the past. Technological advances have made their impact even in this genre of literature. Stories creatively incorporate new technologies to advance plot, tighten suspense, and create modern, avant-garde characters. Eclectic

heroines drawn from the Xena and Wonder Woman ilk are portrayed as ‘on a mission’. Some stories race at such break-neck speed as to leave the reader questioning the very planet on which they unfold. This hands-on, fun workshop will present the established formula of romance writing with a concerted focus on snappy, and usually shorter, versions of the genre. Join in! Be inspired! Ignite a catchy love adventure. Bring on that smile of a writer’s delight.

*Co sponsored by Dr. Warren Bell &*



**Jacqueline Guest: Channeling Our Ghosts – Creating Historical Fiction for Y/A Readers**

Saturday, 11:00 a.m. Balmoral Room Prestige

Persuading teens to read history is critical. Creating historical fiction that is relevant and readable for a YA audience is challenging. The past CAN be resurrected for young readers with all the facts they need and all the fiction they crave. Join Jacqueline Guest, author of twenty novels, to discover how to channel our ghosts as we bring historical fiction to life!

**Jacqueline Guest: Writing, Plotting, and Publishing – Oh My!**

Sunday 10:35a.m. to 2:00pm Room #134 Okanagan College (**MASTER CLASS**)

This workshop is for all levels and will cover pesky problems such as How to Handle ‘Show, Don’t Tell’, Creating a Character to Remember, plus – the big one -- Finding and Fixing Holes in your Perfect Plot. Handouts included, so don’t worry if you can’t remember all the juicy bits

*Master Class sponsored by*  *Jo F. Coffey Accountant*

**C.C. Humphreys: Write the Good Fight or Why Should Boys Have All the Fun?**

Saturday, 11:00 a.m. Hudson Room Prestige

Fighting, in its various forms, from the duel to the slap, is almost as essential a feature in today’s novels as lovemaking. But how do you get it right when you don’t know one end of a rapier from the other? (Warning: the pointy bit hurts!) In this hands-on, blades-drawn workshop, fight choreographer, actor and novelist C.C. (Chris)

Humphreys will take you through the dangerous art of fight writing. He will demonstrate how to turn research, from walking the battlefields to wielding the weapons, into pages of exciting storytelling. Yet the technical aspects are only one part of it; in any novel it is the character's development that most intrigues. How a character fights can reveal as much about them as how they make love. Join Chris as he shares ways to get your characters into the hottest action--and out the other side.

**C.C. Humphreys: The Sex Scene: how much is too much?**

(A Male Novelist's Perspective)

Sunday, 12:30 p.m. Room #136 Okanagan College

What is the objective of any scene? To arouse? To inform? To offend? For novelist C.C. (Chris) Humphreys, a scene only works if it makes the reader want to read more! So in this workshop, he will explore the hot topic of sex while seeking an answer to the burning question: how much is too much?

Sex scenes come in many different shapes and sizes. From what the English call 'a knee trembler' to those where the whole universe moves. They come in various lengths: the half-page quickie, the full chapter consummation and everything in between. Chris will look at limits--the author's and the reader's. How sex can be funny as well as serious. How sensuality--engaging the six senses--is so important. And he will reveal his own golden rules--or limits.

**Grant Lawrence: The Story: a writing workshop**

Saturday, 9:20 a.m. Balmoral Room Prestige

Sunday, 10:35 a.m. Room #153 Okanagan College

Learn how to plan, draft, and ultimately write your best story possible, with award-winning author and CBC host Grant Lawrence. Grant will share many of the tips he's learned over the years in terms of pacing, character development, balance, humour, and suspense in an effort to craft your best story possible... because great stories are always shared.



*Sponsored by Alexander Dental*

**James Murray: The Art of Oral Storytelling** (Engaging an audience through the art of oral story telling)

Saturday, 1:45 p.m. Seymour Room Prestige

Sunday, 12:30 p.m. Room #143 Okanagan College

The Art of Oral Storytelling workshop is a 90 minute interactive, hands-on workshop where participants will learn how to better present stories to an audience. It is designed to help anyone who wishes to step up to a microphone and effectively share their oral story with audiences of all sizes. Participants will learn about technology and techniques used in oral storytelling including the proper use of a microphone, types of mics, cadence and vocal expression, the importance of eye contact, hand gestures and facial expressions, as well as the intentional use of pauses, and the all-important use of humour. Using skills they have learned during the workshop, participants will also have an opportunity to work together in groups to create a story which they will then present to the rest of the audience.

### **Michael Slade: Creating Villains, Conflict, and Tension**

Saturday, 1:45 p.m. Monashee Room Prestige

Moving readers to the edge of their seats. No one reads a thriller about the pleasant people of Pleasantville to whom nothing unpleasant happens. Monstrous villains, all-or-nothing conflict, and relentless tension turn pages. Learn how to craft "I-can't-put-it-down" roller-coaster fiction.

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### **Michael Slade: How to Write a Crime/Mystery/Horror Thriller**

Sunday, 10:35 a.m. Room # 141 Okanagan College

Killers & their motives. Cops & their clues. Lawyers & their trials. Monsters & their murders. Come learn the elements of suspense, dos & don'ts tricks of the trade, & how to baffle & chill readers from a lawyer-turned-writer veteran of 100 real-life murder cases.

### **Ian Weir: Who Talks Like That?**

Saturday, 9:20 a.m. Hudson Room Prestige

In this workshop, we'll look at the dramatist's stock-in-trade – dialogue – and examine how elements of screenwriting craft can be harnessed by the novelist and short fiction writer. We'll look at strategies for using dialogue to bring your characters

to three-dimensional life – and to create nuance and drive in your scenes. We'll look at ways of creating – and sustaining – realistic dialogue. We'll consider the limitations of realistic dialogue, too – and look at some of the alternatives. Time permitting, we'll also examine one of the abiding issues in Historical Fiction: Period Dialogue that Sucks, and how to Avoid It. Come prepared to write.



*Sponsored by SFU Creative Writing*

### **Ian Weir: Finding the Heart**

Sunday, 10:35a.m. Room #143 Okanagan College

It's one thing to write a draft – or several drafts – of a story or novel. But it's quite another to find the heart of the narrative: to navigate your way to the essence of what your story wants to be...to find that heart...and to clear your own path to writing it.

In this workshop, we'll look at the barriers that lie between you and the undiscovered heart of your narrative – including the barriers that you throw up yourself. We'll look at strategies for dismantling them and for giving yourself permission to do so in the first place. Along the way, we'll examine questions relating to voice, structure, and character, as well as that eternal question: To outline, or not to outline? (Hint: it depends. And not usually the way you think.) Come prepared to write.

### **Howard White: Writing Family History and Memoir**

Saturday, 1:45 p.m. Balmoral Room Prestige

There is an old saying that everybody has a book in them—the story of their own life. I have spent the last 40 years proving that this is true, and not only that, ordinary lives can make books that are richer in character, story, and impact than those about the great and famous. But most of those great stories are lost simply because people lack the know-how and the confidence to get started. As an editor and publisher, I have helped hundreds of first-time authors through the process of publishing family histories and memoirs based on their own lives and the lives of acquaintances; and I've picked up a lot of techniques along the way. I am eager to pass them on to you!

### **Howard White: Okay, It's Written—Now What?**

Sunday, 12:30 p.m. Room #153 Okanagan College

Getting published used to be a matter of Xeroxing 5-lb. copies of your manuscript, putting them in the mail, and waiting. And waiting. Today there are other options--a bewildering array of them. I will help you pick your way through them. Should you consider self-publishing, and if you do, what should you know? What is hybrid publishing? What is legacy publishing? What is the most effective way to go about acquiring a commercial trade publisher? What should you watch for in a contract? How the publishing process unfolds and what you should be prepared for.

### **Sheri-D Wilson: Spoken Word Poetry: Writing the Mystic**

Saturday, 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Seymour Room Prestige (**MASTER CLASS**)

*Spoken Word is poetry that is read aloud. It sings and dances with words—as body. It is a form which is always in motion and in a continual state of growth. Words are freed from the page and given breath. It is performance large or small that moves the listener through sound, rhythm, soul and gesture.*

This workshop will motivate the creative mystic in you—to finally get it down! Orality: the root of poetry. Unearth your individual voice. This workshop will turn you on—inspire you. We will explore narrative, character voice, duende, turning-points, dialogue, and beats. The circle will gaze into the hidden, the secret, the divine—and we will write inspired by prompts selected from famous mystic writers. This workshop of writing will be based on guided visualizations that allow us to travel in the realms of the imagination, both to explore outer space and to expand our inner worlds and their richness. All levels of expertise, from beginners to professional writers, are welcome. This will be a supportive, safe, and encouraging environment to play in!

Sponsored by Johnson Dental



### **Sheri-D Wilson: Writing Your Story**

Sunday, 12:30 p.m. Room # 141 Okanagan College

A workshop of Spoken Word Poetry that will challenge you—it will take you deeper into your own authentic voice and will inspire you. The workshop will encompass aspects of writing, thinking, and performance.