

2019 FESTIVAL WORKSHOP SELECTIONS

KAREN AUTIO

Finding, hiring and working with a freelance editor

Answers the questions: Why should I work with an editor? How can I find the right editor for my project? Why is Editors Canada a good place to start looking? How do I negotiate a contract with a freelancer? How can I make the most of the editing process?



BRENDA BAKER * Saturday night entertainment M.C. & entertainer.

Fiction from Fact

An experienced writer often begins her story with a factual nugget (or perhaps several) that she cannot stop thinking about. Such ideas are said to “resonate” and the discerning author learns when such ideas are worth the devotion of months or years of writing time. Using examples from her own work, and the writing of others, Brenda Baker will discuss in depth what it means to be a discerning writer, and how stories may resonate differently for different audiences. Through written exercises participants will learn more about how resonant historical facts and personal experiences can feed the imagination and inspire more interesting, emotional stories that are rich in meaning. Participants will deepen their understanding of how we sometimes get at the truth by telling lies.

He said/She said: the basics of writing meaningful dialogue

This workshop is packed with writing exercises and tips to help participating writers make better use of dialogue in their short stories and novels. Great dialogue can do many things for a story, including helping to develop character, creating mood, moving the story along, and occasionally adding humour. On the other hand, badly written dialogue can drag a story down and irritate the reader. Brenda Baker will present examples of dialogue gone bad and dialogue that sparkles, “performing” portions of text to illustrate the differences.



NANCY BELL



Point of View. Hooking your reader and being accurate.

POV is an important element in the writer's bag of tricks. It is an important tool for the author to employ to show personal emotions or characters' feelings about an event. We use POV to show the reader exactly what we want them to know about our characters, the plot and the overall story. What are the different types of POV? What is head hopping? What is a 'hook'? And how do we use it.

Poetry Mash-share with flair.

Come join Nancy for Interactive Poetry, please come prepared to share some of your own work, or if you're shy, just come and listen. We'll be creating some group poetry as part of the activities as well as some impromptu individual poetry based on prompts. Before we discuss some different poetic forms, the plan is to compose a group poem to celebrate Word on the Lake. If time permits, there will be an opportunity to share more of your own work before we close.



GAIL BOWEN *KEYNOTE SPEAKER SATURDAY OPENING

PANEL PARTICIPANT

Ready? Set? Write!!!

The elements of fiction, getting started, pre-writing, research

Creating perfect balance between action & reflection in your novel.

The art of thrust and glide-Combat writers' block by Learning how to pace your novel

Fiction is about revealing what has been concealed. Learn how to alternate passages of rapid-fire plot development with more leisurely passages of description or contemplation to create a balance that will keep your readers engaged while deepening their understanding of the issues you wish to explore.



NORMA CHARLES

***Blue pencil sessions for children's writing only please.**

Get to Know Your Heroes and they will lead you into a story

The best way to be sure your readers keep turning the pages of your story is to give them heroes they care about. Think Winnie the Pooh, Anne of Green Gables, Harry Potter, Tom Sawyer. So how do you

create such memorable characters? In this workshop you will learn a 'clustering' technique to help you create your main character. To get to know your heroes intimately, an excellent way is to interview them. You will be provided with a detailed list of interview questions for your main character who will then lead you to writing a great story.

A Writer's Life, or How Having Four Kids Under Six Drove Me to Writing

How I got started. Where ideas for book come from. How I write my books, from idea to finished manuscript. Writer's Block. How to get started again. Then what? Submitting to a publisher, Contracts, etc. Working with an editor. Book launches. Celebration time.

ANTHONY DALTON

***Blue pencil sessions for N.F. only please.**



PANEL PARTICIPANT

Writing a non-fiction book? Non-fiction books from concept to publication

It's a long road from the idea to holding the finished book in your hands. This workshop will guide you through the necessary production stages: from the idea to writing the book proposal, and from the outline to the manuscript editing process.

LINDA KIDDER * SATURDAY BANQUET - ENTERTAINER

Letting in the Muse...and paying attention! *MASTER CLASS**

How do we do that? Ideas come from everywhere. Linda will share with you how she has learnt to 'go with the muse'. "I pay attention to what flies out of my mouth, or someone else's...brilliant things...what tune starts playing in my head. I do my best to record these melodies and or lyrics the moment I receive them as they slip away if I don't record them immediately. There are short poems or 1 line jotted down. I wrote a song once from a letter I wrote and never sent. I've also written a couple of stream of consciousness songs, really amazing experience!" have you something in the back of your mind or a poem you are working on...change your focus and find the song? Linda encourages everyone to bring bits of lyric/poetry or snatches of melodies, all ideas welcome!

ROBERT MACKWOOD

You're an Agent-sign me up! *MASTER CLASS**

Note: This seminar focuses on non-fiction.

Literary agents can be an extremely valuable ally in a writer's career. They open doors to a publisher's office, are usually fierce negotiators, and look out for the best interests of their clients. But getting their attention isn't easy and agents have a long list of reasons why they don't offer a contract for



representation. This seminar examines that list and offers suggestions and exercises you can do to make your pitch and proposal much more tantalizing and salable. This seminar also looks at how authors can find success in this increasingly complicated publishing world.

Rejected but not Dejected ...

deals with writer rejection and gives numerous examples of how successful books have overcome apparent failure to go on to securing a spot on a bookstore bestseller wall. It also gives you tips and strategies of how to approach the gatekeepers in the publishing world. How do you construct an e-mail that will be read? What makes an effective pitch? What do successful proposals look like? Does it ever make sense to call editors or agents? What are the top ten most frequent errors writers make when trying to contact a potential dance partner in publishing? The list will surprise many.

JUDY MILLAR *SATURDAY BANQUET ENTERTAINMENT WITH CINDY SHANTZ AS WORDCHICKZ

Finding Your Funny Bone

Are you funny? Even writers who've yet to find their funny bone can apply professional comedy techniques to add zest to their stories and characters. We'll look at ways to see, hear and say things "sideways" (humorously) so you can consider which comedy techniques might best enhance your writing style. Let's share some laughs and learn to spot opportunities for humour—in writing and in life.



KAT MONTAGU

***SUNDAY KEYNOTE: CONVERSATION WITH KAT MONTAGU**

PANEL PARTICIPANT

Introductory: Screenplay Format and Structure

How to make a screenplay look right on the page. How to use the classic three act structure and hero's journey to strengthen your screen story.

Intermediate: Script Analysis and Story Editing

How to make money reading screenplays, working in development and providing professional analysis.



JONAS SAUL

PANEL CHAIR

TOPIC: The Best Advice I Ever Received. (Topic courtesy of Jonas Saul)

How on earth did I sell over 2 million books? Rules of Writing –

Jonas Saul discusses the ten rules of writing that allowed him to sell over two million books as a self-published author, which led to him getting a literary agent and two separate deals in Hollywood.

The tricky world of self-publishing - Learn how to navigate the tricky world of self-publishing, and how to do it inexpensively, but effectively. We will examine the positive and negative aspects of self-publishing and clues on how to overcome issues.



BILL STENSON

PANEL PARTICIPANT

Death of the procrastinating memoirist

What memoirs look like: a personal life journey, documents of the notorious, the focus on a specific event or lifestyle scenario. Memoir styles: linear vs non-linear, first person narrator etc., the truth variation scale, personalizing your tale. Reasons to write your memoir (if this is not answered the memoir will never be written). Writing Exercises--a series of bullets to get you started. Important things to ignore while you generate your manuscript. What comes next? --polishing your memoir (important). Options for producing your manuscript.

Literary Fiction, what makes it different from genre fiction?

Discussion and readings to examine: --the difference between literary fiction and genre fiction (romance, adventure, science fiction, fantasy, mystery etc.) Recognizing that you will likely write what you read Where literary fiction stands in the world today: university English departments, Writing Schools, national awards, sales etc. Writing activities to reveal: --character, language and plot in literary fiction, their importance and function and how to lean your writing towards the literary genre.

LOUIS THOMAS

The Power of Storytelling

Storytelling is an ancient art to be found in all cultures, it preceded the written word as the main means of communication and teaching across the ages. It is just as powerful today. It brings people together to listen, share and ask questions in a comfortable, safe setting. It is a way to share our culture, our history and learn about our family, each other's culture. It helps to define who we were and who we are. It is entertaining and educational. Hear some of my stories and why and how I use them to reach across generations to build bridges of understanding amongst my own people and in the community. Bring your stories to share and tell us why they are important to you.