

2023 WORKSHOP /EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

The Prestige Conference Centre has been funded by Simon Fraser's Continuing Education Creative Writing Department.

Presentations/workshops by author

Andrew Buckley

Friday, 7.00 -10.00 Ballroom Café Lit

Saturday, Seymour 9.30-11.00.

A 12 Step Recovery Program for Writers. Fiction Writing, Publishing, Writing, Motivation, Inspiration. The world is full of self-help solutions to aid all manner of afflictions . . . except when it comes to being a writer. By our very nature, we're all storytelling addicts sculpted by our own experience. It's the story that drives us, that inspires, and motivates us to create. It also makes us question our career choices, breeds procrastination, and constantly crushes us with paralyzing self-doubt. Fear not! In 12 simple steps, we can all be on the road to recovery . . . or so the story goes.

Saturday, Grandview Blue Pencil Sessions

Saturday, Balmoral 11.00-12.30 Panel Trials & Tribulations Of Publishing In This Modern World. with M.D. Jackson, Brian Isaac, Howard White

Sunday, Okanagan College room 136 2.15-3.45

The 'Not So Happily Ever After' Storytelling Workshop. This fun and interactive storytelling workshop takes a look at fairytales and their wonderfully dark and gruesome origins, before they became all cute and disney-fied. The workshop includes a short presentation about story and plot, character archetypes, three act structure, how to plan out your writing projects, and explores a number of fairy tales (complete with the audience acting them out). Flash group-work follows with people creating their own fairytales complete with a moral lesson. Some groups are chosen to pitch their ideas (time allowing).

Jacqueline Guest C.M.

Friday, 7.00 -10.00 Ballroom Café Lit

Saturday, Hudson 11.00-12.30

Tips That Work: These Are A Few of My Favourite Things. With 30 novels, short stories, and leveled reading books plus many, many years' experience writing and teaching in Canada, the USA and Africa, Jacqueline Guest, has accumulated a few no fail secrets every writer should know. Join Jacqueline for the insider's alchemy into writing a story that will grab the attention of readers and publishers!

Repeated Sunday, Okanagan College room132 12.30-2.00pm

Saturday, Grandview, Blue Pencil Sessions

Caitlin Hicks

Friday, 7.00-10.00 Ballroom, Café Lit-

Saturday Ballroom, Opening Ceremony-8.45-9.15

Keynote Speaker ‘Why We Write.’

Saturday, Grandview, Blue Pencil Sessions

Saturday Ballroom-7.00 Entertainment

Saturday, Seymour-2.00-3.30

Sunday, Okanagan College room 141 Repeat -

What’s Your Story? Through her family of characters who speak with passion in the first person, Hicks shines a light on women making their way through the dictates of biology and culture, time and mortality. Her theatrical presentation takes her audience on a search for meaning and resonance as she delivers emotionally charged, honest portrayals of each character facing unique life challenges. Hicks toured internationally with comedic and dramatic character-based monologues and theatrical presentations to hundreds of audiences, standing ovations and excellent reviews. A natural performer, she brims with a contagious energy, alternating easily between hilarity and poignancy, and linking us all by bringing us into a visceral experience of our shared humanity.

Saturday, Balmoral-3.45-5.15 Jubilate A celebration and panel with Deanna Kawatski, Shirley DeKolver Kay McCracken - all having their new books released this Spring.

Chris Humphreys

Friday, 7.00 -10.00 Ballroom Café Lit

Saturday-Monashee 2.00-3.30 Sex and Violence: A workshop for writing the hottest action. ‘Character in action’ ticks all the boxes. It entertains, while advancing the plot and revealing the character. Combining two of his favourite workshops – ‘Write the Good Fight’ and ‘The Sex Scene’, Chris (CC) Humphreys will demonstrate the arts of fighting and f*****. How a character fights can reveal as much about them as how they make love. A chance to delve into the dark side, perhaps? To broaden and deepen? Fight and Sex scenes are a huge opportunity for any writer. To confirm a suspicion - or to startle with a revelation; and ‘Character in Peril’ keeps the pages turning. What are the stakes in any love scene? A pleasant interlude or something more significant? And 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!) With a few, eh hem, personal props, Chris will guide you in the art of writing the hottest action. (Warning: there may be rude words and descriptions of a sexual and/or violent nature. This workshop is not for the easily offended... or the fainthearted. But it will be a lot of fun!)

Saturday Grandview Blue Pencil

Saturday Ballroom 7:00-10.00 Night Entertainment

Sunday Okanagan College room 130 12.30-2.00pm Historical fiction has made a huge comeback in recent years, dominating the bestseller lists and winning big prizes like the Booker and Pulitzer. As a genre its breadth is enormous, ranging from the classic 'bodice ripper' through saga epics to serious 'biographies' Saturday Join award winning author C.C. Humphreys - who has written them all - as he considers what's out there and the special challenges of writing in the genre. Among the topics tackled will be: how to research and how to use the telling detail. 'Voice' and the balance between the authentic and the readable. Psychology, ancient and modern and how to balance the two. Dialogue: how 'ye olde' should you go? The importance of place - and how to listen for the echoes in the ruins. With plenty of exercises to liberate your quill, (er, keyboard!) Chris will examine how to both fictionalize real characters and realize fictional ones.

Brian Isaac

Friday, 7.00 -10.00 Ballroom Café Lit

Saturday-Balmoral 11.00-12.30 Panel

Saturday Grandview Blue Pencil

Saturday Hudson 3.45-5.15 Conversation with Brian, author of All The quiet Places

Sunday Okanagan College repeat Room 136 10.45-12.15

M.D. Jackson

Friday, 7.00 -10.00 Ballroom Café Lit

Saturday Hudson 9.30-11.00 Self Publishing: An Overview In this workshop I will outline the steps to get your book self-published, from the necessary to the indulgent. I'll cover the various outlets that can help: Friesen's or Ingram Sparks, KDP, Lulu, Smashwords or local printers (plus more if there is time.) I will go over the choices that need to be made: Book size, format, distribution, Acquiring ISBN numbers, cover art and design choices, and the importance of social media when promoting your book.

Saturday-Balmoral 11.00-12.30 Panel

Saturday Grandview Blue Pencil

Sunday Okanagan College room 134 2.15-3.45 E-Book Formatting This workshop will dive into the specifics of formatting your book for various e-book vendors. You don't need to be expert in .html or know how to write code in order to format your book for Kindle or other e-readers. I will show you some of the steps that you can take on your own, from free programs professional services, I will outline the tools available and the various costs involved. I will also talk about options for formatting your book for print.

Deanna Kawatski

Friday, 7.00 -10.00 Ballroom Café Lit

Saturday Balmoral 9.30-11.00 Choosing Your Tree: A Memoir Workshop. Everyone has a story. It stands like a lone tree ready to shed its dappled teachings from the past into your waiting hands. The catch is that most of us have a whole forest of stories, each with branches beckoning, begging to be included. How on earth do we keep ourselves from running away in despair and getting lost in the forest? “One must begin by being chaotic,” Virginia Woolf said and chaos always has its place in creativity but in this workshop you will also learn about the power of parameters and how to keep your memoir firmly rooted while reaching for the stars. Whether you are hoping to write a memoir or are lost in the forest and tearing your hair, this workshop is for you.

Saturday Grandview Blue Pencil

Saturday Balmoral 3.45-5.15 Jubilate

Sunday Okanagan College room134 12.30-2.00 Repeat

Conor Kerr

Friday, 7.00 -10.00 Ballroom Café Lit

Saturday Seymour 11.00-12.30 Holding Voice Through Poetry This discussion will talk about family memory within landscapes and the natural environments that we move within. Participants can expect a discussion around what it means to create poetry and write voice that echoes both a modern and historical perspective and how those interweave to craft narrative poetry that moves mountains. Conor will also read from his new poetry collection *Old Gods*, published with Nightwood Editions in 2023.

Saturday Grandview Blue Pencil

Sunday Okanagan College room 130 Repeat

Theresa Kishkan

Friday, 7.00 -10.00 Ballroom Café Lit

Saturday Hudson 2.00-3.30 Carrier Bag, Gathering Basket, Magpie Nest: Writing The Personal Essay. Essay comes from the Old French, meaning to attempt, to try, to weigh. The personal essay concentrates on a writer’s own experience and perspective, exploring elements of this life in an intimate way. In her “Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction”, Ursula LeGuin wrote that we walk through our lives, collecting things that might come in handy — pieces of twine, a handful of roots and berries, a useful bit of bark, dialogue, bones for soup, poetry, a little fragment of song. I love this theory and believe that it can be extended to include the personal essay; most of us have the elements for a good essay already in our minds or memory, our hearts. Carrier bag, gathering basket, magpie nest: the essay is an opportunity to capture the activity of human thought in real time. Alone, an essay can be revelatory. In association with others, linked by chronology or theme, essays can be building blocks for memoirs. Participants should bring a photograph, a recipe, a significant small object. Using prompts

and guiding exercises, I'll help you to use those elements to write out of your own life and experience.

Saturday Grandview Blue Pencil

Sunday Okanagan College room 134 10.45-12.15 Repeat

Miranda Krogstad

Friday, 7.00 -10.00 Ballroom Café Lit

Saturday Balmoral 2.00-3.30 Write On Write On In this 90 minutes workshop, you'll refresh your creative writing toolkit with literary devices and techniques that you can apply to any genre of writing. Through a series of activities and prompts, you will do hands-on writing, growing your skillset and reconnecting with some classic writing tools. With engaging approaches that may include sensory language, defamiliarization, personification, comparisons, and more, you'll have some ready-to-apply skills to take home with you!

Saturday Grandview Blue Pencil

Sunday Okanagan College room 141 Laugh Out Loud Literary Devices We all know the serious side of creative writing, but what about the lighter side of the literary arts? This workshop will hit the funny bone with laugh out loud examples of personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and more! Add in some activities that allow you to practice these devices, and get ready to see some beautiful and hilarious results. Regardless of the outcome, it will be seriously good writing.

Valdy

Friday, 7.00 -10.00 Ballroom Café Lit

Saturday Monashee 9.30-12.30 Master Class "Write a Song; Make a Fortune!" Song writing is not a mystery, it's a safari where you can go to exotic places, experience new sensations, explore foreign feelings. Songs are cathartic, unpredictable, and when recorded, published and distributed worldwide, they can lead to great economic advantage. Come with me and have the sheer fun of exploring and creating your own song!

Saturday Ballroom 7.00-10.00 Entertainment

Howard White

Friday, 7.00 -10.00 Ballroom Café Lit

Saturday Seymour 3.45-5.15 Writing Poetry for Fun & Profit Writing Poetry for Fun and Profit Poetry should be fun. It is a natural impulse. Small children start playing with words as soon as they can talk. We grow up loving nursery rhymes and song lyrics. Then we get to school and they make us hate poetry. They teach us it has feet. It has metre. Worst of all, it has meaning. And they were so wrong, the poor well-intentioned dears. I think back at some of the meanings my high school teachers and university profs told me to look for in even simple poems like "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" and they were so, so wrong. It took

me writing three books of my own poetry before I could finally cast off the pall teachers had thrown over poetry and begin to read and write it for fun again. Now I deal with writers who want to be poets and face another problem. Most would-be-poets don't want to have fun either, they want to use poetry to make themselves great. Immortal. Or at least sought-after invitees to Literary festivals. And to get a good gig at a college. They work hard at this, too hard, and load their poetry with heavy intentions and sophisticated technique that is impressive but doesn't dance. They forget that poetry is first and foremost a dance of words. I will attempt to show attendees how to put the dance in their words and have fun with poetry again. Okay, I was lying about the profit part. Howard White has published three books of poetry *The Men There Were Then* (Arsenal Pulp, 1980) *The Ghost in the Gears* (Harbour, 1991) and *A Mysterious Humming Noise* (Anvil, 2019). Plus he has published a lot of other stuff, including about 200 books of poetry by other people. Recently he has become a big fan of poetry on social media, which he suspects may be the best thing to happen to poetry since the invention of the lyre.

Saturday Grandview Blue Pencil

Saturday Balmoral 11.00-12.30 Panel

Sunday Okanagan College room 130 10.45-12.15 Getting Published in the Age of Tic

Toc. 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.

SPECIAL EVENTS.

MAY 19 FRIDAY

3.30pm – 5.00pm REGISTRATION Hotel lobby

7.00pm -10.00pm **Café Lit** Ballroom- doors open @ 6.45PM. M.C. Shirley DeKolver
Authors present readings/ performances from their own work. Included in registration. Public
Tickets available at the door \$25

MAY 20 SATURDAY

8.45 am Ballroom. Official Opening Mayor of Salmon Arm, Welcome. Louis Thomas,
Secwépemc Knowledge Keeper-Wetyk. Keynote: Caitlin Hicks.

Saturday 11.00-12.30 Balmoral Panel: Trials & Tribulations of Publishing In This Modern World. Howard White/ Andrew Buckley/M.D. Jackson/Brian Isaac

3.45 pm Balmoral Jubilate! A celebration for 3 of our Directors, who also work on the Planning Committee; Deanna Kawatski, Shirley DeKolver, Kay McCracken, and for Caitlin Hicks – all of whom have new books coming out this year. Ask them about their experiences. trials and tribulations! Please note that all four are members of the Gracesprings Collective.

6.45 pm Ballroom Red Carpet Event Askews' Foods Word on the Lake Writing Contest Awards Ceremony. Host: Mary-Lou McCausland. Winners of the Fiction/ Non-Fiction and Poetry categories. Prizes include 3 free online Writing Courses from Continuing Education Creative Writing Department at SFU, cash prizes from Askews Foods, free festival registrations, and a copy of the 2023 Anthology. Hear the winners read from their work and comments from the judges.

7.30 pm Ballroom Saturday Night Entertainment MC Ray Hudson. Be prepared to be entertained By Valdy, Chris Humphreys, Caitlin Hicks and Circle of Friends

The Salmon Arm branch of Okanagan College has, once again, donated the use of their campus on Sunday to the festival. The Student Union has also donated the use of their cafeteria and lounge.

MAY 21 SUNDAY OKANAGAN COLLEGE

8.00 am Student Lounge. Continental Breakfast. **Sponsored by the Federation of B.C. Writers**

9.30 am Room 130. Our very own local, and famous, Gail Anderson-Dargatz has chosen to launch her new novel, *Almost Divorced*, with us today. No doubt she will be exciting, and entertaining, as always!

4.00pm room 130 Festival Closing – Draws: Books, 2024 Festival Pass. Winners of Canmore Vacation Fund Raiser

We are privileged to hold our festival on the unceded and traditional lands of the Secwépemc people.