

WORKSHOPS Friday Evening 19:30-22:30 continuing on Sunday Morning 10:00-12:30

What Are Published Writers Doing That I'm Not Doing? (Booking Code WS01)

Daniel Clay

The aim is to look at contemporary novels – particularly debuts – and ask what makes these novels stand out. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome to send in the first ten pages of their novel, synopsis, and covering letter, c/o Barbara Large for feedback.

If They Want What You Write, You Can Write What You Want (Booking Code WS02)

Sarah Mussi

How to discover your manuscript's Unique Selling Point (USP) so that you can get agents lining up to represent you. This intense mini course will mine the gold out of your story; it will look at how to prepare a concept query letter, a winning submission and plot a full draft. Bring along your current projects, your creative imagination and your willingness to revisit old passions; be prepared to rewrite history as well as come up with new ideas! Be Warned This Course May Change Everything!

The Short Story Gym - Get Those Muscles Working! (Booking Code WS03) L

Vanessa Gebbie

Discover the fun of creating and polishing stories of all genres, shapes and sizes. Kick-start your creativity, banish that writers' block, welcome new characters, plant new story-seeds and watch them grow over this two-part workshop. Suitable for beginners as well as more experienced writers. Feedback from previous course: "The workshop was brilliant; Vanessa gave us a fantastic insight into ways of tapping into our creativity. She made me realise how many stories I have within..."

Developing Fiction Writing (Booking Code WS04)

Paul Bavister

This intensive workshop will enable you to analyse and develop your approach to fiction writing. Concentrating on characterization, plot, description and narrative voice, we will explore ways to add layers to each scene. How interlinking, imagery and thematic threads can bring power and coherence to your work will also be examined. Learn how to edit without taking the energy out of your approach to writing.

Effective Starting Points for Poetry (Booking Code WS05)

Phil Carradice

Place, People, Problem - the three elements that can help provide the stimulus for effective poetry. Get these right and you'll get your poems right - or your stories, for that matter. The course is a combination of workshop, discussion and talk - participants should come prepared to write and share.

What's In a Character? (Booking Code WS06)

Lesley Horton

Your characters are thin, two dimensional? This is not what you want to hear. Join me in this hands-on workshop to make sure you are on the right track to producing characters that are as real to the readers as they are to you. If delegates would like to send the chapters introducing the main characters, together with a brief synopsis of the novel, they should arrive with Barbara Large by 3 June.

Short is Smart (Booking Code WS07)

Crysse Morrison

For fiction writers and dramatists: how to make an impact in the short form. Small is beautiful as Schumacher famously said and many writers agree. There's enormous satisfaction in successfully crafting short forms of both fiction and drama. This workshop will focus on the key elements of characterisation, dialogue and short development.

The Power of Objects (Booking Code WS08)

Judith Allnatt

Mirrors, clocks, roses, rings; writers use objects as tools. They can be employed as potent symbols or as devices to reveal character or create intrigue. A range of small objects will be provided to stimulate and inspire. Through exemplar extracts and writing exercises, we will explore the ways in which we can harness the power of objects in our writing, enriching our prose or poetry and turning stones into axe-heads.

Can You Keep a Secret? (Booking Code WS09) L

Sally Spedding

How far would your character/s go to keep a dangerous and damaging secret buried? This intensive crime writing workshop will help you explore human psychology to create believable characters from any era, memorable settings and a gripping plot structure. Novels/novellas only, with a first chapter and synopsis completed by the end. Beginners welcome.

A Beginning, a Middle and an End (Booking Code WS10)

Bernard McKenna

This workshop is designed to take you through the three main stages of the scriptwriting process. From developing your idea into a strong storyline, then through dialogue to complete scenes. Examples of scenes from successful screenplays will be looked at plus clips of those scenes to show the transition from page to screen. If you have an idea or even a script you have started, then bring it along. I can guarantee that it will be in better shape when you finish the workshop! If you don't have an idea....you will by the time you leave!

Using the Skills of Screenwriters to Raise the Drama of your Stories (Booking Code WS11)

David Hansen

This two-part workshop will show how to take the story you have and use tricks to maximise its dramatic power and empathy, and turn what might be a simple idea into one that can excite, frighten, amuse or move audiences and readers. The talk includes guidance on using the story structure and emotive devices that screenwriters employ, drawing on the shaping of stories through history and producing classic works that live on through time.

Self Publishing Explained (Booking Code WS12)

Part 1 How to Avoid Self-Publishing Mistakes (Friday evening)

Kim Cross, Sue Rule, David Elliot, Sarah Whitaker, Paul Rix and Carrie King

Join this workshop to learn how to independently self-publish your book and to understand technological terms such as Short Run, Print on Demand, POD, and the production of ebooks in various formats. Six successful writers will explain their separate processes and will answer questions that will guide your own self-publishing project.

Part 2 Nuts and Bolts of Self-Publishing (Sunday morning)

Keith Jahans

Anyone can publish, but do you want your work to be as good as that produced by the large publishing houses? Is it important that it sells? Modern digital technology makes it possible for writers

to produce books of high quality as hardback, paperback, ebook, audiobook, podcast or online. This workshop looks at how you can get your manuscript ready for these formats if you wish to publish it yourself and the various POD (Publish On Demand) companies which can help you. We will look at marketing, costs, opportunities and pitfalls of self-publishing. Delegates are encouraged to bring samples of their work and share their experiences of the publishing world.

Getting to Where You Want to Be (Booking Code WS13)

Part 1 An Insider's Guide – What to Submit and How (Friday evening)

Jo Herbert

You may think writing the book is the hard part – but you have only just started! Jo Herbert, editor of the Writers' and Artists' Yearbook, will give writers taking their first step towards publication invaluable information and practical advice on how to get their work published. The workshop will include an overview of the publishing industry, how and why you need to identify your target market and a detailed breakdown of how to make your proposal stand out from the crowd.

Part 2 Mapping the Path to Your Writing Goals (Sunday morning)

Victoria Field In association with The Writer's Compass

Are you heading in the direction you want with your writing? Using exercises from The Writer's Compass DIY guide to professional development planning, this workshop with writer and experienced workshop leader, Victoria Field, will provide you with an opportunity to explore where you want to get to professionally in a safe and enjoyable setting. During the workshop, you'll be able to think about your current situation and your vision of where you'd like to be and when; look at your skills and motivations; explore strategies for overcoming possible hurdles and consider the different sources of support on which you can draw. Finally, you'll start to map out a plan of action to achieve your goals. You'll be asked to complete a brief questionnaire beforehand to help kick start the process. The Writer's Compass (formerly literature training) is a wing of NAWE (National Association of Writers in Education) and provides free information and advice services for writers generally. www.nawe.co.uk

Happily Ever After: The Key to Making Your Children's Book Publishable (Booking Code WS14)

Jude Evans (Friday and Sunday) with Stephanie Stansbie (Sunday morning only)

Create an opening to your book that will make publishers and children want to read more. Craft an impactful, memorable and satisfying ending. Find the unique author voice that will make your writing special. How to develop your technical and creative skills to address these key issues and make your book exceptional. This workshop will involve analysis, group brainstorming and writing.