

2018 QUILLS CONFERENCE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

#AuthorTwitter Beyond the Basics: Chats, Lists, and Promo, Oh My!

Alex Harrow // Saturday, 8:30 am (Ballroom 3) // Marketing // Intermediate

So you've mastered the basics of Twitter, great! Now, let's talk about how to make the most of Twitter as a social media outlet and how you can widen your network and audience. This class will go over more advanced Twitter features like chats, building lists, creating promo material, and how to use analytics to figure out what works for you and your audience. Note that this presentation will include a live demo chat, so bring your electronic devices and questions to participate.

A Sense of Place

Tim Dorsey // Friday, 3:15 pm (Amphitheater) // Craft // Intermediate

Best-Selling Author Tim Dorsey discussing the power of place in writing. Known for his travel log backdrops, road trips and local histories in his Serge Storms novels, Tim will talk research and application of real settings to enrich fiction.

Always Be a Poet, Even in Prose: Twelve Steps for Writing Jaw-dropping Sentences

Lance Larsen // Saturday, 11:00 am (Connor) // Craft // Intermediate

Whether you're a beginner, intermediate, or advanced writer, come learn how to make your sentences.

Anatomy of an Action Scene Part One - The Craft of Storytelling

Maxwell Alexander Drake // Friday, 4:30 pm (Summit) // Craft // Workshop

Stories are about conflict. And there is no purer form of conflict than a good ole fisticuffs-style brawl. Or sword fight, laser battle, western shootout, and even two chicks pulling each other's hair. Yet, how to put that much action down on paper and not only make it believable, but enjoyable and exciting to read? Join award-winning author and former Lead Fiction Writer for Sony's EverQuest Next, Maxwell Alexander Drake, as he brings you deep inside the violence, breaking it down piece by piece, and giving you some tricks you can use to create more realistic and exciting fights.

Anatomy of an Action Scene Part Two - The Craft of Writing

Maxwell Alexander Drake // Friday, 5:45 pm (Summit) // Craft // Workshop

Understanding when and how to use physical conflict in your story is all well and good. But, how to write it? How do authors paint such a vivid, action-packed fight scene that readers can "see" in their mind using only the written word? Join award-winning author and former Lead Fiction Writer for Sony's EverQuest Next, Maxwell Alexander Drake, as he peels back the mystery and looks at using words to craft action. Action that your readers will not simply read, but experience.

Audiobook or Not?

Joseph Batzel // Saturday, 8:30 am (Ballroom 1) // Practical Applications // Intermediate

See how audiobook narration can exponentially magnify your audience potential.

Beginner Screenwriting and Final Draft Basics

Spanky Ward // Saturday, 9:45 am (Ballroom 3) // Screenwriting // Beginner

Learn how to turn that idea or novel into a screenplay.

Brainstorming Ideas Interactive Panel

Rachael Bush, Maxwell Alexander Drake, Lisa Mangum, Aaron Michael Ritchey, Bryan Young (Moderator) // Saturday, 5:45 pm (Summit) // Craft // Beginner

Our panel of authors show you how to throw ideas together out of thin air.

Branding and Blogging: How Creating an Author Brand and Blog Can Sell Your Books

J.H. Moncrieff // Friday, 2:00 pm (Ballroom 3) // Marketing // Beginner

To blog or not to blog? What is your brand as an author? If you've grown frustrated writing a blog that no one reads, or can't figure out what the heck this "branding" thing is, you're not alone. J.H. Moncrieff will show you how to use both to promote your books organically and grow your audience.

Building Your Self-Publishing Team

Callie Stoker // Friday, 2:00 pm (Ballroom 1) // Publishing // Beginner

You want to self-publish, and do it right, but how do you know what to hire out and what to do yourself so that your book is the best it can be? This presentation clearly lays out the team members you'll need and where to find them. It steps you through how to hire them and what to do when it all goes wrong and gives you a clear understand of what earnings in self-publishing look like and how to make this career work best for you.

Building Your World Around a Fatal Flaw

David R Slayton // Friday, 2:00 pm (Ballroom 2) // Craft // Beginner

Speculative worlds need grit and flaws feel real to readers. This workshop will help you look at your world and find its darker side, the fatal flaw that your heroes can't resolve. We'll look at some historical examples and societal issues that can help inspire you to deepen your world's reality.

Conflict and Adversity: How to Use Both to Increase the Tension in Your Story

Lisa Mangum // Saturday, 9:45 am (Summit) // Craft // Advanced

If conflict is the engine that drives the story, then adversity is the gas that makes that engine run. This class will discuss how conflict and adversity are similar, how they are different, and how you can maximize both in order to craft a story that is unstoppable.

Creating Believable Villains

Maria V Snyder // Saturday, 5:45 pm (Amphitheater) // Craft // Workshop

Fictional villains like Professor Moriarty, Hannibal Lecter, and Darth Vader continue to stand the test of time. Their enduring legacy is due to their complexity as characters. This workshop will focus on how to turn your one dimensional villain into a full blown bad ass that your readers will love to hate.

Deeper Reading for Deeper Writing: Introduction to Deconstruction

Johnny Worthen // Friday, 11:15 am (Connor) // Other // Intermediate

Consciously or unconsciously meaning is hidden beneath signs and facades in literature, layered in word choice and focus. Through shared reading, discussion and lecture we will explore how to comb a text for clues and cues to uncover deeper meaning and themes. We will learn to consciously see what our subconscious feels within a text, those elements that unite and undercut but always elevate craft into art. Once you understand deconstruction, your reading and your writing will never be the same.

Description: The Door into Our Stories

Meg Ashley // Friday, 4:30 pm (Ballroom 2) // Craft // Intermediate

As storytellers, we desire to usher our readers through a seamless transition where they leave their world behind and enter the world we have created for them. How we do this? Which of our many writing tools do we use to give us the ability to effect this magic? Description. Description is the tool by which we trigger our readers' imaginations, by which we draw word pictures that transport them into another world.

Dialogue - It's NOT just People Talking!

Maxwell Alexander Drake // Saturday, 3:15 pm (Ballroom 1) // Craft // Beginner

Dialogue - that is, well written dialogue in fiction - is one of the hardest things to master. That's because dialogue in fiction is NOT people talking to each other. It's

conversation with drama that also needs to move the plot of the story while giving the reader insight into the inner workings of your characters. Sound like a lot? It is! Join award-winning author and former Lead Fiction Writer for Sony's EverQuest Next, Maxwell Alexander Drake, as he gives you some insights on how to craft dialogue that will not only sound realistic, but be relevant to your story.

Don't Tell Your Story - Show It!

Maxwell Alexander Drake // Saturday, 9:45 am (Ballroom 1) // Craft // Beginner

Ever wonder how the really good books suck a reader in and hold their attention page after page? It might not be the characters, nor even the plot of the book. It's could be the way in which the author writes that separates their story from the pack. Join award-winning author and former Lead Fiction Writer for Sony's EverQuest Next, Maxwell Alexander Drake, as he presents his class "Don't Tell Your Story, Show It!" During this class, you will gain insight into how to put your story together in a compelling way that will have your readers turning page after page to see what happens next.

Dynamic Story Creation - Structure, Theme, Theory of Story

Maxwell Alexander Drake // Thursday, 2:00 pm (Summit) // Craft // Prequel

Great stories need both a compelling Theme, and an exciting story that delivers that Theme. Join award-winning author and former Lead Fiction Writer for Sony's EverQuest Next, Maxwell Alexander Drake, as he presents his class, "Dynamic Story Creation" This class will give you the tools you need to create both sides of this opposing force. You will learn how to use your Theme to drive your story, ensuring you capture the hearts of your readers, making them emotionally satisfied when they read the words, "The End." This class introduces you to many of these tools in a way that will stoke the creativity within you, keeping you motivated and organized as you move through the creation of your own story.

Emotion is NOT a Dirty Word

Maria V Snyder // Friday, 10:00 am (Summit) // Craft // Workshop

No matter how complex your plot is or how beautiful your descriptions are, or how well you can use a metaphor, if your readers don't care about your characters, you've lost them. Many writers are reluctant to incorporate emotions and emotional reactions for their characters for fear of being called out on writing "purple prose," or for being "overly dramatic." This workshop will help guide you in adding in a layer of emotional complexity to your stories.

Fantastic Fight Scenes

Maria V Snyder // Thursday, 9:00 am (Connor) // Craft // Prequel

Action scenes are difficult to write. Writers must find the perfect balance between the four essential elements: description, dialogue, inner dialogue and character emotions. And we all know the fights in movies and on TV shows are unrealistic at best and often physically impossible without the aid of special effects. This workshop will cover how to write thrilling and realistic fight scenes using those four elements.

Freelancing 101

Bryan Young // Friday, 5:45 pm (Connor) // Publishing // Intermediate

Want to know how to pitch editors and get work writing for magazines and websites? This is the class for you

From Idea to Article: Quick Ways to Sell Your Nonfiction Words

Carolyn Campbell // Saturday, 9:45 am (Ballroom 2) // Non-Fiction // Beginner

Quick ways to sell nonfiction to enhance your writing credentials.

From Whining to Writing: Courageously Creating While Overcoming the Odds

Aaron Michael Ritchey // Saturday, 2:00 pm (Summit) // Other // Beginner

Overview: In this motivational talk, you will learn to find the inspiration to write when every bone in your body just wants to flee, eat ice cream, and watch TV. Starting with the problem, artistic angst, we will move to the solution—self-discipline, inspiration, and the belief that writing is a sacred act.

Grab the Readers and Never Let them Go

Kate Jonez // Friday, 11:15 am (Summit) // Craft // Workshop

In this workshop we'll investigate three strategies for building suspense and captivating readers. We'll break down specific examples from masters of suspense to see how they do it and use practice exercises so you'll be equipped to apply what you've learned to your own writing.

Heroes, Henchmen, and Sidekicks: The Characters-First Approach to Plot

Angie Hodapp // Friday, 11:15 am (Amphitheater) // Craft // Beginner

Fun, hands-on workshop—no one leaves without a cast of characters and a brand-new story idea.

How to be Seen as a Business in the Eyes of the IRS

Therese Francis, EA // Friday, 5:45 pm (Amphitheater) // Practical Applications // Beginner

Now, more than ever with the recent tax changes, you want to be in the business of writing. But the IRS is biased against writers. So what do you do to prevent your business from being reclassified by the IRS as a hobby?

How to Be Your Own Book Publicist: Promoting Yourself to Booksellers, Libraries, and the Media

J.H. Moncrieff // Saturday, 4:30 pm (Ballroom 3) // Marketing // Intermediate
Publicists are a writer's best friend, but the good ones don't come cheap. The great news is you can do a lot of the work yourself. This presentation will teach you how to be your own publicist and generate buzz for your books. Ever wondered how to get the media interested in your new release? Struggling to get your novels in bookstores and libraries? This is the workshop for you.

How to Land a Writing Job in the Corporate World

Jeff Baker // Friday, 3:15 pm (Ballroom 1) // Non-Fiction // Beginner

All words were written by someone. When you consider how many corporate blog posts, product descriptions, sales pages, advertisements, and other marketing pieces are out there, that amounts to a lot of writers. The jobs are there! Get paid to do what you love by day while working on your fiction by night. Come to this class by a professional copywriter to find out how to put your writing skills to use in a traditional nine-to-five job, including what you can do right now to strengthen your writing résumé and make you a more attractive candidate to potential employers.

How to Write an Ending That Doesn't Suck

Lisa Mangum // Friday, 4:30 pm (Amphitheater) // Craft // Intermediate

First pages are important, sure, and many authors have probably workshopped those first five pages to death. But what about the ending of the story? Isn't that just as important as the beginning. YOU BET IT IS! Come learn about foreshadowing, symbolism, pacing, and plot twists and how to use these tools and techniques to lead your reader to a satisfying conclusion.

How to Write Faster and Make Fewer Mistakes

Kate Jonez // Saturday, 3:15 pm (Summit) // Craft // Beginner

Planning your novel's structure before you begin can alleviate the problem of a sagging middle and even keep the story from going off the rails. In this presentation you will learn how to save lots of time on rewrites by choosing a structure,

mapping it and creating a blueprint before you begin. Learn to create an outline or diagram that guides you as you craft your story.

It's a Living ...

James A. Hunter // Friday, 10:00 am (Amphitheater) // Publishing // Beginner

The digital book revolution has drastically changed the publishing industry, offering new ways to publish books, find readers, and even make a lucrative living. Come learn about indie publishing and the five keys to success in this new landscape! It's a Living is not about whether or not to self-publish, but rather about how to self-publish well and make money doing it.

Keeping the Books on Your Books: Taxes for Indie Authors

Therese Francis, EA // Friday, 11:15 pm (Ballroom 3) // Practical Applications // Beginner

Indie authors are in a completely different world than traditional authors when it comes to taxes, compliance reports, and legal options. Come find out what you've gotten yourself into, and the options you have.

Kickstarter & Patreon Basics

Bryan Young // Saturday, 4:30 pm (Amphitheater) // Marketing // Intermediate

Patreon and Kickstarter are both viable paths for publishing. What is the difference between the two? What are some best practices for using them? How do you choose a project to kickstart vs. a project to put on Patreon? What are the ins and outs of the interface you'll need to learn in order to make it work? Bryan Young will take you through every step.

Love Letters from the IRS

Therese Francis, EA // Saturday, 3:15 pm (Ballroom 2) // Practical Applications // Beginner

I got this letter for the IRS - now what?! Sooner or later you will get a CP Notice from the IRS or an audit notice from the State - what to do, what not to do, and what are your options to close out the issue quickly. Also will address identity theft.

MFA in Half a Day

Angie Hodapp // Thursday, 2:00 pm (Amphitheater) // Craft // Prequel

Writers tend to think that artful prose belongs solely to the realm of literary fiction—that writers of genre fiction need only concern themselves with matters of story craft: plot, structure, character arc, pacing, and so on. Not true! For agents, a great disappointment is a manuscript that scores high on all the elements

of story craft but falls flat in narrative style. This master class is all about what genre writers can learn from their literary cousins. Come prepared to write! Learn various poetic and literary devices and practice applying them to your prose, from simple sentences to complex scenes. How can description be used to make meaning? How can voice be used to support theme? And, most importantly, how can you develop a personal writing style that leaves a lasting impression on your reader?

New Attendee Orientation

Terra Luft & Johnny Worthen // Friday, 8:15 am (Amphitheater)

Wondering what a Live Critique is? Or the best way to pick which class to attend? And what in the world is a Kaffeeklatsch anyway? Come hear an overview of the conference to help you maximize your conference experience.

Nexus: The State Tax Monster Under the Bed

Therese Francis, EA // Friday, 3:15 pm (Ballroom 3) // Practical Applications // Beginner

Determining when and how to charge sales tax is not as easy as it should be, and the new interstate rules and “Amazon laws” are not making it any easier. Find out what “nexus” means to you and the additional state issues you need to be aware of for a successful (less stressful) writing business.

Opening Pages That Lead to Yes

Angie Hodapp // Thursday, 9:00 am (Amphitheater) // Craft // Prequel

If your query letter or in-person pitch got you a request for sample pages, but your sample pages didn't get you a request for a full manuscript, what went wrong? In this hands-on workshop, we'll explore what agents are looking for in your opening pages and how to craft evocative beginnings that get your full manuscript read.

You'll learn:

- The importance of establishing character, setting, and voice on page one
- How your opening image or scene should relate to your story's overall structure
- How to introduce story questions that entice rather than confuse the reader
- How to recognize and avoid cliché openings
- What starting in medias res really means—and, more importantly, what it doesn't mean

Bring the first three pages* of your novel or novel-in-progress. (Memoir is fine, but no scripts or nonfiction projects, please.) Time and number of attendees permitting, we'll discuss our works-in-progress and help each other brainstorm various possible entry points in relation to each work's overall story structure.

Come learn how to turn those sample requests into requests for full manuscripts!
**Double spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman*

“Opposition is True Friendship”: Creating Tension in Your Poem

Lance Larsen // Saturday, 4:30 pm (Ballroom 2) // Poetry // Intermediate

Outlining: A map not a death sentence Johnny Worthen Saturday, 11:00 am (Amphitheater) Craft Intermediate “ A practical How-To class about pre-writing and writing. We’ll discuss why to outline and how to plan for maximum freedom and effectiveness. From the most strident organizer to the wildest pantsner, everyone can benefit from by a little planning. It’s how things get done.”

Poetry: The Great Teacher of Novel Writing

Jef Huntsman // Friday, 11:15 am (Ballroom 2) // Poetry // Intermediate

Learn how poetry increases you knowledge of writing and how it helps with flow and word use. What are the similarities of poetry and other writing and how can that help.

Presses Galore

Aaron Michael Ritchey, James A. Hunter // Friday, 3:15 pm (Summit) // Publishing // Beginner

These days there are so many options for writers, including a plethora of Small Press, Indie Press, and Vanity Presses. Come find out about the pros and cons of these different organizations, and whether they are right for you. Also, learn more about the new wave of Author-Led Presses popping up on the scene, and what it might mean for the industry.

Punched Up Pitches: How to Query

David R Slayton // Saturday, 9:45 am (Connor) // Publishing // Beginner

A query letter or pitch is crucial for landing an agent. This workshop will show you some techniques for punching your query’s stakes. We’ll look at query letter that worked some workshop your pitch. Please bring your query or pitch

Querying: The Art of Rejection

Johnny Worthen // Thursday, 9:00 am (Summit) // Publishing // Advanced

So you have a book. Now what? The seminar will discuss editing considerations, basic querying formats, synopses, resources and targets while offering suggestions and techniques to present your work to publishers and agents. Learn from the mistakes of a hard-working bootstrapped blue-collar writer who’ve learned it all the hard way and found success in multiple genres.

Save the Cat! A Way To Plot For Pantsers

Aaron Michael Ritchey // Friday, 2:00 pm (Connor) // Craft // Intermediate
Blake Snyder captured a fun, fast way to plot a story. While he did it for the big screen, I have used his fifteen-beats outline for writing both short stories and novels. Come for a zany, interactive experience where we go over the fifteen beats and then craft our own bestselling and award-winning narrative. While at my heart, I'm a pantsers and not a plotter, using Save The Cat! has changed the way I write for the better! It's not formulaic. It's magic.

Screenwriting Essentials: Building a Cinematic Story

Blake Casselman // Friday, 4:30 pm (Ballroom 1) // Screenwriting // Intermediate

The First Steps to Writing a Screenplay. Even though movies are a collaborative art form, the screenplay is often the difference between a good film and a poor one. This presentation will focus on the initial idea of a script, character creation, plot points and story beats, and the 3-act structure.

Screenwriting Essentials: Transforming the Cinematic Story into a Screenplay

Blake Casselman // Saturday, 8:30 am (Ballroom 2) // Screenwriting // Intermediate

With genre, characters, conflict and stakes in place, it's time to write that screenplay. Join screenwriter and film producer Blake Casselman as he guides the process of integrating story and characters into the proper mechanics, formatting and structure of a screenplay.

Screenwriting for Submission

Bryan Young // Friday, 10:00 am (Ballroom 3) // Screenwriting // Intermediate

What's going to get your screenplay through a reader and into the right person's hands? We'll help you know what to do and what not to do...

Share, Don't Sell: How To Overcome Your Fear of Sales and Marketing

Aaron Michael Ritchey // Saturday, 3:15 pm (Connor) // Marketing // Advanced

Overview – Like it or not, part of the business of writing is sales and marketing. This can make the average introverted author feel incredibly uncomfortable and sleazy. In this interactive workshop, I will explain the difference between sharing and selling and give attendees the courage and confidence to share their work with the outside world.

Sharpening your Short Story Skills

Lyn Worthen // Saturday, 9:45 am (Amphitheater) // Practical Application // Workshop

Do you freeze like a deer in the headlights at the thought of writing a short story? Do your short stories consistently overflow their word-limits, or turn into “novel starts”? In this hands-on workshop, we’ll look at some of the challenges of writing short stories, explore a few methods for approaching them, and give you a set of tools you can use to consistently - and fearlessly - put an engaging opening, a strong middle, and a satisfying ending into a small package.

The Allegory in your Sub-Text

Callie Stoker // Thursday, 2:00 pm (Connor) // Craft // Prequel

Sub-text is a vital part of story telling that is born in negative space, so how do we develop or improve it in our writing? We will look at the shared story patterns of allegory and how understanding these patterns helps us to say the right things in between the black and white words on the page. This is a hands-on workshop in which we will study story patterns through well known movies and apply that understanding to our writing in the class. All attendees must bring a laptop or notebook to write with (we will be writing and sharing in class).

The Art of Mind Body Bridging: Overcoming Writer’s Block and Other Obstacles

Anna F. Marasco // Saturday, 8:30 am (Connor) // Practical Applications // Beginner

Ready to cure writer’s block? Ready to ingest some laxatives to ease your constipated mind? Mind Body Bridging (MBB) is a clinical mindfulness technique that, in short, moves you from your fight or flight responses to your executive functioning. It is based on the idea that optimal functioning of the mind-body state is actually hindered by an overactive identity system that impacts your attitudes, thoughts, beliefs, emotions, and behaviors, ultimately impacting how you interact with yourself and the world around you. By implementing the MBB techniques, you learn that you, along with the world, are not broken and you actually have the power to change patterns in which you have been stuck. In this workshop, you will learn simple skills to apply in order to strengthen your own personal awareness and remember that you’ve had control all along. Bring a pen, paper, and all your cynical and negative thoughts. The power is in your hands. You control your writer’s block, it doesn’t control you.

The Autopsy of Publishing

Caitlyn MacFarland, Charlie N. Holmberg // Friday, 2:00 pm (Summit) // Publishing // Beginner

Authors Caitlyn McFarland and Charlie N. Holmberg take the body of publishing and rip it open for all your eyes to see. Want a healthy dose of the truth behind publishing? Come get a behind-the-scenes look at the journey. This class covers the whole shebang, from writing a story, to querying, to finding an agent, to conquering edits, to debuting, and beyond. It also covers social media conduct and the reality of publishing as a full-time career. Chuck Wendig quotes included at no extra cost.

The Business of Writing

Rhonda Penders // Friday, 4:30 pm (Ballroom 3) // Publishing // Beginner

The professional side of being a writer.

The Craft of Page-Turning Non-Fiction Writing

Shauna Packer-Dansie, Sherry Taylor // Saturday, 4:30 pm (Connor) // Non-Fiction // Beginner

In the current publishing and reading climate, audiences demand non-fiction that has compelling action and reads more like fiction. We will discuss how to establish yourself as an expert (a must in non-fiction), write truth with the sensibilities of a fiction author, keeping in mind such things as arc and cliffhangers, and how to pre-sell your project with comprehensive proposals.

The Dance of the Divine: Where Story Arc and Character Arc Meet

Aaron Michael Ritchey // Saturday, 8:30 am (Summit) // Craft // Intermediate

Overview: In the very best stories, characters who grow and change move us even as the plot catapults us into overwhelming drama. We turn the page to see what happens, and after the dragon is slain, the characters continue to haunt us. In this workshop, you will learn how to use plot to build characters and how to use characters to build plot. For truly, when authors do this well, it is the dance of the divine.

The Final Draft: Advanced Self-Editing

Kelsy Thompson // Saturday, 3:15 pm (Amphitheater) // Craft // Advanced

You've written your masterpiece, revised with the help of critique partners, and now you're ready for the last pass through your book before sending it out into the world. This presentation covers high-level editing topics such as tone, subtext, increasing tension, voice, weaving your subplots, narrative arc, and more.

The Importance of Book Reviews and How to Get Them

Theresa Braun // Friday, 3:15 pm (Ballroom 2) // Marketing // Intermediate

Every writer wants reviews. But where to start? You will find out how to search for book review bloggers, how to contact them effectively, and how to keep them in your personal network. The pros and cons of review services and asking friends to post reviews will be addressed. Networking with bloggers, readers, and libraries will also be covered. You sweated over your work. Make sure it gets read.

The Importance of Making Tropes/Cliches Fresh

Theresa Braun // Saturday, 2:00 pm (Connor) // Craft // Intermediate

It may be true that there are no new stories to tell, or is that rubbish? Take a tour through several horror tropes and clichés. Learn how to switch them up and make them your own. You will be asked to take a trope or cliché and rework it during class. We will share them and discuss. You may walk out with some inspiration to turn into a story or novel. We will also cover how crucial it is to pick apart movies and read novels. They are a constant source of do's and don'ts.

The Science of Intimacy: Why Love and Consent are Crucial for Romance

Rachael Bush // Saturday, 4:30 pm (Summit) // Craft // Beginner

Are you interested in writing better romantic relationships? In this session you will learn why love, intimacy, and consent go hand in hand to build healthier, happier characters your readers will care about.

The YA Voice - Releasing your Inner Teenager

Maria V Snyder // Saturday, 3:15 pm (Ballroom 3) // Craft // Workshop

Ever read a young adult book that sounds like it was written by an adult? That's so preachy and boring to that your reaction is an underwhelming meh? Yeah, me too. This workshop will focus on ways to channel your inner teenager and write an authentic YA voice.

Tim Dorsey Interview (Interviewer: Johnny Worthen)

Friday, 10:00 am (Ballroom 2) // Other // Intermediate

Join best-selling author Tim Dorsey for an in-depth interview about his career, craft and craziness. Hosted by acclaimed Dorsey Fan Johnny Worthen, we'll examine the rise and staying power of a truly unique voice in fiction. Just when you thought there were rules...

Training Alpha Readers and Beta Readers

Callie Stoker // Saturday, 5:45 pm (Connor) // Publishing // Beginner

This presentation covers the difference between alpha and beta readers and how to

build yourself a reliable team of readers. What skills and qualifications to look for, and how to train those who are willing but underqualified.

Understanding Amazon: Book Ranks, Top 100 lists, Metadata, and KU

James A. Hunter // Friday, 4:30 pm (Connor) // Marketing // Beginner

The biggest distribution platform independent authors have access to is Amazon. But with over two million eBooks and twelve million physical books available on Amazon, discoverability and visibility are real issues for writers looking for their big break. Cracking the top 100,000 on Amazon is nearly impossible for many independently published authors, and breaking into the top 10,000, or even the top 1,000, may seem like insurmountable tasks. Understanding how Amazon works, however, can give many authors the opportunity and edge they need in order to find the readers who will love their work and make money in the process.

Where Does the Story Start **bring first pages******

Rhonda Penders // Friday, 2:00 pm (Amphitheater) // Craft // Beginner

How do you grab the editor's attention and keep it? This is an interactive workshop. Volunteers will submit their first two pages of their manuscript and I will go through them at the workshop and offer suggestions on how to start the story stronger. I will also bring examples of great story beginnings.

Worldbuilding: Creating Depth to Setting

Charlie N. Holmberg // Saturday, 4:30 pm (Ballroom 1) // Craft // Beginner

Worldbuilding is an essential aspect of every story, even those told in our modern-day society. This class will teach you how to mold your story around a solid and believable setting, regardless of whether your world stems from the deepest depths of your imagination, the farthest eons of history, or your own backyard. Discover how to research the past and follow step-by-step instructions to creating your own continent, as well as determining where to start and what to cut.

Writing Beyond the Binary: Writing Trans and Nonbinary Characters

Alex Harrow // Friday, 3:15 pm (Connor) // Craft // Intermediate

This is Part 2 of the Writing Beyond the Binary series by Alex Harrow. To get the most out of this workshop, you should either have taken the first part or be familiar with basic terms and inclusivity of trans and nonbinary people. This presentation will specifically address how to write trans and nonbinary people (both from the perspective of people who identify as such and those who don't). It will include and workshop examples and talk about dos and don'ts when it comes to writing trans and nonbinary characters in respectful and inclusive ways.

Your Character Before Page One

Angie Hodapp // Saturday, 8:30 am (Amphitheater) // Craft // Intermediate

All about creating an interesting backstory for your protagonist [his/her formative moments, early life-changing events, misbeliefs, “ghosts”, making sure they enter page 1 already wanting something], and then making sure that backstory informs his/her internal conflict in this story.