

BROADLEAF WRITERS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

9TH ANNUAL BROADLEAF WRITERS CONFERENCE



Decatur Library
Decatur, Georgia
September 21-22, 2024


BROADLEAFWRITERS.COM



Saturday, September 21, 2024

ROOM A**ROOM B****ROOM C**

9:00-9:25	Introduction & Welcome		
9:30-10:30	Method to the Madness	Being Heard	Pitch Sessions
10:45-11:45	A Discernable Pulse	Workshop: A Novel in Stories	Pitch Sessions
12:00-1:00	Rough First Drafts	Workshop: It's a Character Thing	
1:00-2:15	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
2:15-3:15	Cultural References	Write Time, Write Place	Pitch Sessions
3:30-4:45	First Pages Critique		



Sunday, September 22, 2024

ROOM A**ROOM B****ROOM C**

9:00-9:10	Welcome Back		
9:15-10:15	Q&A on the Publishing Industry	Writing From Real Life	
10:30-11:30	Wait, I Thought This Was a Mystery?	Workshop: Which Publishing Option is Right For You?	Mentoring Sessions (10:20-11:30)
11:45-12:45	From Good to Great	Getting Your Story Out There	Mentoring Sessions
12:45-2:00	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
2:00-3:00	After Care		Mentoring Sessions
3:15-4:30	The Art of Writing		

Schedule: Deep-Dive

Saturday, September 21, 2024

9:00 – 9:10 a.m. ET



Introduction

Room A

Presenter: Zachary Steele
Broadleaf Founder & Executive Director

9:10 – 9:25 a.m. ET



Welcome

Room A

Presenter: Maryann Lozano
President of the Broadleaf Writers Board of Directors & Conference Chair

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. ET



Method to the Madness: Writers on Writing

Room A

Panelists: Mary Kay Andrews, Andy Davidson, Ann Hite
Moderator: Crystal O'Leary-Davidson

There is no absolute correct way to write, but some approaches are more successful than others. Hear about the processes, rituals, tools, and techniques that have made our talented panelists better at their craft.



Being Heard: Finding Your Voice in Fiction

Room B

Panelists: L.D. Lewis, DL Mitchell, Eliot Parker

Moderator: Dawn Major

Point of view, vocabulary, tone, syntax, sentences, paragraph spacing - these and more are what make the "voice" of your fiction, be it short stories, novels, or other mediums. But how do you find your characters' voices and develop and make them authentic? Listen to our panel of writers discuss the process and machinations they use to find their characters' voices. Glean from them tips and techniques to help make your characters heard.

One-on-One Sessions

Room C

This block is for sessions with Zachary Steele only, on behalf of The Story Plant.

Sign up for a ten-minute one-on-one session with a literary agent or editor. This is a great opportunity to discuss your manuscript with an industry professional, get invaluable feedback, and hopefully get the opportunity to send more material for potential representation! Check out our list of agents and editors [here](#).

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ET



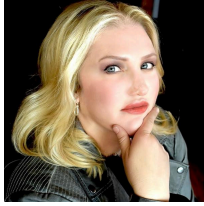
A Discernible Pulse: Creating Flesh and Blood Characters

Room A

Panelists: Mary Kay Andrews, James Tuck, Zachary Steele

Moderator: Jessica Bowers

To engage a reader, your characters have to be real - physically, mentally, and humanly flawed; no one's perfect, right? Listen to our panel of authors discuss how they create characters that go beyond the one-dimensional to ones so vividly imagined that you could see a pulse under their skin. Whether it's starting with an archetype and adding backstory or beginning with a physical trait and adding quirks, hear the techniques used by those seated on our dais to create "flesh and blood" characters.



Workshop: Writing a Novel in Stories

Room B

Presenter: Dawn Major

The novel-in-stories has several different names such as composite novel, linked narrative collection, linked narratives, a novel told through stories a/k/a novel-in-stories, or a story cycle. Whatever term the author decides to use for this particular novel structure, the primary difference is that a novel-in-stories is a collection of short stories that are connected by a common thread as opposed to standalone, unrelated story collections. Learn about authors who write within this structure, the different techniques, and how to recycle your short stories to create a novel-in-stories manuscript.

One-on-One Sessions: Pitch Sessions

Room C

Sign up for a ten-minute one-on-one session with a literary agent or editor. This is a great opportunity to discuss your manuscript with an industry professional, get invaluable feedback, and hopefully get the opportunity to send more material for potential representation! Check out our list of agents and editors [here](#).

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET

Getting Dirty: From Rough First Drafts to Publication

Room A

Panelists: Andy Davidson, DL Mitchell, Andrew Diaz Winkelmann

Moderator: Ann Hite



Your first draft might not be Pulitzer-Prize-winning prose but you have to start somewhere. Don't let the fear of perfectionism scare you from getting those first words written; everything begins somewhere. God particle or acorn - you must simply start writing. Hear our panelists discuss how they get from first thoughts to paper to published book.



Workshop: It's a Character Thing: Connecting Your Reader to the People That Matter Most

Room B

Presenter: Zachary Steele

Snape. Gatsby. Katniss. Sydney Carton. Characters are the most vital piece of a story. Good or evil, they drive the plot, draw in the reader, and can leave a lasting imprint. Author, Editor, and Founder of Broadleaf Writers, Zachary Steele, breaks down the process of building characters with depth that will resonate with your reader long after they've finished the last page.

1:00 – 2:15 p.m. ET

Lunch

It's time for a break! But you don't have to go alone. Sit and enjoy your meal with our speakers or fellow attendees. Make friends, find mentors, form writing groups, and embrace the power and importance of a writing community!

2:15 – 3:15 p.m. ET



Can I Borrow That?: Using Cultural References in Your Writing

Room A

Panelists: L.D. Lewis, Gray Stewart, Andrew Diaz Winkelmann

Moderator: Benji Carr



It's hard to tell a story without using cultural references. We don't want every character in our stories to be just like us, but how do you decide what is appropriate and what is appropriation? Our panel will discuss how to build a rich, interesting story while being respectful and sensitive to the world around us.



Write Time, Write Place: The Importance of Setting

Room B

Panelists: Marlena Frank, Julia Franks, James Tuck

Moderator: Eliot Parker



Your setting is as vital as the characters that populate it or the events that happen within it. The best world-building immerses your readers rather than drowning them in specifics or leaving them lost in a hazy backdrop. Pulling in the right details, showing instead of telling, and bringing the world to life are vital. Learn from our panelists how you can craft a setting to enhance your reader's experience.

One-on-One Sessions: Pitch Sessions

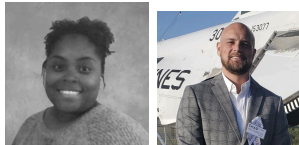
Room C

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3:30 –4:45 p.m. ET

First Pages Critique

Room A



Panelists: Stephanie Hollifield, Rebecca Rodd, Chad Rhoad

Moderator: Carmen Slaughter



The first page is an introduction to your story, and to your writing. To catch the eye of an agent or an editor, your first page needs to be on point. Join our literary agents and editors as they listen to and critique your first pages. Which pages will tantalize and intrigue? Gain invaluable insights from their gentle feedback.

Schedule: Deep-Dive

Sunday, September 22, 2024

9:00 – 9:10 a.m. ET



Welcome Back

Room A

Presenter: Maryann Lozano

President of the Broadleaf Board of Directors & Conference Chair

9:15 – 10:15 a.m. ET



You've Got Questions: A Q&A on the Publishing Industry

Room A

Panelists: Stephanie Hollifield, Zachary Steele

Moderator: Carmen Slaughter



From query letters to the sale of a manuscript, the role of the literary agent and the editor, and so much more, the publishing industry can be overwhelming to any writer, at any stage. You have questions to be answered. Come early, be ready, ask away. Our esteemed panelists are ready to answer!

Writing From Real Life: Drawing Inspiration Without Drawing Ire

Room B



Panelists: Bernette Sherman, Gray Stewart, Andrew Diaz Winkelmann

Moderator: Robert Gwaltney



We write what we know. Sometimes what we know can make our friends and family uncomfortable. Whether you're tackling a memoir or pulling inspiration into a fictional manuscript, some details will need to be handled delicately. Our panelists will discuss how you can change the story or characters without changing them into something you no longer recognize. Can you write the story you want to write without making the people in your life angry?

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. ET

Wait, I Thought This was a Mystery: What Genre is it, Anyway?

Room A



Panelists: Mary Kay Andrews, Marlena Frank, James Wade

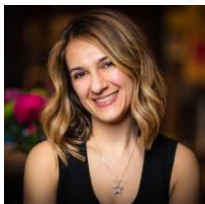
Moderator: Eliot Parker



You're a mystery writer who likes a touch of romance. Or you thought you were writing a romance, but maybe it's really horror! Maybe your story fits multiple genres. We will explore how to determine what genre (or genres) you are writing, and how to make it work.

Workshop: Which Publishing Option is Right for You?

Room B



Presenter: Angela DeCaires, BookLogix CEO

The publishing industry continues to change, creating a growing number of options for today's writers looking to publish their work. It can be overwhelming! With so many options how is a writer to know which path makes the most sense for their unique situation? This session breaks down the options and gives the pros and cons of each potential publishing path to help writers get a clearer idea of the direction they should pursue.

One-on-One Sessions: Mentoring Sessions

Room C

Sign up for a ten-minute one-on-one [mentoring session](#) with a literary agent, editor, or author. Take this opportunity to ask any question on the industry or writing that you may have in a personal session!

11:45 – 12:45 p.m. ET **From Good to Great: Editing Your Work**
Room A



Panelists: Andy Davidson, Julia Franks, L.D. Lewis
Moderator: Benji Carr

Congratulations on completing that first draftNow what?! Without the right polishing, a lackluster manuscript won't get the attention of agents or readers. In this panel you will learn how to peel back the layers of the editing process, where to find quality critique partners, and how to incorporate feedback into your work.



Getting Your Story Out There: Sorting Through Your Options
Room B

Panelists: Marlena Frank, Bernette Sherman, James Tuck
Moderator: Bill Bridges

How do you get your stories in front of readers? There's more to publication than going the traditional route with a literary agent. From indie publishing to magazines to contests, you have options. Let's discuss which one is right for you.

One-on-One Sessions: Mentoring Sessions
Room C

Sign up for a ten-minute one-on-one [mentoring session](#) with a literary agent, editor, or author. Take this opportunity to ask any question on the industry or writing that you may have in a personal session!

12:45 – 2:00 p.m. ET **Lunch**

It's time for a break! But you don't have to go alone. Sit and enjoy your meal with our speakers or fellow attendees. Make friends, find mentors, form writing groups, and embrace the power and importance of a writing community!

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET



After Care: How to Keep the Momentum Going

Room A

Panelists: Andy Davidson, DL Mitchell, Robert Gwaltney

Moderator: Crystal O'Leary-Davidson



You've gone to the conference. You've learned some neat things, met some great people, and are vibrating with the possibilities. Now how do you harness all that energy? Let's discuss how to make the most of your conference experience, how to keep in touch with friends new and old, and what next steps you can take to further your writing.

3:15 – 4:30 p.m. ET



The Art of Writing: Resistance is Not Futile

Room A

Panelists: Julia Franks, Gray Stewart, James Wade

Moderator: Jeff Clemmons



Dorothy Parker once quipped, “the art of writing is about applying the ass to the seat.” While its sage advice, is it the only counsel to heed? What keeps you from writing, from doing the art? Is it research, life, feeling the “imposter syndrome”? Hear our panelists discuss how they overcome their resistance to writing and get to the work at hand.

4:30 p.m. ET



Farewell

Room A

Presenter: Zachary Steele

Broadleaf Writers Founder & Executive Director