

The Writing Room

Fall 2008 Schedule

Seminar: Marketing Yourself on the Web at ALL stages of your Writing Career

Joshilyn Jackson

Whether you have just begun to draft your first short story or are currently shopping your third completed manuscript, there are things you could be doing, right now, to build a reader base and create a web presence. As writers we like to think of ourselves as artists, but in the publishing world, we are expected more and more to act as our own publicists and be savvy businessfolk. The Internet has opened up the world to anyone with a modem, and it can be a powerful professional tool for writers at all stages of their career. While the main focus of this seminar is prepublication (especially preparing for submission before one's first book first sale), we will also spend a little time on the crucial period between sale and publication. This seminar is for fiction and non-fiction writers, focusing mainly on those interested in placing book length manuscripts.

Level: All levels, Beginner to Advanced

Saturday, August 24

2:00- 5:00 pm

Location: Innovate Building Conference Room, 148 River Street, Greenville

Fee: \$50/nonmember; \$45/member

Works in Progress: Focusing on Your Book Length Manuscript

Ashley Warlick

This popular class is for experienced prose writers with a book-length manuscript of either fiction or nonfiction in progress. Each student will submit 40 to 50 pages of their work to be closely read and carefully considered by both the instructor and the group, providing the center of one full class period's workshop. Through constructive, frank critique, both given and received, students will learn to identify and address what works in a manuscript and what does not. Expect to come away from the class with specific reading assignments and concrete recommendations on how to improve your novel, memoir, or collection.

Level: Advanced

This workshop may be taken more than once.

9-week class, 3 hours each class,

Starts August 26

Tuesdays, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Furman University, Modern Languages Department

Fee: \$360/ nonmember; \$340/Emrys member

Class size limited to 8 people

Nonfiction for Liars: Or How To Tell a True Story

Scott Gould

This course tiptoes along the thin line that attempts to divide fiction and nonfiction, with the goal of telling “true” stories that incorporate the elements of good fiction—that is, narrative pacing, conflict, rising action, characterization, setting, resolution, etc., etc. After we loudly debate the differences (or non-differences) between nonfiction and fiction, we’ll read a stack of contemporary nonfiction, relying a great deal on *Best American Essays* and current literary magazines. Then, we’ll write and workshop your own essays. I mean creative nonfiction. I mean quasi-fiction. You’ll end up telling stories that are true. Mostly.

Level: Beginner to Intermediate

8-week class

Starts September 9

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 9 p.m.

Location: Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities

Fee: \$240/nonmember; \$230/member

Creative Writing 101

Mindy Friddle

This six-week workshop provides an excellent overview for beginners or anyone who wants to brush up on the craft and practices of creative writing. We’ll talk about fundamental elements such as point of view, character development, plot, dialogue, voice, imagery and setting. You’ll get a mixture of brief lectures that hit the high-points and weekly writing exercises that let you try your hand at what you’ve just learned. Discussion of published works—short stories, novel and memoir excerpts, and creative nonfiction— will illustrate these concepts. You’ll also have the option to share and discuss each other’s work. At the conclusion of our workshop, you’ll be a more knowledgeable and skilled writer and will have gained a sense of where to move onward with your writing.

Level: Beginner to Intermediate

This workshop may be taken more than once.

6-week class

Starts September 10

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 9 p.m.

Location: Innovate Building Conference Room

Fee: \$180/nonmember; \$170/member

Writing for Children and Young Adults

Mark Johnston

Whether you’ve never written a word or have been pounding out stories, chapter books, or poems for years, this six-week workshop is designed to give you

confidence and help you think like a professional. It will start with the query letter; move on to description, dialogue, plotting, and voice; and end with strategies for contacting an agent or editor. Your work will be critiqued by the instructor and by fellow members of your workshop. The goal isn't simply that you enjoy writing more. The goal is to move you one step closer to publication.

Level: Beginner to Intermediate

6-week class Starts September 30

Tuesdays, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Location: Camperdown Building Conference Room, 200 E. Camperdown Way

Fee: \$180/nonmember; \$170/Emrys member

Seminar: Settling Down: a Sense of Place in the Upstate Novel

Tommy Hays, Ashley Warlick and Mindy Friddle

"I believe that we all have emotional connections to place. I know I do. And it's important to me to write about those places, to have my characters act out their lives there."—Tommy Hays

One of the great pleasures of a good book is the feeling of being transported. Often, it is the intimate connection of the writer to a particular place and time that gives the setting resonance, a sense of home, of hallowed ground. Novelists Mindy Friddle, Tommy Hays and Ashley Warlick talk about the function of place in a long story, why the Upstate is such a touchstone in their writing, and how to build your own sense of place in your work. Expect to come away from this class with a strong understanding of how creating a vivid setting does more than provide a backdrop, but can build atmosphere and reveal the inner lives of your characters.

Sunday, October 12

2-5 pm

Location: TBD

Fee: \$50/nonmember; \$45/member

Seminar: From Concept to Winner: How to Write a Winning Screenplay

Howard Kingkade

When you see a blockbuster movie and say to yourself, "I could write that"-- it's already too late. Twenty studios are thinking the same thing and have teams of writers working on a dozen "clones." The Hollywood film industry is based on "follow the leader" and "take no chances." Very few spec screenplays are bought from unknown writers. But don't be discouraged. Your script can still get the recognition it deserves and might even make it to the screen by entering one of the hundreds of screenplay competitions held each year throughout the country. This seminar will focus on what it takes to win screenwriting contests. The 6 main areas covered will be 1) going against the flow 2) how to stop the judge from tossing your script into the shredder 3) how to create dramatic structure that works 4) full-length versus short screenplays 5) creating sharp dialogue and avoiding "on the nose" exchanges 6) where and how to enter the best contests.

Level: Beginner to Advanced
Saturday, November 8
2:00- 5:00 pm
Location: TBD
Fee: \$50/nonmember; \$45/member

Writing Room Faculty

Mindy Friddle is founder and director of the Writing Room. Her novel, *The Garden Angel* (St. Martin's Press/Picador), was a Barnes & Noble "Discover Great New Writers" selection. Recently awarded a 2008-2009 Individual Artist Fellowship in Prose from the SC Arts Commission, she has received a fellowship in fiction from the South Carolina Academy of Authors, twice won the South Carolina Fiction Prize, and was awarded The Walter Dakin Fellowship in Fiction from Sewanee. She holds a B.A. from Furman University, a Master's degree from the University of South Carolina, and an MFA in Writing from Warren Wilson College. She reviews books for *The Charlotte Observer* and writes a column, "Author to Author," for the *Greenville Journal*. Her second novel, *Secret Keepers*, is forthcoming from St. Martin's Press.

Scott Gould is Chair of the Creative Writing Department at the S.C. Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities. His poetry, fiction and nonfiction have been published in magazines and anthologies including *Kenyon Review*, *Kansas Quarterly*, *Carolina Quarterly*, *Black Warrior Review*, *New Stories From the South*, and *New Southern Harmonies*, among others. He is a past winner of the Literature Fellowship from the South Carolina Arts Commission and the Fiction Fellowship from the South Carolina Academy of Authors. Scholastic, Inc. named him a National Creative Writing Teacher of the Year, and his scriptwriting has won awards from the International Television Association and the London Film Festival. Scott recently received a Surdna Arts Teacher Fellowship for study in Italy. Scott has an MA in English and Creative Writing from the University of South Carolina and an MFA in Writing from Warren Wilson College.

Tommy Hays' latest novel, *The Pleasure Was Mine*, was chosen for the Amazing Read — Greenville, South Carolina's first community-wide reading of a single book. *The Pleasure Was Mine*, set in Greenville, was read on National Public Radio's "Radio Reader" hosted by Dick Estell and South Carolina ETV-Radio's "Southern Read" hosted by Walter Edgar. It was also a Finalist for the SIBA (Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance) 2006 Fiction Award. Tommy has written two other novels — *Sam's Crossing* and *In the Family Way*, a selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club and winner of the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award. He is Director of the Great Smokies Writing Program and a Lecturer in the Masters of Liberal Arts Program at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. A member of the National Book Critics Circle, he received his BA in English from Furman University and graduated from the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson

College. He lives in Asheville with his wife Connie and his two children Max and Ruth. Visit www.tommyhays.com for more information on Tommy.

Joshilyn Jackson's bestselling debut novel, *Gods in Alabama* won the SIBA (Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance's) 2005 Novel of the Year Award and was a #1 BookSense pick. Her second novel, *Between*, Georgia was also a #1 BookSense pick, making Jackson the first author in BookSense history to receive #1 status in back to back years. Jackson read the audio version herself, winning a Listen Up award from *Publisher's Weekly* and making *Audiofile's* Best of 2006 list. Both books were chosen for the Books-A-Million Book Club. Her short fiction has been published in literary magazines and anthologies including *TriQuarterly* and *Calyx*, and her plays have been produced in Atlanta and Chicago. Joshilyn's third novel, *The Girl Who Stopped Swimming*, a national bestseller, was released in March of 2008. Visit www.joshilynjackson.com and Joshilyn's popular blog, *Faster Than Kudzu*, for more information.

Mark Johnston is the author of *I Love To Smell My Daddy's Socks* (Price Stern Sloan, 1997) and co-author of *Secret Agent* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2005) and *The Secret Agents Strike Back* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008). He writes children's books and teaches English at Greenville Technical College.

Howard Kingkade worked as a SAG actor, appearing in commercials, television, and features before turning to writing. This year, *Hole in the Paper Sky*, a short film for which he wrote the original screenplay, won the Jury Award for "Best Screenplay" at the 2008 Beverly Hills International Film Festival. Howard has won or been named a finalist in a number of screenwriting competitions, including the American Gem, *Fade In Magazine*, *Anything But Hollywood*, PAGE International, and the British Short Screenplay Competition. Last year, the South Carolina Arts Commission awarded him a 2007-2008 Screenwriting Fellowship. A playwright as well as screenwriter, his full-length comedy, *One foot in the Gravy*, is one of four finalists in Centre Stage's (Greenville) 2008 New Play Festival and will receive a staged reading in September. Currently, he teaches at USC Lancaster.

A North Carolina native, **Ashley Warlick** is the author of three novels: *The Distance from the Heart of Things* (1996), *The Summer After June* (2000), and *Seek the Living* (2005), all published by Houghton Mifflin Company. She is the youngest recipient of the Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship, a founding advisory board member for the *Novello Festival Press*, a book reviewer and columnist, and a recipient of a 2006 fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. She teaches in the MFA program at Queens University in Charlotte, North Carolina.