A Writer’s Summer 2011

SOUTHAMPTON

Screenwriting Conference: July 6 - 10
Playwriting Conference: July 6 - 10
Children’s Literature Conference: July 6 - 10
Playwriting Conference II: July 13 - 24
Writers Conference: July 13 - 24
Outstanding, enriching workshops and lectures from people at the top of their game in every way—successful, knowledgeable and generous.

- B.R., Spokane, WA

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He’s almost ready to begin to get started on readying himself to prepare for the possibility of thinking about beginning his novel.
I applaud your efforts to include people of all ages and backgrounds. I am particularly gratified by the inter-generational approach to filling workshops. I appreciate the humor, humility, and accessibility of the faculty.

Superb. Kaylie [Jones] was dedicated, giving, smart, involved. We could not have had a better experience. Bring her back! The other students were talented and supportive.

The conference was wonderful in every way! The schedule of activities and learning opportunities were wide and deep.

The best writers conference I’ve been to, hands down. Makes the others look like trade shows. This felt like the big leagues.

I was forced to stretch way beyond my comfort zone, yet in an environment of such creativity and warmth it felt completely safe to do so.

Phenomenal. I feel like I’ve grown a year in my writing in ten days.

Applications and detailed information about admission, fees, scholarships, deadlines, conference schedules, and housing available:
www.stonybrook.edu/writers • (631) 632-5007
christian.mclean@stonybrook.edu
Since its inception in 1968, Ensemble Studio Theatre has developed and produced more than 6,000 plays featuring many of the finest playwrights, directors and performers working in the theater. The Annual Marathon of One-Act Plays has been widely credited for reviving the one-act play form, and the company has been recognized with Village Voice Obie Awards, New York Outer Critic Circle Awards and numerous American Theater Wing Awards for excellence in theater.

As part of the Stony Brook Southampton MFA in Writing and Literature program, the Southampton Writers Conference provides a forum for authors of all genres to study and discuss writing. Through workshops, lectures, readings, and small-group discussions, the conference offers inspiration and guidance to new writers, established writers, teachers of writing, editors, and qualified auditors.

WORKSHOPS

The primary work of the conference is conducted in writing workshops on the novel, short story, poetry, literary essay, memoir, and creative nonfiction. Last year’s workshop faculty included authors of the first rank who are also experienced, accessible teachers, including: Elizabeth Strout, Kaylie Jones, Billy Collins, Roger Rosenblatt, Meg Wolitzer, Melissa Bank, Emily Mann, Julie Sheehen, and Matt Klam.

Workshop size is limited. Sessions meet for three hours on alternate mornings throughout the conference. Remaining mornings are devoted to lectures featuring faculty members and leading authors.

GUEST SPEAKERS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Evening events will feature regular faculty and award-winning visiting authors. In the afternoons, participants may choose from a wide range of elective sessions that include presentations by distinguished editors, publishers, and agents as well as workshops on special topics in writing. Participants will also enjoy a rich schedule of formal and informal social gatherings—author receptions, a softball game, open-mic night, and other activities.

Recent keynote speakers have included Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Ford, Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott, U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins, and novelists Joyce Carol Oates, E.L. Doctorow and Tom Wolfe.
Now in its third year, the Southampton Playwriting Conference provides the rare opportunity to develop new work in an intensive laboratory setting with professional actors and directors standing by. A rich and varied schedule of workshops, lectures, readings, and panel discussions led by distinguished members of the industry in a resort area of natural beauty make this a truly unique creative experience.

Directors, actors and playwrights from New York’s esteemed developmental institution Ensemble Studio Theatre will be in residence developing works in progress and providing a “company” of actors to read student work.

Workshop leaders, guest speakers and panelists who have participated in the conference have included: Craig Lucas, Marsha Norman, Emily Mann, Laura Maria Censabella, Jon Robin Baitz, Joe Pintauro, Leslie Ayvazian, Joe Mantello, Robert Brustein, Mike Daisey, Tony Walton, Lanford Wilson, Julie Andrews, Alan Alda, Alec Baldwin and Lanford Wilson.

Additional formal and informal gatherings, as well as opportunities to enjoy the beautiful beaches and scenery of the Hamptons abound. Open to emerging and established playwrights, teachers of writing, and those who wish to audit the conference. We are pleased to offer graduate credits per session to eligible students.

“There could be no better conference on the planet, I am utterly convinced. It was magnificent.” – D.V., New York, NY

“The Southampton Playwriting Conference was a wonderfully productive experience.” – J.M., Brooklyn, NY

“It’s not every day that you get to work with masters, unless you’re at the Southampton Playwriting Conference!” – N.P., New York, NY

“As the Stony Brook Southampton Writing/Playwriting Conference ends, I leave with a stronger confidence and knowledge of myself as well as new skills that are the essence of playwriting.” – T.B., New York, NY

“The presence in the labs of terrific actors from Ensemble Studio Theatre who excel at cold reading is priceless.” – J.L., New York, NY
Ever dreamed of writing children’s books? We’re inviting writers, teachers and readers to spend a few days in the Hamptons to celebrate books, plays and television programs for children. Think of the synergy in bringing these groups together—writers will learn from teachers, editors, and agents what children want. Educators fascinated by the creative process can take away wonderful new ways to teach writing.

**WORKSHOPS**

The Children’s Writing Workshops will be led by authors and editors of the first rank. Workshop size is limited. Topics include: Chapter Books, Picture Books, Jump Start Your Story, and Young Adult Novels. Some of the distinguished faculty from past years have included: **Tor Seidler**, author of the award-winning *Wainscott Weasel*; **Mitchell Kriegman**, creator of TV’s “Bear in the Big Blue House” and “Clarissa,” **Emma Walton Hamilton**, the author of the *Dumpy, the Dump Truck* series, *Raising Bookworms* and *Simeon’s Gift*, which was recently adapted into a stage musical.

“**It was thrilling to be part of an energetic, word-loving, life-affirming community.**”

“**What an incredible experience. It wasn’t just that I learned so much about writing a children’s book—though I did—it was the whole experience from start to finish. Meeting others who were searching and finding ways to unlock their own stories, people from different backgrounds, and experiences, was so stimulating. There we were, strangers thrown together under brilliant, warm tutelage. How lucky can you be?**”

“**I learned more than I anticipated. Each of the sessions brought me closer to my dream of writing from the heart.**”

“**A wonderful balance of professional writers’ comments and lectures and the business end of the publishing field.**”

“**Our leader was extraordinary, giving us each gentle guidance and encouragement. I am so happy that I had this opportunity to expand my horizons.**”

“I learned incredible new ways to teach writing to others...as well as learning how to find my story.”

“The most ‘mentally nourishing’ experience I have ever had...”

“A wonderful, intellectually-challenging experience.”

“Our workshop leader was unbelievably generous with her time and knowledge (as was everyone), which was far different from other conferences I’ve attended. Excessively excellent!”

“Memorable!”

**GUEST SPEAKERS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

In the afternoons, participants may choose from a wide range of elective sessions with distinguished authors, editors, publishers, and agents. Evening events feature well-known authors, playwrights, and filmmakers. The schedule of formal and informal social gatherings is rich—from author receptions to an open-mic night—with a few surprises, too. In the past we’ve heard from Newbery Award-winning author Richard Peck, and Norton Juster, author of the classic *The Phantom Tollbooth*.

*We’re pleased to offer graduate credits to eligible students.*
The acclaimed Stony Brook Southampton Writers Conference is pleased to announce its fourth annual Screenwriters Conference, to be held July 6 - 10, 2011. The five-day residential program offers inspiration and challenge to those interested in using the visual language of film to tell a story. Our goal is to advance our participants’ understanding of the art of the screenplay and their individual writing process through hands-on workshops, panels, and seminars.

Located in the resort community of Southampton, New York, a relaxed setting of natural beauty, this program will encourage and motivate attendees under the guidance of accomplished screenwriters and educators.

Screenwriting Workshops
The primary offering of the conference is conducted in nine hours of writing workshops. The workshops, which are limited in size, are offered to screenwriters at different stages in their process: those looking to create a completed outline, those looking to develop an idea into a story and to those hoping to further development of an existing screenplay. Workshops offered will cover all aspects of craft: Premise, Character, Structure, Conflict and Dialogue. Writers with an existing script will have the opportunity to re-think a work in progress with focus on Conflict, Scenes/Scene Sequence, Deepening Character and the Power of Dialogue as well as Formatting Your Script for Dramatic Effect and Easy Reading.

In past years our workshops have included:
- Structure: From Idea to Film
- Keeping the Focus: Building Your Story Through Scenes
- Breaking the Back of Your Story
- Story: Finding, Enhancing and Serving Your Story through Craft
- Creating Stronger Scenes

Our faculty is made up of professional screenwriters who also teach at the Columbia Graduate Film Program, NYU Tisch School of the Arts and USC Film School. They have included: Andrew Bienen, Academy Award nominee Cristina Lazaridi, Playwright and Screenwriter Frank Pugliese, Award Winning Filmmaker, Screenwriter and Poet Paula Brancato, and Writer/Actor Peter Riegert.

Writing workshops meet for three hours in the morning on three consecutive days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Afternoon Sessions offer a wide range of electives which include seminars and presentations by distinguished screenwriters on such potential topics as:
- Character: What Lies Beneath
- Screenwriters Toolbox: Three tools to outline your story
- Rewriting: You Can Do It On the Page or in the Editing Room
- Acting for Writers

Guest Speakers and Special Events
Our guest lecturers and special event evenings have included discussions with Writer/Director Kenneth Lonergan (You Can Count On Me), Writer/Director Robert Benton (Bonnie and Clyde) and Peter Hedges (What’s Eating Gilbert Grape, Dan In Real Life, Pieces of April and About A Boy) and an evening tribute to the late Writer/Director Alan Pakula, with a discussion of his films hosted by film critic Molly Haskell. One special event featured Playwright Jon Robin Baitz and Actor Alec Baldwin sharing clips of their favorite film scenes. Last summer we enjoyed an especially entertaining evening with Producer/Director Alexander Payne (Sideways, About Schmidt).

We expect to provide the same level of evening offerings this summer.
The creative experience was so stimulating, it made me want to quit my day job and write.

LOCATION AND HOUSING
The seaside campus of Stony Brook Southampton is located in the heart of the Hamptons, a renowned resort area only 80 miles from New York City. During free time, participants can draw inspiration from Atlantic beaches or explore charming towns. On-campus housing—doubles and small singles with shared baths—is modest but comfortable. A limited number of single supplements is available at additional cost on a first-come basis. Participants who prefer off-campus housing will find a list of area inns on our Web site.

FEES
Fees represent the standard residential option, including tuition, room and board.
For five-day conferences: $1495.
For 11-day Writers Conference and the 11-day Playwriting Conference: $2445.
For information on fees for commuters, subscribers and for academic credit, please visit our Web site at www.stonybrook.edu/writers

HOW TO APPLY
Application fees:
For five-day conferences: $15
For the 11-day Writers Conference and the 11-day Playwriting Conference: $25
You must submit an application form and a writing sample. Visit our Web site to download an application form. You may also return the attached card or email our office to receive the application form and more details regarding writing samples.

Tuition, room, and board is included in the conference fees for each conference. Workshops are open to both published and unpublished writers. Acceptance is based on the promise of the writing sample, along with an indication that the applicant will benefit from the conference. We are happy to award graduate credit to eligible students.

MFA in Writing and Literature
The Stony Brook Southampton MFA program in Writing and Literature welcomes writers who seek instruction that is friendly, rigorous, professionally useful, and intellectually challenging. Our graduate students work and publish in many genres, including short and long fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, playwriting, screenwriting, and memoir.

TSR: The Southampton Review
Sponsored by the MFA program, TSR: The Southampton Review is dedicated to publishing fine fiction, nonfiction, poetry and art. The Southampton Review focuses on work by students and graduates of the MFA program and the Southampton Writers Conference, but we open our pages to well-established and emerging writers from around the world.

Manhattan + Southampton = MFA
Students accepted into the program may earn an MFA degree by combining coursework at our Manhattan facility during fall and spring terms, and at the Southampton campus during summer by participating in the prestigious Southampton Writers Conferences.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID
Partial scholarships are available. Members of the MFA program who enroll in more than one conference are eligible to apply for financial aid. Visit our Web site for more information.

DEADLINES
For Scholarship Consideration: April 15
All Other Applications: May 20

Students may apply to one or two conferences. Please note: Participants enrolled in two consecutive workshops have the option to remain on campus between programs for an additional charge.

Early application is encouraged, as workshop space is limited and the admission process is competitive. Notification of acceptance will ordinarily be mailed within four weeks. Applications received after May 20 will be considered on a rolling basis as space permits.

And then, after years of hardship, she and her fuzzy slippers shuffled to fame and fortune.