

Write-O-Rama

Virtual Edition | May 23, 2021



CLASS SCHEDULE

	12 pm	1 pm	2 pm	3 pm
Kicking Horse	The Sweep of the Universe: Writing with Millennia of South Asian Poetry with Shankar Narayan	Crafting the Perfect Pitch with Sabra Boyd	Psychology for Writers with Joshua Marie Wilkinson	Inviting Ancestors into Our Writing with Jordan Alam
Skye	Close Noticing with Liza Birnbaum	The Art of Dialogue with Stacy D. Flood	Writing into Paradox with Ever Jones	Putting Pressure on Characters with Becky Mandelbaum
Hideout	Worldbuilding with Scott Driscoll	Poetic Screenwriting with Rose McAleese	Turning Your Book Dream into Reality with Ingrid Ricks	Poem Plus Prompt (PPP) with Dilruba Ahmed
Index	Writing the Child-Self with Joe Wilkins	The Texture of Place: Writing Poems that Engage with the Living Environment with Laura Da'	Writing Dialogue for Any Genre with Danielle Mohlman	Creating Character with J. Ryan Stradal

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

POEM PLUS PROMPT (PPP)

with Dilruba Ahmed

In this a bite-sized session, we'll feed your writing practice with a poem paired with discussion questions to unpack significant craft elements. After our discussion, we'll commit to a round of shared quiet writing time inspired by a related prompt. Our focus poem for this class will be "Children Walk on Chairs to Cross a Flooded Schoolyard" by Patrick Rosal.

INVITING ANCESTORS INTO OUR WRITING

with Jordan Alam

Have a story from your lineage to tell? In this workshop, we will write to chosen ancestors—blood-related and not—to connect with themes that cross generations. Writers of color will be centered when sharing work.

CLOSE NOTICING

with Liza Birnbaum

"Attention equals Life, or is its only evidence," writes the poet Frank O'Hara. In this hands-on session for writers in all genres, we'll explore several practices that can help us notice more and set our singular observations (that evidence of Life!) down on the page.

CRAFTING THE PERFECT PITCH

with Sabra Boyd

Craft the perfect pitch that will hook editors' interest. Together we'll generate story ideas and angles to demystify the pitching process. Whether this is your first byline, or you want to improve your freelance acceptance rate, we'll explore ways to make pitching more fun and less intimidating.

WRITING POEMS THAT ENGAGE WITH THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

with Laura Da'

This one-hour class focuses on creating texture in poetry to explore a sense of place and history through observation of the environment. Students can expect to read poems for inspiration, talk through new writing prompts, and leave class with a new poem.

WORLDBUILDING

with Scott Driscoll

All fiction writers engage in worldbuilding. Whether it's a fantasy universe, or the grain silo spilling mounds of seed by the railroad tracks, or the torture chamber of anxiety, shame, and fear that is your character's inner psyche, the story you tell is set in a world only you can imagine. We'll explore sources of inspiration for fictional worlds, and then we'll consider what the worlds we build for our stories tell us about our characters' cultures.

THE ART OF DIALOGUE

with Stacy D. Flood

Compelling dialogue can add both style and authenticity to your work. This introduction to creative, realistic, active yet efficient dialogue can help you build conversations into your work that drive narrative without heavy exposition, thus building effective dialogue structures for your playwriting or prose.

WRITING INTO PARADOX

with Ever Jones

We face paradox constantly: waking up while we are asleep, living in a country that celebrates freedom while its foundations are rooted in subjugation, using that straw from Starbucks while we plan to save the world. This course will revel in reading paradoxes from example texts, seeing them as social constructions in need of liberation, and following guided prompts into a poem or a piece of short prose.

PUTTING PRESSURE ON CHARACTERS

with Becky Mandelbaum

Sometimes we instinctively protect our characters. Together, we'll look at how to increase narrative tension by applying pressure through plot, interiority, pacing, and more. Learn to create a scene that keeps the reader turning the page.

POETIC SCREENWRITING

with Rose McAleese

In this class, we will be exploring the idea of finding movies within poems. We will learn tips and tricks on how to create dialogue and stage direction from famous poems. The words are there, it's our job to find the visuals.

WRITING DIALOGUE FOR ANY GENRE

with Danielle Mohlman

Join playwright Danielle Mohlman for an exploration of dialogue that's perfect for writers of all genres. Together, we'll play through a series of exercises and games, getting to the heart of not only what your characters say, but how they say it. You'll leave with the beginnings of a scene, and some tools to draw on in your own writing process.

WRITING WITH MILLENNIA OF SOUTH ASIAN POETRY

with Shankar Narayan

The breadth and reach of South Asian poetry is almost unimaginably vast, encompassing six major religions, hundreds of languages, diverse geographies, and millennia of time. In this hour, we'll examine poems from various forms and movements—from ancient Sanskrit religious texts to Urdu political resistance poetry—and create our inspired pieces.

TURNING YOUR BOOK DREAM INTO REALITY

with Ingrid Ricks

If emotional roadblocks are standing in the way of your book writing dream, this session is for you. Memoir author and Book Coach Ingrid Ricks will share how she pushed through her own psychological obstacles and teach you the proven mindset-changing techniques and accountability strategies she employs to help you get your book to the finish line.

CREATING CHARACTER

with J. Ryan Stradal

Establishing your main character's voice assertively is crucial to great storytelling. In this short session, we'll do two writing exercises that will help you get inside your character's minds, and perhaps help you surprise yourself as you learn about your character.

WRITING THE CHILD-SELF

with Joe Wilkins

Adults do errands. Children go on journeys. In this Write-O-Rama session (which is a small taste of some of the writing we'll be doing in Our First Gods: Writing the Mother/Father), we'll attempt to recapture the magic, confusion, and drama of childhood as we write our way to our childhood selves.

PSYCHOLOGY FOR WRITERS

with Joshua Marie Wilkinson

If you're yearning to expand beyond competent poetic verse, formulaic essays, and lukewarm storytelling, this session will give you four new tools to develop, hone, and cultivate psychological depth in your creative writing practice. This hour will include a brief talk about four fundamental concepts of psychoanalysis and we'll do a brief writing exercise to practice some of these new concepts to catalyze your poems, essays, and fiction.

ABOUT THE TEACHERS

DILRUBA AHMED is the author of *Bring Now the Angels*. Her debut book of poetry, *Dhaka Dust*, won the Bakeless Prize. Her poems have appeared in *New England Review* and the *New York Times Magazine*.

JORDAN ALAM is a queer Bangladeshi-American writer, performer, and therapist based in Seattle. Jordan has performed work on embodied writing nationwide.

LIZA BIRNBAUM's work has appeared in *Web Conjunctions*, *Open Letters Monthly*, and elsewhere. She is a founding editor of *Big Big Wednesday* and holds an MFA from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

SABRA M. BOYD's personal essays and journalism have been featured in the *Washington Post*, *Vice*, *Psychology Today*, *HuffPost*, *Eater*, *Seattle Times*, and more. Sabra strives to be a writer's writer, helping others build successful writing careers.

LAURA DA' is a poet and teacher. She is Eastern Shawnee. Her first book, *Tributaries*, won the American Book Award, and her latest, *Instruments of the True Measure*, won the Washington State Book Award.

SCOTT DRISCOLL has an MFA from UW and has taught writing for twenty-five years. He is the author of the novel *Better You Go Home*, winner of the Foreword First Debut Fiction award.

STACY D. FLOOD's work has been published nationally and performed in and beyond the PNW. He has received awards from Disquiet, the Getty Fellowship, and The Millay Colony of the Arts. His novella, *The Salt Fields*, was published this spring.

EVER JONES (they/them) is a queer/trans writer, artist and instructor. Their writing and instruction exists at the intersections of identity, nature, and place. Ever is a professor of creative writing at the UW Tacoma.

BECKY MANDELBAUM is the author of *The Bright Side Sanctuary for Animals* (Simon & Schuster 2020) and *Bad Kansas*, which received the 2016 Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. She lives in Bellingham.

ROSE MCALEESE is a screenwriter, poet, and journalist. She was a staff writer for *The Quad* on BET, *Sneakerheads* on Netflix, a script doctor for *American Pie 9: Girls' Rule*, also streaming on Netflix. Rose resides in Los Angeles.

DANIELLE MOHLMAN is a nationally produced playwright based in Seattle. She is an alumna of Playwrights' Arena at Arena Stage and the Umbrella Project Writers Group. She is a proud graduate of both Cal Poly Pomona and Emerson College.

SHANKAR NARAYAN explores identity, power, mythology, and technology in a world where the body is flung across borders yet possesses unrivaled power to transcend them.

INGRID RICKS is a *New York Times*-bestselling author, writing coach, and speaker who uses storytelling to foster healing, awareness, empathy, and change. Her books include *Hippie Boy*, *A Girl's Story*, and *Focus*.

J. RYAN STRADAL is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* and the instant national bestseller *The Lager Queen of Minnesota*. He lives in California.

JOE WILKINS is the author of the novel *Fall Back Down When I Die*, praised as "remarkable and unforgettable" in a starred review at *Booklist*, and a memoir, *The Mountain and the Fathers*. He has published four poetry collections.

JOSHUA MARIE WILKINSON is the author of ten books. He was born and raised in Seattle and teaches at Seattle University.

MORE WRITING PROGRAMS

Classes for writers all levels

Keep writing this summer in one of our upcoming online classes, which range from one-day courses to multiweek offerings. Search the catalog at hugohouse.org.

Manuscript consultations

Get one-on-one guidance for your works-in-progress from one of our experienced manuscript consultants. Our consultants are practicing and published writers with expertise in copy, developmental, and line editing; submissions to agents, magazines, or publishers; preparing applications for MFA programs, awards, or residencies; marketing and promotion; and more. For a list of our consultants, their services, and hourly rates, visit hugohouse.org.

Write with Hugo House

Looking for ongoing inspiration, feedback, and ways to connect with other writers? We've taken our free drop-in writing circles online! These gatherings are facilitated by established local writers from Hugo House and presented in partnership with the Seattle Public Library. Visit hugohouse.org for more information.

Quarantine Write-Ins

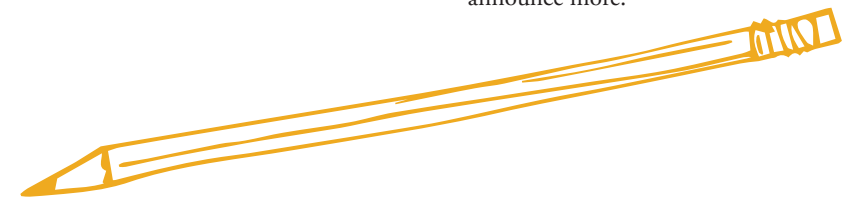
Writing can help us process our feelings about the unprecedented events unfolding around us. To help get those words flowing, join us at this free weekly write-in via Zoom, Thursdays at 5:30 pm PT, where you'll get writing prompts, time to write, and the opportunity to connect with other writers.

Writers-in-Residence

Our writers-in-residence, Laura Da' and Ruth Joffe, are available for free consultations between Sep. 15 and Jun. 15. To learn more or schedule a consultation, visit bit.ly/HH-WIR.

Free Classes & Q&As

Periodically, we add free classes and Q&As to our class catalog. This summer, we'll have Medical Narratives: A Writing Workshop for Healthcare Workers with Suzanne Edison, Family Stories with Jaimie Li, and Creando Historias: Fortaleciendo Tu Músculo Creativo con Elizabeth Villáman. We also have Q&As coming up with memoirist Peter Bacho and essayist Kate Lebo. Keep an eye on the online class catalog and our eNewsletter as we announce more.



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