

FRIDAY, October 7

4-5:15pm

INDIE AUTHOR PANEL, led by Raegan Teller

A panel of indie authors will discuss the pros and cons of self-publishing, ways to market one's book, connect with an audience, and meet the unique challenges of indie authors.

5:30-6:45pm

WRITE LIKE AN EDITOR, Katoya Ellis Fleming

So you've written a book. Now comes the dreaded next step—revision. And perhaps even more dreaded than that—the mean editor lurking with their red pen, waiting to kill your darlings. Learning some basic editing skills (the differences between the different types of editing in general and line editing, specifically) can help you strike the correct balance between exposition and action, strengthen your narrative arc, and help you make stronger word and dialogue choices. This workshop will give you some pointers on how to write with an editor's eye and how to see your editor as a partner, rather than an adversary.

7:30-8:30pm

FACULTY READINGS, Katory Ellis Fleming, Libby Flores, Megan Culhane Galbraith, Esther Lee

8:45-9:30pm

LITERARY TRIVIA

SATURDAY, October 7

10am-12pm

GENERATIVE FICTION WORKSHOP, Libby Flores

“This Will Only Take Minute” When writing short short stories (less than two-thousand words) it is even more critical to grab readers by the collar. What can any writer learn from flash fiction, sudden fiction, or micro-fiction? We will examine the parameters of the form and look at several different approaches to the short short. We'll look specifically at the great flash fiction of Lydia Davis, Ann Beattie, and Jamaica Kincaid, to discover what captivates and arrests our attention, and what resonates with a reader long after the last line is read. After discussing these examples the class will be given writing prompts.

NONFICTION & MEMOIR ROUNDTABLE, Vivian Bikulege

Submit 1000 words or less of your nonfiction ahead of time and participate in a mini-workshop of your writing. Limited to first 15 participants who register for session & submit their writing. 10am-12pm

12:30-1:45pm

BOOK DESIGN FOR WRITERS, Meg Reid

This course will cover the basics of book design, with a particular eye toward book covers. What makes an effective and powerful cover? Why do some covers, while being objectively good, still feel wrong for a particular book? How do trends and genres influence decisions about how a book should look? We'll discuss ways that an author can advocate for themselves in the cover design stage of the traditional publishing process, as well as address what independent authors should know about directing their own design process, including hiring and managing a freelance designer.

12:30–2:30pm

GENERATIVE MEMOIR WORKSHOP, Megan Culhane Galbraith

When you sit down to write, does your adult-self barge in with its stupid self-editing brain and closed fists to shut you down? In this workshop, we'll use cross-genre generative exercises, play, drawing, and artmaking to help us unlock our fear around writing about grief, trauma, and shame. I'll reference works by Melissa Febos, Lynda Barry, Bianca Stone, Victorian Chang and Shirley Jackson. We'll look at artwork by Mary-Kim Arnold, Betye Saar, and Deb Mell among others. Using art and play, we'll draw out your words and explore the fertile ground of your childlike curiosity. My aim is to empower and support you by growing your awareness, strengthening your voice, and bolstering your word count. To paraphrase Sol Lewitt in his letters to Eva Hesse... stop grinding, grinding, grinding away at yourself and just DO!

POETRY ROUNDTABLE, Evelyn Berry

Submit a poem ahead of time and participate in a mini-workshop of your writing. Limited to first 15 participants who register for session & submit their writing.

3–5pm

GENERATIVE POETRY WORKSHOP, Esther Lee

“Unconscious Optics of Our Photos” By investigating what memory studies scholar Marianne Hirsch refers to as the “unconscious optics” of family photographs, we'll share at least 3 photographs from our youth, preferably hard copy (or printed out). We'll delve into our personal photographs, applying a meta-photographic exploration to our poetry writing process. We'll consider our unspoken ways of looking, the myths of familial memory, and the ways in which we are constituted in the space of family. How do our photographs—even the most seemingly benign ones—bring up such evocative memories for us—of longing, trauma, belonging, grief, and nostalgia?

Note: Bring 3 photographs from your youth

FICTION ROUNDTABLE, Maria Picone

Submit 1000 words or less of a story (or a piece of flash!) ahead of time and participate in a mini-workshop of your writing. Limited to first 15 participants who register for session & submit their writing.

7:30-9pm

OPEN MIC hosted by TBA

SUNDAY, October 9

10-11am

AGENT Q&A, Michaela Whatnall

Agent Michaela Whatnall demystifies the agent role in the publication process and answers your questions about how to get an agent. Ask them anything!

PUBLISH LIKE A PRO: INSIDER SECRETS FOR INDIE AUTHORS, Alexa Bigwarfe

Do you want to make sure your book is produced and launched AS IF it was done by a publisher? It's okay to be solidly committed to being an indie author AND want to have a really well produced book. You don't want to publish your book and realize you skipped some key steps. It happens all the time! Alexa Bigwarfe, the publisher behind Kat Biggie Press, Purple Butterfly Press, and Chrysalis Press, and boutique publisher, Write|Publish|Sell will show you all the secrets that you want to uncover before publishing your next book, ensuring your book is published like a pro.

11:15am-12:15pm

SLUSHFEST with Agent Michaela Whatnall, Editor Katoya Ellis Fleming

Your work is read aloud anonymously. Agent Michaela Whatnall & editor Katoya Ellis Fleming respond to your work in real time.