

THURSDAY, August 12th

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (Ballroom #1): Publishing Prep Boot Camp - Manuscript Workshop with Chantelle Aimée Osman, Bryan Young, and Michael A. Stackpole

Want to get an extra jump on your submission for agents and editors? Come to the League of Utah Writers Bootcamp. Chantelle Aimée Osman, acquiring editor of Agora Books, New York Times Bestselling Author Michael A. Stackpole, and award-winning author Bryan Young will put you through an intense boot camp. Send in your first five pages, synopsis, and query letter and this trio of authors will give you feedback and critique in small-group sessions. This half-day workshop is maxed out at 15 attendees and will be split into 3 groups of five. You'll critique each other's first five pages, synopsis, and query letters under the supervision and guidance of these guests. You'll need to submit your pages by August 1st. And hurry, space is limited and it will fill up fast.

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM (Connor): Publishing Prep Boot Camp - Query Workshop with Chantelle Aimée Osman, Bryan Young, and Michael A. Stackpole

Want to get an extra jump on your submission for agents and editors? Come to the League of Utah Writers Bootcamp. Chantelle Aimée Osman, acquiring editor of Agora Books, New York Times Bestselling Author Michael A. Stackpole, and award-winning author Bryan Young will put you through an intense boot camp. Send in your first five pages, synopsis, and query letter and this trio of authors will give you feedback and critique in small-group sessions. This half-day workshop is maxed out at 15 attendees and will be split into 3 groups of five. You'll critique each other's first five pages, synopsis, and query letters under the supervision and guidance of these guests. You'll need to submit your pages by August 1st. And hurry, space is limited and it will fill up fast.

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM (Ft. Douglas): Publishing Prep Boot Camp - Synopsis Workshop with Chantelle Aimée Osman, Bryan Young, and Michael A. Stackpole

Want to get an extra jump on your submission for agents and editors? Come to the League of Utah Writers Bootcamp. Chantelle Aimée Osman, acquiring editor of Agora Books, New York Times Bestselling Author Michael A. Stackpole, and award-winning author Bryan Young will put you through an intense boot camp. Send in your first five pages, synopsis, and query letter and this trio of authors will give you feedback and critique in small-group sessions. This half-day workshop is maxed out at 15 attendees and will be split into 3 groups of five. You'll critique each other's first five pages, synopsis, and query letters under the supervision and guidance of these guests. You'll need to submit your pages by August 1st. And hurry, space is limited and it will fill up fast.

2:00 PM - 4:50 PM (Summit): Character Workshop with Christopher Morgan

Directing authors toward editors and agents interested primarily in character driven narratives as opposed to plot.

2:00 PM - 4:50 PM (Ballroom #1): Intensive Pitching with Chantelle Aimée Osman

2:00 PM - 4:50 PM (Ft. Douglas): Short Stories that Sell with Bryan Young

From generating ideas to write about and choosing the right point of view to structuring your short story and picking a winning ending, you're going to learn techniques to get you on the path to writing great short stories. You'll learn techniques on how to craft your story and how to sell it. We'll do hands-on writing exercises to explore your creativity and give you a launching pad to story ideas that you'll be able to submit for publication.

2:00 PM - 4:50 PM (Connor): Taking Your Plot to the Next Level with Michael A. Stackpole

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (Summit): LUW Board Meeting

Join the League of Utah Writers for our August board meeting.

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (Tent): Opening Mixer

Get to know other attendees and mingle with speakers. Come and go as you please. Mingle, relax, have fun, and always keep our Code of Conduct in mind.

FRIDAY, August 13th

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM (Ft. Douglas): Morning Zen & the Art of Writing Day 1: The Mindful Author with Johnny Worthen

Start your conference day out right with mindful meditation and philosophical author insight with Johnny Worthen. Author Johnny Worthen shares his discoveries studying Eastern philosophy during the pandemic and their application to the life of an author. Sessions include directed mindfulness meditation and lectures on basic Buddhist concepts and how they may be successfully applied to the journey of writing. Handouts will be provided. Classes build upon each other, but each can be attended as a stand alone. Meditation: Body and Breath, A writer's perspective on the Four Noble Truths, and The Noble Eightfold Path

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM (Amphitheater): New Attendee Orientation with Rachael Bush and Terra Luft

Designed for first time attendees and those who want to get the most of The Quills Conference experience, come learn how to maximize your efforts and get the most from your time here. Includes demonstration of the new event app and how to navigate the hybrid aspects of the conference.

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM (Ballroom): Opening Ceremony with Bryan Young, John M. Olsen, Johnny Worthen, and Rachael Bush

Join the leadership of the League of Utah Writers and the Quills Conference for the opening ceremony and learn how to make the most of your Quills experience.

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (Ballroom #1): Agent & Editors Q&A with Alan Bahr, Anne Terashima, Chantelle Aimée Osman, Christopher Morgan, C.R. Langille, Jared Taylor, Kate Jonez, Meredith Bernstein, and Ronald Gerber

Q&A session with acquiring agents and editors who will be taking pitches at Quills 2021. Find out what each is looking for and tips for how to be successful. Moderated by Bryan Young.

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (Amphitheater): Bringing Content and Networking Together to Establish a Following with Brooke Clonts

Creating content for your brand is crucial to attracting an audience for your books. If you, like many other writers, are lost trying to figure out where to start, join this class for guidance.

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (Ft. Douglas): He Said, She Said: When Dialogue Tags Get In the Way of Your Flow, and How to Fix It with Haley Swan

You've worked into the night for months perfecting your story and agonizing over every bit of dialogue, but something in the narration is still falling flat. It could be [DUN, DUN, DUN] your dialogue tags. These seemingly inconsequential bits of prose (think he said, she asked) can quickly become repetitive and disrupt your otherwise flawless flow. This presentation offers eight strategies (and lots of examples) for how to fix this small-but-impactful problem.

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (Connor): Setting Up Your Literary Estate with C.H. Lindsay

None of us like to think about dying, but if you're a writer, you need to consider who will run your literary estate. Who will manage your work? Sign contracts? Keep your legacy intact? If you don't do it now, your heirs may need to decide for you. Or do nothing at all. What every writer must know—and do—now to preserve their literary estate.

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM (Ft. Douglas): Getting the Audiobook you want from ACX Audiobook Producers/Actors with Liz Christensen

Tips for the audition, casting, pre-production, production, and post-production phases to get the audiobook you want from ACX producers/actors.

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM (Ballroom #1): How to write comedy or die trying with Adam Berg

The basic principles and pitfalls of comedy writing

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM (Ballroom #2): Manuscript Evaluations

Manuscript evaluations are a chance to meet with an editor and have them edit and critique your manuscript on the spot. The editor will ask what type of feedback you are looking for--story, character, language, etc.--so they can make sure to give you the critique that will be the most helpful for you. The editor will read your 1000 words and give feedback as they go and then overall feedback at the end.

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM (Summit): Writing History: Research, Skills, & Methods with Jared Taylor

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM (Willow): Romance Series 101 with Sarah Alva

A popular trend in Romance is to write series. But what is considered a "romance series," and what should you know before you write one? In this class we'll discuss the two most popular

types of romance series, how to write them, and the secret to writing a romance series that will leave your readers coming back for each new book.

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM (Amphitheater): Scrivener: An Introduction for Beginners with Johnny Worthen

A hands-on introduction to Scrivener, one of the most popular and powerful writing platforms out there. This class, designed for beginners and the novice user, will demonstrate simple use and daily tricks to get over the initial hump of what can be a daunting learning curve. Once understood, the program becomes a powerful ally, offering tools to help the author in every step of the writing process while maintaining the ability to disappear for undistracted creativity. Students are encouraged to have installed Scrivener on their devices before class (<https://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener/download>). It is a free trial download. Instructor will be demonstrating on a Macintosh computer, but the program is available for PC and IOS as well.

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM (Ft. Douglas): Be a Poet Even in Prose: 11 Tips for Writing Jaw-dropping Sentences with Lance Larsen

Students and prose writers I meet are always looking for ways to juice up their writing stylistically. I'll discuss 11 techniques that will help your work stand out from the pack, techniques found in abundance in poetry and in the most accomplished prose.

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM (Summit): Scientists Are Readers Too with Rachael Bush, Michelle Paustenbaugh, and Brad Carroll

In this session, you'll find out just how picky scientists are and how one wrong word can turn them away from your book forever. We'll go over how to do your research, how to find a scientist to check your details, and how to make your story as realistic as possible. Join Rachael Bush, Dr. Michelle Paustenbaugh (a chemist who teaches general chemistry and physical chemistry who enjoys the outdoors with her husband, dogs, and horses.), Dr. Brad Carroll (a Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor in Weber State University's Department of Physics and Astronomy for 30 years, who is published widely in scientific journals, is a confirmed bibliophile, and yoga teacher), and Dr. Carie Frantz ().

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM (Willow): Voice Appeal: How to Make the Best Impression with Ali Cross

Any agent worth their salt will tell you that one of the most important factors in selling your book is making sure it has a unique "voice." But what does that even mean? And what can you do to make sure you have it? This class will answer those questions and give you the tools you need to develop your narrative voice and create unique character voices every single time. Deliver what agents and readers are looking for—"voice appeal."

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM (Connor): Writing Consent - Margot Monroe with Margot Monroe

Romance novels have evolved from the bodice rippers of the 70's to the safe, consensual books of today. But what goes into writing consent and how do we make it authentic and sexy? We'll

deconstruct a few examples, from the good to the bad and learn to write our own safe and spicy books.

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM (Ballroom #1): Writing RPGs with Alan Bahr, Bryan Young, and Michael A. Stackpole

Alan Bahr, head of Gallant Knight Games, legendary RPG writer and New York Times Bestselling author Michael A. Stackpole, and Bryan Young, co-writer of the Robotech: The Macross Saga Roleplaying Game, talk about what it takes to write for Roleplaying Games and answer your questions about getting into the business. Moderated by J.E. Zarnofsky

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM (Ft. Douglas): Building Your Self Publishing Team with Callie Stoker

You want to self-publish and do it right, but how do you know what to hire out and what to do yourself so that your book is the best it can be? This presentation clearly lays out the team members you'll need and where to find them. It steps you through how to hire them and what to do when it all goes wrong and gives you a clear understanding of what earnings in self-publishing look like and how to make this career work best for you.

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM (Ballroom #1): Conscious and Inclusive Language and Why It Matters with Crystal Shelley

Words have the power to do good: to uplift, to inspire, and to validate. Words also have the power to do harm: to hurt, to marginalize, and to erase. Writers who attend this presentation will learn how they can use conscious and inclusive language to communicate their message, how their word choices impact readers, and why it all matters.

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM (Amphitheater): Everyday Autism with Talysa Sainz

We are finally seeing protagonists in fiction who are neurodivergent, such as autism/Asperger's, Tourette syndrome, ADHD, OCD, dyslexia, etc. However, not every person's story centralizes around these differences. How do we write about those with neurodiversity without making the story ABOUT the neurodiversity? More fiction should show what is similar rather than what is different. What is it like to live with anxiety, Asperger's, Tourette's, or ADHD on a daily basis? How are children taught to use these superpowers? How does functionality differ? How do we work these differences into other worlds in a relatable way, without showing the intolerance and judgment found in our society?

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM (Connor): Getting Past Murky Middles and Playing Up Your Black Moment with Sariah Wilson

For anyone who has worried about a sagging middle in your novel, tis class will dive into a variety of tips and tricks on how to keep your story moving quickly utilizing pacing, tension, goal/motivation/conflict, etc., and how driving your story to the black moment will keep your readers fully immersed and engaged in your book.

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM (Willow): Meaningful Social Media with Liz Christensen

How to use social media as an effective tool to spark meaningful engagement without hating what you're doing.

4:00 PM - 4:50 PM (Ft. Douglas): Cinematic POV with Candace J. Thomas

POV is much like the cinematography of a movie. Find and experiment which POV your story asks to be told in.

4:00 PM - 4:50 PM (Ballroom #1): Romantic Leads that Sizzle with Sariah Wilson

Focusing on how to make your romance novel leads more appealing and engaging so that they'll practically jump off the page. Learn how to create characters that your readers won't forget!

4:00 PM - 4:50 PM (Willow): Torture, Joy, & Fun: How Personality Type Impacts Your Character with Amy Michelle Carpenter

Did you know the worst way to torture a yellow is to cut them off from their friends? A red explodes when angry and a green festers in their rage. Personality type says a lot about characters, so here's some tips on doing the worst harm and most good for your characters' types.

4:00 PM - 4:50 PM (Connor): Travel & Eavesdropping: Fuel for the Furnace with Rafael Alvarez

Discover how getting outside of your imagination (and house) can sustain the imagination over long hours wrestling with the blank page.

4:00 PM - 4:50 PM (Amphitheater): Writing About Hard Things with Virginia Babcock

As authors we sometimes want to write about things that can be harmful, sensitive, or triggering to other humans. Without knowing it, our "truths" can pain our readers. How do we write about these "hard" topics? This presentation gives examples of topics that can be sensitive and provides tips and techniques on how to successfully write about sensitive things.

5:00 PM - 5:50 PM (Summit): Connecting Writing to Readers: Independent Literary Publishing with Anne Terashima

Why submit your book manuscript to an independent press? As the publishing industry continues to consolidate, shrinking the scope of literary culture, independent presses build community and elevate complex, diverse, and timely stories that might otherwise go unheard. From publishing business basics to insider tips on acquisitions, marketing, and publicity, explore the labor of love that is independent publishing—and learn more about the Intermountain West's only nonprofit environmental publisher, Torrey House Press.

5:00 PM - 5:50 PM (Amphitheater): From Idea to Article with Carolyn Campbell

Within this class, we will discuss formulating ideas, writing queries, marketing ideas and reselling and repackaging previously published articles.

5:00 PM - 5:50 PM (Connor): How To Create A Brand That Attracts Fans with Dr. Trina Boice

Before you begin marketing, you have to be clear on your brand and create one that attracts

your target audience. Branding is what you are; marketing is what you do. Learn how to identify your Avatar and select colors, font, style, and text that sends the right message at the right time.

5:00 PM - 5:50 PM (Ft. Douglas): Poetry 101: Imagery, Metaphor, Repetition, Form with Lance Larsen

A review of key poetic devices, with example poems by Gerard Manley Hopkins, Sylvia Plath, Gwendolyn Brooks, Theodore Roethke and others. While poetry remains a highly-contested and subjective genre, I'll do my best to highlight a few near-universals of what makes a good poem.

5:00 PM - 5:50 PM (Ballroom #1): Putting Science in your Fiction with Alex Jay Lore, Cory Doctorow, and Rachael Bush

Cassidy Ward, writer for SYFY, leads an all-star panel (including Keynote speaker Cory Doctorow) discussing the ways science and fiction influence one another, and how you can effectively utilize science to tell your stories. Moderated by Cassidy Ward

5:00 PM - 5:50 PM (Willow): Writing From Your Family History with Jared Quan

You don't need a diverse background to discover how interesting your family is and how you can apply them to your writing. Come learn where to start getting more information from your family. I have learned great extracting tips as an interviewer with Storycorp, the League of Utah Writers Historian and as a professional Lyft Driver. Discover how to use the things you have learned to create richer and deeper writing in your works.

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (Ballroom): Wage theft, IP and the creator's livelihood - Keynote with Cory Doctorow

The entertainment sector's fortunes are surging, but creators' livelihoods are in steep decline. The traditional answer to this problem - more copyright - just strengthens the big content and distribution monopolists. What can we do to help creative workers maximize their share of the fruits of their labor?

9:00 PM - 9:50 PM (Summit): Late Night Romance Q&A with Aminah Mae Safi, Margot Monroe, Rachael Bush, and Sariah Wilson

Want to talk about writing romance, but with an adults-only, after hours bent? Alex J. Lore leads a discussion with romance writers to answer your questions and to talk about how to write the steamier moments in a romance novel. Moderated by Alex Jay Lore

SATURDAY, August 14th

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM (Ft. Douglas): Morning Zen & the Art of Writing Day 2: The Feeling Author with Johnny Worthen

Start your conference day out right with mindful meditation and philosophical author insight with Johnny Worthen. Author Johnny Worthen shares his discoveries studying eastern philosophy during the pandemic and their application to the life of an author. Sessions include directed mindfulness meditation and lecture on basic Buddhist concepts and how they may be

successfully applied to the journey of writing. Handouts will be provided. Classes build upon each other, but each can be attended as a stand alone. Meditation: Emotion , An author's perspective on The Five Hindrances, the power of RAIN, and gift of work

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM (Ballroom #1): Secrets of Early Risers (BYOM) with Bryan Young, Chantelle Aimée Osman and Michael A. Stackpole

New York Times Bestselling Author Michael A. Stackpole, Agora Books Editor Chantelle Aimée Osman, and Award Winning Author Bryan Young answer your questions about writing, publishing, and anything else over mimosas. Just be sure to bring your own!

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM (Ballroom #1): Getting Published with Cory Anderson

In this class, Cory Anderson will discuss her path to getting published and talk with you about where you're at on the path, and the many ways to get where you want to go on your publishing journey.

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM (Amphitheater): How To Be A Better Host & Guest on TV, YouTube, and Podcasts to Grow your Audience with Dr. Trina Boice

Learn why being interviewed is one of the most effective ways to build your brand and grow your sales. Discover how to get speaking gigs on podcasts, TV, radio, and YouTube channels, as well as how to start your own show and create an author One Sheet for the media!

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM (Ballroom #2): Manuscript Evaluations

Manuscript evaluations are a chance to meet with an editor and have them edit and critique your manuscript on the spot. The editor will ask what type of feedback you are looking for--story, character, language, etc.--so they can make sure to give you the critique that will be the most helpful for you. The editor will read your 1000 words and give feedback as they go and then overall feedback at the end.

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM (Ft. Douglas): Writing for Anthologies with Bryan Young, Caryn Larrinaga, Rachael Bush, and Terra Luft

With multiple anthology calls going out every month, how can you get your writing in as many anthologies as you can? Whether that's calls from the League of Utah Writers, your individual chapters, or from paying outlets all over the world, learn how to make your stories stand out with every call.

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (Ft. Douglas): Caramel Skin and Hourglass Curves: Clichés and Characterization Issues in Race, Gender, and Appearance with Haley Swan

We've all heard the advice to write what you know. But how does that apply when you're writing a character of another race or gender? In this presentation, professional editor Haley Swan condenses years of observations into "checkpoints" that will help you stop, acknowledge what you don't know, and remove the gender and racial bias and clichés from your characterizations.

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (Connor): Comedy (seriously.) with C.W. Allen

No matter your audience, genre, or format, applying the principles that make comedy writing

work can take any project from predictable to un-put-downable! This presentation is geared toward writers of any level of experience, with writing from laugh out loud to deathly dramatic.

10:00 AM - 11:50 AM (Summit): How a Hospital Runs with Terra Luft, Casey O'Hara, Michelle Allsop, Heather Romualdo, Megan Curtis

You've seen hospital-based dramas and read medical thrillers based on the doctors and nurses who directly provide patient care, but do you know enough about how a hospital runs to write your own authentically, including how many different departments and clinical programs are required to work cohesively together? This panel will include an overview of the 40+ departments within a hospital from both the patient and staffing perspectives, how the complex network of electronic systems works together to support and document a patient's stay, and provide an opportunity for you to ask behind-the-scenes questions of clinical informatics and healthcare IT professionals who support this work every day. Terra Luft is moderating this panel including: Casey O'Hara, Michelle Allsop, Heather Romualdo, and Megan Curtis.

*All presenters are staff of Intermountain Healthcare's Care Transformation Information Systems division, but none are appearing as a direct representative of Intermountain Healthcare for the purposes of this panel, nor is the information represented herein specific to any healthcare organization.

10:00 AM - 11:50 AM (Tent): Intro to Swordfighting for Writers with Jordan Hinckley

This class will focus on the basics of Longsword fighting as well as some of the relevant terminology used in regards to swords and sword fighting.

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (Ballroom #1): Local Journalism in the 21st Century with Richard Markosian

Richard will present on the history and growth of Utah Stories, from a blog, to a mostly short-documentary video website to a print publication: How we grew by leaps and bounds (prior to Covid), while legacy media was struggling.

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (Ballroom #2): Manuscript Evaluations

Manuscript evaluations are a chance to meet with an editor and have them edit and critique your manuscript on the spot. The editor will ask what type of feedback you are looking for--story, character, language, etc.--so they can make sure to give you the critique that will be the most helpful for you. The editor will read your 1000 words and give feedback as they go and then overall feedback at the end.

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (Amphitheater): Short Story Prep and Submission with John M. Olsen

I wrote something. Now what? A guide for new writers who want to submit their work to publishers, and want to make a good first impression. It takes more than a good story.

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (Willow): Writing with Dramatic Irony with Talysa Sainz

The reader loves when they know something that the character doesn't. But how do you make it believable? What clues can you leave for the reader that your main character can miss without

seeming foolish? Learn how to use linguistic tools to write believable narration and dialogue filled with dramatic irony—write the villain the reader hates but your character trusts, the romance the reader foresees while your character is still unsure, the friend your character hates but the reader understands. Show your characters' bias using discrepancies between semantics and pragmatics, distinct dialogue patterns, hedging language, and the juxtaposition of exposition and foreshadowing.

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM (Ft. Douglas): A Day in the Life of an Agent: Meredith Bernstein, Ronald Gerber

Moderator Alex Jay Lore

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM (Amphitheater): Keep Your Tension Tight with the TRYcycle with Ali Cross

You know all about outlining and story development. You know exactly what your inciting incident is and every pinch point is accounted for. Check, check and check. Then how come when you actually sit down to write, it feels no more exciting than moving a game piece from square to square on a board?

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM (Ballroom #1): What I Learned About Storytelling After 20 Years of Being a Film Critic with Scott Renshaw and Sean P. Means

Arts criticism comes at the idea of storytelling from two angles: analyzing the effectiveness of storytelling created by another, and engaging in a kind of nonfiction storytelling about the writer's own analytical thought process. Twenty years of thinking about both of these things allows an opportunity to discuss what I've found to be successful in the cinematic, literary and theatrical stories that I've found most powerful over the years, as well as how to craft essays and other nonfiction writing that work not just as a kind of "consumer advocacy," but as their own kind of storytelling. Longtime Salt Lake Area film critics Sean Means and Scott Renshaw hold a discussion about what they've learned about storytelling by spending so much time at the movies. What works? What doesn't? How do they even tell?

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM (Connor): Writing Characters of Different Identities with Authenticity and Respect with Crystal Shelley

Readers want to see their identities reflected in stories, but too often are the portrayals stereotyped, harmful, or inauthentic. Writers who attend this session will learn about nuances that should be considered when writing characters of different identities, such as default perspectives, harmful tropes, and the power of naming. Writers will also learn the ins and outs of sensitivity reading and how it can help in this process.

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM (Willow): Writing Emotional Grabbing Novels with the Music of Poetry with Jef Huntsman

Teaching the principles of poetry to create a better writer who understands the appropriate tempo play of words and sentences that will keep your reader engaged. Just like the movies use music to heighten emotions in the theater from the first days of film, the author adds the rhythm of words to keep the reader reading. Our goal is to kick up the adrenaline, lower the heartbeat,

and press weights on the chest of your readers. These principles work in any genre and can up the game of your own poetry.

12:30 PM - 1:50 PM (Ballroom): Looking for History: How the Oral Tradition Keeps Storytelling Alive Keynote Lunch with Aminah Mae Safi

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM (Ballroom #1): All the teachable things I know about writing, a very short list with Cory Doctorow

How do stories work? Why do people care about the travails of imaginary people who have never lived and whose most dire risks are of literally no consequence? What relationship does this have to writing? And how do you turn this into a story? Cory Doctorow's theory of how stories work and where they come from - and a method for turning it into a daily practice of writing that reliably produces interesting stories - doesn't take long to articulate, but he's been working on mastering it for a lifetime. Maybe it won't take you as long (by his own admission, he's a slow learner).

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM (Summit): Creating Dread in Fiction: How to write dread/terror-inspiring horror stories with C.R. Langille

Learn how to fill your stories with dread and terror using simple techniques utilized by horror masters.

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM (Ft. Douglas): How to Create Additional Streams of Income From Your Book with Dr. Trina Boice

Book sales are great but there are so many additional ways you can be earning more income and impact from your book! Learn what they are in this fun, eye-opening class!

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM (Amphitheater): Using "Yes, and..." for Story Development with C.H. Lindsay

"Yes, and..." is an improv and theatre game to help people learn how to think on their feet and build off what the other person said. Writers can use this basic concept to develop characters, create greater conflict, and come up with creative plot twists in their stories. This technique can help a writer think outside the box and create more imaginative possibilities for your work.

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM (Connor): What to do When You're Stuck with Rafael Alvarez

Alvarez will offer many suggestions from his own experience about how to keep the work moving forward with consistency.

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM (Willow): Introducing the 2021 League of Utah Writers' Anthologies with Caryn Larrinaga and E.B. Wheeler

Join us for a brief discussion about the League's anthologies, including what it takes to be published with us, then hear some examples of the amazing poetry and prose produced by our own League members.

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM (Ft. Douglas): Lots of Eggs in Lots of Baskets with Dan Wells

Publishing is a volatile industry full of confusion, setbacks, and constantly-changing goals. How can you actually make money in it?

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM (Ballroom #1): Q&A: Writing with Rafael Alvarez

The Wire might have been one of the most important shows of the last 30 years. Rafael Alvarez spent time in the newsroom where The Wire started and spent time writing episodes of the show, telling these important stories. Hear him answer questions about the art of television writing and telling stories authentic to places. Moderated by Ryan Call

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM (Connor): Screenwriting with Bryan Young and Chantelle Aimée Osman

Bryan Young and Chantelle Aimée Osman co-teach a class about writing for the screen and answer your questions about what to do with a screenplay once it's finished.

3:00 PM - 4:50 PM (Tent): Top Ten Firearms Mistakes in Fiction with Chris Grall

Firearms 101: Top ten mistakes authors make when writing about guns.

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM (Amphitheater): Writing Action Scenes Without Getting Lost with Alex Jay Lore

No matter your genre, action scenes punch up your writing. But how do you write them when you struggle with spatial reasoning? How do you balance action with the rest of your plot and how do you avoid getting lost in unrealistic action scenes? This presentation will offer tips and tricks to help you write more realistic action scenes without losing track--or worse, losing your reader.

4:00 PM - 4:50 PM (Ballroom #1): Activism in Fiction with Aminah Mae Safi, Chantelle Aimée Osman, and Cory Doctorow

Our panel of experts talk about writing with social justice topics in mind and how to change the world with fiction writing. Moderated by Bryan Young.

4:00 PM - 4:50 PM (Summit): Blood Science-y Writing: Basic Blood Mechanics for Writers with Candace J. Thomas

Blood isn't just horror, it's science. Come learn from Blood Banker Candace Thomas about blood basics and how you can apply them to your writing without getting grossed out.

4:00 PM - 4:50 PM (Connor): How to Adapt Your Novel To a Screenplay with Kate Jonez

Adapting Your Novel to a Screenplay

4:00 PM - 4:50 PM (Ft. Douglas): Publishing Paths: Traditional, Indie, Hybrid with E.B. Wheeler

You've written a book. Now what? Writers have never had more options for getting their work into readers' hands, but each choice has its pros and cons. Join hybrid author E.B. Wheeler for

an overview of the publishing paths available to authors, including pitfalls to beware and the steps you need to take to get your books published.

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (Ballroom): Quills Awards and Banquet with Bryan Young, John M. Olsen, and Johnny Worthen

The 86th annual Quills Awards and Banquet.

SUNDAY, August 15th

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM (Ft. Douglas): Morning Zen & the Art of Writing Day 3: The Thoughtful Author with Johnny Worthen

Start your conference day out right with mindful meditation and philosophical author insight with Johnny Worthen. Author Johnny Worthen shares his discoveries studying eastern philosophy during the pandemic and their application to the life of an author. Sessions include directed mindfulness meditation and lecture on basic Buddhist concepts and how they may be successfully applied to the journey of writing. Handouts will be provided. Classes build upon each other, but each can be attended as a stand alone. Meditation: Thought, An artist's perspective on The Eight Vicissitudes, The Five Remembrances, a touch of third Person Limited, non-identity, and the muse.

9:00 AM - 10:50 AM (Ballroom): Poet's Breakfast with Paisley Rekdal

Creative Synergies: How Poetry Thinks

11:00 AM - 1:50 PM (Ft. Douglas): "Hey Listen!" Writing Voice with Alex Jay Lore

Voice is what everyone is looking for. But how do you learn to craft your own voice, never mind making sure your characters don't all blend together? This workshop is going to provide helpful tools and hands-on exercises to step up your voice game and make sure your characters and worlds truly come to life.

11:00 AM - 1:50 PM (Connor): Layers: Adding Depth to Your Writing with Callie Stoker

Effective writing accomplishes more than one thing at a time. This workshop breaks down the writing of scenes, paragraphs, and sentences to show how each element of writing can be upgraded to do more at once. We define these elements and use color coding to quickly diagnose your own writing's strengths and weaknesses.

11:00 AM - 1:50 PM (Summit): Publication Primer with Cory Anderson

I've finished my manuscript, but how do I get published? When is my book polished enough, or too polished? What makes a query stand out, and how do I write one? If you've ever asked yourself these questions, this workshop is for you. Cory Anderson will discuss the journey from query to publication and explore tried and true techniques for getting that desired agent and publishing contract. (Note: attendees who wish to have their first page and query reviewed in class will share your first page and query prior to the conference. Then, during the workshop, select pages/queries will be reviewed by the group.)

11:00 AM - 1:50 PM (Ballroom #1): The Art of the Re-Telling with Aminah Mae Safi

This course will provide a framework for understanding both the enduring power of retellings and ways of giving a retelling a fresh spin of your own. The course will use a combination of lecture, discussion, and analysis of both writing and film in order to break down key features. This course will also try to demonstrate the breadth of genre that can be covered in a retelling.

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (Ballroom): Closing Ceremony with Bryan Young, Rachael Bush

Thank you for a great conference! The winner of the photo scavenger will be announced as well as headliners for Quills 2022!