

Oxford University Summer Programme in Creative Writing 2009

Workshops and Provisional Timetable

Reading for Writers

This course will introduce students to many of the essential elements of a writer's tool-box. We shall examine a wide variety of examples of stylistic devices from published writing of the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries; among other things: beginnings; description; voice; perspective; time; figurative language; character and characterisation; endings. Having analysed the styles and methods of canonical authors, we shall then produce our own examples, and discuss when and how they might be employed.

Tutor: **Dr Sandie Byrne** is Director of the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education English literature and creative writing international summer schools, and tutor for OUDCE online courses in English literature; she was formerly Fellow and Tutor in English at Balliol College, Oxford, and Professor of English at the University of Lincoln. She is the author of a number of books on nineteenth- and twentieth-century English literature; her most recently published book is *The Unbearable Saki*.

Writing Fiction

It can be quite a perilous undertaking: the voyage to the bottom of the page. So many set off and are never heard from again. In a series of workshops we will attempt to demystify the process by rolling up our sleeves and working on a piece of fiction together. We will break it down into its constituent parts, such as structure, planning, setting, voice, character, plot etc. Then we will put it back together and arrive, hopefully, tired but illuminated, at those longed-for words: The End.

Tutor: **Malcolm Pryce** is the author of the critically-acclaimed series of comic private eye novels set in Aberystwyth, which includes *Aberystwyth mon Amour* and *Last Tango in Aberystwyth*.

Writing for Young Adults

The young adult/crossover fiction market is one of the fastest growing areas of publishing. This course, run by an established novelist, will look at the way successful writers have used dialogue, tackled taboos and developed plots to appeal to younger readers. It will also explore such key topics as planning, research, and inspiration. Students will be encouraged to develop their own skills, writing in this particular genre, and there will be an opportunity to share work during the seminars.

Tutor: **Julie Hearn** is the Carnegie-nominated author of *Follow Me Down*, *The Merrybegot*, *Ivy*, *Hazel* and *Rowan The Strange*.

Writing Lives

If there are things in your own experience, or that of your family, or there is someone you have known and always wanted to investigate, then this course will provide you with the tools to shape a literary work that makes your story enjoyable and accessible. You will learn

to recognise what things are significant, how to characterise them in ways that bring them to life, and how to structure them to keep a reader's interest. Whether yours is a story of travel, personal exploits or the witness of unsung heroes and events, this course will help you to turn it into words that last.

Tutor: **Dr John Ballam** teaches English literature and creative writing for Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, and is a Visiting Fellow at Harris Manchester College, Oxford. He is also a poet, playwright and author. He is best-known for his autobiography, *The Road to Harmony*, and his forthcoming books include a novel, *The Toymaker*, and a biography of Victorian literary magus John Oxenford

Writing Poetry

Workshop and tutor details to follow

Provisional Workshop Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09.00-11.00	Writing Fiction (Group 1)	Writing Poetry	Writing Fiction (Group 1)	Writing Poetry	
11.15-12.45	Plenary session	Plenary session	Plenary session	Plenary session	Plenary session
14.00-16.00					
16.00-18.00	Writing Lives Writing Fiction (Group 2)	Reading for Writers Writing for Young Adults	Writing Lives Writing Fiction (Group 2)	Reading for Writers Writing for Young Adults	