

WRITER'S ALLIANCE
OF GAINESVILLE

TOPICS
COMING
IN FUTURE
ISSUES

- Genre
Contests 2011
- Query Letters
—How to
Write Them

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The WAG Digest

VOLUME II ISSUE II & 12

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

Join Us for The First Ever WAG Social

**Sunday, Dec. 5, 5:00 p.m.
Sunshine Eagles Club**

It's the writer event of the year in North Central Florida, the 1st Ever WAG Social. Make your plans for the Eagles Club (4562 NW 13th St. (441) - the old Dubs) on Sunday evening December 5th at 5:00 p.m. for this wonderful, not-to-be-missed social event.

The Details: pot-luck dinner, open mic and music. Dancing, casual attire and a professional bartender with "reasonably priced drinks."

E-mail floridawendy@cox.net with your planned dish and what you want to read. Don't have time to cook? Let us know and

we'll give you an assignment – napkins, cups, whatever. Too scared to read? GET OVER IT!

The Writers Alliance Board of Directors would like to thank the Sunshine Eagles Club for allowing us to use their wonderful facility for free and for providing us with a bartender. We'd also like to thank the Rhythm Cream band for playing for free. As a non-profit organization, we have always depended on the kindness of strangers. (Know who wrote that line? Come on, playwrights – you'd better...)

See information about the Sunshine Eagles at this site: <http://www.4518.foe.com/>



SunShine Eagles 4518
4562 NW 13th Street
Gainesville Florida 32609





"NOTE TO OUR LOYAL READERS – The WAG DIGEST is a double issue this time combining the months of November and December. Have a wonderful Holiday Season and we look forward to a spectacular New Year!!"

Have you had a publication recently? Is your latest book, poem, short story now out and available for sale? Send us the information so we can post it on our Web site. E-mail your information to rsa5@cox.net or floridawendy@cox.net.

January Speaker Series - January 23 2011

Get the inside scoop on writing lyrics music

John Rogers is a musician and storyteller living in Gainesville. He has been playing guitar for more than 40 years and has been playing blues since, as he says, "The blues grabbed me by the lapels, spun me around, slammed me down on the ground and said: 'This is the music you will play.'"

John's presentation, *The Roots of American Music*, traces the sources and the growth of that most-American of music, the blues. It includes both music and stories about people you've heard of and many you haven't.

John performs locally and at several festivals. He was a semi-finalist at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee in 2010 and is the 2010 winner of the "I Remember Gamble" contest held in honor of his cousin, Gamble Rogers, at the Gamble Rogers Festival in St. Augustine. His second CD, "Old and New, Borrowed and Blue," is the Central Florida nominee for Best Self Produced CD at the International Blues Challenge. John will speak to the Writers Alliance at the Millhopper Branch of the Alachua County Library.



We of the Writers Alliance would like to thank WAG Speaker Coordinator Judy Etzler and WAG Vice President Robin Ecker for their fantastic work with the local veterans' group. Please read the letter below and join us in appreciating their hard work! Thank you, Ladies. We are honored to have you representing our group.

Welcome to the Honor Residence!

By Alee Karpf – Recreation Therapist

Judy Etzler and Robin Ecker, dedicated members of the Writer's Alliance of Gainesville (WAG), have been devoting themselves to American Veterans these days. Since May of this year, these ladies have been coming to work with veterans of the Honor Center Residence every week with no time off for good behavior.

First, let me provide a little background on the center. The 45 veterans being served stay with us for 3-6 months and receive medical and social services as they transition to better living arrangements. Many of them find this to be the perfect opportunity to change the direction of their lives: returning to education, possibly finding different work, and hopefully, always learning new expressions in leisure.

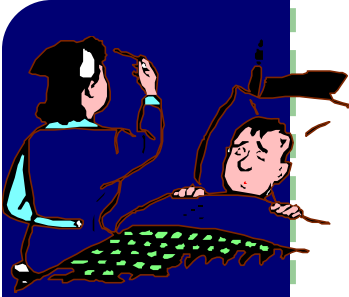
WAG volunteer Judy and Robin have been vital in providing life-changing experiences for these veterans. They have helped individuals to discover their abilities to express themselves in writing as well as guiding some to improve basic writing skills. Judy facilitates classes in poetry and newsletter writing. Robin shares the load on the newsletter and also has a class for fiction and memoir.

The classes provide many therapeutic benefits such as: increasing self-esteem; social interactions; cognitive stimulation; self-direction; feelings of community; and self-expression. Additionally, Judy and Robin's classes provide vocational skill opportunities such as creating useful resume experience; meeting deadlines; and the practice of being responsible.

The Honor Newsletter has been guided and slaved over by Judy and Robin's steady hands. This has been no easy task as the population changes constantly and the levels of function can vary widely. But they have persevered and many of the veterans are very proud to be published in the "Honor News". Others are gaining new skills by learning to interview people for articles. Ask our Chief and he'll tell you what a surprise it was to be interviewed so professionally by someone who had never done this before!

The Honor Residence recently had an art and writing exhibit and many visitors lingered over the writing on display. I heard comments from visitors exclaiming in amazement at the talent before them. I also heard and saw residents beaming with pride. Thank you, WAG, for sharing such wonderful volunteers with us.





Happy Holidays

The Writers Alliance of Gainesville would like to wish all our members, subscribers and contributors a very happy holiday season. Thank you for making our organization such a success. Have a happy and joyous new year and may 2011 be your most successful season yet.

"Every successful creative person creates with an audience of one in mind. That's the secret of artistic unity. ... If you open a window and make love to the world, so to speak, your story will get pneumonia."

Kurt Vonnegut

"An original writer is not one who imitates nobody, but one whom nobody can imitate."
Chateaubriand...

Read over your compositions, and when you meet a passage which you think is particularly fine, strike it out.

-Samuel Johnson

It's impossible to discourage the real writers - they don't give a damn what you say, they're going to write.

Sinclair Lewis.

"The coroner will find ink in my veins and blood on my typewriter keys."

C. Astrid Weber

Sometimes you just need to bite someone!

Anonymous



The Writing Life: Kick Your Bad Habits (And Get Great Results)

The writing life is fraught with pitfalls. At any given moment, there are as many reasons *not* to sit down and write as there are reasons *to* sit down and write. It's easy to let yourself slip into bad habits when it comes to writing. Here's our take on what some of those bad habits are and how to beat them.

1. Procrastination. *How to beat it:* Keep a log of your writing goals. Write down how many pages you aspire to complete in a given week or how much revising you plan to do. Then, track your progress and treat your personal writing log as if a very demanding boss were going to see it!
2. Distraction. *How to beat it:* Don't let yourself go online until a given time of day. Surround your writing space with images that make you think of your goals. Get your glass of water *before* you sit down to write. Put a "do not disturb" sign on the door and stick to it.
3. Giving in when you get a better offer. *How to beat it:* Each morning, jot down your goals for the day and carry the note around in your pocket. When you get a "better offer" (like a trip to the movies, or a rerun on TV), pull out your note and focus on your goals. If you like how your goals make you feel, skip the TV time and find your laptop.
4. Writing but not reading. *How to beat it:* Set aside fifteen minutes a day to read. You can do it. Just fifteen minutes. In order to be a strong writer, you've got to know what good writing looks like. Subscribe to literary journals. Buy books. Don't get into the bad habit of being a writer but not a reader!
5. Not submitting. *How to beat it:* If you're writing but not submitting, enlist help. You can contact a company like Writer's Relief, or you can ask your kids, family, and friends to help you achieve your dreams. Throw a "pizza night" and ask your loved ones to help you stamp envelopes or print letters (but maybe not at the same time that you're eating!). Or submit your writing online via email and submission managers—to save time and trees!

What bad habits are you guilty of, and what do you do to combat them? With the right mind-set, you too can go the distance and achieve your dreams. Swap out your bad habits for good habits, and you'll see your writing career reach new heights!

Thank you to Writer's Relief for the use of this article:

"Writer's Relief, Inc. is a highly recommended author's submission service. Established in 1994, Writer's Relief will help you target the best markets for your creative writing. Visit their Web site at <http://www.WritersRelief.com> to receive their FREE Writers' Newsflash (today, via e-mail), which contains valuable leads, guidelines, and deadlines for writing in all genres."



How to Make Yourself Crazy in 30 Days: NANOWRIMO

By Wendy Thornton

Writing a book in 30 days? Yeah, sure. The project is called NANOWRIMO. Congratulations to all those who took the challenge! (Hurray for WAG member, Mario Perez!) For those of you not familiar, the letters stand for November is Novel Writing Month. In 30 days, you attempt to write 50,000 words.

I heard about the NANOWRIMO contest the first time on the day before it began. I'd been kicking around the idea of writing a modern version of the Arthurian Legend for years, so I decided this was the right time to begin. Actually, I decided this because, when I told my mother I was going to write a contemporary novel about our crazy family, she gasped and said in her best schoolteacher's voice, "Well, I don't think that's a good idea." So, back to King Arthur.

As you will see from the letter below, my experience with NaNoWriMo inspired me in so many ways. I was inspired to write everything BUT my novel. So, I hereby enclose the letter I wrote to WAG members describing my experience with the contest (also known as avoidance behavior). In this contest, the only thing you win is the satisfaction of having a first draft to clean up. I made it to 30,000 words in 20 days before I quit in disgust. I have a great start on my novel. Maybe next year, complete with my pre-written outline, I will make it through the book on my family. Forgive me, Ma!

Dear WAG Members,

As the end of the year closes in on us, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our writing lives this past year. I'm in the middle of the NaNoWriMo (<http://www.nanowrimo.org/>), trying to write a 50,000 word novel in 30 days. Let me tell you how it's going so far – yech! Really. Truly. I wouldn't dare reread the dross I've written in the past few days. I might gag.

Let me assure you, I'm not being modest here. I'm slogging. I'm floundering. I'm drowning in a sea of sucky prose.

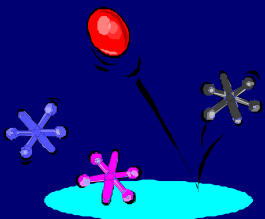
But, here's the amazing thing. As soon as I started on this adventure, writing a modern version of the Arthurian legend, other works started to pop into my head. I am a master of avoidance behavior, but as a result, instead of the novel I was supposed to be writing, I've written poems, essays, short stories, even letters! The floodgates of creativity have opened. Alas, the water ain't going where it's supposed to be!

Little things amaze me. Today, November 16th, I am supposed to be halfway through this endeavor. I just plugged in my novel to do a word count. I am amazed at the total. 8888. Imagine that. What are the chances?

You see, what's amazing about this is that my first response is to be amazed at the coincidence of writing exactly eight thousand eight hundred eighty eight words instead of being amazed by the fact that I am now SEVENTEEN THOUSAND WORDS BEHIND MY DAILY QUOTA!!!



"But, here's the amazing thing. As soon as I started on this adventure, writing a modern version of the Arthurian legend, other works started to pop into my head."





Crazy in 30 Days

Continued

Totally ignoring the fact that now, instead of having to write approximately 1700 words a day to finish on time, I have to write 3,000! This is avoidance behavior taken to the extreme. Ewww cool, 8,888.

But that's okay. Some of our local poets are writing a poem a day for the month, 30 poems in 30 days. Don't get me wrong. I think this is a noble endeavor. In fact, it is so spectacular that some of our poets even claimed the idea as their own (you know who you are, David Mass – and yes, you have the chapbook to show for it!) These poets are writing spectacular pieces in a single burst of inspiration, poems so good it takes your breath away!

But what I say to the poets is, can you write 50,000 words of poetry in 30 days? THAT is a feat of sheer grit. And possibly sheer masochism.

I once wrote a blog entry every day for 30 days. That was okay. Like Harry Crews said, "Some days are chicken salad and some days are chicken s_____." But doing a blog, I was free to ramble. Try focusing on one idea for a month. It's gut-wrenching. You begin to hate your characters. Curse you, King Arthur, you righteous bastard. Curse you, Sir Lancelot, you clueless fool. Curse you, Guinevere, you stupid slut.

I know it's worth it, though. How many times have I picked up an old story, rewritten it, and had it published? How many times in the past has a paragraph sparked something totally new? Don't be intimidated by the fear that what you're writing doesn't measure up to some impossible standard. You too can be a reformed perfectionist! Sometimes the best thing you can do is get the words down. You can fix them later. That's what critique pods are for!

"Sometimes the best thing you can do is get the words down. You can fix them later."



Agent Jon Sternfeld On: 5 Elements of Interesting Narrative Nonfiction (and Memoirs)



Posted by Chuck Sambuchino (<http://www.guidetoliteraryagents.com/blog/CategoryView,category,NarrativeNonfiction.aspx>)

Jon Sternfeld is an agent with the Irene Goodman Literary Agency representing literary fiction (including well-researched dramas and historical thrillers) and narrative nonfiction that deals with historical, social, or cultural issues. He is open to all writers with an original voice and he has a particular interest in fiction that has a large, ambitious canvas (exploring a time, place, or culture).

Jon's co-agent, Irene Goodman, offers manuscript critiques on eBay every month, starting on the first day of each month, with all proceeds going to charity. Go to this link: <http://www.irenegoodman.com/ebay.php> for more details on these critiques and charity auctions.

Narrative nonfiction is a difficult and crowded market. Here are some thoughts about distinguishing your work from the pack.

1. Arcs: Like a strong novel, make sure the story and the main character have Narrative Arcs—that is each needs to go somewhere. Finding the arc is key or else the story is a jumble of disjointed vignettes that lead nowhere. Evolution of character and movement of the story make a true story as engaging to read as a novel.
2. Inverse Rule for Nonfiction: The less well known the subject/story, the more blow people out of the water amazing the story needs to be. This holds for memoirs the most—unless your name is a brand, your life story needs to be fresh, original, and surprising to have any chance in the memoir market.
3. Familiar Strange, Strange Familiar: As my creative writing professors once said, the key to tackling a subject is to make the familiar strange and the strange familiar. Surprise readers with what they thought they knew; show them the commonalities between their world and the (seemingly) strange world of your book.
4. Big and Small: My favorite nonfiction authors (Mary Roach, David Grann, Alain de Botton) intuitively understand this concept. The approach to their stories is “big” in the sense that there’s universality and larger implications (historical, social, scientific) in their work; the approach is also “small” in the sense that they get into the nitty-gritty details of their world: the fascinating hows and thought-provoking whys.
5. Voice: Remember that you, as writer, are a character in the book: If not in actuality (as in Erik Larson books and other historical narratives) then in voice. Nonfiction books these days are very ‘voice driven’ I hear this all the time from editors: THE VOICE NEEDS TO GRAB ME. Some books require an invisible hand, but unless your subject demands your objectivity/invisibility, put yourself into the story—either as a character, or at least as a perspective/voice. Your voice needs to come through.

Questions to ask yourself to see if a true story can work as a full narrative nonfiction book:

- Is there a hero, or at least an identifiable protagonist—someone we care about and relate to?
- Does this character have an arc? Does he/she evolve at all?
- Are there enough conflict(s)—plural—to keep the reader engaged throughout?
- Does it go and end up somewhere new and hopefully, unexpected?

Is there a universality to the subject—as in, will people care? If it’s a story about an adoption gone wrong, do you get us to care about the problem, identify with the people, and see the larger issues at stake?

Final note on narrative nonfiction: Consider studying fiction narratives for what works in story and how that might be useful in nonfiction—all writers can be teaching tools so remember to look everywhere for lessons.



Calls for submission

<http://www.ffrfr.com/index.html>

ffrfr is a new literary journal devoted to creative storytelling and intriguing uses of language in the tradition of Italo Calvino, Jorge Luis Borges, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Donald Barthelme, etc. *ffrfr* is a journal for readers and writers interested in advancing the literary traditions of magical realism, surrealism, "experimental" storytelling (if there can be a tradition there), OULIPIAN techniques in prose, and other styles that embrace Viktor Shklovsky's notion that art should not imitate reality but rather should make perception long and "laborious" by "enstranging" or "defamiliarizing" objects and complicating form.

* * * * *

The Jackson Hole Weekly has recently acquired The Jackson Hole Review and is accepting poetry, short story, essay, photography, and art to revive the publication. Theme "connect/disconnect." Jan 11

<http://www.jhreview.com/Submissions.html>

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Thema upcoming premises (target themes) and deadlines for submission: Your reality or mine? (March 1, 2011); Wisecracks & poems (July 1) The premise (target theme) must be an integral part of the plot, not necessarily the central theme but not merely incidental.

<http://members.cox.net/thema/>

Your reality or mine? (March 1, 2011)
Wisecracks & poems (July 1, 2011)

The premise (target theme) must be an integral part of the plot, not necessarily the central theme but not merely incidental. Fewer than 20 double spaced pages preferred. Indicate premise (target theme) on title page. *Be sure to Indicate target theme in cover letter or on first page of manuscript.* Include self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) with each submission. Rejected manuscripts unaccompanied by an SASE will not be returned. Response time: 3 months after premise deadline. **NO READER'S FEE.**

Mail to: THEMA, Box 8747, Metairie, LA 70011-8747.

On acceptance for publication, we will pay the following amount: short story, \$25; short-short piece (up to 1000 words), \$10; poem, \$10; artwork, \$25 for cover, \$10 for interior page display. Copyright reverts to author after publication.



Calls for Submission

Short Stories: All types welcome—both traditional and experimental

Send to: Virginia Howard, editor, Box 8747, Metairie, LA 70011-8747 Be sure to indicate premise and include SASE for each submission. *BE SURE to include a separate SASE for each premise.*

We do not accept e-mailed submissions.

Unlike many publishers, we prefer works submitted by the authors themselves, without the involvement of an agent.

What we like: a carefully constructed plot; good character delineation; clever plot twists

What we don't like: bedroom/bathroom profanity. Why?

- It's boring! Writers should be more creative than to depend on the same tired and dubious language crutches to express surprise, disdain, shock, bemusement, anger, sadness, and other emotions.
- Such profanity, used in excess, often serves as a camouflage for a weak plot. If the plot is good, the story can be told much more effectively in nonscatalogic language even though a character in the story may be sleazy.

Stories of lasting quality rarely need it.

Poetry: All types of poetic form welcome. Submit no more than three poems per theme, please.

Send to: Gail Howard, poetry editor, Box 8747, Metairie, LA 70011-8747 Include SASE and indicate premise. *If you are submitting poetry for more than one premise, BE SURE to include a separate SASE for each premise.*

We do not accept e-mailed submissions.

Unlike many publishers, we prefer works submitted by the authors themselves, without the involvement of an agent.

What we like: poems that are thoughtfully constructed and carefully distilled.

What we don't like: sexually explicit wording. Subtlety is more creative.

Art: Now accepting color illustrations and photographs for cover, and black and white illustrations and photographs for interior display. Submit 5"x7" photograph of artwork.

Send to: Virginia Howard, editor, Box 8747, Metairie, LA 70011-8747 Include SASE and indicate premise. *If you are submitting art/photography for more than one premise, BE SURE to include a separate SASE for each premise.*

We do not accept e-mailed submissions.

Unlike many publishers, we prefer works submitted by the authors themselves, without the involvement of an agent.

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Sample copies of THEMA are available at \$10.00 per copy (\$15.00 outside the US). Subscription rate: \$20.00 per year for three issues (\$30.00, outside the US). Make check payable to "THEMA Literary Society" and mail to THEMA, Box 8747, Metairie, LA 70011-8747.

Contests

MONTANA PRIZE IN FICTION, MONTANA PRIZE IN CREATIVE NONFICTION, PATRICIA GOEDICKE PRIZE IN POETRY

CutBank is pleased to announce the call for submissions to the 2011 Montana Prize in Fiction, Montana Prize in Creative Nonfiction, and the Patricia Goedicke Prize in Poetry. These three awards were founded in 2008 in the spirit of the Richard Hugo Memorial Poetry Award and A.B. Guthrie, Jr. Short Fiction Award, which *CutBank* awarded for over a decade in the '80s and '90s. The goal of the Montana and Goedicke Prizes is to recognize work that showcases an authentic voice, a boldness of form, and a rejection of functional fixedness.

We are thrilled to announce this year's acclaimed judges: Eileen Myles will judge for fiction, Thalia Field for nonfiction, and D. A. Powell for poetry. *CutBank* editors will conduct the first reading and select a pool of potential winners. That pool will be presented to the judges, who will then determine the winners in each category.

Submissions are accepted December 1, 2010 through February 28, 2011. Winners receive \$500 and publication in *CutBank* 75. All submissions will be considered for publication in *CutBank*. The contests' \$17 entry fee includes a one-year, two-issue subscription to *CutBank*, beginning with the prize issue, *CutBank* 75. More information is available at www.cutbankonline.org



Conferences and Upcoming Events



Pat Conroy to speak at Flagler College, St. Augustine, Florida
Flagler College will welcome bestselling author Pat Conroy as part of the college's Writers in Residence Program. Conroy will read a selection of his work on Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Flagler College Auditorium, 14 Granada St. The event is free and open to the public.

Conroy is the author of the novels "The Great Santini," "The Lords of Discipline," "The Prince of Tides," "Beach Music" and "South of Broad." Several of his novels have been made into feature films starring such Hollywood notables as Robert Duvall, Jon Voight, Nick Nolte, and Barbara Streisand. He is the recipient of a wide range of literary awards, most recently the 2010 Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Award for the Arts, South Carolina, Lifetime Achievement Award.

Pat Conroy currently lives in Fripp Island, South Carolina, with his wife, the novelist Cassandra King.

This event is free and open to the public. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

From: http://www.flagler.edu/news/2010_news/112410_pat_conroy.html

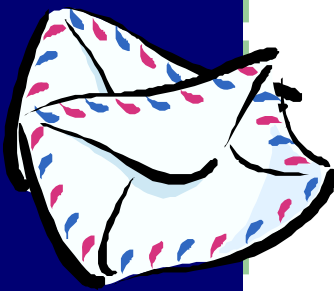
Dear Gainesville/Jax/St. Augustine-area(-ish) Writers--

My teaching partner, Joyce Sweeney, and I will be in St. Augustine teaching a three-day intensive on Scene and Structure for narrative writers (that's memoirists and all fiction writers, too). You'll find a complete description, below.

Please take a gander, and if you're interested in joining us, let me know--and, also, we'd be so appreciative of you passing this information along to other northern/northeastern Florida writing folks.

Thanks so much!

Best,
Jamie Morris



THE NEXT LEVEL: CRAFT INTENSIVES AND RETREATS

Award-winning author Joyce Sweeney and Woodstream Writers director, Jamie Morris, know what writers need – time, support, instruction, accurate information, camaraderie, community, and the opportunity to practice the skills that will help them take their work to THE NEXT LEVEL.

Each Next Level Craft Intensive is an engaging, instructive, experiential, market-savvy weekend focused on a particular aspect of the writer's craft.

Conferences and Upcoming Events

Attendees meet individually with workshop leaders; participate in group discussions; attend craft presentations complete with Q+A; revise or develop new work with on-the-spot writing exercises; and present work for group feedback--and that's just the beginning!

... in St. Augustine (Northeast Florida)

The Next Level: (Creating) Scene and (Building) Structure

You've got a concept and developed it into a plot. Now you need to build a structure that will deliver that plot to your readers with maximum effect!

Let Joyce and Jamie show you ...

... ways to develop an arc in every scene

... how to organize your plot points for best effect,

... why world-building is not just for fantasy writers ...

when you join us, February 4-6, 2011, for THE NEXT LEVEL: Scene and Structure.

Over the course of three days you will

- discover how point of view affects plot and structure.
 - learn to connect your scenes through foreshadowing and literary promises.
 - find strategies for integrating back story with power.
 - create suspense that compels readers (and agents!) forward
- confer privately with a workshop leader to aim your efforts for best effect.

Interested? Contact: Jamie@WoodstreamWriters.com



Writing Contests for 2011

Plan your year now.

Submit to these great writing contests.

Here it is – the round up of some of the best literary magazine writing contests available in some of the best journals published for 2011. (And playwrights' contests follow this section.)

A couple of things to remember:

- Send your best work. These journals are very competitive. Most are print journals with limited room. You'll be competing with the best.
- Do your research. If you write non-fiction, don't send it to "Rattle." They don't publish anything but poetry. If you write fiction, don't send it to "Rivertooth." They don't publish anything but non-fiction.
- Note to our loyal readers – these entries are cut and pasted from the Web sites – they may not always be accurate a year out. Deadlines change, editors change, journals change. **CHECK THE SITE** before you send your work.

Are there other contests? Of course there are. These are the grand old gang, journals that have a great reputation, have been in business for a long time and publish quality writing. But there are lots of other contests out there. Check out New Pages and Duotrope for others.

JANUARY

[Crazyhorse](http://www.crazyhorsejournal.org/page.php?id=108) - <http://www.crazyhorsejournal.org/page.php?id=108>

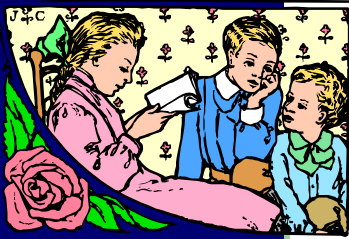
Crazy Horse Fiction Prize / Linda Hull Memorial Poetry Prize

Mail in or upload online up to twenty-five pages of fiction or up to three poems (up to 10 pages total of poetry). Reading fee per manuscript includes a one-year/two-issue print and e-book subscription to *Crazyhorse* starting with the next issue.

Prize: \$2000/category+pub

Deadline: January 15, 2011

Fee: \$16 (includes one-year subscription)





Writing Contests for 2011

[Glimmer Train](http://www.glimmertrain.com/writguid1.html) - <http://www.glimmertrain.com/writguid1.html>

Very Short Fiction Award

For stories of up to 3,000 words. The category will be open to submissions for one full month, from the first day through midnight (Pacific time) of the last day of the month. When we accept a story for publication, we are purchasing first-publication rights.

Prize: \$1,200+pub+copies/\$500/\$300

Deadline: January 1-31 (annual)

Fee: \$15/story

[New Millennium Writings](http://www.newmillenniumwritings.com/awards.php) - <http://www.newmillenniumwritings.com/awards.php>

New Millennium Awards for Fiction, Poetry, and Nonfiction

Winners of NMW Awards are showcased along with interviews, profiles and tributes to writers such as Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., Khaled Hosseini, J. D. Salinger, Julia Glass, Shel Silverstein, George Garrett, Ken Kesey, John Updike, and Cormac McCarthy.

Prize: \$1,000/category+pub

Deadline: 31 January 2011 (extended)

Fee: \$17





Writing Contests for 2011

<http://www.literal-latte.com/contests/>

Literal Latte currently offers five — count ‘em, FIVE — annual writing contests. The deadline dates given below apply every year, so there’s always a contest just around the corner.

All entries will be considered for publication.

The current reading fee for all contest entries is US \$10.00, and there are discounts for multiple entries. Make sure to read the guidelines below for detailed information.

All reading fees — payable by check or money order — should be made out to *Literal Latte* and mailed to:

Literal Latte Awards
200 East 10th Street, Suite 240
New York, NY 10003
(212) 260-5532

FEBRUARY

[Memoir \(and\)](http://memoirjournal.squarespace.com/contest-details/) - <http://memoirjournal.squarespace.com/contest-details/>

The *Memoir (and)* Prizes for Memoir in Prose or Poetry are awarded to the most outstanding prose or poetry memoirs—traditional, nontraditional or experimental—drawn from the reading period.

Prize: \$500/\$250/\$100+pub

The *Memoir (and)* Prize for Graphic Memoir is awarded to the most outstanding graphic memoir drawn from the reading period.

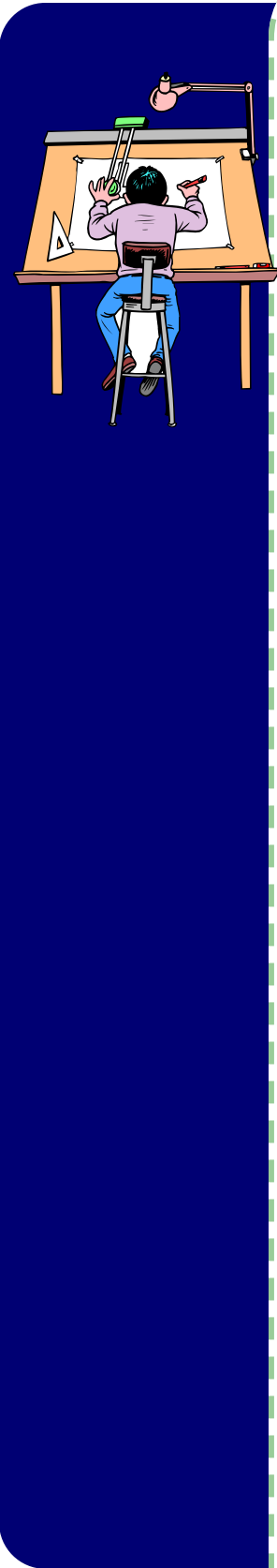
Prize: \$100+pub

The NEW *Memoir (and)* Prize for Photography is awarded to the most outstanding and innovative photography submission.

Deadline: 1 November 2010 - 16 February 2011

ADMIT ONE





Writing Contests for 2011

[Fourth Genre](http://msupress.msu.edu/journals/fg/index.php?Page=prize) - <http://msupress.msu.edu/journals/fg/index.php?Page=prize>

Michael Steinberg Essay Prize

Fourth Genre seeks the best creative nonfiction essay/memoir for its annual Michael Steinberg Essay Prize. Authors of previously unpublished manuscripts are encouraged to enter.

Prize: \$1000+pub

Deadline: January 5 - February 28 (annual)

Fee: \$15/entry

[The Kenyon Review](http://www.kenyonreview.org/contests-sf.php) - <http://www.kenyonreview.org/contests-sf.php>

Short Fiction Contest

Submissions must be 1200 words or less. Writers must be 30 years of age or younger at the time of submission. One submission per entrant. No simultaneous submission, please. All work must be submitted through our electronic system. We cannot accept paper submissions.

Prize: Publication + scholarship to attend the Writers Workshop in Gambier, OH

Judge: Ron Carlson

Deadline: February 1-28 (annual)

No Fee



Writing Contests for 2011

MARCH

[Colorado Review](http://coloradoreview.colostate.edu/nell.htm) - <http://coloradoreview.colostate.edu/nell.htm>

The Nelligan Prize for Short Fiction

The Nelligan Prize for Short Fiction was established in 2004 in memory of Liza Nelligan, a writer, editor, and friend of many in Colorado State University's English Department, where she received her master's degree in literature in 1992. By giving an award to the author of an outstanding short story each year, we hope to honor Nelligan's life, her passion for writing, and her love of fiction.

Prize: \$1500+pub

Deadline: Postmark January 12 - March 12 (annual)

Fee: \$10

[The Southeast Review](http://southeastreview.org/contests.html) - <http://southeastreview.org/contests.html>

World's Best Short Short Story Contest / Poetry Contest /

Narrative Nonfiction Contest

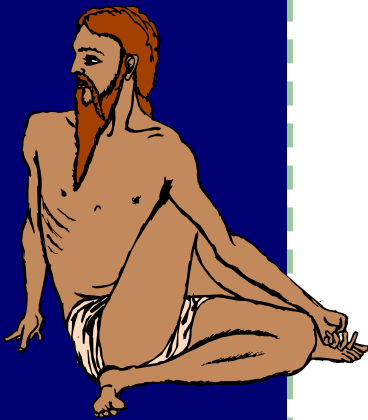
The Southeast Review is thrilled to announce our 2011 Contests! We invite submissions in these three categories: Poetry, Creative Nonfiction, and World's Best Short Short Story. Each entry must be accompanied by a \$15 reading fee, and sent as a hard copy to our mailing address. One winner in each category will be chosen and awarded \$500. The winners and a total of 20 finalists will be published in spring/summer 2012. Visit our website for detailed submission instructions!

Prize: \$500/category+pub

Judge: David Kirby (Poetry), Mark Winegardner (Nonfiction), Robert Olen Butler (Fiction)

Deadline: Postmark March 15, 2011

Fee: \$15



Writing Contests for 2011

APRIL

[The Spoon River Poetry Review](http://www.litline.org/spoon/contest.html) - <http://www.litline.org/spoon/contest.html>

Editors' Prize Contest

Submit two copies of three unpublished poems, maximum of ten pages total. Name, address, and phone number of poet should appear on each page of one copy only. Entries must be unpublished and will not be returned.

Prize: \$1000/\$100+pub

Deadline: Postmark April 15, 2011

Fee: \$16 (includes one-year subscription)

[The Ledge](http://www.theledgemagazine.com/Annual%20Contests.html) - <http://www.theledgemagazine.com/Annual%20Contests.html>

Poetry Awards Competition

NO RESTRICTIONS on form or content. *The Ledge* is open to all styles and schools of poetry. Excellence is the only criterion. ALL POEMS must be previously unpublished. Simultaneous submissions are acceptable but we must be notified if your poem(s) is accepted elsewhere for publication.

Prize: \$1000/250/100+pub

Deadline: Postmark April 30 (annual)

Fee: \$10

MAY

[The Journal](http://english.osu.edu/research/journals/thejournal/shortstorycontest.cfm) - <http://english.osu.edu/research/journals/thejournal/shortstorycontest.cfm>

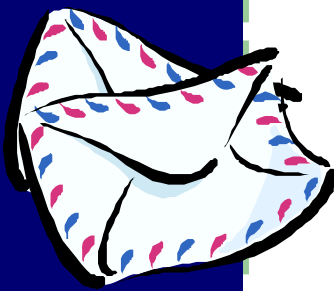
Short Story Prize

All styles, subject matter, and forms are welcome. Simultaneous submissions are accepted provided immediate notice is given if work is accepted elsewhere. Please submit only previously unpublished fiction up to 7500 words. All manuscripts will be considered for publication.

Prize: \$1000+pub

Deadline: Postmark May 1 (annual)

Fee: \$10



Writing Contests for 2011

[The Malahat Review](http://www.malahatreview.ca/far_horizons_fiction/info.html) - http://www.malahatreview.ca/far_horizons_fiction/info.html

Far Horizons Award for Fiction

Eligible writers have yet to publish their short fiction in book form and may submit one short story per entry. The story must not exceed 3,500 words. Please double space your work.

Prize: \$500 CAD +pub

Deadline: Postmark May 1, 2011

(Alternating years fiction/poetry: poetry-2012)

Fee: \$25 CAD, \$30 US, \$35 US for Mexico & international submissions (includes one-year subscription)

[The Southwest Review](http://smu.edu/southwestreview/Contests.asp) - <http://smu.edu/southwestreview/Contests.asp>

David Nathan Meyerson Prize for Fiction

A prize for fiction writers who have not published a first book. Named for the late David Nathan Meyerson (1967-1998), a therapist and talented writer who died before he was able to show to the greater world the full fruits of his literary potential.

Prize: \$1000+pub

Deadline: Postmark May 1 (annual)

Fee: \$25



Writing Contests for 2011



New Letters - <http://www.newletters.org/awards.asp>

Annual Literary Awards Competition

Poetry, Creative Nonfiction, and Fiction

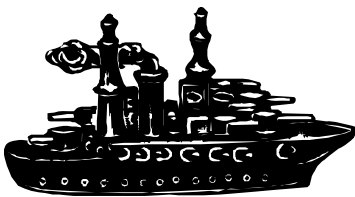
All entries will be considered for publication in New Letters. Fiction and essay entries are not to exceed 8,000 words. A single poetry entry may contain up to six poems, and those poems need not be related. Multiple entries are accepted with appropriate fees.

Prize: \$1500 / category+pub

Deadline: Postmark May 18 (annual)

Fee: \$15 (includes one-year subscription)

Fee: \$15



Writing Contests for 2011

**JUNE – BREAK OUT YOUR PENCILS –
THIS IS A GREAT MONTH TO SUBMIT!**

[Anderbo](http://www.anderbo.com/anderbo1/andernonfictionprize2011.html) - <http://www.anderbo.com/anderbo1/andernonfictionprize2011.html>

Creative Nonfiction Prize

For an unpublished up-to-1500-word Creative Nonfiction Piece. Limit one entry per writer, writer must not have been previously published on anderbo.com.

Prize: \$500+pub

Judge: Elizabeth Wurtzel

Deadline: Postmark June 15, 2011

Fee: \$10

[The Bitter Oleander](http://www.bitteroleander.com/contest.html) - <http://www.bitteroleander.com/contest.html>

Frances Locke Memorial Poetry Award

Just send us your most imaginative work. Serious work that allows the language of your imagination to reveal an entirely new perception from your singular life. This life will be based on your own individual perception and never one that's been conditioned into your sense of reality by conventional wisdom or sentimentality.

Prize: \$1000+pub

Deadline: Postmark June 15 (annual)

Fee: \$10



Writing Contests for 2011



[Indiana Review](http://www.indianareview.org/general/prizes/microprizelines10.html) - <http://www.indianareview.org/general/prizes/microprizelines10.html>

'1/2 K' Prize

Each piece must be either a prose-poem or short-short. Prose-poems should not have any deliberate line breaks (ie no lineated poems). You may send a combination of short-shorts and prose poem pieces, as long as you have no more than 3 pieces per submission. No previously published works, or works forthcoming elsewhere.

Prize: \$1000+pub

Final Judge: TBA

Deadline: Postmark June 15 (annual)

Fee: \$15USD (US), \$22USD (Canada), \$27USD (international) (includes 1 year subscription)

[Southern Poetry Review](http://www.spr.armstrong.edu/guyowen.html) - <http://www.spr.armstrong.edu/guyowen.html>

Guy Owen Prize Contest

Send 3-5 unpublished poems (10 pages max.). Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for reply only. We consider work published online or posted there as previously published. Include all contact information on cover sheet only; do not include name or contact information on poems. Please indicate simultaneous submissions.

Prize: \$1000+pub

Deadline: Postmark March 1 - June 15 (annual)

Fee: \$15 (includes one-year subscription)

[Glimmer Train](http://www.glimmertrain.com/writguid1.html) - <http://www.glimmertrain.com/writguid1.html>

Fiction Open

Open to all writers, all themes. Word count range: 2,000 - 20,000. (Don't worry: A great 2,000 word story can compete against a great 20,000 word story. It's the story that counts.)

Prize: \$2000+pub/1000/600

Deadline: Submit during June only

Fee: \$18



Writing Contests for 2011

[Hunger Mountain](http://www.hungermtn.org/katherine-paterson-prize-for-young-adult-and-childrens-writing/) - <http://www.hungermtn.org/katherine-paterson-prize-for-young-adult-and-childrens-writing/>

Children's/YA Fiction. \$20. 6/30 (annual postmark)

JULY

[Comstock Review](http://www.comstockreview.org/annualcontest.html) - <http://www.comstockreview.org/annualcontest.html>

The Muriel Craft Bailey Memorial Award

Annual Poetry Contest

Prize: \$1,000+pub/\$250/\$100

Final Judge: TBA

Deadline: Postmark July 1 (annual)

Fee: \$25

[The Cincinnati Review](http://www.cincinnatiireview.com/#!/submissions/contest) - <http://www.cincinnatiireview.com/#!/submissions/contest>

Robert & Adele Schiff Prizes in Poetry & Prose

One winning poem and prose piece will be chosen for publication in our prize issue. All entries will be considered for publication.

Prize: \$300/category

Judges: TBA

Deadline: Postmark during June and July only (annual)

Fee: \$15 or \$25 for one-year subscription

AUGUST



Writing Contests for 2011

[The Malahat Review](http://www.malahatreview.ca/creative_non-fiction_prize/info.html) - http://www.malahatreview.ca/creative_non-fiction_prize/info.html

Creative Non-Fiction Prize

The entry must be between 2,000 and 3,000 words. No restrictions as to subject matter or approach apply. For example, the entry may be personal essay, memoir, cultural criticism, nature writing, or literary journalism.

Prize: \$500 CAD+pub

Deadline: Postmark August 1 (annual)

Fee: \$35 CAD, \$40 USD, \$45 USD for Mexico & International

[RATTLE](http://www.rattle.com/rpp/hardguide.htm) - <http://www.rattle.com/rpp/hardguide.htm>

Poetry Prize

Judged in a blind review by the editors to ensure a fair and consistent selection, and with an entry fee that is simply a one-year subscription to the magazine, we've designed the Rattle Poetry Prize to be one of the most writer-friendly contests around.

Prize: \$5,000/\$100 for 10 honorable mentions+pub

Deadline: Postmark August 1 (annual)

Fee: \$18 (includes one-year subscription or extension)

[Gulf Coast](http://www.gulfcoastmag.org/index.php?n=7) - <http://www.gulfcoastmag.org/index.php?n=7>

Donald Barthelme Prize for Short Prose

The prize awards \$1000 and publication to one prose poem, micro-essay, or short story of 500 words or less.

Prize: \$1000+pub

Judge: Joe Bonomo

Deadline: August 31 (annual)

Fee: \$15 (postal), \$18 (online) (includes one-year subscription)

Writing Contests for 2011

SEPTEMBER

[The Greensboro Review](http://www.greensbororeview.org/contests/) - <http://www.greensbororeview.org/contests/>

Robert Watson Literary Prizes

Entries must be previously unpublished and will not be returned. We do accept simultaneous submissions. Please let us know if your work is accepted elsewhere. Please include no more than 25 typed, double-spaced pages for fiction. Poetry entries can include any number of poems up to 10 pages. Each story counts as one entry.

Prize: \$1000/category + pub

Deadline: September 15 (annual)

Fee: \$14

[The Southwest Review](http://smu.edu/southwestreview/Contests.asp) - <http://smu.edu/southwestreview/Contests.asp>

Morton Marr Poetry Prize

The Morton Marr Poetry Prize is an endowment by Marilyn Klepak of Dallas in honor of her father, whose love of poetry has encouraged her to pass this love on to others.

Prize: \$1000/500+pub

Deadline: Postmark September 30 (annual)

Fee: \$5/poem

OCTOBER

[Georgetown Review](http://georgetownreview.georgetowncollege.edu/) - <http://georgetownreview.georgetowncollege.edu/>

\$1,000 and publication to the winning short story, poem, or essay on any theme or subject. All genres welcome. All entries are considered for publication on the journal.

Prize: \$1000+pub

Deadline: Postmark October 1 (annual)

Fee: \$10

Writing Contests for 2011

[The Missouri Review](http://www.missourireview.org/contest/editors_prize.php) - http://www.missourireview.org/contest/editors_prize.php

Jeffrey E. Smith Editors' Prize in Fiction, Essay and Poetry

Not just any contest! Select winning entries in the past have been reprinted in the *Best American* series.

Prize: \$5000/category + pub

Deadline: Postmark October 1 (annual)

Fee: \$20

[Indiana Review](http://indianareview.org/general/prize.html) - <http://indianareview.org/general/prize.html>

Fiction Prize

Previously published works and works forthcoming elsewhere cannot be considered. Simultaneous submissions are okay, but the fee is non-refundable if accepted elsewhere. Multiple entries are okay, as long as a separate reading fee is included with each entry.

Prize: \$1000+pub

Final Judge: TBA

Deadline: Postmark October 15 (annual)

Fee: \$15 (includes one-year subscription)

[Narrative Magazine](http://www.narrativemagazine.com/) – NOTE AGE RESTRICTION - <http://www.narrativemagazine.com/>

30 Below Story Contest

Narrative is calling on writers, visual artists, photographers, performers, and filmmakers, between eighteen and thirty years old, to tell us a story. We are interested in narrative in the many forms it takes: the word and the image, the traditional and the innovative, the true and the imaginary.

Prize: \$1500/750/300/100

Deadline: October 29 (annual)

Fee: \$20/entry

Writing Contests for 2011

NOVEMBER

[The Briar Cliff Review](http://www.briarcliff.edu/campus/bc_review/contest_information.aspx) - http://www.briarcliff.edu/campus/bc_review/contest_information.aspx

Poetry, Fiction, Creative Nonfiction Contest

Entries will be judged by the Editors of *The Briar Cliff Review*. \$20 entry fee per story/creative nonfiction piece or three poems. Omit author's name on manuscript.

Prize: \$1k / category + pub

Deadline: November 1 (annual)

Fee: \$20

[The Kenyon Review](http://www.kenyonreview.org/contests-pg.php) – NOTE Age Restriction - <http://www.kenyonreview.org/contests-pg.php>

Patricia Grodd Poetry Prize for Young Writers

The Patricia Grodd Poetry Prize for Young Writers recognizes outstanding young poets and is open to high school sophomores and juniors throughout the world. The contest winner receives a full scholarship to the [Kenyon Review Young Writers](#) workshop.

Prize: Scholarship+pub

Judge: TBA

Deadline: November 1-30 (annual)

No Fee



Writing Contests for 2011

DECEMBER

[Water~Stone Review](http://www.waterstonereview.com/contests.html) - <http://www.waterstonereview.com/contests.html>

Judith Kitchen Prize in Creative Nonfiction

In honor of Judith Kitchen, distinguished author and long-time friend of the review, whose nonfiction titles include *Distance and Direction* (Coffeehouse) and *Only the Dance* (U. of South Carolina). Kitchen is the editor of three well-known collections of short essays: *In Short*, *In Brief*, and *Short Takes* (W.W. Norton).

Prize: \$1000+pub

Judge: Poe Ballantine

Deadline: Postmark October 1 - December 1, 2010

Fee: \$15 (includes one-year subscription)

[Phoebe](http://www.phoebejournal.com/?page_id=8) - http://www.phoebejournal.com/?page_id=8

Winter Fiction Contest

Contest entries should include one story, not to exceed 7,500 words. Novel excerpts and non-fiction will not knowingly be considered. All entries should include a cover letter with your name, address, the title of the story to be considered, and a brief biography. Your name and address should not appear anywhere on the story.

Prize: \$1,000+pub

Judge: Caitlin Horrocks

Deadline: Postmark December 15, 2010

Fee: \$15



Playwrights' Contests

SOUTHERN PLAYWRIGHTS COMPETITION

Jacksonville State University, 700 Pelham Rd. N.
Jacksonville AL 36265-1602

Phone: (256)782-5469

Fax: (256)782-5441

E-mail: jmaloney@jsu.edu, swhitton@jsu.edu

Website: www.jsu.edu/depart/english/southpla.htm

Contact

Contact: Joy Maloney, Steven J. Whitton.

About

"Offered annually to identify and encourage the best of Southern playwriting. Playwrights must be a native or resident of Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, or West Virginia."

Prize: \$1,000 and production of the play.

Freelance Facts

- Established: 1988
- Deadline: January 15

Prize: \$1,000 and production of the play.



Playwrights' Contests

THE SCREENWRITER'S PROJECT

Indiefest: Film Festival & Market
P.O. Box 148849
Chicago IL 60614-8849

Phone: (773)665-7600
Fax: (773)665-7660
E-mail: info@indiefestchicago.com
Website: www.indiefestchicago.com

About

Offered annually to give both experienced and first-time writers the opportunity to begin a career as a screenwriter.

Prize: Various cash awards and prizes.

Costs: \$40-100

Freelance Facts

- Deadline: January 1, March 1, April 1

Prize: Various cash awards and prizes.

* * * * *



Playwrights' Contests

AAA SCREENPLAY CONTEST

AAA Screenplay Contest c/o Creative Screenwriting
6404 Hollywood Blvd Suite 145
Los Angeles CA 90028

E-mail: aaacontest@creativescreenwriting.com

Website: www.creativescreenwriting.com/aaa/index.html

Contact

Contact: Pasha McKenley, contest coordinator.

About

"No particular genre has an edge. Our winner may be a horror movie about mutant hedgehogs or a biopic on the life of Ivan the Terrible. What our judges are looking for is a great story, compelling characters, and sharp dialogue. We want your best work without regard to genre or budget.

Prize: \$10,000, 2nd Prize is \$2,500 Cash. Third Prize is \$1,000. New: The fourth through tenth-place finalists will each receive \$100. Two teleplay winners receive \$500 each and agency consideration. Three "Best Opening" prize winners get \$100 each.

Costs: \$34-65

Freelance Facts

- Deadline: April 11

Prize: \$10,000, 2nd Prize is \$2,500 Cash. Third Prize is \$1,000. New: The fourth through tenth-place finalists will each receive \$100. Two teleplay winners receive \$500 each and agency consideration. Three "Best Opening" prize winners get \$100 each.

Needs

Needs: scripts

Because the contest is geared toward offering access into the world of screenwriting, we do have to limit applicants to those who have made less than \$25,000 on feature options or sales.

Tips

"Enter online at our website. Do not send or try to submit scripts to our e-mail address. They will be deleted."

Playwrights' Contests

AMERICAN ZOETROPE SCREENPLAY CONTEST

American Zoetrope
916 Kearny Street
San Francisco CA 94133
USA

E-mail: contests@zoetrope.com

Website: www.zoetrope.com/contests

About

Prize: The grand prize-winner receives \$5,000. The winner and top-ten finalists will be considered for representation by icm, uta, paradigm, william morris independent, the gersh agency, caa, exile entertainment, the schiff company, and the firm. Their scripts will be considered for film option and development by leading production companies, including: american zoetrope, samuel goldwyn films, fox searchlight, sony pictures classics, ifc entertainment, paramount classics, icon pictures, working title, dimension films, antidote films, bull's eye entertainment, c/w productions, the film department, first look, frelaine, greenestreet films, matinee pictures, michael london productions, number 9 films, phoenix pictures, pretty pictures, this is that, roserock films, benderspink, room 9 entertainment, industry entertainment, ovie entertainment, nine yards entertainment, and ziskin productions.

Costs: \$35

Freelance Facts

- Deadline: August 1 September 2

Prize: The grand prize-winner receives \$5,000. The winner and top-ten finalists will be considered for representation by icm, uta, paradigm, william morris independent, the gersh agency, caa, exile entertainment, the schiff company, and the firm. Their scripts will be considered for film option and development by leading production companies, including: american zoetrope, samuel goldwyn films, fox searchlight, sony pictures classics, ifc entertainment, paramount classics, icon pictures, working title, dimension films, antidote films, bull's eye entertainment, c/w productions, the film department, first look, frelaine, greenestreet films, matinee pictures, michael london productions, number 9 films, phoenix pictures, pretty pictures, this is that, roserock films, benderspink, room 9 entertainment, industry entertainment, ovie entertainment, nine yards entertainment, and ziskin productions.

Needs

Needs: scripts

Scripts must be between 87 to 130 pages in standard screenplay format. The writer must own all rights to the work. The writer must be at least 18 years old and have never have made more than \$5,000 as a screen- or television-writer.



Writer's Alliance of Gainesville
A not-for-profit Florida corporation
p.o.box 358396
gainesville/florida/32635-8396
352-336-8062/wagmail@cox.net
<http://writersallianceofgainesville.org>

The **Writers Alliance of Gainesville (WAG)** promotes, encourages and supports aspiring and experienced regional writers. This goal is accomplished via **WAG** monthly meetings, public readings, ongoing small critique groups, a literary journal, writers' contests, and collaborations with schools and civic organizations to foster creative expression through the written word.

