



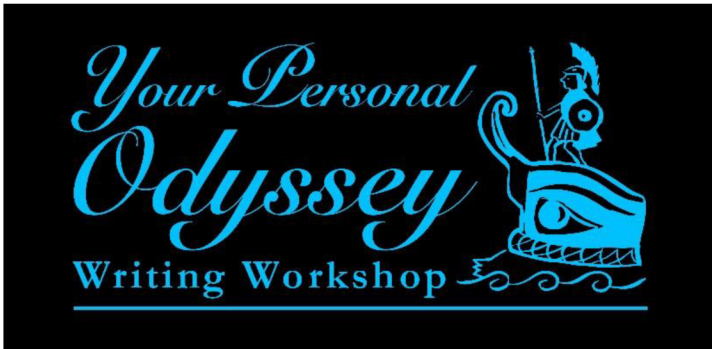
Space Cowboy Books Presents: Simultaneous Times Newsletter

#23 March 2022

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Letter from the Editor

Spring has arrived in Joshua Tree, a truly beautiful time of year in the desert! March is a special month for us as it is the four-year anniversary of our podcast *Simultaneous Times*. For our anniversary episode we have teamed up with *Sci-Fi Lampoon Magazine* to produce stories from their pages. If you haven't heard of *Sci-Fi Lampoon* be sure to check out the episode on your favorite podcast players, they're one of the only comedy SF magazines out there, and they're doing great work. In this issue we bring you an interview with Jeanne Cavelos about the *Odyssey Workshop*, and poetry from Richard Magahiz. As always, we'd love to hear from you, so get in touch at spacecowboybooks@gmail.com - Jean-Paul L. Garnier



How long have the Odyssey Writing Workshops been in operation, and what was the motivation behind creating these programs?

In 1996, after eight years in publishing, I left my position as senior editor at Bantam Doubleday Dell to devote more time to my writing. I also wanted to be able to continue working with writers--the part of my job I most enjoyed--and to work with them in a deeper, more meaningful way.

I thought about my earlier experience earning my MFA in creative writing. I'd been the weird girl who wrote science fiction, fantasy, and horror, and none of the teachers knew much about those genres. I thought how great it would be to have a program at an MFA level that focused on those genres. That led me to create the *Odyssey Writing Workshop*, an intensive, six-week, in-person program held each summer in New Hampshire.

Over the years, as writers contacted me and asked for other types of programs, we added critiques, online classes, webinars, coaching, consultations, and many free resources.

Odyssey has just launched a new program called Your Personal Odyssey Writing Workshop, can you tell us about the aims of the program?

Let me first explain why I decided, after 26 years, to transform the *Odyssey Writing Workshop* into this new program, *Your Personal Odyssey Writing Workshop* (<https://www.odysseyworkshop.org/about-the-workshop/>). Holding *Odyssey* online for the last two summers due to the pandemic revealed to me that a huge number of talented writers want

an in-depth, challenging program to build their skills but can't attend a six-week, in-person workshop. More than that, the last 26 years have taught me that a six-week program isn't the best format for all students. All writers don't write or learn at the same pace. I've also learned the great value of one-on-one sessions with students to generate goals and plans, discuss concepts, suggest techniques, brainstorm solutions to story problems, answer questions, and get to know each student so I can do my best to help them move ahead in their writing journey. And I've learned that *Odyssey's* structure doesn't allow me enough time with each student to do all that.

All of this led me to create *Your Personal Odyssey Writing Workshop*, a one-on-one, personalized, online program that combines the intensive, advanced *Odyssey* lectures with expert feedback and deep mentoring in an experience designed to maximize each student's learning and improvement.

The goals of the program are to help each writer improve their weaknesses, maximize their strengths, overcome their challenges, explore their interests, and work at a sustainable pace. My personal goal is to make each student feel like this workshop has been designed specifically for them.



Aside from being a personalized workshop how does Your Personal Odyssey Writing Workshop differ from the regular Odyssey programs?

One major difference is that you get to choose whether to take the program over 6 weeks, 3 months, or 6 months. You also choose which writing topics to focus on and how much time to spend on each topic.

Another difference is that *Your Personal Odyssey* is a one-on-one experience. The *Odyssey Writing Workshop* offered a group experience for 26 years, and many great friendships were made. But I often felt that I could have helped each student more with a more intense focus on that student's interests, needs, strengths, and weaknesses.

At Your Personal Odyssey, you'll be following the unique path that is most helpful for you, that teaches you the skills you need to become the writer you want to be.

The camaraderie that can develop when you're part of a community of writers will come after you've successfully completed the program. You'll be invited to join Odyssey graduate groups and to attend The Never-Ending Odyssey, the eight-day workshop for graduates.

Tell us about some of the guest lecturers and critiquers that the students will have an opportunity to work with?

Students will learn from guest lecturers including bestselling authors Brandon Sanderson, Meagan Spooner, and Gregory Ashe; award-winning authors P. Djéli Clark, Melissa Scott, Eric James Stone, Nisi Shawl, and award-winning author and editor of *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* Sheree Renée Thomas; and award-winning editor/publisher Scott H. Andrews of *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*.

In addition to receiving feedback from me, each student will receive feedback from two of our guest critiquers, which will include both a written critique and a meeting on Zoom. The guest critiquers are award-winning author R. F. Kuang; bestselling authors Elizabeth Hand and Kate Alice Marshall; co-Editor-in-Chief of *Fantasy Magazine* Arley Sorg; and award-winning editor/publishers Scott H. Andrews of *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* and Neil Clarke of *Clarkesworld Magazine*.

What's your background, and how did you come to teach at Odyssey?

I started out with the career goal of becoming an astronaut just like Charlton Heston in the original *Planet of the Apes*. I studied astrophysics, got a job at NASA, and then realized I really loved writing science fiction (and horror and fantasy) more than working in science. I earned my MFA in creative writing, got a job at Bantam Doubleday Dell, worked my way up to senior editor, and I think that's where this interview started.

What scholarships and resources are available for prospective students?

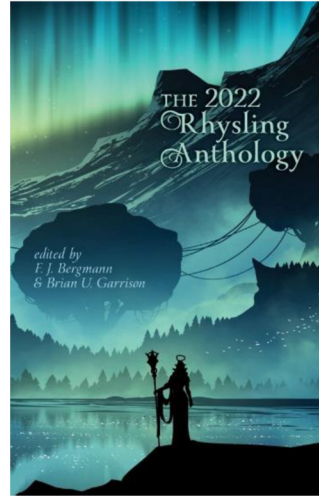
Since the program is customized for each student, we're admitting only twelve writers. We have six scholarships available, so if you're admitted and have financial need, the chances are very good that you will receive a scholarship.

What words of advice do you have for students and writers thinking about signing up for the Workshops?

If Your Personal Odyssey is of interest, my main advice is to apply. Many writers pre-reject themselves, thinking they have no chance of success. And it's true that they have no chance, if they never try. Odyssey has accepted writers with all sorts of backgrounds. Whatever your situation is, just share it with me on the application. I'm looking for a diverse group of committed writers who are ready to make the most of this experience.

Find many of the books mentioned in our newsletter at our online shop www.bookshop.org/shop/spacecowboybooks

New from the Small Press



The 2022 Rhysling Anthology

The Best Speculative Poetry of 2021. Largest anthology and most participation ever! Lots of new names and publications. The largest collection of new speculative poems, all chosen by SFPA members, this is also the voting ballot for the Rhysling Awards for Short and Long poems. Out April 1st! <http://sfpoetry.com/>

Nominees for each year's Rhysling Awards are selected by the membership of the Science Fiction

Poetry Association. Each member is allowed to nominate one work in each of two categories: "Best Long Poem" (50+ lines; for prose poems, 500+ words) and "Best Short Poem" (0–49 lines; for prose poems, 0–499 words). All nominated works must have been first published during the preceding calendar year of the awards year. The Rhysling Awards are put to a final vote by the membership of the SFPA selection from all nominated works, presented in the *Rhysling Anthology*. The anthology allows the membership to easily review and consider all nominated works without the necessity of obtaining the diverse number of publications in which the nominated works first appeared. The *Rhysling Anthology* is available to anyone with an interest in this unique compilation of verse from some of the finest poets working in the field of SF/F/Horror poetry.

Born to shed fire By Richard Magahiz

we call her ichneumon because she fights dragons
there are teeth which are her slug throwers
there is a sting which is her fusion charge
the fleetness comes from the brew she drinks
all fierceness from the splendor of bombardment

her prey's hostility is ancient, unquenchable,
ichneumon leaps up to a place of danger
she shakes off radio chaff like beads of water
her side thrust evades shafts of thunder
she is worthy of praise and service

overwhelming in power yet she pauses to take care
flame in her hearts and wholesome air
the thing we do together we do with joy
in her inmost recesses she knows her servants
we her many eyes offer her our hands

to strike the worm with a blow hotter than lava
the beast seeks to crush her but she slips aside
light on the wing her cunning without equal
there is vengeance in her every vein
the adversary cannot uncloud its sickened mind