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SINGAPORE YOUNG WRITERS LAB

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**Flash Fiction:
From Portfolio to Pitching**

**Learn How To Improve Your Story and
Portfolio To Pitch For Publication**

24 - 26 June 2019

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What goes on behind the scenes before writers pitch their stories? What ideas inspire them as writers and how do they decide what goes into their portfolio? **Flash Fiction: From Portfolio to Pitching** is a 3-day writing bootcamp designed for aspiring writers to better their understanding of story development and revision, pitch presentation as well as portfolio structuring. Participants will finish this writing bootcamp by completing a 400-word flash fiction piece as well as a chance to polish your work-in-progress story portfolio to prepare you for future story pitching presentations.

Launching in 2020: Participants will submit their flash fiction stories at the end of the bootcamp, stand a chance to have their works included in an e-journal which will be launched next year!

Module 1: Story Development

A portfolio is nothing without quality content that represents the author. Story Development briefly touches upon aspects that aid authors in building their stories – World-building, Character profiling, Plot development – and finally, giving participants time to construct their own draft piece proper. This will add to the foundation of their portfolios.

Duration: 3 hours

Target: To create your own original flash fiction piece

Objectives: Participants will be able to:

1. Understand and apply the effects of foundational world-building to their story
2. Create at least a single protagonist and/or narrator in their written piece
3. Write a complete 400-word fiction prose piece that is story/plot-focussed

Outcome: First draft of their story, Layout of Main Characters and Setting

Module 2: Content Revision

In order to present the best possible pieces in each author's portfolio, revision and editing are necessary. This module introduces a technique known as Workshopping, which is a group-based activity that re-enacts the reading and feedback process published authors go through. Participants will need to share their stories, provide constructive feedback, and objectively analyse their own stories to better improve their work-in-progress pieces.

Duration: 3 hours

Target: To revise previous draft and improve on it so that it is closer to completion

Objectives: Participants will be able to:

1. Have a general understanding of how story revision works
2. Understand and apply the workings of Workshopping to their future works
3. Demonstrate workshopping through a sample workshopping session

Outcome: First draft of their Story finished and revised

Module 3: Submission and Follow-Up

Regardless of it being an author's first or 50th submission for publication, he/she may face the same confusion and anxiety. This module's aim is to aid participants in the comprehension and application of submission guidelines, the point-of-view from the publication's reading editors, and techniques on how to follow-up post-submission. This includes managing expectations, submission acceptance, and most importantly, submission rejections.

Duration: 3 hours

Goal: Participants will be able to make short story submissions and queries independently

Objectives: Participants will be able to:

1. Understand and comprehend an open call / call for submissions for anthologies or publications
2. Compile a correctly formatted submission package
3. Respond and follow-up to pitch or submission appropriately

Outcome: Ability / Templates for future publication submissions

Module 4: Portfolio & Pitch Presentation

A good number of major submissions (e.g. publications, grants, residencies, mentorships) require authors to present portfolio samples along with their applications. Question is, what should go into an author's portfolio? How should it be formatted? Should an author have multiple portfolios? And most importantly, how should they communicate themselves to their intended audiences (readers, editors or otherwise)? This module will allow participants to present both the gist of their stories and the portfolio that accompanies it – allowing them a taste of consolidating their work to a single, memorable line.

Duration: 3 hours

Goal: Participants will be able to present their stories and start their portfolios

Objectives: Participants will be able to:

1. Understand the main gist of their story and sum it up to a one-liner, elevator pitch
2. Understand their personal "brands" and compile a portfolio accordingly
3. Present their pitch

Outcome: Presenting the participant's pitch and portfolio in the most effective way possible

Module 5: Portfolio Review / Workshopping

All four modules lead up to this finale – Participants should achieve two aspects during this session: 1) The foundations of their professional portfolio. 2) The ability to assess their strengths and engage in critical discourse with regards to their work, from a peer review session of their portfolios. This module focusses on finding what makes each author stand out and working on these advantages to produce the beginnings of a portfolio that can carry them through their careers.

Duration: 3 hours

Goal: Participants will be able to construct their professional portfolios

Objectives: Participants will be able to:

1. Understand their strengths and weaknesses with regards to their writing and portfolio
2. Construct their professional portfolio and apply the needed feedback to their work
3. Analyse and engage in critical discourse with regards to their work

Outcome: Better understanding of their personal brands and the foundations of their professional portfolios.