



Creative Workshops

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storyteller speaker facilitator writing mentor poet



Creative Workshops Nov 2011

Writing Newsletter

Re-story and re-imagine your Life and Work

Stop Press Cape Newlands

The Joy And Call Of Stories Find the Storyteller inside - a practical 4 week storyshop

Sat afternoons 5 12 19 26 Nov 14.00-17.00 R1300.00

In the family of punctuation, where the full stop is daddy and the comma is mummy and the semicolon quietly practices the piano with crossed hands, the exclamation mark is the big attention-deficit brother who gets over-excited and breaks things and laughs too loudly.

(Lynne Truss, author of Eats Shoots and Leaves)

Dear writers, story-tellers, readers

Apart from words, writers also need to consider punctuation – an under-carpet on which the pile of the text rests. In English, fourteen stones in the wordriver as it flows from writer to reader affecting pace and rhythm. To shift the metaphor - Andrew Offutt writes, "A period is a stop sign. A semicolon is a rolling stop sign; a comma is merely an amber light."

We've all come across those sentences where punctuation affects meaning. As in: A woman, without her man, is nothing. A woman: without her, man is nothing.

This month, Instead of talking about writing, I'd like to share a poem on two of these signs -

The exclamation and the question mark. (The poem is included in a collection *Poemegrarites* that Leopard Press will publish early next year.)

I love Scott Fitzgerald's "Cut out all these exclamation points. An exclamation point is like laughing at your own joke." And as for questions – "The word is derived from the Latin *quarrier* (to seek) - the same root as the word for quest. A creative life is a continued quest.... Most useful are open-ended questions; they allow for fresh unanticipated answers to reveal themselves. (Anon)

Two Punctuation Marks !?

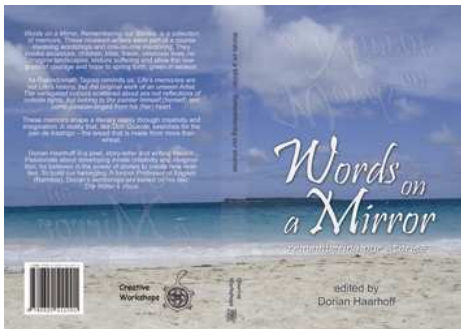
in exclamation
the line rises from the dot,
vertical, an arrow into a blue sky,
certain of its target.
mostly a happy stroke
for emphasis, repetition,
underlining some certainty,
claiming attention
as in the singing of a visible bird.

but in the question,
the line rises from the dot
a little way before
the wind catches it,
the gale force bends
then lets it circle back
through the clouds
bringing uncertain weather,
seeking information
till we end in the great
unanswered asking
caught a half circle curve.

the Spanish invert it
at the beginning,
opening the quest inside
as Don Quixotte rides forth.
will his vision turn the prostitute
into a lady of chivalry?

the hook drops deep
on a line and sinker riddle.
the dot becomes the fisherman,
tiny above the fathomless sea,
patient to catch some answer
among the bottom feeder fish.

Forthcoming publications



Words on a Mirror, Remembering our Stories, featuring life stories from nineteen 2011 participants will be launched in Cape Town (27 Oct) Johannesburg (31 Oct) and Durban (4 Nov). Annie Haarhoff, proof reader, writes, "I have been deeply moved by these stories which, in their elegant and powerful prose, express the pain, losses sorrows and longing, as well as the love and hope that bind us like a gossamer thread." Cover design and lay out - Dominic Haarhoff.

(see Down the Line 2012)

I have completed the manuscript for *Mirror, Lens and Window, a Workbook on Journaling for Namibian Teachers in Training* based on workshops over the past four years sponsored by the Carl Schlettwein Foundation in Basel. Cover design and lay out - Dominic Haarhoff.

Dorian's Sept Storyshops/ Writeshops/Conversations

If you want any of these workshops in your area speak speak.

Western Cape

1. Cape Newlands

The Joy And Call Of Stories Find the Storyteller inside

Sat afternoons 5 12 19 26 Nov 14.00-17.00 R1300.00 early story-bird price: R1150.00

You are invited to attend a practical 4 week storyshop series to evoke creativity and imagination



This workshop will show you how to ritualise and energize your life though engaging with stories - those of your own and of others. Climb inside stories and tell them from the inside. Listen to them. Shape them. Taste them on your tongue. Reconnect to creativity.

Who will benefit from attending:

Writers, storytellers, readers, travelers, lovers of words, images, silences...therapists, artists, spiritual seekers, coaches, teachers, magicians, tricksters, ecologists...anyone who wants to raise their story IQ.

The joy and call of stories will:

- explain the power of storytelling
- give you an understanding of how stories work
- give you practical tools to work with in the telling of stories
- help you develop the ability to tell a good story
- ignite your creativity and imagination

Facilitators: Kirsten Pearson a Dialogue facilitator, poet and the Project Lead for the Movement for Sharing Life Stories joins me

Contact: Kirsten Pearson on 082 936 1898 or email: Kirsten@lightyard.net

Venue: Frank Joubert Art Centre Newlands. Two folk have already booked

Stories are the creative conversion of life itself into a more powerful, clearer, more meaningful experience. They are the currency of human contact. — Robert McKee

Gauteng

2. Johannesburg

Writing your Spiritual Journey R520

Sun 30 Oct 09.45 – 15.45 pm

*In the middle of my life I found myself in a dark wood .
The way was wholly lost and gone (Dante)*

The word 'spirit' touches every aspect of our lives. In this *wordshop* we invoke the image of the journey. We write about our changing beliefs and find the stories around those moments of insight. When like the snake we shed a dead skin and opened to a larger world. Perhaps we are all pilgrims. Writing offers us a lamp that sheds light along this path. The storyshop offers you a safe place to explore whatever you need to explore, irrespective of your beliefs. The workshop also focuses on how to be present in your writing and engage the reader as a creative partner. And source your bliss.

You will explore how to

- align yourself with the one inside who knows how to write
- start and sustain that conversation
- be thrilled by words
- breathe life into the words and let words breathe life into you

Bring writing materials, old magazines, scissors, a glue stick and a light lunch to share. I'll provide tea and coffee.

Venue: Jeff and Nicci Schaffer 3 Hillman Avenue Woodmead

KZN

3. Pietmaritzburg

Collage/Storytelling Day for Dlananathi (Play and be Well) a NGO working in Bereavement
3 Nov

4. Durban

Life stories workshop for stress and trauma debriefing counsellors Diakonia Council of Churches

4 Nov

Down the Line 2012

UCT Summer School

Once Upon A Journey: Writing Your Life Story

16-20 Jan 10.00-12.00

It's the process of writing and life that matters... We are trying to become sane along with our poems and stories. (Natalie Goldberg)

Durban Cape Town Johannesburg

The Heart, Head, Breath and Body: Poetry Course leading to shared Publication (PP)

March-Aug 2012

I see that poetry is a form of attention, itself the consequence of attention and too I believe that poems are presences... that may be called in Dame Julian of Norwich's words 'showings.'" (David Ravell, The Art of Attention: The Poets Eye)

I am offering a poetry course March-Aug 2012. A number of workshop participants have asked for a structured course that offers a sense of progression and leads to a shared publication.

The course consists of two Sunday workshops held in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town for participants in these respective cities. (If there is sufficient interest from another centre, then I will accommodate this.) The course also includes one-on-one email/phone tuition after the poetshops. This in turn leads to a publication featuring the writing of all those who participated and will culminate in a celebratory launch of the poetry volume. There is no admission requirement. We can all learn to write poetry.

Elements covered:

- attention and listening
- how to read and learn from other poets
- rhythm, music, beat, metre and rhyme
- line, sentence and verse
- enriching though images
- words - their meaning and connotations
- ambiguity and word play
- crafting, shaping, structuring and editing

detailed flyer from me

Durban, Cape Town Johannesburg

Once Upon A Journey: A Life Story Course leading to a shared Publication (LSP)

March-Aug 2012

It's the process of writing and life that matters... We are trying to become sane along with our poems and stories. (Natalie Goldberg)

This structured course that offers a sense of progression and leads to a publication. So I am once again offering a Life Story/Memoir course March -Aug 2012. There is no admission requirement. We can all learn to write and have a story to tell.

Here is feedback from 2011 participants:

When we arrived, we shared a common commitment – to write. When we left, we shared so much more. Having discovered a home space that offered enrichment and blessings, a magic maestro to keep us inspired and safe, and kindred writers for support, encouragement and laughter, we looked deep inside, opened our hearts, connected to our grief, dropped our masks, celebrated the child in us then looked in the mirror to see...ourselves.

Elements covered in the workshops:

- voice and presence
- connecting to experience
- opening to imagination and creativity
- engaging the discipline
- developing a facility with words
- crafting, shaping, structuring and editing

detailed flyer from me

Ongoing activities (some repeat info here)

Mentoring – one-on-one

“You make me sound like myself” (various clients) Walk with me in words. You put on one shoe, I wear the other. Memoirs, mindful adventures, work in the word... genres tumbling out of folk on the one-on-one path. Such a richness of story here.

Email Courses: Writer’s/ Poet’s Voice Course – one-on-one tuition

Some folks respond to structure, assignments... if so, ask and it shall be negotiated. Here is one possibility: Do you love reading and writing? This one-on-one apprenticeship aims to take you further up the writing mountain and offer you a deeper engagement with your craft. This course is structured in the nature of an ongoing conversation with a few chosen writers or poets, (ancestral or alive) with me and with yourself. I encourage you to keep a journal to record your observations and reflections.

Speaking Engagements

Be still when you have nothing to say but when genuine passion moves you, say what you've got to say, and say it hot. (D. H. Lawrence) Last August I created and presented a myth of the Berg at the Drakensberg Sun for Southern Sun executives. What are your needs?

Development Work

This year I am working for Diakonia facilitating life story workshops for stress and trauma debriefing counsellors.

Bosman and Nasrudin under starlight

This season I will be a story-ing ...a summer evening, wine, cheese, breads and fire tales for the telling. In December I'll be telling stories at Natascha and Warren's wedding at Modikwe in Bosmanland. This kind of evening is a bit like the old days - singing around the piano at home. -Except I use stories and creative activities to get folk interacting and to prompt conversations. Themes... Chinese, South African, Mediterranean, Arabian nights. Spending quality time. Any rhyme or reason – birthdays, TV fatigue, the art of conversation.

Corporate Work (www.haloandnose.com)

"To read our Halo and Noose interview with Kathy Hansen, Ph.D of A Storied Career, which sets out our story philosophy and approach, go to:
<http://astoriedcareer.com>

There are 5 questions/ answers - one is added each day, and then the full interview is archived under Story Practitioners".

Another 3 M storyshop in late August. A Southern Sun storyshop at Drakensberg Sun coming up in Nov. Our corporate stories are catching on.

*It was extremely engaging allowing us to explore various ways of telling a story ...the course supplied adequately those skills needed to start telling a story and how to go about it...
(3M manager)*



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The Halo and the Noose, the Power of story-telling and story listening in Business Life R195

Want to source a 100 plus stories? co-written with Graham Williams (Graysonian Press). We run corporate story workshops based on our book.

Management Today, the monthly journal of executive learning, information and knowledge, has gone digital and international. Commencing with their June issue, *Halo and Noose* is providing them with articles and business-relevant extracts from *The Halo and the Noose* and *Story Matters @ Work*.

We can also offer the magazine free to Halo and Noose subscribers and members. A single online edition costs US\$ 5-60.

This means that investment in a *Halo and Noose* membership is paid back in only 3 months (and this is before taking account of the free eBooks and other resources that members receive anyway). It's a wonderful added value.

Friends at Work and Play

Elma Pollard: Write for Earth email based writing course

Learn the art of eco-journalism with energy and passion. Be published in the Green Times. Offer your voice to help craft a better future. More information at this link
<http://thegreentimes.co.za/index.php?id=63>

Aneta Shaw: Need a creative psychologist?

Enhance personal growth and honour your soul through creative techniques. Aneta ,a

clinical psychologist, hypnotherapist and TRE practitioner, has integrated years of experience and life in other countries with ancient ways of being in this world.

Aneta 082 686 8118 or 021 8555415 aneta.shaw@vodamail.co.za

Hugh Hodge: As-you-write-it

Hugh, the Off-the-Wall Poetry MC and New Contrast Ed, runs a Saturday morning - 0930-1230 - class in creative writing from his home and the homes of participants, The course, As-you-write-it, is themed on the seven ages of (wo)man; over seven Saturdays. Cost R250 per Saturday or R1000 for all seven if paid up-front. Booking essential to Hugh (hahodge@gmail.com) - quorum 3, full house 8.

Juliette Gyure : Coaching “ *If nothing ever changed, there would be no butterflies*”

Far Sight Change and Transition Coaching provides a framework, creative processes and support mechanisms for people negotiating significant changes and transitions. I have a passion for co-creating innovative pathways to change, transition and transformation with my clients. For a free consultation contact me, Juliette Gyure, 0726353818. (Durban- based)

Anne Haarhoff OWL (Order, Words, Language)

Need a top class sharp eyed editor and proof reader? Oh so most highly recommended
044 873 0547 ah1948@gmail.com 078 2733963

Julia Griss

I am now working at Centre 89 in Somerset West. I offer consciousness coaching, deep tissue massage and reflexology. It's a fabulous centre with a team of skilled therapists offering mainstream alternative therapies. 082 904 8224 julia@inneredge.co.za

Jo Viljoen

I've opened a Narrative Therapy Substance Abuse Recovery Clinic called Clearview Clinic. Near Pretoria 012 819 1422

Dominic Haarhoff



Are you at a turning point in your life? I specialise in vocational counselling based on a synthesis of techniques from Western and Mayan astrology augmented by insight from the I-Ching. Together we create a map towards the successful application of your genetic gifts in an ever-changing work and cosmic context. If you don't know where to turn look up to a better view and reach for the stars. It is time. If you resonate, ring me on **079 548 8947**.

dom3merlin@gmail.com (Based in George)

Writer-sites and News - see site news www.dorianhaarhoff.com

So drop that exclamation mark!!!
Dorian

