



Creative Workshops

Dorian Haarhoff

082 873 6802

021 855 3937

dorianh@pixie.co.za

<http://dorianhaarhoff.com>

storyteller speaker facilitator writing mentor poet



Creative Workshops Oct 2011

Writing Newsletter

Re-story and re-imagine your Life and Work

He that uses many words for explaining any subject, doth, like the cuttlefish, hide himself for the most part in his own ink. (John Ray, naturalist)

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 early story-bird price: R1150.00

Dear writers, story-tellers, readers

The Red Canoe

We often begin our writing in a spontaneous rush of words. Then when we craft our text, as a separate activity, we need to remove the obvious, the over-adorned, the unnecessary. "Many a poem is marred by a superfluous word." (*Longfellow*) Less is more. It seems that in a sister art, painting, the same applies. This month I'm quoting from artist Robert Genn's *Twice Weekly Letter*:

I was putting the title *The Red Canoe* on the back of a painting when my friend Joe Blodgett walked in and said, "Nice painting, too bad about the red canoe."

After a couple of single malts I was looking at the painting through Joe's eyes. I was pleasant enough when I urged him to go down to the smokehouse to get our smoked

salmon, and while he was gone I took off the final varnish and hauled that canoe out of my picture...

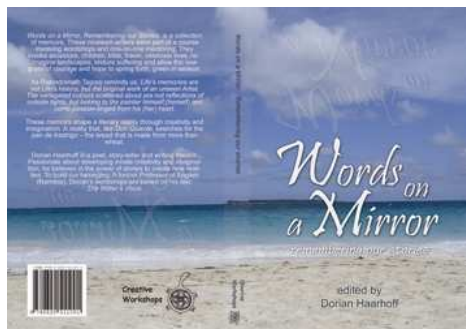
Paucity means "the presence of something in small or insufficient quantities or amounts; scarcity." In our game, it's one of the main principles.... "The secret of being a bore is to tell everything," said Voltaire, and he wasn't talking about his girlfriend, Emilie du Chatelet. A painting with paucity is one that tells you just enough to arouse your interest--perhaps leading to another excellent word--mystery. Unless the viewer is an engineer, give him too much info and he will yawn and go over to the wine and cheese. In some paintings it's best to have viewers launch their own canoes.

Overwork, overstate and over-busy are three of the top boo-boos. We come by them honestly--from our innate human desire to give more. Sometimes it takes another person's eyes to see there's too much going on. Sometimes it's painful to remove stuff. But art very often needs lines that disappear, it needs subjects that are suggested rather than told, it needs incomplete areas so viewers can complete for themselves. Our work does not have to be a seamless stream of cleverness.

We eventually shipped my non-canoe painting. Through the magic of acrylic covering power, nobody knows what's under there. Somewhere out in the Diaspora there's a canoeless scene called *The Red Canoe*. (Why not Subscribe to the Robert Genn Twice Weekly Letter? Find out about it by going to [The Painter's Keys website](#))

"If you would be pungent, be brief; for it is with words as with sunbeams—the more they are condensed, the deeper they burn." (Robert Southey) So take out that red canoe so we can imagine it.

Forthcoming publications



Words on a Mirror, Remembering our Stories, featuring life stories from nineteen 2011 participants is due out in Oct. 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.

This Course, leading to a publication, will run again as from end March 2012. Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban. Detailed flyer from me. Eight folk have already signed up.

(I'm putting out on the ether a request for anybody flying to J'burg or Durban from Cape Town to help ferry the books. Otherwise I'll have to carry them on my head. This will be between 18 and 30 Oct for J'burg and 18 Oct - 3 Nov for Durban. If you know of a flying anyone, please let me know.)

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 Town

Storytelling Storyshop - Global Peace Alliance for Ministries/Departments of Peace

Fri 30 Sept – Sat 1 Oct 09.00 - 16.30 R1350.00

Join participants from Italy, Ireland, Romania, Germany, USA, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Canada, Uganda, Sudan, Nigeria, Nepal, Pakistan, Brazil, Uganda.

The age-old tradition of storytelling has long been recognized as a formidable tool for reconciling differences and building peaceful relationships. If we think of conflict as the clash of divergent stories centring on real or imagined wrong-doing and superiority, then we can take advantage of the ethical underpinning of story and of storytelling to defuse these harmful narratives.

Through the folds of fiction we can examine our attitudes and prejudices on a symbolic level, employing the ancient archetypes to focus on our similarities, rather than on our differences. The sharing of life stories provides an opportunity for seeing the world through the eyes of another.

In this pre-summit workshop delegates will learn to use storytelling as a tool for peace-building. The process will be an experiential one, with delegates experiencing the techniques, which they will simultaneously be taught to use with others. Art and music will be interwoven through the two days. The training will culminate in a storytelling celebration.

website, www.mfp-dop.org/ <http://www.sapeacealliance.org.za/>

I will facilitate and my friend, Philippa Namutebi Kabali-Kagwa, will appear as Guest Storyteller. Philippa's passion is working with people, facilitating learning and development at individual, team and organisational levels. She and I have worked together for UNICEF.

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

Venue: Centre for the Book, Queen Victoria Street (up past St George's Cathedral)

2. Stellenbosch University

7 Oct

Dragons, Shadow and Substance - A Guest lecture for 2nd year B.Ed English Method Students, courtesy Marguerite MacRobert, a lecturer and fellow poet.

3. 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 through 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

4. 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 workshop 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

Pietmaritzburg

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

Ongoing activities (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. 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

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)*

**ENGAGE
YOUR CUSTOMERS
MOTIVATE
YOUR STAFF**

Use the Power of Story to:

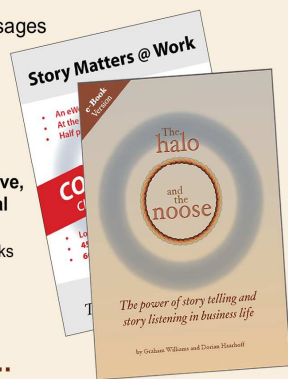
- tap into their minds
- enrich & enliven your messages
- stimulate mindfulness, imagination & innovation
- influence & persuade
- elicit metaphors that count

Get access to a comprehensive, fast growing suite of essential products & resources:

- downloadable ebooks & workbooks
- audio & video streams
- articles & diagnostic tools
- free monthly updates

JOIN NOW, visit...

www.haloandnoose.com



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: Creative relaxation in a small group context

Enhance personal growth and honour your soul through creative techniques. Aneta is a clinical psychologist and hypnotherapist, 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

May you shake the page.

Dorian

