

Tallinn Summer School 2017

The programme may be subject to minor changes

Creative Writing in English 21 July –28 July 2017

Title: Finding Your Voice

Description: ‘Don’t be a “writer.” Be writing.’ —William Faulkner. There are lots of people who want to be writers, but how many want to push themselves to ‘be writing’? To explore all that words can do, to themselves and the world? Novelist Peter Salmon will help you develop your unique, individual voice, and look at ways to shape your vision into art. Whatever your level of experience, whatever your chosen form, you will be pushed to find a way of expression that will challenge both you and the reader.

Room: M-649 (MARE, 5 Uus-Sadama)

Friday, 21 July

9:00–12:30 Registration. Lobby, 5 Uus-Sadama

13:00 –14:00 Intro

Lunch break

14:30– 16:00 Warm up exercises

We all have a big week ahead of us, and the worst thing we can do is not get pen to paper. So let’s dive straight in and put some words on the page.

Saturday, 22 July

9:00–10:30 Workshops – Getting started

Tired of sitting around waiting for that great idea for a novel, a play or a poem? Nabokov said there are no great ideas, only great writing. In these workshops, we look at how to get beyond the empty page – leave your writers block at the door, we have work to get done.

Coffee/tea break

10:45–12:15 Getting started – continued

Lunch break

13:00–14:00 Rattle Bag

The gloves are off! A daily section in which we play around within the ideas we learnt in the workshop, a find new approaches, different ways forward, and everyone gets to share their ideas and experiences.

Sunday, 23 July

11:00–12:30 Workshops - Character

Whatever form you are writing in, literature is character driven – it finds ways to express our humanity through speaking in a voice different to our own. In these workshops, we will explore how we make new realities by making new voices, and find ways to make the characters you create unique and memorable. We'll also look at point-of-view, and how you can transform your writing by transforming your voice.

Lunch break

14:00–15.30 Character – continued

Coffee/tea break

15:45 – 16:45 Rattle Bag

See Saturday

Monday, 24 July

9:00–10:30 Workshops – Plot

The biggie. How do you make your work – however large or small – grab the reader and keep them tuned in? How do you make character x meet character y, without it looking contrived? How do you stop things being boring or stupid? How do you stop them being boring *and* stupid? From the most meticulous story to the loosest novel, without making plot work, you don't have a work. So, let's make it work! We'll also look at editing – the thing that separates good writers from bad, and great writers from good.

Coffee/tea break

10:45–12:15 Plot – continued

Lunch break

13:00–14:00 Rattle Bag

See Saturday

Tuesday, 25 July

9:00–10:30 Workshops – Where to put the camera

Bad novels, plays and poems read like old movies – one fixed camera on a proscenium arch, videoing the action. But a writer has a million ways to tell a story, and a million places to place the reader to make them see different things. In these workshops we will explore different ways of telling, and look for new and surprising ways to tell your story.

Coffee/tea break

10:45–12:15 Where to put the camera – continued

Lunch break

13:00–14:00 Rattle Bag

See Saturday

Wednesday, 26 July

9:00–10:30 Workshops – No bottom drawer

Woody Allen said that 80% of success is showing up. Too many writers don't treat themselves as professionals who have a job to do. No matter how great a genius you are, you need readers. In these workshops we will look at how to get your work published, how to get an agent, how to make a pitch, and how to keep going if none of that works the first time. Whether you're James Joyce or Dan Brown you need your books on the shelf, and no one else cares until you make them.

Coffee/tea break

10:45–12:15 No bottom drawer – continued

Lunch break

13:00–14:00 Rattle Bag

See Saturday

Thursday, 27 July

9:00–10:30 Workshops – The home straight

Nervous?! I'm nervous too! The presentation is tomorrow, and even though you are making the best work of your life, now we need to get it nailed down. In these workshops we will all work together as individuals and in groups to look at how to get that piece spot on, and how you make sure that you get your work spot on in the future.

Coffee/tea break

10:45–12:15 The home straight – continued

Lunch break

13:00–14:00 Rattle Bag

See Saturday

Friday, 28 July

10:00–14:00 Final Presentation

Very, very exciting.

Requirements:

Bring your laptops for writing and contact, notebooks plus loose paper, folder for handouts, etc.

Active participation in workshops and discussions is required. At the end of the course participants are expected to present a selection of creative pieces before the group and submit a portfolio.

The language of the course is English (Level: advanced to proficiency level of English).

The course offers academic credit (upon full participation and completion of the course – 3 ECTS).

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