

Workshops for writers: Stepping out

Start date Sunday 14th May 2017 **Time** 10.00am – 4.45pm

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Sarah Burton **Course code** 1617NDX048

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Sarah Burton

Sarah has been teaching Creative Writing since 2003 in a variety of contexts, from voluntary work in mental health centres and primary schools to professional tuition for Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education (OUDCE) and Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education (ICE). Her publications are diverse, including two critically acclaimed biographies, *Impostors: Six Kinds of Liar* (2000; translated into Korean, Japanese, Czech and Spanish) and *A Double Life: a Biography of Charles and Mary Lamb* (2003; shortlisted for the Mind Book of the Year award); a children's book, *The Miracle in Bethlehem: A Storyteller's Tale* (2008); a page-to-stage guide, *How to Put on a Community Play* (2011) and a book for children and immature adults, *The Complete and Utter History of the World By Samuel Stewart, Aged 9* (2013). She has just finished editing her historical novel, *H*, and is currently working on a collection of short stories. She has also written and produced several community plays. Sarah's range of writing interests is reflected in her teaching. She has taught courses for OUDCE and ICE in Life Writing, Writing for Children, Playwriting, Flash Fiction and Writing Short Stories. She is Course Director of the MSt in Creative Writing at ICE.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1 – A sense of place
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2 – Crossing boundaries
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3 - Inspirations
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4 – The extraordinary everyday
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

- to consolidate and build on students' existing skills in creative writing
- to develop adventurousness in creative writing

Content:

The day is designed to exercise your writing muscles and explore novel ways of approaching your writing. Beginning with 'a sense of place' we'll plunder our memories for places and note the role the five senses play in remembering – and hence, invoking in our writing – place. We'll be 'crossing boundaries' as we explore where prose becomes poetry and vice versa, experimenting with moving from one genre to the other and perhaps losing some of our preconceptions about our boundaries as writers. Approaching 'inspirations' we'll look at how writers have taken a fragment of existing material and used it as the core around which they've built a piece of writing – and have a go ourselves. Finally, we'll think about 'the extraordinary everyday' and look at how we can use mundane ephemera such as lists and postcards to invoke character and build plot.

Presentation of the course:

The prevailing atmosphere in the classroom is relaxed and mutually supportive while remaining focused. The tutor will present various pieces of writing or ideas for discussion and these will be followed by writing exercises arising from those discussions. We will do some exercises as individuals and some in groups.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- approach their own writing with a developed sense of their creative potential;
- apply the literary strategies they have experimented with in class, at home, to the advantage of their writing;
- confidently challenge themselves and take risks with their writing.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Hazuka, Tom et al, eds	<i>Flash Fiction: 72 Very Short Stories</i>	W.W.Norton & Co., 1992
Queneau, Raymond	<i>Exercises in Style</i>	Alma Classics, 2013

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 04 November 2016