

Workshops for writers: finding your feet

Start date Saturday 13th May 2017 **Time** 10.00am – 4.45pm

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Sarah Burton **Course code** 1617NDX044

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 - Writing without writing
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2 - Using ‘found’ materials
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3 - Finding the right words I
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4 - Finding the right words II
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

- to develop confidence in creative writing;
- to equip students with new skills and new approaches to writing.

Content:

Students will engage with a range of enjoyable exercises designed to build confidence and develop writing skills. Beginning with 'writing without writing' we'll find out what makes a compelling story then move on to experimenting with pieces of 'found' text to which we will bring our own creativity to produce original writing. The two sessions on 'Finding the right words' will focus on just that: precise and evocative modes of expression which avoid cliché and celebrate originality. Over the day we'll find out how a mathematical problem can become a poem, try to tell a story in six words, discover what links Wordsworth's 'Daffodils' with a Dutch car advertisement and see what happens when you try to write a paragraph without any 'e's. These activities and many others provide opportunities to experiment and stretch yourself and above all, 'wake up' your writing.

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 renewed sense of confidence;
- apply the literary strategies they have experimented with in class, at home, to the advantage of their writing;
- discover or rediscover writing as a pleasurable and constructive activity.

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: 23 March 2017