

IFWA MEETING
Thursday, August 6, 2020, 7:00 PM
ONLINE
MINUTES

Information Items:

New Members:

Attendance: 28 online on Zoom

Time	Topic	Person
7:00 PM	<p><u>Critiques</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crit 1: Dermot Byrne – Supernatural Rural Fantasy Crit by Calvin, Val King • Crit 2: Val King – novel excerpt about werewolves and vampires Crit by Cassandra Arnold, J. Paul Cooper 	<p>Selene</p> <p>Val / Calvin</p> <p>Cassandra / Paul</p>
	<p><u>Crits for September, 2020</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crit 1: Cassandra – Fantasy novel in free verse <u>Crit by Shannon and David</u> • Crit 2: Renee – 2700 post-apocalyptic (not Mad Max) Crit by Heather Wilkey, Sandy Fitzpatrick 	<p>Selene</p>
8:00 PM	<p><u>Skills Session</u> Live Book Reading by Kevin Weir</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doing engaging readings to pull your audience in and differentiate characters. Acting skills • How actors begin – warm ups – muscle exercises with mouth – lemon face and lime face. Rub side of your hands on side of your face to loosen jaw. If it hurts, stop. Tongue twisters – short ones, so don't concentrate on what you are saying (ie Unique, New York, New York's unique / Red leather, yellow leather / Toy boat (say it fast)) Do these while driving in your car. • Actual techniques to make your reading more engaging. • 1) Projection – straighten yourself, good posture, good breathing. Most people breathe incorrectly. Take deep breaths with hand on diaphragm. You need to push stomach out to train your body to breathe in, that should feel like a more powerful breathe. Get more forceful and louder without straining your neck. Push your breathe out from your diaphragm, not your chest. Project as if in auditorium to fill the room. Audience is NOT the front row, but the back of the room. Keep chin up, don't scrunch up neck. If reading off something. If do that, throat gets closed off. Hold book up, and keep chin up. Be familiar with what you are reading off of. Keep head up so when you look at your work, you know where you are, keep your head up and out and look at the audience. You should already be 	<p>Kevin Weir</p>

Time	Topic	Person
	<p>familiar with your own work. Make eye contact. If don't like that, look at forehead instead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2) Voice Stuff – change your voice so if reading a phrase, you can push and pull things to try to differentiate your characters. It helps if someone is hearing you read, they can still understand who is reading. Inflection and musicality. Don't go too deep into character. Have some fun and do voices. But easily accessed voices. Move into that voice easily and get right into it. Only do an accent that is not your own if you can nail it immediately and you are good at it. • One of the most important thing about doing voice work – DRINK WATER – keep lubricated. • Accents go front to back. American talk from back of mouth. Some like Irish, talk from front of the mouth. Talk through stomach – get a deep voice. Feel it in chest (feel offended), Nasal voice, feel it in nose – scrunch up your nose. Top of your head – fairy, floating – gives higher tone. Can change tones to higher or lower tones. Maybe imagine a character and imagine that character speaking. • Rhythm – Staccato – short and clipped and change from fast to slow, ponderous – overexaggerated staccato (sound like John Malkovitch) / Legatto – dialogue all commas – go from smooth legato to stripped and clipped staccato. From there, you can speed up dialogue or slow it down. • Pull up a line and read through it a few times with different characters. When reading through, figure out what kind of voices those characters have and what can you use to convey that. • You want to engage your audience. • <u>Advanced tactics</u>: false volume (make it seem like you're whispering), shouting (don't shout, but can make voice seem louder without shouting), use of breath – punctuation. How someone is speaking. Growling (tensing muscles in throat – don't do for too long), vocal fry (push vocal muscles back – more chill person or someone waking up). • <u>Body language</u> – very important – it is part of your voice. Entire body is part of your voice. How you are sitting will determine how your voice comes out. • Keep doing this and if you do, you can become very good at it and be excellent readers AND writers. 	
8:30 PM	<p><u>Call for Agenda Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	Michael
8:35 PM	<p><u>Brag</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandy – short story “Who Profits” accepted – story set in alter ego's novel – still waiting for On Spec edits • Paul – BBC writers group – log lines for movies and if like it, they will accept screenplay. Also, turned blog into website www.jpaulcooper.ca. 	Michael

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan: book comes out on August 11, 2020 – new video come out – another coming out August 15 • Kevin – submitted 2 stories to Netflix Call for Stories – animation based on novella series and long-standing horror series – novella series – putting out collection of first season on August 18, 2020 (self-published) • Ellen – story given for critique picked up for anthology – Zombie Pirate publication • Randy – WWC is doing tracks – IFWA doing an entire track • Michael – read two back to back novels beta-read (Randy's novels) 	
8:40 PM	<p><u>Discuss / Decide</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memberships are due starting in September - e-transfer or cheques. Will send receipts by email • WWC Online Festival – Friday Night Readings – need to send in stories to Sandy Fitzpatrick so she can start a list - if plan to read. Send notice to Sandy with title and length – can start reading list early. Will be recording. If someone does not want it to show up on YouTube version, we understand. Tony will do cut and paste out of that. Won't do much editing. • WWC Shared Authors Table – if you have registered for WWC and if you have written books, can put them into a list (be sure to include pen names) Have 94 books presently. • Our Zoom's have been expanded for Webinars for both. Will WWC pay for upgrades? YES. We will be getting money back when reimbursing IFWA. Email put into Chat (and email). • Skills Session Volunteer Needed – email Michael. Rex no longer has time right now. But Michael will send out email regarding skills. Open after September. • Secret Handshake – cannot post it (private). Will email it when new members come out. • Athabasca University is using Secret Handshake as part of their curriculum. They have had it 5-6 years. Will send it out through emails 	Michael
8:55 PM	<p><u>Announcements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday Night Readings Topic: Gravity Street 	Michael

Next Meeting: Thursday September 6, 2020 (ONLINE)

Next Skills Session: Bryce Visser – Worldbuilding