

# **Residential Fiction Writing Workshop at a Private Colonial Carriage House in the Berkshire Mountains with Simon Van Booy.**

*Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

Dear Friends,

For six days, I will lead a maximum of five writers through 18 hours of formal instruction,

In addition to discussion and reading. We will live, write, take meals, share our work, make new friends, hike in the woods together, and explore the countryside and towns of the Berkshires.

## **THE WRITING PROGRAM**

This course is for people seriously interested in writing and publishing fiction and memoir. I will address techniques to help writers find stories, maintain narrative thread, build characterization, plot, explore metaphor, language, tone, and fine-tune dialogue. I will also address the business of getting an agent, editing, publishing, and the importance of writing practice under commercial pressures. My goal is for participants to complete the workshop with greater confidence in their own writing voice, ideas on how to develop story, characters, tone, and dialogue, and a good idea of how the business of writing works—should they wish to publish work in the future. Writers of published works are welcome to participate, as workshops will cover ideas that can be used at different levels of writing.

Our home for the six days is a lovely, six-bedroom New England house/writers' retreat in the Berkshires, which I first visited when I was starting a novel. Previous workshops here have been extremely successful here. The house is cozy and the workshop takes place with only five writers, so we take over the whole house and become a family of writers for the week. There is a log fire, which I keep burning late, and which is the perfect place to talk literature or just read quietly long into the night in carriage house sitting room. Our meals for the week will be prepared by our own wonderful gourmet chef, Karen, whose fare is healthy, delicious, and largely organic.

## **SCHEDULE:**

Guests will arrive for 1pm lunch on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and depart after lunch on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

### **Tuesday, December 6th, 2011:**

1.00 p.m. Arrival, welcome lunch and check-in  
3.00 p.m. Orientation and Workshop  
6.00 p.m. Dinner and conversation

## Wednesday - Saturday

8.00 a.m. Breakfast

9.00 a.m.- 12.00 p.m. WORKSHOP

12.30 p.m. Lunch

1.00 p.m. Free time for writing, reading, exploring villages, hiking, and other activities.

6.00 p.m. Dinner and informal discussion on the day's work/reading.

## Sunday

8.00 a.m. Breakfast

9.00 a.m.- 12.00 p.m. Presentation of work

1 p.m. Lunch and farewell

## COST

The total price for this retreat is 1,850 USD. That includes:

- \* 18 hours of writing workshop and instruction.
- \* 5 nights' lodging (Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri/Sat)
- \* 5 full breakfasts (Wed/Thu/Fri/Sat/Sun)
- \* 6 lunches (Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri/Sat/Sun)
- \* 5 dinners (Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri/Sat)
- \* Use of the House/Parking/Linen/Towels/Wireless Internet (*yes, it works*)
- \* Ticket for Tour of Emily Dickinson's House, Amherst, MA
- \* All Taxes & Fees

## What's Not Included...

Travel to and from the retreat house, **is not** included in the price. The house is a 4 hour-drive from New York City and approximately a 2 hour drive from Boston. There is a bus from Boston, and a bus from New York City. The house is close to Amherst and Northampton, and so we will also take a 'class' trip to see Emily Dickinson's house, included in the price of the workshop.

## APPLICATION

Space is limited to a maximum of **five** participants who will be chosen on the basis of work submitted by a rolling application process. The sooner you submit your application, the sooner it can be reviewed. The application process is to ensure a group that is compatible for a workshop of this kind. To apply, please submit a cover letter and minimum ten-page writing sample before SEPTEMBER 1st, 2011. Applicants will be contacted by SEPTEMBER 15th, 2011. Successful applicants are then required to send a deposit of \$900 to hold the place. Upon receipt of the deposit, a welcome pack will be mailed to you containing books, details of the area, directions to the house, and a form for any food allergies.

Applications will be considered on a rolling, first come-first served basis, so please send a writing sample at your earliest convenience. Applications should be e-mailed to the attention of Delphine at: [info@simonvanbooy.com](mailto:info@simonvanbooy.com) or can be mailed to:

E. Carrie Howland  
Donadio and Olson, Inc. Literary Agency  
121 West 27th Street, Suite 704  
New York, NY 10001

#### PAYMENT

A deposit of 900 USD is required upon acceptance in to the workshop via personal check/Money order.

The balance of 950 USD is required by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Cancellations before October 15<sup>th</sup> are 100% refundable.

Cancellations after October 15<sup>th</sup> are 50% refundable (or 100% if there is a waiting list of applicants)