

Residential Writing Workshop with Simon Van Booy

LOCATION:

A Carriage House in the Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts

2012 Spring & Winter Sessions:

Monday, June 11th through Saturday, June 16th.

Tuesday, December 4th through Sunday, December 9th.

Dear Friends,

For six days, I will lead five writers through 15 hours of writing instruction. 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 each participant to complete the workshop with greater confidence in his/her own writing voice, and with fresh ideas on how to develop story, characters, tone, dialogue, and also with 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 various levels.

Our home for the six days is a lovely, six-bedroom New England carriage house/writers' retreat in the Berkshires, which I first visited when I was starting my first novel. Previous workshops here have been extremely successful. The house is cozy and the workshop takes place with only five writers in total, 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, and which is the perfect place to talk literature or just read quietly in front of with a cup of tea. Our meals for the week will be prepared by our wonderful gourmet chef, Karen, whose fare is healthy, delicious, and largely organic.

SPRING SCHEDULE:

Guests will arrive for 1pm lunch on Monday, June 11th, 2012 and depart after lunch on Saturday, June 16th, 2012. *Winter participants follow a similar schedule.*

Monday, June 11th:

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

Tuesday - Friday

8.00 a.m. Breakfast
9.00 a.m.- 12.00 p.m. WORKSHOP
12.15 p.m. Lunch
1.15 p.m. Free time for writing, reading, exploring, hiking, and other activities.
6.15 p.m. Dinner and informal discussion on the day's work/reading.

Saturday

8.00 a.m. Breakfast
9.00 a.m.- 12.00 p.m. Presentation of work/reading
12.15 p.m. Lunch
1.30 p.m. Farewell

COST

The total price for this retreat is 1,900 USD. That includes:

- * 15 hours of writing workshop and instruction.
- * 5 nights' lodging
- * 5 full breakfasts
- * 6 lunches

- * 5 dinners
- * 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 a 2-hour drive from Boston. There is a bus from Boston to Northampton, and a bus from New York City. A local pick-up can be arranged with notice.

APPLICATION

Space is limited to a maximum of five participants who will be chosen on the basis of work submitted by rolling application process. The application process is to ensure a group that is currently working in an area where Simon feels instruction will be of use.

To apply, please submit a **cover letter, résumé, and minimum ten-page writing sample** by **March 21th, 2012**. Applicants will be contacted soon after. The **deadline for the winter workshop is September 10th, 2012**.

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**, or can be mailed to:

SIMON VAN BOOY Workshops
Co/ E. Carrie Howland
Donadio and Olson, Inc. Literary Agency
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New York, NY 10001

PAYMENT (Spring Workshop)

On acceptance into the workshop, successful applicants are required to send a deposit of 950 USD to hold their place, in the form of personal check or money order.

The balance of 950 USD is required by May 10st, 2012.

Cancellations before May 10st are 90% refundable (or 100% if waiting list)

Cancellations after May 10st are 50 % refundable (or 100% if waiting list)

Cancellations after May 20th are non-refundable (or 100% if waiting list)

PAYMENT (Winter Workshop)

On acceptance into the workshop, successful applicants are required to send a deposit of 950 USD to hold their place, in the form of personal check or money order.

The balance of 950 USD is required by November 1st, 2012.

Cancellations before November 1st are 90% refundable (or 100% if waiting list)

Cancellations after November 1st are 50 % refundable (or 100% if waiting list)

Cancellations after November 15th are non-refundable (or 100% if waiting list)