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WOLVES & APPLES

2021

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 21



ONLINE CONFERENCE FOR ASPIRING CHILDREN'S WRITERS

Wolves & Apples 2021

Wolves & Apples 2021 is an online event where aspiring children's writers can get practical advice and guidance, via talks and workshops, from established professionals. Speakers share their experiences, answer questions and signpost a range of ways to progress your writing and get your work in front of readers.

Mantle Arts has been running the Wolves & Apples training programme to support aspiring children's writers since 2015. There have been three conferences in Leicester, as well as master classes and online writing courses.

Wolves & Apples 2021
26th October - 4th November

Up to date information and ticket booking:
<http://www.mantlearts.org.uk/wolves-apples-2021/>

Contents

Dates and Times	Contents Page
Session Details	
What Should I Write About? Bali Rai	4
A Future for Children's Playwriting Mike Kenny	5
Building Your World Melvin Burgess	6
Tickling the Ear Michael Rosen	7
Different Voices Eishar Brar and Elle McNicoll	8
Wired For Story: What Your Reader's Brain Really Craves, and How To Deliver It Lisa Cron	9
Contact Details	Back Cover

Dates and Times			
Date	Time	Talk	Speaker
Tues 26th Oct	07:30 PM	What Should I Write About?	Bali Rai
Wed 27th Oct	07:30 PM	A Future For Children's Playwriting	Mike Kenny
Thurs 28th Oct	07:30 PM	Building Your World	Melvin Burgess
Tues 2nd Nov	07:30 PM	Tickling the Ear	Michael Rosen
Thurs 4th Nov	07:30 PM	Different Voices	Eishar Brar, Elle McNicoll
Tuesday 9th Nov	07:30 PM	Wired For Story: What Your Reader's Brain Really Craves, and How To Deliver It	Lisa Cron



Bali Rai

“I was born in Leicester in 1971 and grew up in a multicultural, multi-racial community close to the city centre. As a child I dreamt about three things – playing football for Liverpool FC, being Bob Marley and becoming a writer. At the age of eleven I read the book that would inspire me to write. It was *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* by Sue Townsend.”

Bali Rai's first book *(Un)arranged Marriage* was published in 2001. *Rani & Sukh*, a “true mash-up of Shakespeare, Bollywood and Punjabi folk tales”, was published in 2004 and later became a GCSE set-text. He has also written several books for dyslexia-friendly publisher Barrington Stoke.

ZOOM TALK

WHAT SHOULD I WRITE ABOUT?

Tues 26th October
7.30

If you are hoping to get a children's book published then deciding what to write about is key. But it's not necessarily an obvious decision. Should you try to follow current trends? Or try to write something that's a bit like books you loved when you were a child? Trying to second guess what will interest an agent or publisher can lead you nowhere. And who knows what children are interested in nowadays?

Bali Rai has written many successful books and series inspired by his own background and interests. He will talk about his work and suggest ways you can use your own experiences and passions as the starting point for your children's book.

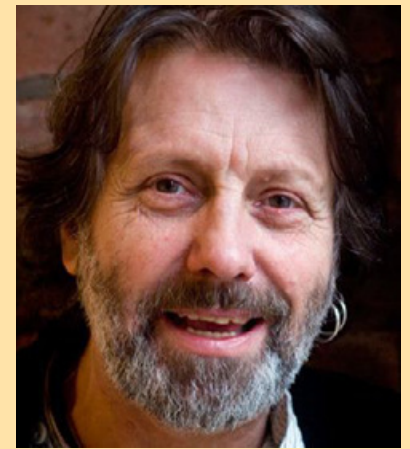
ZOOM TALK

A FUTURE FOR CHILDREN'S PLAYWRITING

Wednesday 27th October
7.30pm

For aspiring playwrights the many touring theatre companies in the UK specialising in work for children, as well as puppet companies, and young people's theatres such as Polka and the Unicorn Theatre, seem like fertile ground. There should be many opportunities for playwrights interested in writing for young audiences. But is that actually the case? Nowadays a lot of theatre is devised, without any involvement by a writer. So maybe the children's playwright is an endangered species?

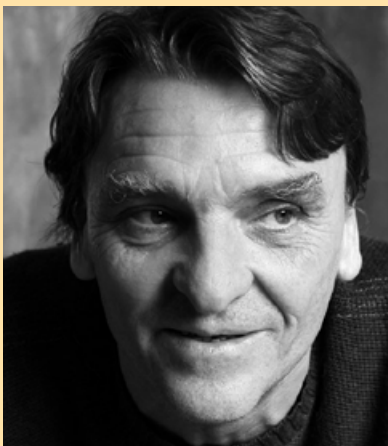
Mike Kenny will talk about how to work with a theatre company nowadays, who are the gatekeepers, how to get your foot in the door, what writers uniquely have to offer, and how to move with the times.



Mike Kenny

Mike Kenny is one of England's leading writers specialising in young people's theatre. He was included in the Independent on Sunday's list of Top Ten Living Playwrights and his plays are performed regularly throughout the UK and all over the world. In 2000, he was Arts Council England's first recipient of The Children's Award for Playwriting for Children and Young People.

His Olivier Award-winning adaptation of *The Railway Children* for York Theatre Royal, has had several successful revivals at Waterloo and Kings Cross stations, as well as at the National Railway Museum.



Melvin Burgess

Melvin Burgess became famous in 1998 with the publication of *Junk*, about heroin-addicted teenagers on the streets of Bristol. In Britain, *Junk* became one of the best-known young adult books of the decade. Burgess won the Carnegie Medal for the year's best children's book by a British author.

He lives in Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire.

BUILDING YOUR WORLD

Thursday 28th October
7.30

Melvin Burgess's latest YA book, *Three Bullets*, is one part of a Triptych; three novels written by three writers set in the same world – the UK as it might have been, or perhaps how it will be. Pete Kalu wrote *One Drop*, Tariq Mehmood wrote *Second Coming*, and *Three Bullets* completes the sequence.

So how do you go about building a world, even if it's one you won't be sharing with other writers? Melvin will share the process he went through and give some tips on creating and populating a convincing fictional world.



TICKLING THE EAR

Tuesday 2nd November
7.30pm

A chance for aspiring poets and writers to find out more about working for children from one of the most prominent UK.

Michael Rosen will be talking about his work, and offering advice and suggestions on your own writing. There will be a chance to ask questions and you may be given a special writing task to fulfil.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity.



Michael Rosen

Michael Rosen is one of Britain's best loved writers and performance poets for children and adults.

He has published in the region of two hundred books for children and adults, including *The Sad Book* with Quentin Blake - a meditation on bereavement written after the loss of his son, Eddie; *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* with Helen Oxenbury and *A Great Big Cuddle* with Chris Riddell.

He received the Eleanor Farjeon Award for outstanding contribution to children's literature and was Children's Laureate 2007-2009.

He is currently Professor of Children's Literature at Goldsmiths, University of London where he co-devised and teaches an MA in Children's Literature.



Eishar Brar

Eishar is Editorial Director at the award winning publishing firm Knights Of. Her role is to commission inclusive children's books (from often underrepresented voices) from young fiction through to YA.



Elle McNicoll

Elle is a Scottish and Neurodivergent writer, living in London. Her first children's novel, *A Kind of Spark*, was published in June 2020 by Knights Of and stars two openly autistic young women.

DIFFERENT VOICES Independent Children's Publishing

Thursday November 4th
7.30pm

Once you've written your book, what's the best way to get it to readers? Independent publishers offer an alternative to the giants of the book world.

Eishar Brar, from independent publisher Knights Of, and award-winning author Elle McNicoll will discuss the process of working together, explore the editorial and publishing process, and chat about Elle's books. Along the way they will discuss the ethos of Knights Of in publishing underrepresented voices, and Elle's experience of that.

Anyone who hopes to be published but feels that their natural home may not be one of the big firms will find this a fascinating discussion.

WIRED FOR STORY: What Your Reader's Brain Really Craves, and How To Deliver It

Tuesday 9th November
7.30pm

Imagine knowing what we're hardwired to crave in every story we encounter, what hooks readers from pre-school to eighty, and what keeps them turning pages. The answer is a game-changer, especially since the secret to writing a compelling story has very little to do with the surface plot or learning to 'write well'.

We'll explore what the reader's brain is hungry for, why, what a story actually is, and why writers are therefore the most powerful people on the planet. The result? You'll be able to zero in on what your story is really about before you write word one (or if you're in the midst of your umpteenth rewrite, before you write another word). You'll not only produce a more powerful novel, chances are you'll drastically reduce your rewrite time.



Lisa Cron

Lisa Cron is a story coach and the author of *Wired for Story: The Writer's Guide to Using Brain Science to Hook Readers From the Very First Sentence* and *Story Genius: How To Use Brain Science to Go Beyond Outlining and Write a Riveting Novel (Before You Waste Three Years Writing 327 Pages that Go Nowhere)* both published by Ten Speed Press.

Lisa has worked in publishing at W.W. Norton, as an agent at the Angela Rinaldi Literary Agency, as a producer on shows for Showtime and CourtTV, and as a story consultant for Warner Brothers and the William Morris Agency.

Since 2006, she's been an instructor in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program and she's on the faculty of the School of Visual Arts MFA program in visual narrative in New York City.

CONTACT INFORMATION

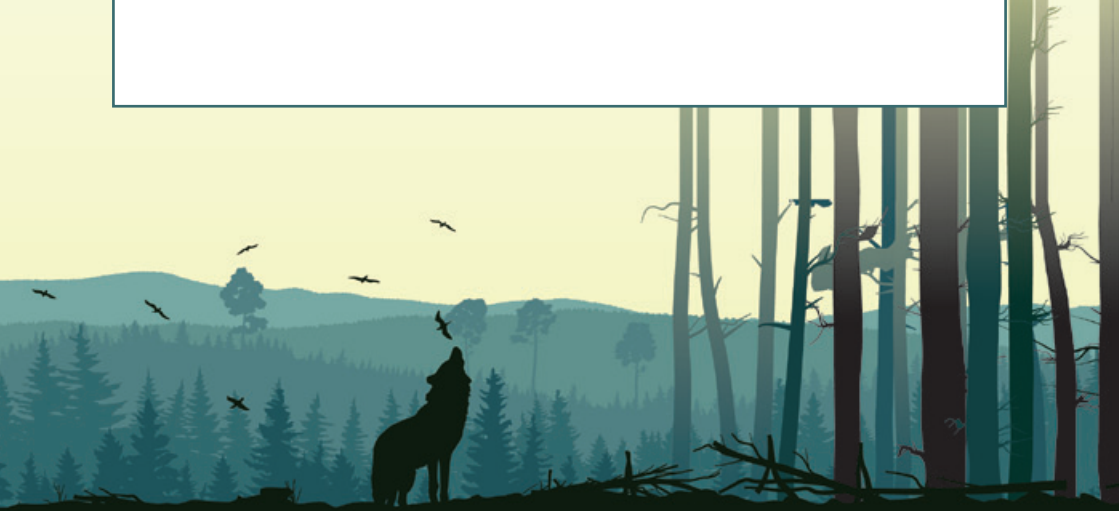
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Up to date information and ticket booking:
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