

Derry Playhouse Writers Newsletter

Keep on Writing!

Editor: Margie Bernard

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5-7 Artillery Street

Derry BT48 6RG

DPW's First Anniversary!

We Are One

May 2nd, 2001 marks one year since our first weekly workshop. On that date we will have met every Wednesday from Noon until 4pm for the past 52 weeks. We will continue to do so in the future so please join us and share your work in progress or just come for a morale boost! We will celebrate our success next month when we hold our Showcase of Work at the Derry Playhouse on Thursday, 14 June 2001 at 8pm.

DPW is a step-up from the Master Classes' conducted by David Gothard which are funded by the EuroCAT Program housed at the Derry Playhouse. David's Master Classes have been held several times a year for the past five years and have been responsible for the beginning success of several participants.

David is an excellent facilitator who not so much teaches as helps writers unfold their creativity. This is true whether one writes poetry, novels, short stories, essays, biography or autobiography, or scripts for stage, screen, radio or television. We currently have a mailing list of 55 writers who have participated in one or more of David classes and we plan to have David back soon. We will notify you as soon as the date of his next Master Class is confirmed.

We have achieved much this past year as a fledgling writers' group; adopted a Mission Statement and Constitution, held our first Annual General Membership meeting, elected a Management

Committee and established a Website www.derryplayhousewriters.org. Our grant proposal to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for the June Showcase was approved in the amount of £1,000. We have also received a grant of £500 from the Oral and Written Network.

DPW Website

Check out our website www.derryplayhousewriters.org for previous newsletters, events, contests, up-coming Master Classes, projects, etc.

REMINDER: If you order books on-line, please do so from Amazon.co.uk listed on our website. DPW receives five to fifteen percent of each sale which, once this reaches £10, is directly deposited into our Bank of Ireland account. Please tell your friends and acquaintance to order via our website as well. But please remember you must do this from our website connection to Amazon.co.uk.

DPW Office

We are sharing office space with the Derry Film Initiative folk which is also where we hold our weekly workshop. This is located at 10-16 Pump Street on the second floor. There is a bulletin board with items of interest and we are in the process of establishing a library of books and journals, including the Writers Handbook which lists publishers, contests and other items of interest to us as writers. Donations are welcomed. We have not yet established regular hours but hope to set up a schedule shortly.

Contests & Competitions

RTE is sponsoring two poetry competitions. Submit to: RTE - Donnybrook, Dublin 4 for the following events:

1. **Poetry Slam.** Submission deadline: 18 May 2001. Short-listed authors will perform their work in Dublin on 15 June 2001.
2. **Poetry on Radio.** Submission deadline: 22 June 2001. Subject: Experience of Radio. Maximum length 30 lines.

Weekly Internet Short Story Contest:

Submission Deadline: None. Each week a short story will be selected for publication on www.story-tellers.co.uk. The winning entry will be paid £100, with the annual Best Story receiving £1,000, plus a £500 Second Prize and a £300 Third Prize. On-going entry and entry forms can be downloaded from the above website.

The Phillip Good Memorial Prize:

Submission deadline 21 August 2001. Short story competition is open to all over 18. This year's judge is Elizabeth Chadwick. Entries, up to 5000 words, accompanied by an entry fee of £5 per story, should be sent to The Competition Secretary, QWF, PO Box 1768, Rugby CV21 4ZA.

Moonshine Prize for Fiction: Submission deadline: 31 July 2001 for best short story of up to 2500 words. Details at www.moonshine-prize.co.uk. Enclose £5 per story with each entry. These should be sent to: The Moonshine Prize for Fiction 2001, PO Box 353, Chesterfield, S42 6GX.

The Chesterfield Film Company's Annual Writer's Film Project (WFP).

Submission Deadline: 15 May 2001. This competition offers fiction, theatre and film writers the opportunity to begin a career in screen writing. Up to five writers will be chosen to participate and each will receive a \$20,000 stipend to cover her or his living

expenses. Writers are chosen by competition and are evaluated on the basis of prose and dramatic writing samples. Selected writers form a year-long screen writing workshop using their storytelling skills to begin a career in film.

The Writer's Film Project originated through Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment and is co-sponsored by Paramount Pictures. Entry Fee: \$39.50. For details contact www.chesterfield-co.com.

The Davoren Hanna Poetry Competition:

Submission deadline: 31 May 2001. This new competition is co-sponsored by Muse Cafés and Eason Bookshops. First prize is £5000, 2nd £2000 and 3rd £1000. For entry form send an SAE to: The Davoren Hanna Poetry Competition - The Muse Café, Eason Bookshop - O'Connell Street - Dublin 1. Form also available from www.eason.ie.

Golden Pen Competition: Submission deadline 31 May 2001. Prizes of up to £100 for winners of the short story and poetry competition. Word limit is 40 lines for poems, 2000 words for short stories. Entry fee is £3. For further details send an SAE to: Golden Pen Competition - Gurteen - Ballinasloe - Co. Galway.

National Poetry Anthology: Submission deadline: 30 June 2001. Accepting three poems of no more than 20 lines and 160 words each. If you want a reply enclose second class stamp with your entry. No entry fee. Up to 200 winners representing different towns in the UK and N. Ireland will be selected. Submit entries to: United Press Ltd. 1 Yorke Street, Burnley BB11 1 HD.

Second Annual Salmon Poetry Publication Award:

Submission deadline: 31 July 2001. Will publish a first collection of poetry by an Irish writer or Irish resident. Manuscripts should contain at least 30 poems, but not more than 60, and must be accompanied by a SAE. The submission must have a cover sheet with title and authors name; the name should not appear on other pages of manuscript. Processing fee of £10.00 must be included. Winners will be announced in late September 2001. Manuscripts should be sent to: Jessie Lendennie - Salmon Publishing Ltd. - Cliffs of Moher, Co. Clare. E-mail www.info@salmonpoetry.com for more information.

The above is a partial listing. If you know of any other contests we should consider entering, please submit them to DPW.

Courses:

Films Made by Women. An eight-week course beginning Monday, 14 May 2001 ending Monday, 2 July. This course will showcase "the individual imagination, craft, and artistic integrity of various women directors' work. Each session will follow the format of an introductory talk, a screening and a group discussion. The work of Jane Compton, director of *An Angel at my Table* and *The Piano*, will form the heart piece of the course. Other filmmakers to be covered are Marleen Gorris (*Antonia's Line*), Sally Potter (*Orlando*), Agnes Varda and others."

Run by Susanne Stich, M.A., this course is part of the Lifelong Learning Programme, University of Ulster, Magee Campus. The cost is £50/£30 concession. To sign up tel: 028 71 375 271.

Events Not to be Missed

The Chancer Launch: 24 May 2001 @ 8pm. Location: DPW/DFI Space - Second Floor 10-16 Pump Street, Derry.

Eclectic Women: 4 May 2001. Location Derry Playhouse @ 8pm. Several DPW members will participate in this culmination of **Georgia Rhodes Writers Workshop for Women.**

Water Woman: 5 May 2001. Location: Derry Playhouse @ 8pm. A one-woman show scripted and performed by **Georgia Rhodes** with several DPW writers as props!

Rivers of Life Festival: 24 June 2001. Location: Community Arts Centre, Omagh. A video by **Eugene Floyd** of **Ann Keys-**

Colton's poetry will be a featured event. Both Ann and Eugene are DPW members. More details will be provided in June 2001 DPW Newsletter.

Mark Your Calendar

Yabo Yablonsky Master Class October 2001. He will also direct his play ***Jews Without Money*** featuring local talent which is scheduled to open at Derry Playhouse on 15 November at 8pm.

Yablonsky has been the director/writer of numerous stage, film, and television productions and is as well a novelist and poet. Currently based in Los Angeles, he was awarded the San Geordio Prize at the Venice Film Festival for *Jordi* which he both wrote and directed. Yablonsky is also a member of the Writer/Director Unit of the Actor's Studio in NYC and LA as well as the New Dramatists Committee, NYC. He will be with us for approximately six to eight weeks in October/November 2001.

Management Committee:

Chair: Ellen Factor

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Secretary/Treasurer: Margie Bernard

At Large Members: Ann Keys Colton, Bridie Conefry, Joe Duggan, Eugene Floyd, Don McCamphill

Mentors: David Gothard and Brian Foster.

The Vice-Chair position will remain vacant until filled by the Management Committee at its next meeting.

Save Any Rejection Slips!

DPW has established an annual **Perseverance Pays Award** which will be given annually to the person who has received the most rejection slips! This will be awarded at our Annual General Membership Meeting which will be held in September 2001.

DPW Weekly Workshop: Please join us at our space located at 10-16 Pump Street, every Wednesday from Noon until 4pm..