

#SWF21
STOCKHOLM
WRITERS
FESTIVAL
2021

**Schedule
and faculty**



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Extra Tickets

May 26-27, 16:00-18:00

Please note:

to buy an extra ticket, you must first purchase a Festival Pass!

SWF2021 Kicks off unofficially two days early on Wednesday, May 26 and Thursday, May 27 when we offer the following “extras”: our Manuscript Makeover Workshop and Agent/Editor One-on-Ones. Read below for more information.

Manuscript Makeover Workshop with Cassie Gonzales

800 SEK - Limit 20 participants
Wednesday and Thursday, May 26-27, 16:00 to 18:00

Participants will receive a detailed critique on the first five pages of a work-in-progress. These pages will be used to teach story hooks, narrative voice, characterization and plot. This workshop will be full of tips and tricks useful to writers of all genres across fiction, non-fiction and drama.

Agent/Editor One-on-Ones

500 SEK - Limited spaces
Thursday, May 27, 16:00 to 18:00

In these sessions, participants get 10 minutes with the agent/editor of their choice to pitch their work and receive feedback. (Tickets are limited and sessions fill up early.)

Day 1: Friday, May 28

16:00 - 16:05 Welcome and opening

16:05 - 17:00 In dialogue with Sarah Waters

Sarah Waters has been called, "The best living storyteller in the world." Waters is the author of the novels, *Tipping the Velvet*, *Affinity*, *Fingersmith*, *The Night Watch* and *The Little Stranger*, which have been adapted for stage, television and feature film in the UK and US. In this dialogue with Paul Rapacioli, she shares her process for weaving her extraordinary narratives.

Moderator: Paul Rapacioli

Followed by audience Q&A.

17:00 - 17:30 Find Your Tribe

Community building is at the heart of SWF. As writers, we can't grow without strong backing from a network. In this, the first **Find Your Tribe** session, we'll gather in smaller groups to build communities among Festival goers.

17:30 - 18:00 Creative boost

"A word is worth one thousand pictures," with Göran Segeholm. Fotografiska is the world's largest museum dedicated to photography. Göran Segeholm, director of learning at the museum, will take us through a frame-breaking (pun intended) exercise to boost creativity by getting out of the writer mindset.

18:00 Wrap-up day one

Day 2: Saturday, May 29

13:00 to 13:45 In dialogue with a new writer and her agent

Sophie Austin wrote her first historical fiction in 2019 and pitched it to Caroline Hardman at Hardman and Swainson at SWF19, landing an agent and a book deal. This session will explore how they've worked together since then to bring Sophie's book to fruition. **Moderator:** Paul Rapacioli

14:00 to 15:15 Genre bootcamp

In these dynamic, one-hour sessions, our SWF Faculty will take you through the "must haves" of genre fiction. If your genre isn't featured, not to worry. We also offer a session on editing. Sessions are interactive and will include ample time for Q&A.

Children	Sci Fi Fantasy	Romance	Editing special	Non-fiction
Linda Lodding	Eira Ekre	Damon Suede	Jessica Renheim	Ann Törnkvist

15.30 to 16:30 Master class with The Book Doctors, "Locate, lure and land an agent"

In many ways it's harder to find a great agent than it is to write a great book. Between his years as a professional actor and years as a professional writer, **David Henry Sterry** has convinced over 50 agents to represent him. He is a Professional Agent Hunter. And of course, **Arielle Eckstut** who has been a literary agent for over 20 years, gives the perspective from behind the desk. Using exhaustive research methods, surgically pinpointed query letters, and gentle but persistent follow-up techniques, they will show you in easy-to-follow steps exactly how to find, approach, and bag the literary agent who's right for you.

Day 2: Saturday, May 29 (cont)

16:30 to 17:30 Craft break outs

In these sessions, our expert faculty will take you through specific craft issues to elevate your prose.

The element of time in your writing — Cassie Gonzales

Is your backstory boring? Your ticking clock trifling? Your non-linear timeline befuddling? In this hands-on seminar you'll discover the tools great authors use to compress, expand, and manipulate time in their unputdownable books.

Dynamic characters — Damon Suede

Bring your fictional folks to the next level with a technique for characterization and dramatization that will strengthen your ideas, voice and projects at any stage.

Flash Fiction: How it can help you become a better writer — Grant Faulkner

"Flash" fiction, defined as stories that are less than 1,000 words, is becoming more and more popular. But how can writing flash fiction help us become better writers? What are the essential elements of a story? In this lesson, writers will consider the nature of stories and learn to write more concisely by reading and writing flash fiction.

17:30 to 18:30 Find Your Tribe

Join this gathering for a chance to win a team prize for writing!

Day 3: Sunday May 30

13:00 to 14:00 Master Class:

Damon Suede explores, “Scene and Sequel”

Whether you call it *scene and sequel*, *disasters and decisions*, or *action and reaction*, this basic storytelling pattern allows you to pace your plot, escalate your action, and find your story’s heat and tone. These old-school genre tools let you manage any story’s natural flow for a book that readers can’t put down. And, like every other session in SWF21, we’ll make time for your questions.

14:05 to 15:00 Buttonhole the Expert event with SWF faculty

Buttonhole the Expert is a way to give you more time with our faculty. How does it work? A group of about 10 participants are randomly assigned to breakout rooms. When **Buttonhole** begins, we’ll drop in one of our faculty who will give a brief summary of their subject and will then take questions in this small-group format. We’ll switch faculty twice in each room. Since we can’t control if you’ve already met a faculty member, use this as an opportunity to listen more deeply, or explore topics you didn’t get to before.

Expert	Subject
Cassie Gonzales	The element of time in fiction
Damon Suede	Dynamic characters
Linda Ravin Lodding	Children’s literature
Agent Caroline Hardman	Industry information
Agent Ayeshe Pande	Industry information
Agent Kate Greenstreet	Industry information
Eira Ekre	Sci-fi/Gaming
David Sperry	How to locate, land and lure an agent
Sophie Austin	Questions for an emerging writer
Jessica Renheim	Editing tips you’ll want before you revise
Ann Törnqvist	Literary non-fiction

15:15 to 16:00 Find Your Tribe

We’ll announce the winners of both our writing contests—our individual flash fiction and group contest. And we’ll chat about what we’ve learned at SWF21.

Day 3: Sunday May 30 (cont)

16:00 to 17:00 In dialogue with Grant Faulkner, executive director of Nanowrimo

Every writer knows that as rewarding as the creative process is, writing a novel can often be a bumpy road. It's something **Grant Faulkner** of Nanowrimo knows even better than most. Nanowrimo (National Novel Writing Month) is an idea that has swept the international writing community. Every November 1, hundreds of thousands of authors around the world attempt to write 50,000 words in 30 days. They enter the month as elementary school teachers, mechanics, or stay-at-home parents. They leave novelists. We talk to Grant about finding the inspiration and discipline to keep writing. And Grant shares the motivation, encouragement, and helpful exercises for writers of all stripes.

Moderator: Paul Rapacioli

17:00 to 18:30 Pitchapalooza with The Book Doctors

Pitchapalooza is American Idol for books (only kinder and gentler). Twenty writers will be selected at random to pitch their book. Each writer gets one minute—and only one minute! Dozens of writers have gone from talented amateurs to professionally published authors as a result of participating in Pitchapalooza, including Raul the Third, Ylonda Caviness, Stacy McAnulty, Judith Fertig, Gloria Chao, Nura Maznavi and Ayesha Mattu. At Pitchapalooza, judges will help you improve your pitch, not tell you how bad it is. Judges critique everything from idea to style to potential in the marketplace and much, much more. Authors come away with concrete advice as well as a greater understanding of the ins and outs of the publishing industry. Whether potential authors pitch themselves, or simply listen to trained professionals critique each presentation, Pitchapalooza is educational and entertaining for one and all. From Miami to Portland, from LA to NYC, and many stops along the way, At the end of Pitchapalooza, the judges will pick a winner. The winner receives an introduction to an agent or publisher appropriate for his/her book.

18:30 Farewell hang-out

We'll say our goodbyes and those who wish to can hang out online.

Meet our SWF21 Faculty

Authors

Ann Törnqvist

Reporter and bestselling true-crime author Ann Törnkvist has more than a decade's experience in print, photo and radio. She is a Stockholm-based reporter and true-crime author and 2006 alumna of Columbia Journalism School. Her clients include the BBC and Al Jazeera and Swedish media. Her true crime novel *Follow Fucking Orders* was published in English in 2020.

Cassie Gonzales

Cassie's prose has been Pushcart nominated and published in print and online by The Kenyon Review, Tin House, Ploughshares, and Granta, among others. Her drama has been shortlisted by the BBC and staged by The University of Iowa. She was awarded Emory University's Creative Writing Fellowship in Fiction and has taught creative writing to undergraduates and postgraduates. Cassie has a Master's degree in creative writing from the University of Oxford and is currently a PhD candidate in creative/critical writing at the University of East Anglia. She is working on a novel about women in the American Southwest.

Damon Suede

Damon Suede grew up out-n-proud deep in the anus of right-wing America, and escaped as soon as it was legal. Beyond romance fiction, Damon has been writing for print, stage, and screen for almost three decades. He's won some awards, but counts his blessings more often: his amazing friends, his demented family, his beautiful husband, his loyal fans, and his silly, stern, seductive Muse who keeps whispering in his ear, year after year. Get in touch with him at DamonSuede.com.

Eira Ekre

Eira is the co-author of *Stockholms Undergång* (2014) and *Zonen Vi Ärvde* (2017), and is a pioneer in teaching narrative game design for Nordic game studios and universities. Co-founder of the authors' collective "Fruktan", Eira has produced the collective's horror podcast and has also done copywriting, PR and translation work for their creative projects.

Göran Segeholm

Göran Segeholm is a photographer, writer, lecturer and photography educator with over twenty-five years of experience in training writers and photographers in photojournalism, both practically and theoretically.

Göran teaches at *Fotografiska*, the world's largest museum dedicated to photography. Göran has his own podcast, *Bildradion*, dedicated to exploring issues surrounding photography. Göran has written six books, the latest of which is, "*Bildjournalistik*," ("Photojournalism"), published in 2019.

Grant Faulkner

Grant Faulkner is the Executive Director of National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) and the co-founder of 100 Word Story. He has published two books on writing, *Pep Talks for Writers: 52 Insights and Actions to Boost Your Creative Mojo*, and *Brave the Page*, a teen writing guide. He's also published a collection of 100-word stories, *Fissures*, and *Nothing Short of 100: Selected Tales from 100 Word Story*. His stories have appeared in dozens of literary magazines, including *Tin House*, *The Southwest Review*, and *The Gettysburg Review*, and he has been anthologized in collections such as *Norton's New Micro: Exceptionally Short Fiction* and *Best Small Fictions*. His essays on creativity have been published in *The New York Times*, *Poets & Writers*, *Writer's Digest*, and *The Writer*. He serves on the National Writing Project's Writer's Council, Lit Camp's Advisory Council, and Aspen Words' Creative Council. He's also the co-host of the podcast *Write-minded*.

Linda Ravin Lodding

With the publication of *The Busy Life of Ernestine Buckmeister*, she realized her dream to become a published children's book author. Her books have since gone on to win awards but, more importantly, the hearts of young readers. She has published such children's books as *Painting Pepette* (2016), *Little Red Riding...Sheep* (2017), *Wakey, Wakey Elephant* (2017) and two books starring globe-trotting Ellie - *The Queen is Coming to Tea* and *Royal Baby*.

Paul Rapacioli

Paul is the founder of Swedish news company *The Local*, which provides Europe's news in English to five million readers each month. His book, *Good Sweden, Bad Sweden*, draws on more than a decade of news coverage to explain how the story of this unique country is being told in a post-truth world.

Sarah Waters

Sarah Waters OBE has written six novels, *Tipping the Velvet*, *Affinity*, *Fingersmith*, *The Night Watch* and *The Little Stranger*. Between them she has been nominated and won various awards and been shortlisted for both the Orange Prize and the Man Booker Prize repeatedly. She was included in *Granta's* prestigious list of 'Best of Young British Novelists 2003', and in the same year was voted Author of the Year by both publishers and booksellers at the British Book Awards and the BA Conference, and won the Waterstones Author of the Year Award. She was awarded Stonewall Writer of the Decade

in 2015; Diva Magazine Author of the Year Award in 2017 and The Sunday Times Award for Literary Excellence, which is given in recognition of a writer's entire body of work. Sarah was presented with an OBE in 2019 for services to literature in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

The Book Doctors

Arielle Eckstut and David Henry Sterry are co-founders of The Book Doctors, a company dedicated to helping authors get their books published. They are also co-authors of *The Essential Guide to Getting Your Book Published: How To Write It, Sell It, and Market It... Successfully*. Arielle Eckstut has been a literary agent for over twenty years at The Levine Greenberg Rostan Literary Agency. She is now the agent of Newbery Award winner Kwame Alexander. She is also the author of nine books and the co-founder of the iconic brand, LittleMissMatched. David Henry Sterry is the best-selling author of 16 books, on a wide variety of subjects including memoir, sports, middle-grade fiction, and reference. His first book has been translated into ten languages; his latest book was featured on the cover of the *New York Times Book Review*. They've taught at Stanford University, Indiana University, Smith College, and other institutions. Some of the publications they have appeared in include the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Agents/Editors

Ayesha Pande

Ayesha heads her eponymous agency in New York. She has worked in the publishing industry for over twenty years. Before launching her boutique agency, she was a senior editor at Farrar Straus & Giroux. She has also held editorial positions at HarperCollins and Crown Publishers. Ayesha is a member of AAR (Association of Author's Representatives), PEN, the Asian American Writer's Workshop, Women's Media Group and sits on the advisory board of the German Book Office. Her interests are wide-ranging and include literary as well as popular fiction, young adult, women's, African-American and international fiction. She is also seeking authors of nonfiction, including biography, history, economics, popular culture, cultural commentary, memoir, and graphic novels. She is particularly drawn to distinctive, original and under-represented voices. Visit pandeliterary.com for more.

Caroline Hardman

Caroline co-founded Hardman & Swainson. Before that, she was an agent at the Christopher Little Literary Agency and The Marsh Agency, where she specialized in translation rights. Caroline has an excellent understanding of global trade publishing and has had the privilege of selling rights on behalf of many renowned

writers. What she's looking for? Caroline is primarily interested in fiction at the intersection of literary and commercial, where great writing meets broad appeal. She looks for novels that combine beautiful writing, plot and pace, distinctive characters, emotional depth and a strong hook – all the things that keep you turning the page. She accepts submissions of accessible literary fiction, upmarket commercial fiction, historical fiction, crime, suspense and thrillers.

Jessica Renheim

Jessica joined Crooked Lane Books in December 2019, one year after relocating to Gothenburg, Sweden. She spent the previous eleven years at Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Random House, where she focused on thrillers, crime, suspense, smart commercial fiction, and select narrative nonfiction. Jess has worked with established New York Times bestsellers, Edgar-award winners, and critically acclaimed debut authors. She's looking for high concept thrillers; mysteries ranging from the dark and atmospheric to procedurals distinguished by compelling characters and a strong voice; domestic suspense that finds a way to keep even the savviest readers guessing, and psychological suspense featuring complex characters and twisted family dynamics. Authors she has had the privilege of working with include Jussi Adler-Olsen, Joseph Finder, Meg Gardiner, Howard Michael Gould, Richelle Mead, Brad Parks, Bryan Reardon, Daniel Suarez, Brad Taylor, and Holly Watt.

Kate Greenstreet

Her taste is very broad and ranges from literary fiction to juicy beach reads, but upmarket commercial writing is what she most interested in reading right now. While she has a soft spot for her roots and books set in the American South (and her adopted home, New York City), she is particularly keen to read stories that transport her somewhere new, whether real or imagined. She reads widely and is open to anything with writing that grips her, but she does particularly love fiction about food and families, thrillers with complicated characters and a unique hook, campus novels, historical fiction starring strong women, quirky coming of age stories, and literary works that reveal a darker side of human nature. She would also love to represent more books with the power to change people's minds about the issues currently polarizing society, books like *Behold the Dreamers*, *American Marriage*, *The Mothers*, *What is the What*, and *A Little Life*. Her favourite non-fiction explores an author's obsessions (think *Cork Dork* or *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*), but she's also after quality investigative journalism, and memoirs that read like novels. She is not currently seeking submissions for any genre science fiction/fantasy or any YA.

