

2016 BIENNIAL WRITERS' CONFERENCE

WRITE *Away!*

CRAFT PROCESS ESSENTIALS

A CONFERENCE FOR ALL WRITERS

FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 22

Free & open to the public

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Reception & meet the author
(pick up pre-ordered books)

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Readings by local authors &
presentation by Jamie Ford,
followed by book signing

**‘IOLANI SCHOOL
SETO HALL**

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

7:30 AM – 5:30 PM

7:30 AM Check-in

**8:00 AM Opening remarks
& keynote address**

9:15 AM Workshop Sessions

**‘IOLANI SCHOOL
SULLIVAN CENTER**

**563 KAMOKU STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826**

*Free parking in parking structure on
Kamoku Street – 2nd floor & above*



JAMIE FORD

Keynote Speaker

Jamie Ford is an American author who gained notoriety with his debut novel, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, which spent two years on *The New York Times* bestseller list. *Hotel* is a love story about two 12 year old friends, a Chinese boy and a Japanese girl, which delves into the ethnic tensions of the time and Japanese internment. The book has been translated into 34 languages.

Ford is ethnically half Chinese, and his work focuses on the Chinese-American experience. Ford's great-grandfather immigrated from Kaiping, China in 1865. He changed his name, Min Chung, to William Ford while working in Nevada. Ford's grandfather, George William Ford, then changed his name back to George Chung to gain success as an ethnic actor in Hollywood. Ford's second novel *Songs of Willow Frost*, explores Asians in Hollywood in the early 20th century, around the time his grandfather was pursuing acting.

Ford grew up in Seattle, Washington, and although he no longer lives there, the city has played an important role in his work. Ford lives in a blended family and says, "I'm the proud father of more teenagers than I can keep track of."

Presented by the

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PEN WOMEN • HONOLULU BRANCH

We sincerely thank our sponsors: Barnes & Noble Bookstore, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, and 'Iolani School

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

HOOKING THE READER

Jamie Ford

Readers are often turned on or off by the first chapter, even the first page. What contracts do we make with the reader in these first few pages? We'll analyze story openings with a focus on immersing the audience by sinking story hooks, and creating likeable protagonists (or sympathetic anti-heroes). If you're feeling brave, submit your own first page for a group critique.

ADVENTURES IN SCREENWRITING

Brian Watanabe

This is a fun and informative overview of the craft of screenwriting for beginning screenwriters and filmmakers. It includes discussions about concept, character, structure, adaptation, and the business of screenwriting. Script to screen comparisons help keep the workshop interactive and entertaining.

AN AGENT READS THE SLUSH PILE

Kristin Nelson

Ever wonder how an agent reads the fiction submission slush pile? What an agent is thinking during the opening pages? This workshop gives the inside scoop. Kristin Nelson will read the "slush pile" and give honest feedback on the sample pages in front of her. This workshop is not for the faint of heart. The point is not to dishearten but to give an inside look at the process. Interested participants can bring three copies each of the first two pages of their novels. You are welcome to attend even if you don't submit pages.

AUTHOR & AGENT – *Landing an Agent*

Jamie Ford & Kristin Nelson

Last year Kristin Nelson received 40,000 mind-numbing, email-clogging queries from aspiring authors. Out of those 800+ per week, she requested 85 full manuscripts, and signed two new clients. We'll examine successful and rejected queries and talk about the best ways to navigate that literary gauntlet, and discuss the ever-mysterious author/agent relationship.

BEYOND SELF-PROMOTION & PLATFORM:

Share Yourself, Build Your Community

Rich Fable

A workshop designed to help shed feelings of writer's dread that frequently accompany the words "author platform" or "self-promotion." We'll discuss how creating moments of connection online is about more than follower count numbers—it's about fostering a network of people who support your work. *Workshop Via Skype*

THE CRAFT OF LYRIC WRITING

Roslyn Catracchia

A successful songwriter makes every word count. Learn new techniques to help you craft your lyrics. After exploring various song forms and subjects, we'll pick and choose themes, words, and phrases, ending the session with a finished song that we will create together. All are welcome, from beginner to experienced songwriter.

MEMOIR, **Susan Scott**

Susan Scott will talk about storytelling in nonfiction and memoir, as well as what she's learned over the years about agents, editors, publishers and readers. For an exercise, Susan will share the only one that ever helped her writing.

NOVELLA & MEMOIR IN FLASH

Tiff Holland

How to write stand-alone pieces that can be linked to create longer works. In the age of "binge-viewing" and Twitter, this session will cover the process of writing pieces that satisfy the desire for concise writing that can be consumed in one session while leaving readers wanting more.

PLAYWRITING: LETTING A CHARACTER LIVE

Moses Goods

Learn how to create likeable characters by exploring what it feels like to walk in their shoes. Conflict, fear, motivation, strengths and flaws play a part. Actor and playwright Moses Goods will share his process of "letting a character live."

THE POWER OF WRITING BADLY:

The astonishing truth about the creative process

Marcia Zina Mager

What does it mean to be a "real" writer? Through wild exercises and deep insight, we'll discover unexpected answers from the world's greatest artistic masters, like Van Gogh and Rumi, learning to honor our own mediocrity, procrastination and despair, and building a new, kinder relationship to ourselves.

SIN & SYNTAX: *Making Sentences Sing*

Constance Hale

Constance Hale (author of the style manual *Sin and Syntax* and the verb volume *Vex, Hex, Smash, Smooch*) leads you through a series of readings, exercises, puzzles, and games that allow you to stretch new muscles, kick bad habits, and cultivate your own writer's voice.

THRILLERS – *What they are, and how to write one*

Michael Gruber

Michael Gruber will talk about the origins and construction of the thriller and provide tips on how to write a good one. *Workshop Via Skype*

WORDS IN MOTION, **Jonathan Clarke Sybert**

Slam Poetry is self-expression through bold, vocal performance of the written word. "Words in Motion" is a workshop dedicated to lifting words from the page and refocusing the vibrations to convey the exact message intended by the author.

WRITING NARRATIVE NONFICTION:

Making the Past Come to Life

Pamela Rotner Sakamoto

Pamela Rotner Sakamoto will discuss how to bring history alive with telling details, visual imagery, dialogue, scenes, and suspense. The past can be as vivid and magical as fiction without sacrificing a grain of truth.

Roslyn Catracchia

Award-winning songwriter, Roslyn Catracchia has co-written over 40 musicals that have been produced locally and nationally, and has written and co-produced many CDs, four of which have earned her Hoku nominations. She is a proud member of ASCAP, The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Rich Fable

Rich Fable is a passionate advocate for reading, publishing, and author-focused entertainment in all its formats. He is founder of Astral Road Media, a full-service author support agency, and Executive Producer of Book View Now on PBS, providing national book coverage for public media. www.astralroad.com

Moses Goods

Moses Goods is a professional storyteller, playwright and award-winning actor. His plays have been produced by the Honolulu Theatre for Youth and Windward Community College. His most recent work *Duke*, a play about the famed athlete Duke Kahanamoku, is touring nationally.

Michael Gruber

Michael Gruber, *The New York Times* bestselling author of 25 novels, worked in the Carter White House and holds a PhD in marine biology. Stephen King called Gruber's novel, *The Good Son*, his favorite novel of 2013. www.michaelgruberbooks.com

Constance Hale

Born on O'ahu's North Shore, Constance Hale leads the Mokule'ia Writers Retreat. She writes frequently about Hawaiian history and culture. That is, when she's not writing about language and literary style, in books, on *The New York Times Opinionator*, and on her website: www.sinandsyntax.com

Tiff Holland

Tiff Holland's poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction appear regularly in literary journals and anthologies. She is the author of *Bone in a Tin Funnel* and the novella-in-flash *Betty Superman*, available through www.rosemetapress.com Tiff currently lives in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

The National League of American Pen Women is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

Marcia Zina Mager

Marcia Zina Mager is an international bestselling author, playwright, award-winning poet, and performance artist. Her publishing credits include 10 books, fiction & nonfiction, translated into eight languages. She's the creator of the original *Write from the Heart* national seminar series. www.321write.com & www.ilovemoneytalks.com

Kristin Nelson, Nelson Literary Agency, LLC

Kristin has represented over 35 *New York Times* bestselling titles and many *USA Today* bestsellers. She is currently looking for literary commercial novels, big crossover novels, upmarket women's fiction, lead title science fiction and fantasy, single-title romance (especially historical), and young adult and upper-level middle grade novels. Kristin represents author Jamie Ford. Submission guidelines: www.nelsonagency.com

Pamela Rotner Sakamoto

Pamela Rotner Sakamoto's narrative nonfiction book is *Midnight in Broad Daylight: A Japanese American Family Caught Between Two Worlds* (Harper 2016). *The New York Times* calls it "engrossing" and "an important contribution to our knowledge of the Japanese-American experience in World War II, on both sides of the ocean and the hyphen." www.pamelarotnersakamoto.com

Susan Scott

Susan Scott has written a weekly column about marine life for the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* since 1987 and is the author of eight nonfiction books. In 2014, Susan published her memoir, *Call Me Captain*, about sailing through a life-changing midlife crisis.

Jonathan Clarke Sybert

Jonathan Clarke Sybert, aka !NTREP!D, has been a professional, award-winning performing artist for 25 years. Artistically driven, he has employed cross-genre as an actor, vocal artist, dancer/choreographer, puppeteer, visual artist and slam poet.

Brian Watanabe

Brian Watanabe is the screenwriter of *The Rogues Gallery*, which became the cult film *Operation: Endgame*, starring Ellen Barkin, Maggie Q and Zach Galifianakis. He's developed scripts for production companies at Fox and Sony. He's also an award-winning advertising copywriter living in Hawaii. www.brianwatanabe.com

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FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 22, 2016

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Reception and meet the author

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Presentations by Moses Goods, Tiff Holland, Pamela Rotner Sakamoto, Susan Scott
Presentation & book signing by Jamie Ford. (*No onsite book sales. Pre-order Jamie Ford's books through Barnes & Noble – email Jay at crm2249@bn.com*)

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016

7:30 AM Check-in (*pick up preregistered packets*)

8:00 AM Opening remarks, 8:15 AM Keynote Address, 9:15 AM – 12:30 PM Workshop Sessions,
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM Lunch, 2:00 PM – 5:15 PM Workshop Sessions

*Capacity is limited; early registration is recommended. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis.
We are not responsible for changes beyond our control.*

REGISTER HERE <https://penhnlwc.eventbrite.com>

Conference Fee – \$150 (*Registration closes April 15th – No onsite sales or registration*)

Early Registration by March 30th – \$125

Student Scholarships Available: president@nlapwhonolulu.org

Make your lunch selection when registering online:

- Fish Bento – (*furikake crusted salmon, white rice with furikake, takuan, kamaboko, and choy sum*)
- Grilled Chicken Sandwich – (*Grilled pesto marinated chicken breast on focaccia, pesto aioli, lettuce & tomato*)
- Fiesta Fresh Quinoa Salad – (*Quinoa mixed with roasted corn, black bean, tomato, red onion, cilantro, lime juice, with a honey lime vinaigrette on spring mix, gluten free*)

*Free parking – 2nd floor or above, parking structure entrance on Kamoku Street
Buildings are air-conditioned and apt to be cold.*

WORKSHOP PREFERENCES

ONLINE please check the four (4) workshops you are most interested in attending, one for each time slot.
This will help us to choose suitable rooms. Checking these sessions may not guarantee a place (room capacity).
For further information or questions: conferenceinfo@nlapwhonolulu.org

SESSION 1 9:15 – 10:45	<i>Kristin Nelson</i> An Agent Reads the Slush Pile	<i>Roslyn Catracchia</i> The Craft of Lyric Writing	<i>Michael Gruber</i> Thriller <i>Workshop Via Skype</i>	<i>Moses Goods</i> Playwriting: Letting a Character Live
SESSION 2 11:00 – 12:30	<i>Rich Fable</i> Beyond Self- Promotion & Platform <i>Workshop Via Skype</i>	<i>Marcia Zina Mager</i> The Power of Writing Badly	<i>Pamela Rotner Sakamoto</i> Writing Narrative Nonfiction	<i>Jamie Ford</i> Hooking the Reader
SESSION 3 2:00 – 3:30	<i>Jamie Ford</i> Hooking the Reader	<i>Constance Hale</i> Sin & Syntax: Making Sentences Sing	<i>Susan Scott</i> Memoir	<i>Jonathan Clarke Sypert</i> Slam Poetry: Words in Motion
SESSION 4 3:45 – 5:15	<i>Jamie Ford & Kristin Nelson</i> Author & Agent	<i>Marcia Zina Mager</i> The Power of Writing Badly	<i>Tiff Holland</i> Novella & Memoir in Flash	<i>Brian Watanabe</i> Adventures in Screenwriting