



## **THE 2017 WCYA ALUMNI MINI-RESIDENCY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**JUNE 15-18, 2017**

### **Thursday, June 15 – Track I**

- 9:00-9:30** Packet Pick-Up & Welcome
- 9:45-11:45** Faculty/Alumni Workshop Sessions
- 12:00-12:45** Lunch (pre-ordered from Café Anna)
- 1:00-2:30** Faculty/Alumni Workshop Sessions
- 2:45-3:15** Agent/Editor/Publicist Introductions
- 3:30-5:30** Agent/Editor/Publicist One-on-One Sessions
- 5:45-7:00** Dinner (on your own)
- 7:00-7:30** Track I & Special Guests' Reception
- 7:30-9:30** Alumni Readings

### **Friday, June 16 – Track I & II**

- 7:30-8:45** Breakfast (pre-ordered from Café Anna)
- 9:00-9:15** Welcome & Announcements
- 9:15-10:15** Meet Our Special Guests! – Introducing Our Esteemed VCFA Faculty Members, Agents, Editors, Publicist, and Legal Assistant
- 10:30-11:30** **Alan Cumyn presents *On the Trail of the Pterodactyl*:** *As many people know, Alan got the initial inspiration for Hot Pterodactyl Boyfriend (Caitlyn Dlouhy/Atheneum 2016) from Libba Bray's January 2012 VCFA/WCYA lecture on her own writing life and process which included the satirical advice to writers, "Don't go writing your hot pterodactyl boyfriend novel!" But the roots of the inspiration go back at least a decade before that, and Alan had been struggling in the writing of two thematically-related adult novels when the phrase opened the doors to a radically new approach. But how to carry through on a truly ridiculous premise? And what were the artistic and technical challenges of bringing a sexy pterodactyl to high school to radically disrupt the career path and love life of highly focused student body chair Shiels Krane?*

- 11:30-12:15**      **Lunch (pre-ordered from Café Anna)**
- 12:30-2:30**      **Master Class (Part 1) with René Saldaña – Finding Your #ownvoice Amidst a Culture Clash:** *In the recent past, a handful of writers and illustrators have been taken to task because they're writing outside of their #ownvoices, outside of their cultures. The critics themselves have been taken to task as overly-sensitive, described as culture nazis. The question for the writer/illustrator then is a foundational one: when we decide to write outside of our #ownvoices, what are our responsibilities? Saldaña will discuss how he approaches writing outside of his culture and experiences, how others have done it successfully, and how writers today can do so as well.*
- 2:45-3:45**      **Jacqui Lipton presents Legal Issues for Authors – Navigating Through the Legal Landscape:** *Can I quote song lyrics in my novel? Am I allowed to write about real people? How do I prevent someone from stealing my idea or my story? Legal issues are becoming increasingly relevant for authors in the modern publishing industry. The most common legal issues that impact authors are copyright (and the associated fair use defense), contract, and, to some extent, defamation, trademark, and privacy law. This lecture provides an introduction to basic legal issues authors may confront when writing and marketing their work, as well as some resources and suggestions for how to find appropriate and affordable additional information and advice if you need it.*
- 4:00-5:00**      **Tirzah Price presents An Overview of the VCFA Business Talk Forum:** *In 2015, VCFA launched a Business Talk forum as a platform for alumni to connect and converse privately about business matters—everything from finding the perfect agent to working with indie bookstores! Our goal is to build a library of resources on every aspect of the publishing business, and to routinely host conversations about relevant business matters. In this session, you'll learn how to access this forum and contribute to conversations and resource documents. We'll also discuss future developments of the forum, solicit alumni feedback, and discuss how we can make this a useful resource for your needs. Please bring your laptop or tablet to follow along. If you've never accessed your VCFA account before, please look for instructions regarding your log-in info in the handout in the welcome packet.*
- 5:00-6:15**      **Alumni Readings**
- 6:15-7:30**      **Dinner (on your own)**
- 7:30-10:00**      **Auction**

**Saturday, June 17 – Track I & II**

- 7:30-8:45**      **Breakfast (pre-ordered from Café Anna)**
- 9:00-9:15**      **Announcements**

**9:15-10:15** Louise Hawes presents **Short But Sweet: How to Write Less and Say More Or, What Our Anglo-Saxon Ancestors Gave Us Besides a Solid Beating:** *Have you ever been accused of wordiness? Overblown language? Self-conscious prose? Even the most experienced writers sometimes have trouble killing our verbal darlings and cutting to the chase. There is a place and time for Latinate lushness, but it isn't usually here and now. We'll find out why when we explore both our classical language roots and what we've inherited from those ruffians who sacked Rome. (Don't even get me started on the French—sacre bleu! That's a whole other lecture.) Bring paper and pencil or your weapons of choice: we will be writing hard and fast!*

*RECOMMENDED READING: The Miracle of Language by Richard Lederer; Steering the Craft, Chapter 5 by Ursula LeGuin; Rain/Reign by Ann M. Martin; Why I Wake Early by Mary Oliver; Garden Time by W.C. Merwin. DEFINITELY not required, but good for a look at the "four square" language of our "Barbarian" predecessors: Beowulf: A New Verse Translation (Bi-lingual edition) by Seamus Heaney (Translator).*

**10:30-11:30** Carmen Oliver presents **Connecting Your Book to Audiences for Today, Tomorrow, and the Future:** *Authors are the role models of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, empowering children, educators and readers with a love and appreciation for literacy. But how do you get your book into audiences today, tomorrow, and the future? Carmen will discuss strategies that will help you create a model for a successful career. Building relationships and serving others in an authentic way that leaves positive footprints and connects readers and creators in a heartfelt way. Like getting published, connecting your book to audiences today and into the future is not a race, but it is a journey.*

**11:30-12:15** **A Working Lunch (pre-ordered from Café Anna) - Join Editor Jill Santopolo and Agent Miriam Altshuler present Our Story: A Conversation about a Successful Working Professional Relationship**

**12:30-2:30** **Master Class (Part 2) with René Saldaña – Finding Your #ownvoice Amidst a Culture Clash:** *In the recent past, a handful of writers and illustrators have been taken to task because they're writing outside of their #ownvoices, outside of their cultures. The critics themselves have been taken to task as overly-sensitive, described as culture nazis. The question for the writer/illustrator then is a foundational one: when we decide to write outside of our #ownvoices, what are our responsibilities? Saldaña will discuss how he approaches writing outside of his culture and experiences, how others have done it successfully, and how writers today can do so as well.*

**2:45-3:45** **I'm Due. How About You? – How to Keep On Keeping On:** *In this discussion session, we will explore the heartache of rejection, the authenticity and accountability of maintaining a committed writing practice, and the secrets to persistence with special guest Skyped-in guest Editor Kendra Levine.*

*RECOMMENDED READING: Deep Work (Cal Newport) and The Hero Is You (Kendra Levine)*

- 4:00-5:00**      **Straight Talk: The Real Deal About Today's Publishing World:** *In this Q & A session, our special guests will discuss the savvy required to find a place in the publishing world and the moxie it takes to stay there.*
- 5:15-5:45**      **20/10: A Video Celebration of the VCFA Writing for Children and Young Adults Program**
- 6:00-7:30**      **Dinner (on your own)**
- 7:30-10:00**    **Faculty Readings & Reception**

**Sunday, June 18 – Track I & II**

- 7:30-8:45**      **Breakfast (pre-ordered from Café Anna)**
- 9:00-9:15**      **Announcements**
- 9:30-10:30**    **Julie Larios presents Laser-focused Reading: Observing the Choices Other Authors Make:** *During my years at VCFA, I always believed that the most important teachers my students would have would be the books they read for each packet. But it's hard to stay focused on the tools an author uses when the story itself sweeps you away. This lecture is about continuing to read as a writer – being methodical, being analytical, understanding the range and precise effect of tools available to you, and carefully observing the toolbox choices other authors – especially the ones you admire – have made.*
- 11:00-11:30**    **Parting Words**

