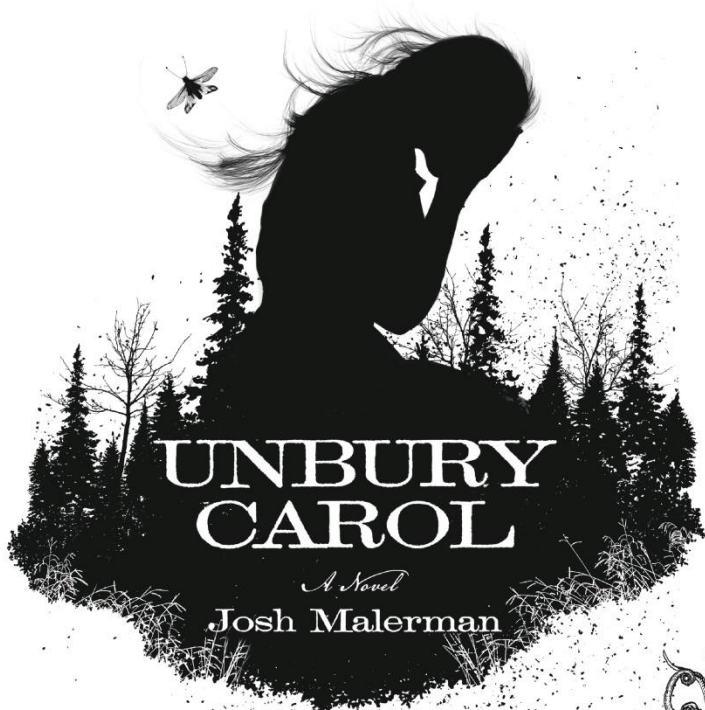




Darkness becomes her.



STOKERCON™ 2018
OFFICIAL POCKET PROGRAM

March 1-4, 2018

The Biltmore Hotel

Providence, Rhode Island

*Presented by the **Horror Writers Association***

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COMMITTEE

Co-Chair: James Chambers

Co-Chair: Kevin J. Wetmore, Jr

Deputy Chair: Lisa Morton

Administrator: Brad C. Hodson

PROGRAMMING

Ann Radcliffe Coordinators: Nicholas Diak and Michele Brittany

Final Frame Coordinator: Jonathan Lees

Horror University and Panel Programming Coordinator: James Chambers

Librarian Day Coordinator: Becky Spratford

Pitch Sessions Coordinator: Brian Matthews

Readings Coordinator: Kathleen Scheiner

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Dealers Room and Volunteer Coordinator: Kevin J. Wetmore, Jr.

Guest Liaison: Rena Mason

Sponsorship Coordinator: Meghan Arcuri-Moran

Webmaster: Rick Pickman

SOUVENIR ~~BOOK~~ ANTHOLOGY

Artist: Greg Chapman

Souvenir ~~Book~~ Anthology Editor: Michael Bailey

ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

StokerCon™ is dedicated to providing a harassment-free convention experience for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age, or religion. We do not tolerate harassment of convention attendees in any form. Attendees violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the convention without a refund at the discretion of the chairs.

Reporting Harassment

We at StokerCon take any type of harassment at conventions seriously. To that end we would like to announce the process for reporting harassment.

All of the StokerCon staff and volunteers will be identifiable by specially marked badges. Each volunteer will be briefed before the con begins on StokerCon's anti-harassment policy and on how to handle reporting. If anyone sees or experiences an instance of harassment, they can bring their complaint to a volunteer or event staff.

Additionally, we have created an e-mail address specifically for this issue. That address is complaint@stokercon.com. Anyone who sees or experiences harassment and is uncomfortable speaking to someone in person may file their complaint through that e-mail address.

All complaints will be immediately brought to the Convention Chairs. They will then follow-up with any needed communication or investigation and take the appropriate action.

Our goal is to ensure that everyone who attends StokerCon has a great time free from any type of harassment.



ANN RADCLIFFE ACADEMIC CONFERENCE @STOKERCON 2018 MARCH 1-2

All Ann Radcliffe Conference Presentations will take place in State Suite B on the 2nd Floor.

StokerCon 2018 is proud to present the Ann Radcliffe Conference, part of the Horror Writers Association Outreach Program and the HWA's ongoing effort to encourage and support scholarship in the horror genre in all media. The Convention Committee would like to thank Nicholas Diak and Michele Brittany for their coordination and promotion of the Conference and all of the AnnRad presenters for sharing their efforts and scholarship with StokerCon!

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018

Panel 1: Gender Studies / 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

- Bridget Keown, "The Symptoms of Possession: Gender, Trauma, and the Domestic in Novels of Demonic Possession"
- Elsa Carruthers and Rhonda Joseph, "When We Are the Monsters: Female Monsters and the Subversion of Patriarchy"
- Maya Thornton, "1, 2 ... Freddy's Coming for You': Freddy Krueger as Manifestation of Teenage Societal Anxieties"
- Holly Newton, "Coming Out and Coming Home: Reading *Silent Hill Homecoming's* Alex Shepherd as Queer"

Panel 2: Monster Studies, Eurasia / 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM

- Emily Ancil, "'Not a Bedtime Story': Investigating Textual Interactions Between the Horror Genre and Children's Picturebooks"

- Naomi Borwein, "Monster Studies, Monster Anthropology, and Australian Aboriginal Horror Literature"
- Frazer Lee, "Koji Suzuki's *Ring* – A World Literary Perspective"
- Amanda Trujillo, "Contagious Curses: Identifying the Characteristics and Origins of a Horror Trope"

Panel 3: Horror Studies / 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

- Khara Lukancic, "Ethics in Horror Movies: An Analysis of *The Bye Bye Man*"
- Nicholas Diak, "Lost Nights and Dangerous Days: Unraveling the Relationship Between *Stranger Things* and Synthwave"
- Daniel Holmes, "Horror, Terror, and the Homeric Uncanny"
- Caitlin Duffy, "'This Mansion of Gloom': Visualizing Edgar Allan Poe's Atmospheres of Horror"

Panel 4: Myth and Monsters / 3:45 PM – 5:15 pm

- Anthony Gambol, "The Genesis of Myth"
- Mathias Clasen, "Fear for Your Life: Evolution and Horror Fiction"
- Shawn Pendley, "Modal Confusion Meets Moral Insensibility in Fox's *Lucifer*"
- Michele Brittany, "Mummies in Comics 101"

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2018

Panel 1: Gender Studies / 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

- Deirdre Flood, "Under the Mask: Slasher Villains in Pre and Post 9/11 Horror"
- Rocky Colavito, "Trans Fatal(e): Body Horror, Trans(un)fixion, and Walter Hill's *The Assignment*"

- Jennifer Loring, "The Dark Heart of Human Nature: The Necessity of Extreme Horror"
- Johnny Murray, "'Gelatinous Green Immensity': The Sublime – Grotesque in Weird Fiction"

Panel 2: Gothic, Folklore & Villains / 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM

- Danny Rhodes, "'When the Cage Came Up There Was Something Crouched A-Top of It': The Haunted Tales of LTC Rolt – A Contextual Analysis"
- Michelle Reinstatler, "Western Culture's Adversarial Relationship with the Revenant: Tragedy and the Haunted in *Dead Crossroads*"
- Erica McCrystal, "Jekyll and Hyde Everywhere: Inconsistency and Disparity in the Real World"
- Renee DeCamillis, "The Power of Sympathetic Villains of Literature and Screen Pulses Through Music"

Panel 3: Zombies, Ghouls and Other Monsters / 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

- Michael Torresgrossa, "Arthurian Monster Mash: The Undead in Camelot from *The Awntyrs off Arthure* to the Fiction of Today"
- Kevin J. Wetmore, Jr., "*Night of the Living Dead*, or *Endgame*: Samuel Beckett and Zombies"
- Kent Pettit, "Medieval and Modern Godfathers of Ghouls: William of Newburgh and George A. Romero as Subversive Sages for Turbulent Times"
- Allison Budaj, "Melancholy and *The Walking Dead*"

Panel 4: 20th Century Horror Literature / 3:45 PM – 5:15 PM

- John Tibbetts, "The Mystery of Marjorie Bowen"
- Adam Crowley, "Roadway to Hell: The Divided Line and the Concept of Evil in H.P. Lovecraft's *The Colour Out of Space*"

- Gavin Hurley, "Richard Laymon's Rhetorical Style: Minimalism, Suspense, and Negative Space"
- James Anderson, "Four Quadrants of Success: The Metalinguistics of Author Protagonists in the Fiction of Stephen King"



AUTHOR READINGS AND SIGNINGS

MARCH 1-4

All readings will take place in L'Apogee on the 17th Floor.

Following each reading, authors will be available for signings in the Dealers Room (Renaissance Salon) as their schedules allow. Special thanks to Broad Universe, sponsor of our Autographing Table.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

Block One, 4 p.m.

Cory Cone, Larry Hinkle, and Trisha Woolridge

Block Two, 5 p.m.

Gregory Bastianelli, Theresa Braun, and Ed Kurtz

Block Three, 6 p.m.

Brian Matthews, Lee Murray, and Dan Rabarts

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

Block Four, 10 a.m.

Patrick Freivald, Heather Herrman, and Frazer Lee

Block Five, 11 a.m.

Scott Edelman, Randy D. Rubin, and Sara Tantlinger

Block Six, 12 p.m.

Ramsey Campbell and Caitlin R. Kiernan

—with Ellen Datlow, *signing only, 1 p.m.*

Block Seven, 1 p.m.

Meghan Arcuri-Moran, J.H. Moncrieff, Tim Waggoner

—with Michael Bailey, *signing only, 2 p.m.*

Block Eight, 2 p.m.

JF Dubeau, Teel James Glenn, and Carol Gyzander

Block Nine, 3 p.m.

Linda Addison, Larissa Glasser, and Erik T. Johnson

Block Ten, 4 p.m.

Alan Baxter, Sharon K. Nash, and Paul Tremblay

Block Eleven, 5 p.m.

E.A. Black, Kathleen Kaufmann, and Pamela K. Kinney

Block Twelve, 6 p.m.

Victor LaValle and John Edward Lawson

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

Block Thirteen, 10 a.m.

Karen Bovenmyer, Nathan Carson, and James Dorr

Block Fourteen, 11 a.m.

Megan Hart, Bracken MacLeod, and Thomas F. Monteleone

Block Fifteen, 12 p.m.

Matt Bechtel, Michele Brittany, and Kameryn James

Block Sixteen, 1 p.m.

Michael Arnzen, David E. Cowen, and Jeff Strand

Block Seventeen, 2 p.m.

Christopher Clark, Bryan Nowak, and Jonathan Thomas

Block Eighteen, 3 p.m.

Craig Engler and Sam Weller

—with Patrick McGrath, *signing only*, 4 p.m.

Block Nineteen, 4 p.m.

Marc Abbott, Gwendolyn Kiste, and John F.D. Taff

Block Twenty, 5 p.m.

Mary Ann Back, Adam Cesare, and Trevor Firetog

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

Block Twenty-One, 10 a.m.

Nicole Cushing, Darrell Schweitzer, and Chad Stroup

Block Twenty-Two, 10 a.m.

Edward Ahern, Barry Lee Dejasu, and Dacre Stoker

Broad + Universe



JOURNALSTONE
YOUR LINK TO ARTISTIC TALENT

FINAL FRAME FILM COMPETITION
FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 8 P.M.
Cocktail Reception to Follow on the Balcony

The Final Frame Film Competition is presented in the Garden Room.

The Horror Writers Association is proud to present the Third Annual Final Frame Film Competition, coordinated by Jonathan Lees, celebrating the darkest, weirdest, and most fantastic short horror films from around the globe. *Open to all StokerCon attendees.* The Final Frame Award and \$1000 cash prize will be awarded to one film and filmmaker by our panel of judges, presented during the Final Frame Cocktail Reception after the screening.

2018 Final Frame Competition Judges

- **CRAIG ENGLER**, producer, *Z Nation*; general manager, Shudder SVOD
- **MICHAEL GINGOLD**, editor and contributor, *Fangoria*; writer and editor, *Rue Morgue*; writer, BIRTH.MOVIES.DEATH; author, *The Frightfest Guide to Monster Movies*
- **LYNNE HANSEN**, director of "Chomp," screenwriter of "He's Not Looking so Great"
- **GRADY HENDRIX**, author *Horrorstör*, *My Best Friend's Exorcism*, *Paperbacks From Hell*, founder Hong-Kong-A-Thon Film Festival
- **LISA MORTON**, screenwriter/associate producer of *Meet the Hollowheads*; author of *The Castle of Los Angeles*, *Monsters of L.A.*, *Trick or Treat: The History of Halloween*, and *The Halloween Encyclopedia*; president, Horror Writers Association

2018 Final Frame Competition Films

A Mother of Monsters (Mãe dos Monstros)

8:39 / 2017 / BRAZIL

Director: Julia Zanin de Paula

A story based on a Guy de Maupassant tale, "La Mère aux Monstres".
A girl, allured by a circus troupe, is in danger.

Creswick**9:31 / 2016 / AUSTRALIA****Director: Natalie Erika James**

While a young woman helps her father pack up his house, they are both increasingly aware of the presence that they always knew was there.

Exhale (Expire)**13:08 / 2017 / FRANCE****Director: Magali Magistry**

A toxic fog, the Smog, blanketed the planet forcing people to live confined. But when you are 15 like Juliette, real life truly begins outside.

Great Choice**7:21 / 2017 / U.S.****Director: Robin Comisar**

A woman gets stuck in a Red Lobster commercial.

Highway**10:10 / 2016 / AUSTRALIA****Director: Vanessa Gazy**

On a lonely mountain highway, troubled teen hitchhiker Hester Black receives phantom news broadcasts from the near future bearing ominous news.

I Am the Doorway**15:00 / 2017 / CZECH REPUBLIC****Director: Robin Kasparik**

An astronaut trapped in a spaceship. A strange virus grows inside him, altering his mind. To save himself he must take drastic action. Based on the short story by Stephen King.

Keep Out of Children's Reach

9:38 / 2017 / VENEZUELA

Director: Gustavo Sanchez

Sebastian is a 7 year old kid with macabre intentions. He walks into a room where they keep every lethal thing out of children's reach. There he manages to get his hands on something that could help him get through his evil plan.

The Bloody Ballad of Squirt Reynolds

7:21 / 2018 / U.S. / *WORLD PREMIERE*

Director: Anthony Cousins

The kids at Camp Nawgonamakit are about to find out the tragic tale of Squirt Reynolds is more than just a legend.

Thursday Night

7:35 / 2017 / PORTUGAL

Director: Gonçalo Almeida

An elusive stranger pays Bimbo a visit in the middle of the night to deliver a vital message.

We Summoned a Demon

5:56 / 2017 / U.S.

Director: Chris McInroy

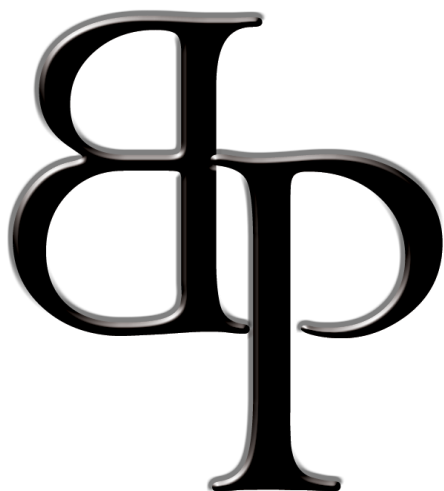
They just wanted to be cool. Instead, they got a demon.

Winston

6:33 / 2017 / U.S. / SPAIN

Director: Aram Sarkisian

A man is driven mad by his obsession and paranoia.



HORROR UNIVERSITY 2018

MARCH 2-3

To further the HWA's focus on education, StokerCon devotes a significant part of programming to a curriculum run by some of the best and brightest in the horror field. This series of two-hour workshops and special presentations goes above and beyond standard convention panels. Workshops will be hands-on, intensive classes with interactive activities and exercises.

All Horror University classes require advance registration and payment. Check at Registration for open spaces up to one hour prior to start time.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

Build a Better Monster

Instructor: Tim Waggoner

9 a.m., Salon 6 (18th Floor)

Starting Your Horror Writing Career: Short Stories for Beginners

Instructor: Kevin J. Wetmore, Jr.

10 a.m., Salon 2 (17th Floor)

Lovecraft Tours! A Walking Tour of H.P. Lovecraft's Providence

Instructor: Darrell Schweitzer

11 a.m., Off-Premises (meet in lobby by 10:50 a.m.)

Resume Writing & Job Searching for Writers: How to Get that Day Job

Instructor: JG Faherty

11 a.m., Salon 6 (18th Floor)

Grab Readers and Never Let Them Go

Instructor: Kate Jonez

12 p.m., State Suite A (2nd Floor)

Drilling Down: Getting Honest with Your Horror

***Instructor:* Grady Hendrix**

1 p.m., Salon 6 (18th Floor)

Picturing Fear: Techniques for Writing Horror Comics

***Instructor:* James Chambers**

3 p.m., Salon 6 (18th Floor)

Social Media Marketing for Writers

***Instructor:* Stephanie Wytovich**

5 p.m., Salon 2 (17th Floor)

Women and Violence: Unleashing Your Female Characters' Dark Sides

***Instructors:* Heather Herrman and Dr. Lauren Genovesi**

5 p.m., Salon 6 (18th Floor)

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

Research and Write Horror Non-Fiction

***Instructor:* Kevin J. Wetmore, Jr.**

9 a.m., State Suite B (2nd Floor)

Saying More With Less

***Instructor:* Patrick Freivald**

10 a.m., Salon 6 (18th Floor)

How to Write Killer Poetry

***Instructor:* Stephanie Wytovich**

11 a.m., State Suite B (2nd Floor)

Lovecraft Tours! A Walking Tour of H.P. Lovecraft's Providence

***Instructor:* Darrell Schweitzer**

11 a.m., Off-Premises (meet in lobby by 10:50 a.m.)

Goal Setting for Your Writing Career (or Hobby)

Instructor: Nicole Cushing

12 p.m., Salon 6 (18th Floor)

Done to Death: Avoiding Clichés in Horror and Dark Fantasy

Instructor: Tim Waggoner

2 p.m., Salon 6 (18th Floor)

A Sense of Dread: Employing the Senses to Evoke Suspense and Character Empathy in Fiction

Instructors: Douglas Wynne and Bracken MacLeod

3 p.m., State Suite A (2nd Floor)

Making the Reader Squirm

Instructor: Michael Arnzen

4 p.m., Salon 6 (18th Floor)



LIBRARIANS DAY 2018

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

All activities presented in the Garden Room. Coordinated by Becky Spratford and Kristi Chadwick

Welcome/Registration, 8:30 to 9 A.M.

120 Years of Dracula: From Novel to Stage to Large and Small Screens, 9 -10 A.M.

Presented by Dacre Stoker, a direct descendent of Bram Stoker

Why Horror Matters: A Conversation With Experts on the Genre and Its Practitioners, 10-10:50 A.M.

Becky Spratford moderates a talk with Andy Davidson, Eric J. Guignard, Grady Hendrix, Leslie Klinger, and Christopher Geissler, of the John Hay Library which holds H.P. Lovecraft's and other horror legends' papers.

A Panel of Fresh Voices for Your Collections, 11- 11:50 A.M.

Bram Stoker Nominated author Mary SanGiovanni moderates a discussion with Nadia Bulkin, Stephen Kozeniewski, Erin Sweet Al-Mehairi, and Morgan Sylvia, newer authors who many library workers may not have heard of before but whose works are a great choice for public library collections.

Librarians Lunch, 12 – 1:30 P.M., Balcony

All Librarians' Day attendees are invited to enjoy a lunch with time for networking, socializing, and the chance to participate in an AMA [Ask Me Anything] with Becky Spratford and Kristi Chadwick.

Horror Programming at Your Library, 1:30- 2:20 P.M.

J.G. Faherty, Library and Literacy Coordinator for the Horror Writers Association, moderates a discussion with Christopher Golden and his partner in the Merrimack Valley Halloween Book Festival, Haverhill, Massachusetts, librarian Liz Rieur, as well as Grady Hendrix who in

partnership with Quirk Books has presented at numerous public libraries across the country.

Book Buzz, 2:30- 4:30 P.M.

Wrap up the day with a traditional Book Buzz, featuring horror titles. Confirmed publishers include Bloodshot Books, Cemetery Dance, MacMillan, JournalStone, Sinister Grin, and Quirk Books. Each publisher will present their upcoming titles for the library workers in attendance and all attendees will go home with a tote bag and ARCs of some of the discussed titles.



The horror of love.

a novel from Caroline Kepnes

PANEL PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

March 1-4

Welcome to StokerCon 2018's panels and presentations! We hope you will enjoy the information and discussions presented by our participants. Unless otherwise noted, each panel will run 50 minutes, leaving 10 minutes between events for rooms to reset. Please be respectful of all our panelists and presenters and follow each moderator's instructions regarding asking questions and joining the discussion. Thank you!

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

4:00 P.M.

Independent Publishing: Outlook for the Future

Salon 6 / Moderator: *Kate Jonez*; **Panelists:** *John Edward Lawson, John McIlveen, Olivia Monteleone*

Indie publishing accounts for more and more books published each year. Quantity doesn't equal quality, but many indie presses are giving major publishing houses a run for their money. What pros and cons do independent publishers offer to authors? What does the future hold?

Mr. Vampire and Bio Zombie: The Hong Kong Horror Film

State Suite C / Moderator: *Lisa Morton*; **Panelist:** *Grady Hendrix*

Once upon a time, the Hong Kong film industry produced nearly 500 feature films a year, and a lot of those were horror movies with titles like *Mr. Vampire*, *We Are Going to Eat You*, and *A Chinese Ghost Story*. Join two acknowledged experts in Hong Kong cinema—Grady Hendrix, co-founder of Subway Cinema and the influential New York Asian Film Festival, and Lisa Morton, author of *The Cinema of Tsui Hark*—for a freewheeling exploration of some of the world's wildest horror flicks.

What's Left to Say About the Dead that Walk?

State Suite A / Moderator: *Marc Abbott*; **Panelists:** *Jennifer Brozek, Scott Edelman, Craig Engler, Kristine Scheiner, Daniel Waters*

Have we reached "peak zombie?" Given the seemingly endless popularity of zombies in horror fiction and media it seems unlikely! Why do zombies remain so beloved after more than twenty years of non-stop popularity in fiction, comics, TV, and movies? Are there still original stories to tell here?

5:00 P.M.

Beta Readers - The Secret to Better Writing

Salon 2 / Moderator: JG Faherty; **Panelists:** James Chambers, Patrick Freivald, Chris Marrs, Rena Mason

Ten eyes are better than two! Self-editing only goes so far; having good beta readers to review your work can make the difference between getting that story or novel published or having it declined. A panel of award-nominated and award-winning writers provide insight on how to effectively beta read, what to look for in beta readers and how to use your beta-readers' feedback.

Crowdfunding for Authors, Editors, and Publishers

State Suite C / Moderator: Angel Leigh McCoy; **Panelists:** Michael Bailey, Rob Boley, John McIlveen

While the publishing industry continues to evolve in response to new technology and media platforms, crowdfunding via Web sites such as Kickstarter and IndieGoGo has become more popular for authors and publishers. Panelists will discuss the ups and downs of crowdfunding, what to expect from a crowdfunding campaign, and tips for success.



Public Readings: Tips for Success

Salon 6 / Moderator: *F.R. Michaels*; **Panelists:** *Marc Abbott, Teel James Glenn, Ricky Grove, Elizabeth Massie, Thomas F. Monteleone*

Some authors love them. Some authors dread them. All authors want to know how do them well. What are some of the best techniques for overcoming nerves, engaging listeners, and delivering a good reading?

Word Games: Writing Fiction vs. Games

State Suite A / Moderator: *Danielle DeLisle*; **Panelists:** *Karen Bovenmyer, Bill Bridges, Crystal O'Leary-Davidson*

How do writing fiction and writing games differ? How are they the same? Map out the Venn diagram of game writing with our panelists.

5:30 P.M.

Robert H. Barlow Centennial Celebration @ The John Hay Library
John Hay Library / Moderator: *Paul LaFarge*

Join Paul LaFarge of Brown University's John Hay Library for a special discussion of author, poet, and Lovecraft associate R. H. Barlow on the centennial of his birth year. **Please note:** This *free* event takes place off premises at the John Hay Library, 20 Prospect Street, and requires pre-registration online or at convention registration. (**90 minutes**)

6:00 P.M.

Monster TV: Zombies, Vampires, and Beyond

State Suite A / Moderator: *Brad C. Hodson*; **Panelists:** *Craig Engler, Michael Gingold*

Horror TV is experiencing a golden era. Series such as *American Horror Story*, *Bates Motel*, *The Walking Dead*, and *Z Nation* have brought serious, inventive horror to the small screen. Why is horror TV so popular now? How do current series differ from popular past shows? Where does horror TV go next?

The Scariest Guy in America: A Jack Ketchum Tribute

Salon 2 / Moderator: Douglas E. Winter; **Panelists:** Linda Addison, Michael Bailey, Jack Haringa, Christopher Golden, Elizabeth Massie, Thomas F. Monteleone, F. Paul Wilson

Join a group of leading horror authors in discussing the life and works of Horror Grand Master, Jack Ketchum, the multiple award-winning author of *The Girl Next Door*, *Off Season*, *Red*, *The Secret Life of Souls*, "The Box," and many other acclaimed novels and stories. An HWA Lifetime Achievement Award recipient known for his generosity and mentorship toward his fellow writers, Jack Ketchum passed away in January 2018.

8:00 P.M.

STOKERCON 2018: OPENING CEREMONIES

L'Apogee 18 / Moderator: Lisa Morton; **Panelists:** Ramsey Campbell, Craig Engler, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Victor LaValle, Elizabeth Massie, Sam Weller

The official welcome and opening of StokerCon 2018! Come meet our Guests of Honor, mingle with fellow attendees, and learn about what's in store at StokerCon 2018. ***Reception with light catering and cash bar.***

11:00 P.M.

Midnight Special: *Alfredo—A Tragedy* by H.P. Lovecraft

Garden Room / Moderator: Kevin J. Wetmore Jr.; **Panelists:** Marc Abbott, Ramsey Campbell, James Chambers, Teel James Glenn, Ricky Grove, Lynne Hansen, Grady Hendrix, Elizabeth Massie, Lisa Morton, Jeff Strand, Amanda Trujillo

A special dramatic reading of H.P. Lovecraft's only play, directed by Kevin J. Wetmore Jr. and read by a selection of StokerCon GOHs and attendees.



FRIDAY, MARCH 2

10:00 A.M.

Dangerous Dames

State Suite A / Moderator: *Meghan Arcuri-Moran*; **Panelists:** *Mary Ann Back, Amy Grech, April Grey, Elizabeth Massie*

Published female authors discuss how they thrive in the male-dominated Horror genre. How do they navigate the wilds of publishing, scare up a captive audience, and keep them coming back for more...

The Doom That Came to Providence: *Call of Cthulhu* Live RPG

Garden Room / Moderator: *Bill Bridges*; **Players:** *Oliver Baer, Karen Bovenmyer, Danielle DeLisle, and Kathleen Kaufman—Risk Their Sanity!*

Bill Bridges leads a brave group of StokerCon panelists through a live tabletop RPG game of *Call of Cthulhu*. Something's not right in Providence! Can the players solve the mystery before they all go stark-raving mad? (*Two hours*)

Pulp Horror in 2018

State Suite C / Moderator: *Teel James Glenn*; **Panelists:** *Paul DiFillipo, Larissa Glasser, James Moore, S.A. Sidor, F. Paul Wilson*

Popular Horror fiction that began with Poe and Bierce and the penny dreadfuls entered its adolescence with the pulp magazines of the 20s, 30s, and 40s. *Dime Mystery, Horror Stories, Terror Tales, Spicy Mystery, Thrilling Mystery* and the legendary *Weird Tales* allowed modern masters like Bradbury, Bloch, Lovecraft and Howard to perfect their craft. This panel will explore pulp horror then, its modern incarnations, and what tropes make it "pulp."

11:00 A.M.

How (Not) to Win the Bram Stoker Award®

State Suite A / Moderator: *Rena Mason*; **Panelists:** *Patrick Freivald, Eric J. Guignard, Lisa Morton, John Palisano, Marge Simon*

Sometimes called "the Oscar of the horror genre," the Bram Stoker Award® is horror's oldest and most prestigious award. This panel will discuss the award's history, how the awards are administered, facts and trivia, and how authors can and cannot promote their own works for the award.

12:00 P.M.

Knock Out Fight Scenes

Salon 2 / Moderator: *Lee Murray*; **Panelists:** *Alan Baxter, Teel James Glenn, James Moore, J.H. Moncrieff, Tim Waggoner*

This how-to panel will dissect the elements of a kick-ass fight scene, with insights from real-life experts to have you writing visceral, realistic action. Covering all manner of weapons from ball-points to ballistics, and arming you with blow-by-blow writing techniques, this panel will arm your hero to take on a soldier, a demon, or a supernatural being

Shirley Jackson: Master of Horror

State Suite C / Moderator: *Jack C. Haringa*; **Panelists:** *Jennifer Barnes, Karen Bovenmyer, Nicole Cushing, Gwendolyn Kiste, Paul Tremblay*

Any list of major 20th-century horror authors includes Lovecraft, Bloch, Matheson, King, and Barker. Only recently has it become standard to include Shirley Jackson's name too. Her short story, "The Lottery," and two of her best-known novels, *The Haunting of Hill House* and *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, earned her a rightful place in the horror canon. Why was her work overlooked for so long? What inspired its growing appreciation? What are her contributions to literature?

12:30 P.M.

What's Vlad Got to Do with It?

Garden Room / Presenter: *Dacre Stoker*

Take a tour thru Romania with Dacre Stoker and learn about the real Vlad Dracula III and the places he lived, ruled and impaled, and also see the places where Bram Stoker set his novel *Dracula*. (*90 minutes*)

1:00 P.M.

Don't Be a Social Media Train Wreck

Salon 2 / Moderator: *Stephanie Wytovich*; **Panelists:** *Jennifer Barnes, Patrick Freivald, Bracken MacLeod, Amber Newberry, Steven Van Patten*

A popular image in social media: animated gifs of people chomping down popcorn posted by spectators to epic rants, incredible meltdowns, and white-hot flame wars. Authors and readers rely on social media to keep in touch, to promote and learn about new books, to share industry news, and build readerships. But navigating social media sometimes seems like walking through a minefield. The panelists will discuss good social media practices for authors, positive uses of social media, proper techniques and etiquette, what to share, and how to act in the social media crosshairs.

Roll Initiative: Horror Gaming for the Brave

State Suite C / Moderator: *Danielle DeLisle*; **Panelists:** *Karen Bovenmyer, Bill Bridges, Kathleen Kaufman, Joanna Nelius*

Horror has a rich history in gaming with genre games and literature often providing mutual inspiration. Want to try horror gaming but don't know where to start? This is the panel for you! Learn about types of games and which ones are best for beginners.

2:00 P.M.

How to Make Ordinary Things Scary

Salon 2 / Moderator: *Jennifer Brozek*; **Panelists:** *Meghan Arcuri-Moran, E.A. Black, Angel Leigh McCoy, Steven Van Patten, Tim Waggoner*

Monsters and villains are meant to frighten readers but they are obvious, known quantities. To cast unexpected fear upon your readers, terrify them using the most ordinary of objects: a pen, a phone, a mirror, a book, a door. Things we interact with every single day without thought. Horror is what happens when one of these ordinary things becomes an object of terror. Our panelists will discuss how to make anything, and everything, frightening.

Representation in Horror

State Suite A / Moderator: *E.F. Schraeder*; **Panelists:** *Marc Abbott, Linda Addison, Larissa Glasser, Delona Southerland*

The horror community—creators and fans together—is vast and varied. So is horror fiction. But the representation of different peoples and cultures in horror fiction and media can sometimes leave readers unsatisfied or even shaking their heads. The panelists will discuss examples of works where authors or creators in other media succeeded in this regard. They'll talk about what made these works successful. Who are the great diverse and memorable characters of horror literature and what makes them so? What are some works where the author or creators got it wrong and why? What are the biggest mistakes made and how can authors avoid them?

STATE OF THE GENRE, 2018

Garden Room / Moderator: *Lisa Morton*; **Panelists:** *Ramsey Campbell, Craig Engler, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Victor LaValle, Elizabeth Massie, Sam Weller*

HWA President, Lisa Morton, will lead our Guests of Honor in a discussion of the horror genre today. What are the current trends? Where does horror fit in mainstream literature and pop culture? How has the genre changed in the 21st century? What might the future hold?

3:00 P.M.

Beyond the Borders: Writing and Reading Outside the USA

State Suite A / Moderator: *Dan Rabarts*; **Panelists:** *Alan Baxter, Ramsey Campbell, Chris Marrs, Lee Murray*

Join our panelists as they discuss the challenges, pitfalls and opportunities of writing outside the U.K., Canada, and the far-flung edges of the planet, namely New Zealand and Australia, and learn how the experience of an outside perspective can help writers in the U.S. broaden their own horizons.

Dark Carnival: The Writing Prompts of Ray Bradbury
State Suite C / *Presenter: Sam Weller*

Bram Stoker Award-winning author and renowned expert on Ray Bradbury, Sam Weller presents a workshop based on the creative prompts Bradbury used to write his first book of American Gothic Horror, *Dark Carnival*.

Working with Editors

Salon 2 / *Moderator: Ellen Datlow; Panelists: Michael Bailey, Jennifer Barnes, Jennifer Brozek, Don D'Auria, J.H. Moncrieff*

Congratulations, you finished your novel or story! Now it's time to publish—and that means working with an editor. Our panel will discuss what authors should know about the editorial process, how it can differ by editor or publication, how to accept and incorporate edits into your work without losing your voice or intent, what editors expect of authors in a professional sense, and how to protect your work from unprofessional editing.

3:30 P.M.

Scream Queens

Garden Room / *Presenter: Stephanie Wytovich*

This presentation tracks the concept of the final girl through slasher film history, discussing women in horror with a particular focus on body image and empowerment both on and off the screen. **(90 minutes)**

4:00 P.M.

Building Your Readership

State Suite C / *Moderator: Jeff Strand; Panelists: Larissa Glasser, Bracken MacLeod, Jeff Menapace, Dan Rabarts*

If you publish it will they come? Not always! Budding authors need help building their readership! Our panel will provide tips on how to create newsletters, websites, giveaways, and other activities, as well as how to

draw traffic to those sites and use them to sell your work. What is the benefit of public readings, book signings, and conventions? What catches a reader's interest and keeps them engaged?

Dark Poets Face to Face Redux

State Suite A / Moderator: *Marge Simon*; **Panelists:** *Linda Addison, Michael Arnzen, Karen Bovenmyer, David E. Cowen, James Dorr*

A select panel of talented contemporary horror poets read and discuss each other's works. The audience is encouraged to participate and will be given copies of the poems for comments as well. Panelists have been asked for three poems, 50 lines max per poem, and they will pick another poet's poem to read to the audience. They must pick 3 poems by different poets on the panel. After reading it, they will state why they chose it and what sparked their feelings about it. Audience members will have copies of all poems read. The round continues until time is up, so every poet will have at least one or two poems read aloud and discussed.

Universal to Hammer: The Classic Screen Horrors

Salon 2 / Moderator: *Gwendolyn Kiste*; **Panelists:** *Ramsey Campbell, Michael Gingold, Christopher Golden, Amanda Trujillo*

For decades, the classic horror movies defined the genre for mass audiences and inspired generations of horror fans and creators. Mention horror and most people once thought of Lugosi pulling his cape across his chin, or Karloff's stiff-legged Frankenstein. These films re-envisioned literary monsters and themes, often becoming better known than their source. Are they relevant today? In an era of CGI blockbusters and visceral horror, is there a place for horror thick with atmosphere where the gruesome bits happen mostly off-screen?

5:00 P.M.

A (Haunted) House with Many Rooms—Horror Sub-Genres

State Suite A / Moderator: *Tim Waggoner*; **Panelists:** *Don D'Auria, Frazer Lee, Jennifer Loring, Donald Sidney-Fryer, Paul Tremblay*

The horror genre encompasses a multitude of types: action, bizarre, body, extreme, gothic, Lovecraftian, psychological, splatterpunk, the supernatural, vampire, weird, Western, zombie, ghost stories, and many others. The panelists will discuss how sub-genres evolve and key works that have defined or inspired sub-genres. Can authors become typecast in a sub-genre? What about mash-ups? What new types of horror might emerge in the future?

The Importance of Locale and Setting in Horror

Garden Room / Moderator: Kevin J. Wetmore Jr.; **Panelists:** Ramsey Campbell, Craig Engler, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Elizabeth Massie, Sam Weller

Locale and setting are vital elements of horror. It's not uncommon for authors to stake out territory, such as a city or region, or even a fictional landscape of their own invention. A selected group of our Guests of Honor discuss the importance of these choices for the genre, why some authors choose to associate their work with a particular place, and the pros and cons of working in a recurring locale. **(90 minutes)**

Professional Etiquette for Authors

State Suite C / Moderator: Christopher Golden; **Panelists:** Michael Arzen, Matt Bechtel, Ellen Datlow, Lynne Hansen, Alec Shane

Writing is a business. Authors spend much of their time alone behind the keyboard, but they can't afford to lose sight of professional etiquette. Panelists share insights into what constitutes professional and unprofessional behavior in the publishing industry, how to cultivate good etiquette, and how to cope with unprofessional behavior directed at you. Topics will include approaching and interacting with agents and editors and seeking advice and mentorship from experienced authors.

6:00 P.M.

Summerland Lost: A Ghost Story

State Suite C / Presenter: Grady Hendrix

Grady Hendrix's dramatic spoken word presentation of the true story of the Fox sisters, key figures in the dawn of the Spiritualist movement.

Writing from a Dark Place: Depression, Trauma, and Grief
State Suite A / Moderator: *Lee Murray*; **Panelists:** *James Arthur Anderson, Eric J. Guignard, Brian Kirk, Leslie Klinger, Brian Matthews*

Horror master Clive Barker stated, "Any fool can be happy. It takes a man with real heart to make beauty out of the stuff that makes us weep." What influence can depression and trauma have on our writing processes and on the quality and nature of the work produced? How has depression shaped the work of some of horror's most iconic writers?

8:00 P.M.

Third Annual Final Frame Horror Short Film Competition
Garden Room / Presenter: *Jonathan Lees*; **Guest Host:** *Grady Hendrix*

Come see the 2018 entries in StokerCon's signature film competition!
Reception with light catering and cash bar to follow on the Balcony.

11:00 P.M.

Midnight Special: Monster Mash!

Garden Room / Moderator: *James Chambers*; **Panelists:** *Linda Addison, Ramsey Campbell, Craig Engler, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Victor LaValle, Elizabeth Massie, Sam Weller*

Dracula v. Frankenstein! Godzilla v. King Kong! Mummies v. Sea Monsters! Zombies v. Devil Children! Who would win in a fight? For this fun, late-night panel two teams featuring our GOHs will be randomly assigned classic horror characters or creatures and given time to make a case for who would be victorious. The audience and judges decide!



SATURDAY, MARCH 3

10:00 A.M.

All the Screaming: Writing Sex and Romance in Horror

State Suite C / Moderator: *Megan Hart*; **Panelists:** *Amy Grech, Heather Herman, Pamela K. Kinney*

What's scarier than falling in love? What's better than a royalty check? Writing horror, sex, and romance are more similar than one might think. After all, if you do it right, both will feature a lot of screaming! Discover the world of paranormal romance and where your scary stories fit in a market geared toward a happy ever after. Talk about how to blend horror and romance to reach a new audience eager to read stories with bite.

H.P. Lovecraft in Gaming

State Suite A / Moderator: *Danielle DeLisle*; **Panelists:** *Edward P. Cardillo, Angel Leigh McCoy*

Lovecraft has been the inspiration for hundreds of board games, video games, RPGs, card games, dice games, and more. Discuss the how, what, and why with our panelists.

Legal Issues for Writers

Garden Room / Presenter: *Leslie Klinger*

Leslie Klinger, author, editor, and lawyer, discusses everything authors needed to know about copyright, publishing contracts 101 (including a handout), and tax rules for authors. (90 minutes)



Cutting Block
B o o k s

Old Time Radio for Horror Authors

Salon 2 / Moderator: *Mike Hance*; **Panelists:** *Oliver Baer, Teel James Glenn, Grady Hendrix, S. Kay Nash*

For half a century Radio was the dominate form of entertainment, now it is an often forgotten treasure of inspiration for writing. Get started with some of the best series, ideas for using some of the techniques in audio books, the medium's legacy, and great horror radio programs being produced today.

11:00 A.M.

Essential Works of Graphic Horror--Comic Books

State Suite A / Moderator: *Paul DiFillipo*; **Panelists:** *Michele Brittany, Robert Payne Cabeen, Nathan Carson, Scott Edelman, James Moore*

Horror comics have a long and gruesome publishing history. From the 1947 publication of *Eerie* # 1, through the E.C. Comics of the 50s, the horror renaissance in the 70s, and into the Vertigo era of the 80s and 90s, horror comics have been a mainstay for publishers. Today, *The Walking Dead* is among the most popular comics in print. Creators, such as Mike Mignola and Scott Snyder, keep the genre dark. What are the landmark works of horror comics? How do they illustrate the evolving nature of the horror genre?

Promoting Your Book to Libraries & Book Sellers

Salon 2 / Moderator: *JG Faherty*; **Panelists:** *Grady Hendrix, J.H. Moncrieff, Becky Spratford, Jeff Strand*

Every writer wants to get their book into libraries, top review magazines, and bookstores. But it's not easy, especially if you're published in the small press or independently. Becky Spratford, a Readers Advisory librarian, author, and creator of the RA for All and RA for All: Horror blogs, and a panel of authors will discuss how to craft a book summary to showcase the key points that reviewers and buyers want to see. A must-know for writers and publishers.

The Vital Importance of Tone

State Suite C / Moderator: Jason Parent; **Panelists:** Gregory Bastianelli, Matt Bechtel, Christa Carmen, Donna Lynch

Sometimes the line between horrific and hysterical lies only in the delivery. Horror straddles the absurd, the laughable, and the terrifying, often all in the same work. How does tone affect horror both in print and on screen? When does humor work with horror? What tonal elements contribute to successful horror/comedy/parody or can be used to intensify the fright factor?

11:30 A.M.

Happy 200th Birthday Frankenstein! Mary Shelley in the 21st Century

Garden Room / Moderator: John C. Tibbetts; **Panelists:** Michael Arnzen, Jennifer Barnes, Leslie Klinger, Gwendolyn Kiste, Victor LaValle

In honor of the recent 200th anniversary of the publication of *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, our panelists will discuss the circumstances of the novel's publication, the scope of its influence in the past two centuries, how its themes remain relevant today, and why Frankenstein and his infamous Creature remain among the most popular fictional character of all time.

12:00 P.M.

HWA Dark Poetry Showcase

Salon 2 / Moderator: David E. Cowen; **Panelists:** Rob E. Boley, Elsa Carruthers, Renee DeCamillis, James Ebersole, Leadie Jo Flowers, Megan Hart, Rhonda Jackson, Allan Rozinski

Join editor David E. Cowen and many of the contributors to the HWA's *Dark Poetry Showcase, Volume 4* for readings, discussions and autographing.

HWA into the Future

State Suite C / Moderator: Lisa Morton; **Panelists:** Brad C. Hodson, JG Faherty, John Palisano, Marge Simon

A group of the Horror Writers Association's officers and volunteers discuss what's going on in the HWA and future directions. This panel will look at educational opportunities, promotional opportunities for authors, expansion outside the U.S., member resources, and new initiatives.

Women in Horror Month

State Suite A / Moderator: *Carol Gyzander*; **Panelists:** *Linda Addison, Meghan Arcuri-Moran, Amber Newberry, Kathleen Scheiner, Sara Tantlinger*

Women in Horror Month (WIHM) is an international, grassroots initiative, which encourages supporters to learn about and showcase the under-represented work of women in the horror industries. Mary Shelley founded the horror genre, and Shirley Jackson wrote some of our best classics—and today many of the strongest voices in dark literature are women. Whether they are on the screen, behind the scenes, or contributing in their other various artistic ways, it is clear that women love, appreciate, and contribute to the horror genre. Panelists will discuss major works by contemporary women horror writers and how to support WiHM.

12:30 P.M.

Stoker on Stoker, The Mysteries Behind the Writing of *Dracula*
Garden Room / Presenter: *Dacre Stoker*

Dacre Stoker, descendant of Bram Stoker, presents an audio-visual tour through the mysteries of Bram Stoker and his literary masterpiece, *Dracula*. (**90 minutes**)

1:00 P.M.

Diverse Works of Horror Literature

Salon 2 / Moderator: *John Edward Lawson*; **Panelists:** *Linda Addison, Catherine Grant, Jonathan Lees, Steven Van Patten*

The contributions of horror fiction written by women, people of color, LGBT authors, international authors, and others who may fall outside the mainstream of horror publishing sometimes goes overlooked. Readers may perceive those works as niche publications intended for a specific audience, but often they are accessible and relevant to readers of all kinds. What are some major works by these authors? The panelists will discuss overlooked classics, hidden gems, and obscure masterpieces that reflect the diversity of the horror community and their place in the horror canon.

Horror Fiction and the Literary Canon

State Suite B / Moderator: *Mathias Clasen*; **Panelists:** *Andy Davidson, John C. Tibbetts, Jaime Weida, Sam Weller, Stephanie Wytovich*

Some of the greatest horror classics—*Frankenstein*, *Dracula*, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, for example—are also considered literary masterworks. Yet horror is often thought inferior to literary fiction. That bias seems to be fading as horror literature gains more recognition. What makes horror literary? When does literary fiction cross over into the horror genre? Our panelists will discuss the nexus between the horror genre and mainstream literature.

The New Horror Cinema: Influential Horror Films of the 70s and 80s

State Suite C / Moderator: *Adam Cesare*; **Panelists:** *Nathan Carson, Nicholas Diak, Brad C. Hodson, Chad Stroup*

The emergence of a new generation of horror filmmakers in the 1970s—especially John Carpenter, Wes Craven, Tobe Hooper, and George Romero—heralded the end of the classic era of horror cinema and the beginning of a new one. *Night of the Living Dead* announced the arrival of modern horror on the silver screen. Gothic monsters creeping through castles or stalking the fog-draped woods gave way to chainsaw wielding maniacs, babysitter murderers, and child molesters who haunt the dreams of their victims. What contributed to such a stark change in the status quo? What new themes did modern horror tackle that classic horror couldn't? How did they shape the evolution of the horror genre?

Pitch Sessions Pre-Pitch Panel

State Suite A / Moderator: *Brian Matthews*; **Panelists:** *Rick Chillot, Don D'Auria, Pete Kahle, Kate Jonez, Jess Landry, John McIlveen, Lee Murray, Alec Shane, Cherry Weiner*

The agents, editors, and publishers taking pitches during our Pitch Sessions talk about what they look for in a pitch, how to present your work, and what they're hoping to see. Includes a Q&A period.

2:00 P.M.

The Classic Weird in 2018

Garden Room / Moderator: *Darrell Schweitzer*; **Panelists:** *Ramsey Campbell, Larissa Glasser, Victor LaValle, Donald Sidney-Fryer*

Weird fiction of the early 20th century, works by authors such as Clark Ashton-Smith, Lord Dunsany, H.P. Lovecraft, and Arthur Machen, illuminated strange, unsettling, bleak, and nihilistic world views with a pulp sensibility. Today their work has become the foundation for much of modern horror and for the so-called New Weird movement. The panelists will discuss how 21st century horror writers have drawn inspiration from this formative era in horror literature, how readers and writers can understand and navigate the world of weird fiction, and where it fits into our modern view of dark literature.

Cross-Genre Writing

State Suite A / Moderator: *Danny Rhodes*; **Panelists:** *Michael Bailey, Nathan Carson, Amy Grech, Ed Kurtz, Dan Rabarts*

Blending genres is common today, but it wasn't always. Publishers and readers alike, however, have embraced it, and it has breathed new life into genre writing in general. But mixing genres can be harder than it looks. Each genre possesses its own conventions and clichés, rules of thumb, and research requirements. The panelists will talk about these differences among genres and how to use them to strengthen a story, the "rules" of different genres, how reader expectations differ, and great cross-genre works and authors who have been particularly successful blending genres.

Fairy Tales: A Child's First Taste of Horror

State Suite C / Moderator: *Leslie Thomas*; **Panelists:** *Edward Ahern, April Grey, Gwendolyn Kiste, Charie LaMarr, Trisha Woolridge*

A reader's first encounter with horror often comes in the guise of fairy tales. Children's stories and nursery rhymes are full of trolls, evil stepparents, witches, giants, and other terrifying characters. Our panelists will discuss these stories as the roots of horror, the brutality done to children in the tales, and the perpetrators. Where do these tales overlap with folk lore? And what do they say about society?

How to Choose Good Markets

State Suite B / Moderator: *Alan Baxter*; **Panelists:** *Meghan Arcuri-Moran, Jennifer Brozek, Erik T. Johnson, Brian Kirk, Jeff Strand*

Horror authors face a broad spectrum of publishing possibilities from fanzines to pro-markets. Choosing the right market involves many considerations: payment, reputation of the publisher, contract terms, distribution and promotion, editorial expectations, and more. The panelists will discuss what authors should weigh when submitting their work or accepting a publication offer, with insight into researching publishers, finding the right market for your work, and why you should avoid "for the love" markets.

Long Fiction Renaissance

Salon 2 / Moderator: *John F.D. Taff*; **Panelists:** *James Chambers, Nicole Cushing, Ellen Datlow, Tom Deady*

For many years, novels dominated genre fiction. Now novellas are giving them a run for their money. Independent presses have published increasing numbers of novellas and novella collections while major houses have launched dedicated novella programs online. Have e-readers and low price points contributed to this resurgence of the form or is just a result of shortening attention spans? What does it mean for authors? What are some of the most notable works of long, horror fiction of recent years?

PITCH SESSIONS

L'Apogee 18 / Moderator: *Brian Matthews*; **Panelists:** *Rick Chillot, Don D'Auria, Pete Kahle, Kate Jonez, Jess Landry, John McIlveen, Lee Murray, Alec Shane, Cherry Wiener*

Agents, editors, and publishers hear pitches from authors. Pre-registration required! Open only to those assigned a pitch time in advance. Please be on hand at least 10 minutes before your scheduled time. **(Two hours)**

3:00 P.M.

Getting Your First Novel Published

Salon 2 / Moderator: *Christopher Golden*; **Panelists:** *Andy Davidson, JF Dubeau, Megan Hart, Brian Kirk, Douglas E. Winter*

Months, possibly years of hard work, dedication, rewrites, edits, and revisions, and you've finally finished your novel. Congratulations! Now the hard work begins. Our panelists discuss what it takes to bring a finished novel to publication, how to find the right publisher, editor, or agent. What's expected of authors pitching their book? How can networking help? What are the pitfalls to watch out for?

Paperbacks from Hell

Garden Room / Presenter: *Grady Hendrix*

Grady Hendrix presents an audio-visual presentation of his popular book *Paperbacks from Hell*, celebrating the outlandish stories and cover art of horror novels published from the 70s to the 90s. **(90 minutes)**

Terrifying Teaching Tactics

State Suite C / Moderator: *Michael Arnzen*; **Panelists:** *Heather Herrman, Frazer Lee, Thomas F. Monteleone, Sara Tantlinger*

Educators who write and teach horror fiction, poetry, and film are a rare and darksome breed! Come learn their classroom strategies that engage learners with horror entertainment and help new writers enter the field we all love. The discussion will include not only books and

movies that have educational value but also actual activities that use the craft and technique of horror writing to advance learning. What should those considering a career in horror education know?

Voice, Tense, and Narrators

State Suite B / Moderator: *Scott Edelman*; **Panelists:** *Marc Abbott, Ed Kurtz, Curtis Lawson, Elizabeth Massie, Kathleen Scheiner*

How authors tell a story is as important as the story they tell. The choice of voice and tense directly affects the reader's experience and defines their connection to the characters. What are the pros and cons of different voices, such as third-person limited, first-person, and second-person; tense, past or present; and narrators, from unreliable to omniscient. How do these choices shape one's storytelling? How can they influence the reader's experience?

4:00 P.M.

Breaking Barriers with Horror Poetry

State Suite C / Moderator: *Linda Addison*; **Panelists:** *John Edward Lawson, Randy D. Rubin, Marge Simon, Sara Tantlinger, Stephanie Wytovich*

Horror poetry allows writers many different opportunities to explore themes and expand the limits of the genre. How can writers push their personal boundaries by writing poetry? How can readers, especially those who aren't typical poetry readers, read poetry to expand their own experience within the genre? How does poetry help authors write about topics or themes too dark or challenging to face head on in prose?

Traditional v. Indie v. Hybrid Publishing

State Suite B / Moderator: *Kathleen Kaufman*; **Panelists:** *J.D. Barker, Rob E. Boley, Megan Hart, Jeff Menapace, Paul Tremblay*

Authors have more options than ever before for publishing their work thanks to dramatic changes in the publishing industry in recent times.

The lines between indie, hybrid, and traditional publishing have blurred. What are the pros and cons of each publishing channel? What are the risks? How can authors choose the best channel for their work? How do these opportunities differ for new and experienced authors? What should authors know choosing and preparing to publish in any one of them?

Vampires: The Next Generation

Salon 2 / Moderator: James Dorr; **Panelists:** Andy Davidson, Lisa Kroger, Tom Deady, Steven Van Patten

Sparkly vampires are dead! Long live ugly vampires! With young adult vampires in books, such as *Twilight*, and television shows, such as *The Vampire Diaries*, finally waning in popularity, what's next for vampires? Vampire romance novels abound. But there's also a swing back to the vampire as a monster, as seen in *The Strain* and Justin Cronin's *Passage* trilogy. What's next for horror's favorite undead bloodsucker?

4:30 P.M.

Deadly Pictures: How Comics and Graphic Novels Shape the Horror Genre

Garden Room / Moderator: James Chambers; **Panelists:** Craig Engler, Christopher Golden, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Victor LaValle, Sam Weller

Many horror authors cite horror comics as their first encounter with the genre. Often this exposure to horrific images inspires the imaginations of future horror readers. From E.C. Comics to the Warren Magazines to *Swamp Thing* to *Sandman* to *Hellboy*, horror comics have pushed the boundaries of the genre and kept horror alive during the ups and downs of the publishing business. How do horror comics help shape the genre? What unique storytelling opportunities do they offer? (*90 minutes*)

5:00 P.M.

Book to Screen: How to Market Your Work for Film and Television

State Suite B / Moderator: Lynne Hansen; **Panelists:** J.D. Barker, Michael Gingold, Frazer Lee, Daniel Waters, Douglas E. Winter

Think your book would make a great movie or television show? So do a lot of other authors! What attracts the interest of producers and filmmakers? What makes a novel or story a good candidate for film or TV? What works against it? How do you go about getting your work into the hands of filmmakers and protect your intellectual property in the process?

Science in Horror Fiction

State Suite A / Moderator: *Patrick Freivald*; **Panelists:** *Linda Addison, Edward P. Cardillo, Rena Mason, F. Paul Wilson*

Sometimes the scariest monsters are those that could be real! Our panelists will discuss how science can enrich horror fiction, how authors can conduct accurate research, examples of great science-based horror fiction, and how bad science can sink your readers' interest.

Unspoken Clichés

Salon 2 / Moderator: *J.H. Moncrieff*; **Panelists:** *Theresa Braun, Mathias Clasen, Ed Kurtz, Lee Murray, John Palisano*

Horror fiction is laden with familiar, beloved clichés. Lonely haunted houses inherited by hapless protagonists. Killing vampires with a stake through the heart. Psychic children linked to the supernatural. Ghosts who vanish when their bones receive a proper burial. What are the new and emerging clichés? What trends and tropes in horror fiction are newly overused and why? What can authors do to shake them up, refresh them, or avoid them?

Writing Scary for the Stage

State Suite C / Moderator: *Kevin J. Wetmore Jr.*; **Panelists:** *Oliver Baer, Teel James Glenn, Brad C. Hodson*

In *The Poetics*, one of the seminal texts of theatre, Aristotle argues that one of the key elements of drama is to cause fear in the audience. In other words, the very nature and purpose of plays is to scare you! Panelists will discuss the history, theory, and practice of putting things designed to cause fear on the stage, challenges of adaptation, tips on

how to write scary for the stage, and how to confront writing for audiences raised on cinema and television.

7:00 P.M.

Bram Stoker Awards Banquet and Awards Ceremony
Grand Ballroom

Join your fellow StokerCon attendees for a banquet and presentation of the 2017 Bram Stoker Awards as well as the Specialty Press Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, Mentor of the Year Award, Richard Laymon Award, and the HWA Silver Hammer Award. Don't miss author Jeff Strand's final performance as the Bram Stoker Awards most dignified and erudite Master of Ceremonies! This is a ticketed event for the banquet—but the Award ceremonies that follow are open to all.

10:30 P.M.

Bram Stoker Awards After Party Cocktail Reception
L'Apogee 18



RAW DOG
SCREAMING
PRESS

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

10:00 A.M.

The Good, the Bad, and the Just Plain Crazy: Favorite Horror Novels of the 70s, 80s, & Early 90s

State Suite A / Moderator: *Thomas F. Monteleone*; **Panelists:** *Grady Hendrix, Jonathan Lees, Elizabeth Massie*

What are the favorite "classic" horror novels from the rebirth era of pulp/popular horror in the 1970s through the 1980s and early 1990s? What makes these novels memorable? Were they unusually good, unusually bad, or just plain bizarre? Who were some favorite authors of those novels? What were popular horror novel themes at the time? Are these themes still valid? What makes "over the top" horror fun? Is there anything writers today could learn from the authors of these earlier novels? Are there stand-alone novels from that time period for which sequels would be additionally fun or terrifying to read?

Horror Fiction Collections

State Suite C / Moderator: *Michael Bailey*; **Panelists:** *Jennifer Barnes, Matt Bechtel, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Curtis Lawson*

So you've written ten great short stories. Must be time to put out your fiction collection, right? Maybe...but maybe not. Panelists will offer tips on how and when to start thinking about collections, how to choose material, and how to put it in the right order. You might also pick up recommendations for seminal collections you've somehow missed.

Outlining Versus Pantsing

State Suite B / Moderator: *Pamela K. Kinney*; **Panelists:** *J.F. Dubeau, J.H. Moncrieff, Paul Tremblay, F. Paul Wilson*

Writing a novel can be a high-wire act. Many writers advise plenty of preparation and outlining before setting your first words down on paper. Others suggest simply hitting the keyboard and following where the story leads. What are the pros and cons of each method? How does your choice to outline or not outline affect your story?

This Genre Gets No Respect... Or Does It?

Salon 2 / Moderator: *J.D. Barker*; **Panelists:** *Bracken MacLeod, Alec Shane, Kathleen Scheiner, Jaime Wieda*

For years, publishers avoided "the H word," and filmmakers labeled their films everything but "horror." Then a funny thing happened: horror book sales started to climb, horror blossomed on the small screen, and most recently films such as *Get Out*, *The Shape of Water*, and *It* garnered record ticket sales and awards galore. Is horror finally getting respectable?

11:00 A.M.

Creating and Narrating Audio Books

State Suite B / Presenter: *Angel Leigh McCoy*

Angel Leigh McCoy presents the basics of audio books, how to create them, what makes for good narration, and how authors can use the audio book format to reach a wider audience.

Edit Your Way Past the Slush Pile

State Suite C / Moderator: *Karen Bovenmyer*; **Panelists:** *Ellen Datlow, Julie Day, Wayne Edwards, Erin Roberts*

The competition to stand out is stiff. Often slush readers review hundreds of submissions before selecting a mere handful to pass on to an editor. What are the top edits to make to any manuscript to help you skip the slush pile and get published? What are the mistakes to avoid?

YA Horror - Something for Everyone

Salon 2 / Moderator: *J.G. Faherty*; **Panelists:** *Elizabeth Massie, James Moore, Daniel Waters, Trisha Woolridge*

Interest in Young Adult horror is growing by leaps and bounds—and it's not only for teens anymore. Join our panelists in a look at what makes YA horror so popular, why its popularity spans across age groups, and

why the lines are so blurry between YA, new adult, and adult-oriented books.

Why Book Design Matters

State Suite A / Moderator: *Pete Kahle*; **Panelists:** *Michael Bailey, Lynne Hansen, Erik T. Johnson, Kate Jones*

How words are presented on the printed page can often be as important as those words. Bad design can turn off readers before they even open to the first page. What are the elements of good book design and why does it matter? How can authors and publishers use book design to enhance the reading experience? What challenge does the popularity of e-books present to book design?

12:00 P.M.

Horror Writers Association General Meeting

Garden Room / Moderator: *Lisa Morton*; **Panelists:** *Ellen Datlow, JG Faherty, Leslie Klinger, John Palisano, Marge Simon*

Annual meeting of HWA Board Members and Officers and general membership. *Open to all!*

1:00 P.M.

STOKERCON 2018: CLOSING CEREMONIES

Garden Room / Moderator: *Lisa Morton*; **Panelists:** *Ramsey Campbell, Craig Engler, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Victor LaValle, Elizabeth Massie, Sam Weller*

The final word! Bid farewell to StokerCon 2018!



DEALERS ROOM

MARCH 1-4

Renaissance Salon, 17th Floor

Meet our authors and visit our booksellers and vendors!

Dealers Room Hours:

- **Thursday, 1 P.M. to 7 P.M.**
- **Friday, 10 A.M. to 7 P.M.**
- **Saturday, 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.**
- **Sunday, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.**

Books on the Square, the official bookseller for StokerCon 2018, will be stocking books by many of our attending authors and Guests of Honor. Special thanks to Broad Universe for sponsoring our Author Signing table. Vendors attending include:

- 13th Hour Books
- Asher Ellis
- Books on the Square—*Official StokerCon 2018 Bookseller*
- Fundead Publications
- Haverhill House/Twisted Publishing
- Hippocampus Press
- Mike Hance
- Necronomicon Press
- New England Horror Writers Association
- Raw Dog Screaming Press
- Tom Deady

DURING THE CON

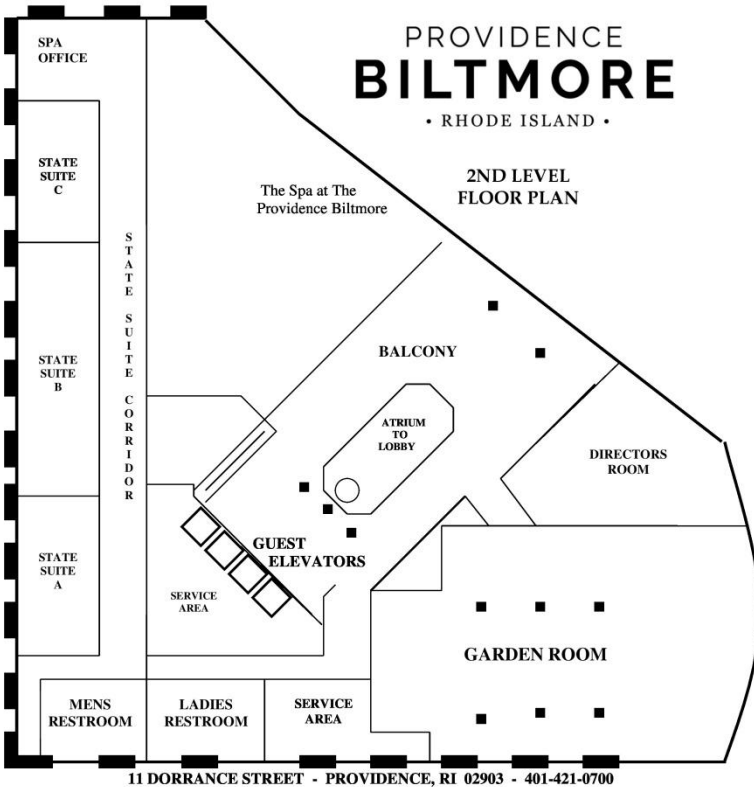
If you need help during the convention, including medical assistance, administrative problems, or other issues, we're here to help! Please either visit Registration, send an e-mail to admin@horror.org, or call administrator Brad Hodson at 1-818-220-3965.

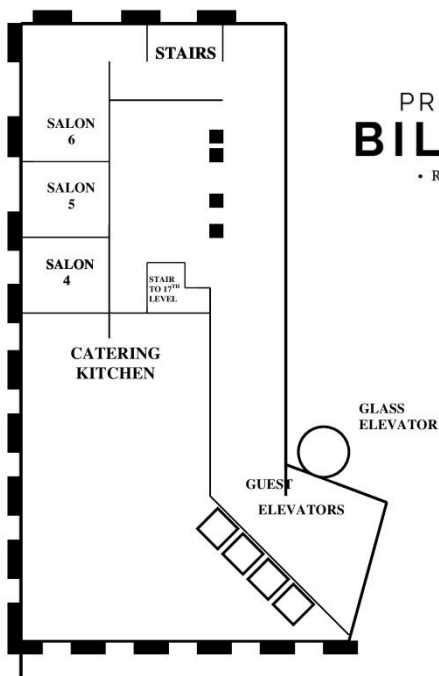
AFTER THE CON

Check back at <http://www.stokercon2018.org> for announcements of the Bram Stoker Award winners, videotaped interviews with our guests, galleries of photos, and more!

Watch <http://www.stokercon2019.org> for news and announcements of the Horror Writers Association's next convention!

For more information on the Horror Writers Association and The Bram Stoker Awards®, please visit: <http://www.horror.org>.

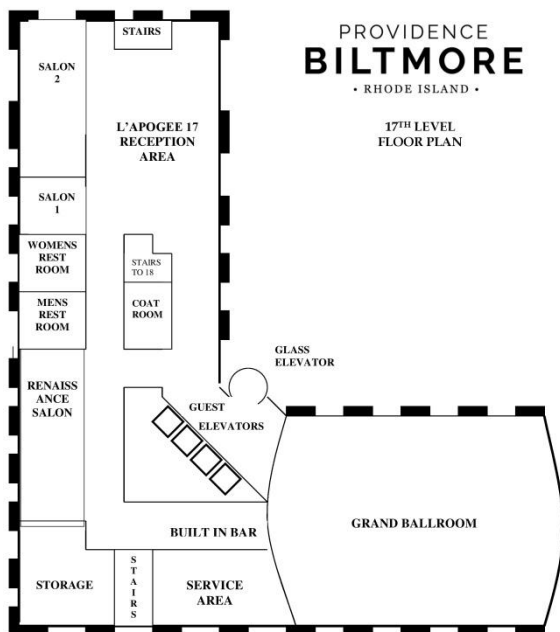




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• RHODE ISLAND •

18th LEVEL
FLOOR PLAN



PROVIDENCE BILTMORE

• RHODE ISLAND •

17th LEVEL
FLOOR PLAN

**GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
MAY 9-12, 2019
THE AMWAY GRAND PLAZA HOTEL**



**JOSH BOONE ♦ KATHE KOJA ♦ JOSH MALERMAN
ROBERT R. McCAMMON ♦ KAARON WARREN
STEPHANIE M. WYTOVICH**

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FICTION WITHOUT FRONTIERS

New novels by
Ramsey Campbell
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Jonathan Janz
Adrian Laing
J.D. Moyer
Hunter Shea

David Tallerman
Brian Trent
Robin Triggs
Tim Waggoner



SPECIAL THANKS TO
THE HORROR WRITER'S
ASSOCIATION
StokerCon 2018

Come and see our
Executive Editor Don D'Auria
for coffee/tea on Saturday at
4 o'clock in the Con Suite.