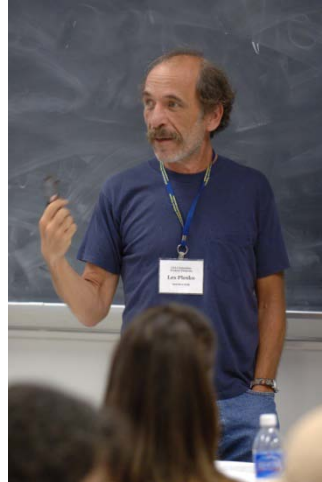


UCLA Extension Writers' Program
Fall 2010 – Spring 2011

Master Class in Novel Writing (Onsite) with Les Plesko



This unique Master Class offers the opportunity for dedicated writers to work in tandem with like-minded peers and an experienced mentor to produce a novel of the highest standards for publication. The intensive nine-month, 30-week program emphasizes the two main ingredients for authorial success: continuity and consistency. With the opportunity to apply careful reading, analysis, review, and discussion, eight novelists work toward attaining a true and graceful symbiosis of language and form, art and craft. Participants are guided toward realizing and accentuating the inherent structural organization and energies of their works-in-progress, thereby strengthening authorial voice, style, and narrative continuity. Each student receives individual and group critiques of their novel-in-progress, and is meticulously guided toward completing a work of literary excellence. Writers receive comprehensive and ongoing evaluation and editing, augmented by application-oriented tutorials and readings focused on the essentials of novel writing. Our commitment is to good writing, in all its manifestations, and without preference for any particular genre or style.

Instructor Biography:

Les Plesko is a fiction writer and author of the novel *Slow Lie Detector* (June 2009, Equator Books). Mr. Plesko's novel *The Last Bongo Sunset* (Simon & Schuster) was critically acclaimed by *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times* and translated into Dutch and German, and his stories appear in *Zyzyva* and *Pear Noir!* He was the recipient of the UCLA Extension Outstanding Instructor Award in Creative Writing, 2002.

In the instructor's words...

"It takes time, effort, discipline, and resilience to complete a successful novel. This workshop offers committed writers the opportunity to work with other novelists in an environment that fosters active participation and the benefits of mentoring over an extended period. My hands-on approach, which has helped many of my students finish and publish their novels, aims to develop and implement practical strategies suited to each participant's individual work. The workshop focuses on all the novelistic elements necessary for completion and publication, including narrative design, coherence, structure, voice, pacing, and theme. We evaluate individual works-in-progress in the context of each writer's unique voice and style, from sentences to paragraphs to pages to chapters to the manuscript as a whole, guiding each other toward assembling the inseparable elements that make for good fiction. We also study the various methods and approaches employed by successful novels across a variety of genres. The course combines group discussion, seminar-style tutorials and line edits of each writer's work, as well as evaluations of

Les Plesko, page 2

works as a whole. We also have guest novelists to answer specific questions about their own novel-writing methods and experiences.”—Les Plesko

In a student’s words...

“The class has allowed me to focus on my work as a whole entity that needs time, support, nurturing and critical awareness. Whenever I get frustrated or discouraged, I know that come Tuesday night, I will be reinvigorated and encouraged to continue the hard work that writing a novel requires, and I never ever feel alone in that struggle. Without fail, I leave each class feeling that I can do this, that I deserve to do this, and that all of us are striving to write the best novels we can. There is something very powerful about being in a room with eight other incredibly dedicated writers who are making sacrifices every day to achieve this dream.” -- Marsha Browning, former Master Class in Novel Writing student

SUBMITTING TO THE MASTER CLASS IN NOVEL WRITING WITH LES PLESKO:

Enrollment in this workshop is by submission only. Visitors are not permitted at any time. Submitting early is encouraged.

Submission fee: \$50 (nonrefundable)
Registration fee: \$3,500 payable upon acceptance

The registration fee includes participation in one 30-week master class, consideration of a novel excerpt by an established agent or manager, automatic entry into the James Kirkwood Literary Prize competition, and the opportunity to enroll for free in one Writers’ Program unlimited-enrollment one-day course per quarter (three total).

Participants are notified of acceptance by September 17, 2010.
Registration fees must be received by the UCLA Extension Registrar’s Office within seven days of notification of acceptance.

All submissions for the Master Class in Novel Writing must include the following materials:

- A one-page personal statement that includes your writing background, previous creative writing courses taken, and a brief synopsis of your novel-in-progress
- Completed first draft of your novel
(Note: participants in this master class work only on the novel submitted for admission. No exceptions.)
- \$50 nonrefundable submission fee

Submit personal statement and writing sample electronically to writers@uclaextension.edu

Make all checks payable to Regents of the UC.

Mail submission fee to:
UCLA Extension Writers’ Program
10995 Le Conte Ave. Room 440
Los Angeles, CA 90024-0901

Les Plesko, page 3

(Please specify “**Master Class in Novel Writing with Les Plesko**” on the envelope)

Submission materials will not be returned. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

UCLA Extension reserves the right to cancel or reschedule programs and to change instructors. Guest speakers are subject to change due to professional commitments.

The deadline to submit materials for this master class is 4 pm (pst), September 3, 2010.