



THE NATIONAL BOOK COUNCIL'S SHORT STORY WORKSHOP TOUR 2025

Cut to the Heart: Crafting the Great Short Story Malta Society of Arts

A workshop led by David Samuel Hudson

Date and Time: Friday, 29th August @ 16:00–17:00

Location: The Conference Room, Palazzo de la Salle

Cut to the Heart is an immersive masterclass that combines insightful theory with a hands-on practice, guiding participants to a strong understanding of what makes a short story truly great. The theoretical framework will be grounded in Edgar Allan Poe's *Unity of Effect* theory and how best to put this into practice, examining ideas such as Raymond Carver's use of voice, Alice Munro's deft characterisation, and the idea of emotional shifts observed in Shirley Jackson, Jhumpa Lahiri, and others. By the end of the workshop, participants will have a clearer sense of how to craft short fiction that resonates—and lingers.

David Samuel Hudson is a Maltese writer and creative writing tutor at the Malta Society of Arts. His debut novel, M (Horizons, 2024), is a semi-bilingual, metafictional exploration of young love, ambition, identity, and language. His fiction in English has appeared in Litro Magazine, Fatal Flaw, Ad Hoc Fiction, Everything Change: Volume II, Scribble, and others. He has received international recognition for both his fiction and journalism. A graduate of Bath Spa University's MA in Creative Writing, Hudson's work has been shortlisted for the Janklow & Nesbit Prize and mentioned by NPR and the Chicago Review of Books. He is currently working on his second novel.

Kitba (mhux) għat-Traduzzjoni Aphroconfuso

Workshop immexxi minn Joe Gatt

Data u Ħin: Is-Sibt, 13 ta' Settembru @ 11:00–12:30

Post: Online

Din is-sessjoni se tħares lejn l-approċċ editorjali għan-novelli żviluppat minn Aphroconfuso matul l-ewwel sentejn tiegħu, partikolarment dawk li għandhom l-għeruq fil-ħajja u l-kultura Maltija. Billi juża l-esperjenza tiegħu bħala kittieb bilingwi, traduttur u editur, Joe se jesplora, fost affarijiet oħra, l-ansjetajiet li jiffaċċjaw il-kittieba meta jkunu jafu li x-xogħol tagħhom se jiġi tradott. Ikun hemm ħin għal mistoqsijiet. Il-klassi se ssir bil-Malti.

Joe Gatt twieled Malta, u emigra lejn Londra meta kien għadu żagħżuġh, u għex hemm għal żmien twil fejn ħadem bħala ġurnalist freelance u kellu karigi editorjali f' diversi magazines. Aktar tard, għex Berlin għal għaxar snin u issa jgħix Brussell. In-novelli riċenti tiegħu ġew ippubblikati f'Scintillas: New Maltese Writing 1 (Praspar Press, 2021), Antoloġija 1 (Aphroconfuso, 2024) kif ukoll f'The London Magazine. Bħalissa qed jaħdem fuq traduzzjoni ta' SAJF ta' Ryan Falzon, li se tiġi ppubblikata minn Foundry Editions fl-2026. It-traduzzjoni tiegħu tan-novella ta' Glorianne Micallef "Sottomissjoni" dehret f'Asymptote f'Lulju 2025. Huwa koeditur ta' Aphroconfuso, li għalih ukoll jikkontribwixxi spiss.

Il-Karattru tal-Karattri

Inizjamed

Workshop immexxi minn Leanne Ellul

Data u Ħin: L-Erbgħa, 8 t'Ottubru @ 6pm–7pm

Post: Valletta Design Cluster

Dan il-laboratorju ta' kitba jistħarreġ kif jiġu ffurmati l-karattri fil-kuntest ta' storja. Jibda billi jħares lejn numru ta' karattri notorji fi stejjer magħrufa u janalizza l-kwalitajiet tagħhom. Ikompli billi jutilizza l-għodda tal-profil li permezz tagħha l-partecipanti għandhom jibdew jibnu karattru b'saħħtu. X'jagħmel karattru b'saħħtu? X'nafu dwaru? X'se nikxfu u x'se naħbu? Dan il-laboratorju se jagħti l-qafas li permezz tiegħu l-partecipanti jistgħu jkomplu jibnu karattri bi storja b'saħħitha lil hinn mis-sessjoni.

Leanne Ellul tgħallem il-Malti u l-kitba kreattiva u tiggwida lill-istudenti fl-ewwel passi tagħhom fit-triq tal-kitba. Tikteb kemm poeżija kif ukoll proża. Fil-passat kitbet ukoll għat-teatru u għadha tikteb it-textbooks u kotba oħra għat-tfal. Ellul tradučiet ukoll numru ta' xogħlijiet għall-Malti. Ellul tiffurma parti minn numru ta' entitajiet li għandhom il-lingwa u l-kultura Maltija fil-qalba tagħhom, fosthom Inizjamed u Fondazzjoni HELA.

Writing the World: Setting in Short Fiction

Department of English, University of Malta

A workshop led by Dr Aaron Aquilina

Date and Time: Friday, 10th October @ 17:00–18:30

Location: Msida Campus, University of Malta

In this workshop, we explore how to build vivid, resonant settings in short stories. Focusing on place, atmosphere, and objects, participants will learn practical techniques to evoke mood and enhance narrative tone. The session will include brief readings, discussion, and hands-on writing exercises suitable for writers of all levels.

Dr Aaron Aquilina is a resident academic with the Department of English at the University of Malta. He teaches literary theory and criticism alongside academic and creative writing at BA and MA level. He has published poetry in journals such as Modern Poetry in Translation, the International Human Rights Art Movement, Stand, and Orbis (forthcoming), as well as some poetry online such as with Wild Court King's College London and Shot Glass Journal. He is the editor-in-chief of the international and open-access creative writing journal, ANTAE (www.um.edu.mt/antae).