

Mike Carson

Mike Carson's love of words led him to teaching and writing. His work has appeared in numerous publications, including *The London Magazine*, *Tall Tales and Short Stories*, and *The Storyteller*. His piece, "A Matter of Faith," was the winning nonfiction entry at the Surrey International Writers' Conference, and later received the Reader's Choice Award from *The Storyteller* magazine. In 2015, his creative nonfiction piece, "The Neanderthal and the Cave," was the Malahat Review's Open Season Award winner for nonfiction (a link to the interview is posted below).



Mike attributes his success with nonfiction and memoir to having lived a life that is essentially a series of cautionary tales of approximately 2,000 words each. Mike lives in Kamloops with his wife, twin sons, and an eclectic collection of ill-mannered pets. He is looking forward to his first time teaching a workshop at the Young Authors' Conference.

Workshop: *Why Don't People Just Say What They Mean?—Spicing Up Your Dialogue Using Subtext*

Whether you are writing a nonfiction book about space exploration, a screenplay about love-struck zombies, or any genre or subject in between, the words your characters use should sound authentic. In this hands-on workshop, we will explore some examples of excellent dialogue (and perhaps some not-so-excellent dialogue), focusing on the techniques great writers use to help bring their characters to life. We'll examine how sometimes what people don't say can be more revealing than what they do say. Come prepared to write, have fun, and learn together.



James McCaan

James McCann is the author of the popular Rancor Chronicles, Flying Feet, and Children of Ruin. Currently, he works at the Richmond Public Library as a digital services technician.



Most of his time is spent writing, but now and then he explores the open road in his Jeep, plays Dungeons and Dragons, or practices the ukulele.

Workshop: *World Building to a Successful Novel*

Whether you write fantasy or realistic fiction, the success of your writing depends on how believable your world is to your readers. Learn how to use digital tools such as Google Earth and Campaign Cartographer to create a story that resonates with your reader long after they have finished with your story.



Pete McCormack

Pete McCormack is an award-winning director, writer, producer and musician. His credits include the Oscar short-listed documentary *Facing Ali*, *Spirit Unforgettable*, *Uganda Rising*, and *I Am Bruce Lee*. Pete created, wrote and directed the 6-part HBO documentary series *Sports on Fire*. Pete has written several produced feature screenplays and two novels, including the highly-acclaimed *Understanding Ken*. Currently all his focus is on a YA Trilogy called *The Unforgettables*, which takes place a century in the future. He hopes to be finished before then.



Workshop: *The Power of Story*

Pete will explore the power of story in multiple mediums: films, novels and documentaries. Or whatever inspires the class—if it's poetry or music or whatever. Because, like with story, you have to go with what's compelling—and inspiring. We will explore what makes stories great, what makes a scene great, what makes them not great, the importance of imagination, of having fun with creativity, reasons for writing, trying to create for a living and generally talking about this crazy-wonderful addictive need to express ourselves.

