

## The MPW Experience



Since its inception in 1971, the mission of the USC Master of Professional Writing Program has been to prepare and launch talented writers in life-long writing careers. The unique multi-genre approach enhances students' interests and strengths while encouraging them to expand and augment their writing expressions.

Courses are technique-oriented, leading to the discovery of the individual writing voice, honed through structure, the influence of multiple disciplines, and market awareness.

Faculty members are leading professional writers, many of whom are graduates of the USC MPW Program, chosen for their abilities to originate, direct, and communicate. Courses are taught in workshops, in which students experience the editorial and directorial process.

Students network with MPW alumni and industry leaders at activities and events throughout the year structured to facilitate their way through the marketplace. Students may also intern with literary agencies, community organizations, film studios, and other organizations for on-the-job training.

The USC MPW Program offers the energy and dynamism of Los Angeles, a 24/7 hive of creative activity, with multi-ethnic, cultural, artistic, and intellectual energies. MPW faculty, alumni, and students are a family of writers who define and advance social commentary, entertainment, business, and artistic discovery.

Contribute your voice to the rapidly expanding culture of contemporary media.



TO APPLY TO THE MPW PROGRAM, GO TO:  
[www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/mpw](http://www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/mpw)

MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL  
WRITING PROGRAM

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Master of  
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usc College  
OF LETTERS, ARTS & SCIENCES

## The Program

USC's Master of Professional Writing Program is one of the nation's few graduate writing programs offering writers the opportunity to sharpen their writing in multiple, highly marketable genres. Founded in 1971, the MPW Program was the first multidisciplinary writing program in the nation. Graduates have successful publishing, film, and stage careers, having the full advantage of learning in USC's proximity to the entertainment and literary industries.

## The Degree Requirements

The 30-unit degree structure offers students the opportunity to concentrate in one genre (18 units of study), while electing 12 units from other genres. Students produce a final full-length manuscript of publishable quality.

## The Southern California Review

The *Southern California Review* (SCR) is the student-run biannual literary journal of the MPW program. SCR staff gain publishing and editorial experience and work with emerging and established writers. Students also may submit work for publication and enter SCR's poetry and fiction contests.

## The One-Act Play Festival

Each year, the MPW Program produces four one-act plays by MPW students competitively selected from blind submissions. A panel of industry judges selects a winner. The festival helps to launch emerging playwrights via a professional production experience.

## The Concentrations/Courses:

### Fiction

- fiction workshop
- the literary novel
- genre fiction
- literature and framing approaches to the novel

### Drama-TV-Cinema

- one- and two-act stage play
- master class in playwriting
- teleplay, screenplay, story conference
- motion picture marketplace (pitches and adaptations)

### Nonfiction

- new media
- memoir/ biography
- reviewing, criticism, and interviewing
- fiction techniques in non-fiction
- special interest blogging and political commentary
- magazine articles/ personal essays
- technical writing

### Poetry

- principles of modern poetic technique
- beginning, advanced, and master classes

*Additional courses applicable to all emphases include the literary marketplace, business of the business, and humor writing.*

## Faculty

**Subhashis Aikat:** technical communicator and animator (*Night at the Museum, The Chronicles of Narnia*)

**Shelley Berman:** actor; humorist; writer (*Up in the Air*)

**Paula Brancato:** playwright; screenwriter; poet; producer (*Somewhere in the City*)

**Madelyn Cain:** nonfiction author (*The Childless Revolution; First Time Mothers, Last Chance Babies*)

**Susan Compo:** short story writer (*Life after Death, Pretty Things*)

**Syd Field:** internationally known author of texts on screenwriting; producer; screenwriter (*Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting*)

**Janet Fitch:** novelist (*White Oleander*, an Oprah's Book Club selection, *Paint it Black*); book reviewer

**Noel Riley Fitch:** nonfiction author (*Appetite for Life: The Biography of Julia Child, The Grand Literary Cafés of Europe*)

**Donald Freed:** playwright (*Secret Honor*); novelist (*The Spymaster*); writer for film

**Judith Freeman:** novelist (*The Chinchilla Farm, Set for Life, Red Water*); book critic; film; photographer; music collaborator

**Coleman Hough:** screenwriter (*Full Frontal, Bubble*); playwright; poet

**Gerald Locklin:** author of over 125 books and chapbooks of poetry, fiction, and criticism (*Candy Bars: Selected Stories; Go West, Young Toad; Charles Bukowski: A Sure Bet*)

**M.G. Lord:** cultural historian; author (*Astroturf, Forever Barbie*); critic; memoirist; published in *New York Times, Los Angeles Times*

**Shelly Lowenkopf:** short story, mystery writer; book/journal editor; reviewer; business of fiction writer (*Secrets of Successful Fiction Writing, The Fiction Writers' Tool Kit*)

**Christopher Meeks:** fiction writer (*The Middle-Aged Man and the Sea*); playwright (*Who Lives?*)

**David Scott Milton:** playwright (*Skin, Duet*); novelist (*Paradise Road*); writer of nonfiction, short story, scripts, and screenplays

**Gina B. Nahai:** novelist (*Cry of the Peacock, Sunday's Silence, Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith*)

**Teresa O'Neill:** TV writer/producer (*Home Improvement, Night Court, Coach*)

**Barbara Pawley:** technical and business writer; editor; grant writer; memoirist (*Doing 90 at 40*)

**Gabrielle Piña:** novelist (*Chasing Sophea, Bliss*)

**Holly Prado-Northrup:** writer of poetry (*Esperanza: Poems for Orpheus*) and prose; reviewer

**Tristine Rainer:** fiction and nonfiction author (*The New Diary, Your Life as Story*); film/TV writer/producer

**John Rechy:** writer of novels (*Marilyn's Daughter, City of Night*); nonfiction; short stories; plays; reviews; essays

**Rachel Resnick:** novelist (*Go West Young F\*cked-Up Chick*); published in *Los Angeles Times, BlackBook Magazine*

**Aram Saroyan:** novelist (*The Romantic*); biographer; poet; memoirist; playwright

**S. L. Stebel:** novelist (*The Collaborator, Spring Thaw*); nonfiction (*Double Your Creative Power*); film, television, and playwriting credits

**Jason E. Squire:** author (*The Movie Business Book*); screenwriter (*Red Harvest*); former studio executive

**Kenneth Turan:** *Los Angeles Times* film critic (*Now in Theaters Everywhere*)

**Ehrich Van Lowe:** writer of Academy Award-nominated short film *Cadillac Dreams*; TV producer/writer (*Even Stevens, The Cosby Show*)

**Rita Williams:** nonfiction memoirist (*If the Creek Don't Rise*); published in *Los Angeles Times, Book Reviewer, O Magazine*, fiction anthologies

**Lee Wochner:** playwright (*Anapest, Happy Fun Family, The Size of Pike*); director; producer (*Ovation Awards, Moving Arts*)