

# Writers Adventure Camp at The Point June 6 & 7, 2015 Whistler, BC

Writers Adventure Camp at The Point Artist-Run Centre on beautiful Alta Lake in Whistler, BC, provides a unique weekend-long immersive experience for both published and emerging writers. You can work with award-winning professionals in a variety of areas, cross-fertilizing your creative output with exposure to artistic disciplines other than your usual genre.

There are morning and afternoon sessions, as well as opportunities for one-on-one feedback. On Saturday night, June 6, there will be a Cabaret-style show open to the public featuring our faculty and willing and adventurous Writers Adventure Camp participants (and a lakeside campfire complete with marshmallows). You will also have free time in order to take advantage of the dock, lake, adjacent bicycle trails, or communing with fellow participants.

The weekend is intended to be both rigorous and fun – think Writers Boot Camp meets mini-Arts Festival! For out-of-town participants, we've arranged an excellent discount rate at Legends Creekside, a condo-style lodge minutes from The Point by car or bike, and a half-hour walk along the lake on the Valley Trail.

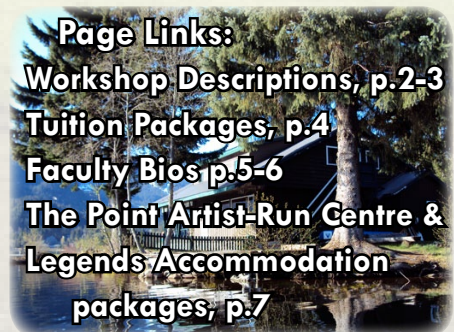
## Faculty & Courses

**Charlotte Gill:** Memoir & Personal Narrative

**Mark Leiren-Young:** Humour (For Page, Stage or Screen)

**Geoff Berner:** Song-Writing

**Zsuzsi Gartner:** Fiction (& Director of Fun)



Register at: [www.thepointartists.com](http://www.thepointartists.com) or email: [thepointinfo@gmail.com](mailto:thepointinfo@gmail.com)

# Workshops

## **ADVENTURES IN POV:**

### **Giving Voice to Fictional Characters with Zsuzsi Gartner**

(Saturday & Sunday morning)

The single most important choice you can make when writing fiction is deciding what point of view (or points of view) a story should be told from.

Writers often adhere unconsciously to a particular POV like shipwreck survivors clinging to a raft -- what I call the default mode (and we all have one). During this workshop you'll discover a multiplicity of POV choices and how a narrative can radically shift depending on who's doing the telling or through whose eyes we're witnessing things from. We'll also look at how to develop character through POV and VOICE, and the difference between a character's internal and external voices.

You'll be doing writing exercises, reading this work out loud and discussing it with the class. You will also have the opportunity to radically revise a short piece of your fiction for the Sunday morning session. I will provide a mini Course Pack of readings we'll use for examples and inspiration and that you are welcome to take home with you.

## **IN THE FIRST PERSON:**

### **The art of personal narrative with Charlotte Gill**

(Saturday & Sunday morning)

Writing memoir is like making lasagna. Everybody has a different way of doing it, but if the recipe contains a few key ingredients, it's bound to turn out well. In this workshop, we will cover the fundamentals of personal narrative. We'll begin with this question: what is creative nonfiction--and memoir, in particular? Next, we'll cover the essential ingredients for telling true stories in the first person. We will dip into the creative writer's toolbox to look at powerful story elements such as narrative voice, scene, and character. Lastly, we'll touch on how to design and structure your narrative, and how to incorporate secondary materials such as personal archives and research.

This workshop will follow an interactive discussion format with lots of time built in for your questions. You'll have the opportunity to share your story ideas and to practice reading your work aloud.

# Workshops

## **SATIRICAL SUBVERSION:**

### **A Song-writing workshop with Geoff Berner**

(Saturday afternoon)

Come sharpen your lyrics to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted with the man responsible for darkly hilarious and socially conscious (and danceable!) songs like “High Ground” and “When Deedee Gets Her Donkey” and more poignant numbers like “Light Enough to Travel.” This workshop is open to anyone with a poisoned pen, or anyone looking for one. Bring an instrument if you’ve got one but no musical or even tune-humming ability is necessary. If you’re a poet, fiction or non-fiction writer, comedian or musician this workshop could open up new avenues for putting your writing and ideas out into the world.

## **FINDING THE FUNNY:**

### **Humour writing for page, stage or screen with Mark Leiren-Young**

(Sunday afternoon)

If you check any personal ad or dating site, the first thing on everybody’s wish list is “a sense of humour.” (Okay, sometimes the first thing is “vegan non-smoker,” but still . . .) Humour is also a terrific way to convince people to spend time with a story, play, movie or article.

So, how do you find the funny? And how do you make it part of your writing?

This workshop will explore:

- Finding and developing the humour in your writing voice.
- Different types of funny – satirical, topical, surreal, sweet and sour...
- Sharing your humour with an audience – from simply reading with verve to doing stand-up
- Finding the right comic inspirations for YOUR writing.

Once you register, please feel free to send a brief email about the medium you write in – or want to write in -- and the question or three you’d most like to deal with to [localanxiety@mac.com](mailto:localanxiety@mac.com)

There’s no requirement to bring any writing with you -- but if you’ve got a BRIEF piece you’d like to discuss (or perform) please email one week before the workshop. Please bring a pen, paper. And your sense of humour.

# Workshops

## **ONE-ON-ONE SESSIONS (For Package A & B Adventure Campers)** (Saturday & Sunday afternoon)

An opportunity for a full manuscript critique (fiction or non-fiction). Submit up to 20 pages by May 22 to either Charlotte Gill or Zsuzsi Gartner, who will read and critique your piece in advance and then you'll sit down together during the Writers Adventure Camp weekend to review and discuss. Space for this one is very limited. (Estimated regular value: \$160 to \$175)

## **Workshop Fees & Packages**

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 22, 6 pm

### **Package A: Full Weekend Immersion: \$275**

-Two 3-hour morning workshops (Fiction **Or** Memoir/Non-Fiction).

**Plus:** Two 3-hour afternoon sessions (Song-writing Sat. & Humour Sun.)

**Or:** One 3-hour afternoon workshop & a One-on-One session.

-Two lunches.

-Dinner & Saturday Night Cabaret.

### **Package B: \$215**

-Two 3-hour morning workshops (Fiction **Or** Memoir/Non-Fiction).

**Plus:** One 3-hour afternoon session (Song-writing Sat. **Or** Humour Sun. **Or** a One-on-One session).

-Two lunches.

(Dinner & Saturday night Cabaret participant discount: \$15)

### **Package C: \$140**

-Two 3-hour workshops:

Either 1.) Two morning workshops (Fiction **Or** Memoir/Non-Fiction).

**Or** 2.) Two afternoon workshops: Saturday Song-writing & Sunday Humour.

(Lunch optional: \$10/per)

(Dinner & Saturday Night Cabaret participant discount: \$15)

### **Package D: \$75**

-One 3-hour afternoon workshop:

Saturday Song-writing **Or** Sunday Humour

(Lunch Optional: \$10/per)

(Dinner & Saturday Night Cabaret participant discount: \$15)

**Please register at: [www.thepointartists.com](http://www.thepointartists.com)  
or email: [thepointinfo@gmail.com](mailto:thepointinfo@gmail.com)**

# Faculty Biographies

**GEOFF BERNER** is a Vancouver singer/songwriter/accordionist and author. His biting humour, politically inflammatory lyrics, and impressive stage presence have earned him a cult following in Canada and abroad. Geoff tours frequently and has performed in 17 countries. He pretty much invented the punk-klezmer genre. His songs have been recorded by diverse musical acts such as Corb Lund, Kaizers Orchestra, Rae Spoon, and The Be Good Tanyas, who covered his “Light Enough to Travel.” Geoff’s most recent album, *Victory Party*, won a Canadian Folk Music Award in the “Pushing the Boundaries” category. His first novel, *Festival Man*, was published by Dundurn Press in 2013 to rave reviews, and a picture book, *We Are Going to Bremen to Be Musicians*, was published by Tin Can Press and released at the Toronto Comic Arts Festival on May 7. [www.geoffberner.com](http://www.geoffberner.com)



**ZSUZSI GARTNER** is the author of the story collection *All the Anxious Girls on Earth*, editor of the bestselling *Darwin’s Bastards: Astounding Tales from Tomorrow*, the former fiction editor of *Vancouver Review*, and a 2011 finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize for *Better Living through Plastic Explosives*. A former journalist and senior editor at *Saturday Night*, she has won numerous awards for magazine writing and a National Magazine Award for fiction. Her stories have been widely anthologized, including in *The Penguin Book of Canadian Humour*, *Best Canadian Stories*, and broadcast on CBC and NPR in the U.S.. Recent fiction has appeared in *The Walrus*, *The Letter’s Page* (U.K.), and is upcoming in *SubTerrain*. Zsuzsi taught MFA students for eight years at UBC, and has mentored numerous fiction & non-fiction writers through the Banff Centre’s writing programs (including Giller-Prize finalist Sarah Selecky and Journey-Prize winner Miranda Hill). [www.zsuzsigartner.com](http://www.zsuzsigartner.com)



# Faculty Biographies

**CHARLOTTE GILL** is the author *Eating Dirt*, a tree-planting memoir nominated for the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize as well as the Charles Taylor Prize. It was the 2012 winner of the B.C. National Award, one of Canada's largest literary prizes. Her previous book, *Ladykiller*, was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award. She is the recipient of two B.C. Book Prizes for both fiction and nonfiction. Her work has appeared in *Best Canadian Stories*, *The Journey Prize Stories* and many magazines, including *The Walrus*, *Maclean's* and *The Huffington Post*. She teaches creative writing in the graduate program at UBC and is currently faculty in Literary Arts at the Banff Centre. Charlotte has planted more than a million trees and lives on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia, Canada. [www.charlottegill.com](http://www.charlottegill.com)



**MARK LEIREN-YOUNG** is a Renaissance humourist with awards for writing for film, TV, radio, books and magazines. He has also written a lot of funny stage plays. His bestselling comic memoir, *Never Shoot a Stampede Queen – A Rookie Reporter in the Cariboo* won the 2009 Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour. His TV comedy writing includes scripting jokes for award and variety shows for performers like Steve Smith, Cathy Jones and Tom Green. He has also interviewed some of the funniest people on the planet - talking comedy with Robin Williams, Russell Brand, Whoopi Goldberg, Michael Moore, Terry Gilliam and Kurt Vonnegut Jr. Mark's humour columns have been featured in newspapers and magazines throughout North America and his satirical comedy duo, *Local Anxiety*, has released two albums—*Greenpieces* and *Forgive Us We're Canadian*. He's also done a lot of satirical stuff for CBC Radio and NPR. For more on Mark visit [www.leiren-young.com](http://www.leiren-young.com)



## The Point Artist-Run Centre

The Point is the last remaining old-style vacation lodge of the many that dotted the lakes of the area from the early 20th century. The history of the site goes back to Harrop's Lodge, built on the shores of Alta Lake in the early 1920s, where Agnes Harrop read visitors' fortunes in the Tea Room jutting over the water. Harrop's was replaced by Cypress Lodge, built on the same spot by Dick Fairhurst in 1959. With its huge, stone wood-burning fireplace, high-beamed ceilings, and phenomenal view, The Point is a great spot for fostering creativity.

The Point Artist-Run Centre was started in 2010 by a diverse group of artists in the Whistler area. It regularly offers workshops, arts open houses, the annual Flag Stop Theatre & Arts Festival, dinner shows with live theatre and music, and collaborative and mentorship opportunities for artists.

## Accommodation: Legends Whistler Creekside

Whistler Creekside is a resort within a resort and Legends offers lovely, spacious one and two-bedroom suites with fireplaces and full, newly renovated kitchens.

(For photos: <http://www.legendswhistler.com/>)

Out-of-town participants can reserve rooms at our discount rates by citing our group name when booking: "Writers Adventure Camp"

From June 5th – 7th for two or three-night stays:

1Bdrm at the nightly rate of \$120.00/per night plus tax

2Bdrm at the nightly rate of \$165.00/per night plus tax

For one-night stays:

1Bdrm at the nightly rate of \$160.00/per night plus tax

2Bdrm at the nightly rate of \$200.00/per night plus tax

"Writers Adventure Camp" group members can make their reservation directly with Lodging Ovations by calling 1.877.258.5657 ext #3 (locally 604-695-8705) or they can email requests to [loreservations@lodgingovations.com](mailto:loreservations@lodgingovations.com)

Discount rates are available until May 15th or until we reach 80% occupancy.