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THE NOOSE

January 2010



**START THE NEW YEAR WITH JOYCE
CAROL OATES ON JANUARY 6TH!**

"A Conversation With Joyce Carol
Oates"

Moderated by Jonathan Santlofer



"Most of my writing," Joyce Carol Oates once said, "is crime fiction in one way or another." One of our most versatile writers, this winner of the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize finalist has created some of the most enduring fiction of our time. Join us for a rare

IN THIS ISSUE

[JOYCE CAROL OATES](#)

[Chapter President Letter](#)

[From The Editor](#)

[Election Results!](#)

[CALENDAR](#)

[Book Videos Part II](#)

[Winter Revels 2009](#)

[WRITING CLASSES](#)

[What's NOOSE?](#)

opportunity to hear Joyce Carol Oates in a hall with fewer than 500 seats. In conversation with MWA-NY board member, acclaimed author and artist Jonathan Santlofer.



RING OUT THE OLD, RING IN THE NEW!

Dear Partners in Crime Writing:

It has been my great privilege to serve as your Chapter President this year. Looking back at 2009, I am happy to report that, despite a very bad (okay, rotten) economy, our chapter finances are in excellent condition and MWA-NY continues to grow.

I want to thank all the Chapter Board members who donated their time and talents to serving this wonderful organization in a very difficult year.

I am proud that we found new and smarter ways to communicate, including four-color meeting announcement post cards that

cost less than the old black and white jobs.

I am also proud of our terrific programming this past year. Laura Lippman. A wonderful Winter Revels ([see more below](#)). A fun discussion of the author-agent relationship. Top notch detectives. And that guy, what's-his-name, who yammered on about using screenplay structure to find your story's spine.

2009 saw the first Mayhem In The Hamptons, which was so much fun 2010 will see the second.

I was most happy standing at the podium each month and hearing everybody's good publishing news. In a bad year, those victories were very good news, indeed.

But, as I look back, I am most proud of the work so many of you are doing volunteering with Visible Ink, the terrific program at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center pairing published authors with cancer patients and survivors who just want to put words on paper and find that release we all find every time we sit down at our keyboards or pick up a pencil.

As a former advertising copy writer, I would be remiss if I didn't put in at least one plug: If you'd like to volunteer with Visible Ink (there's a cool party and performance of work coming in the Spring), please contact Judith Kelman, a former board member of MWA, who heads up the program. You can e-mail her at judith.kelman@gmail.com.

In parting, congratulations to [Alafair and all the members of the new board](#).

I leave the chapter in good, if bloody and gunpowder residue burned, hands.

Wishing you all the best,

Chris Grabenstein





FROM THE EDITOR...

Hi,

As we embark on a new year and a new decade, what better way to start than by coming to see the incomparable Joyce Carol Oates at the January chapter meeting? The chapter does a great job in bringing interesting and challenging speakers to the monthly meetings and I hope you'll be able to attend some of them in the coming year.

As you probably know, we are saying goodbye to Chris Grabenstein as President of our chapter. I'm sure you all join me in thanking him for his great work. Details of [the new board](#) are listed in this newsletter and it is with pleasure that we welcome Alafair Burke as our new President.

I am, as ever, very interested in hearing your views, thoughts, criticism and suggestions at mhannanmandel@yahoo.com

Marie

MWA-NY ELECTION RESULTS!



The results are in!
(Thanks to Thelma Straw, ballot counter, and Larry Light, count verifier)

The Chapter Operating Rules were APPROVED

As of January 16th (at the National Board Meeting) this will be your new New York Chapter Board: •

•
Chapter President, One Year Term

•
ALAFAIR BURKE

•
Directors At Large, Two Year Term•

MEGAN ABBOTT•
, ROSEMARY HARRIS, •
ROBIN HATHAWAY•

,
KEN ISAACSON•
, PERSIA WALKER

•
Directors At Large, One-Year Term•

•
PATRICIA KING, •
CATHERINE MAIORISI, •
ELIZABETH ZELVIN

•
Those remaining on the board to complete their term •



The Upcoming Calendar.

Wednesday, January 6th – **A Conversation with Joyce Carol Oates.**

Tuesday, January 26th – **The Sherlock Holmes Effect: How the Arthur Conan Doyle Classics Influence Contemporary Mysteries.** NYPL, Mid-Manhattan Branch, 455 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY, 6th Floor, 6:30pm. [Click here for more information.](#)

Wednesday, February 3rd – **Tales From The Selling Floor.** Chapter Meeting at The National Arts Club.

Tuesday, February 23rd – **How to Get Tales of Murder and Mayhem Published in a Deadly Market: The Mystery Writers of America/New York Chapter Mentor Program Debriefing.** NYPL, Mid-Manhattan Branch, 455 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY, 6th Floor, 6:30pm.

BOOK VIDEOS: Should you or shouldn't you?

Part II



by Lisa Cotoggio

Part II: THE PRODUCTION SHOOT



Well, for those of you who read Part I, buckle your seat belts, we're off for an amazing ride. Think roller coaster, but in a good way. With my scenes selected, I hit the ground running; scouting locations, casting actors, searching movie prop houses, determined to be as authentic as possible.

For those of you unfamiliar with my work, I write Police Procedurals, so of course the two characters in my story, an NYPD Detective First Grade and a NYPD Uniformed Patrol Officer were a necessary part of my book video, considering I'm developing a series.



One phone call to an old acting coach (from my earlier days at the Neighborhood Playhouse) got me my detective (pure luck), my patrol officer; however, had to be found. First stop, Backstage, the industry's leading casting paper. A quick ad in this weekly newspaper (which was very affordable) also gave me access to their website at no extra charge. After a few days, sixty lovely ladies' faces filled my e-mail box. I quickly scoured through them, narrowing my selection to seventeen.

Next, I secured audition space at Joria Productions on West 36th Street for the amazing low price of \$14.00 per hour; I booked four and told the girls to prepare a two-five minute dramatic monologue. Then, I enlisted Anna Ashwood Collins to join me. It's always good to have a second set of eyes, but make sure they belong to someone who has actually read your manuscript. Fourteen girls signed in (three didn't show up), and we narrowed it down to five, who were then given a chapter from the book with a gritty scene. Call backs were scheduled, (another rental at Joria, this time only for one hour), and my detective was brought in to read against them. Upon completion, I had my patrol officer!



Now, I just needed to get her a uniform. This took some serious legwork. In the current day and age with the legitimate fear of terrorism, finding a police uniform is like finding gold. After twenty phone calls to various prop houses around the city, I found one at Abracadabra Superstore on West 21st Street. A quick fitting, with all the necessary gear: belt, holster, baton, ticket book, handcuffs, shields, hat, gun...yes, I said gun. A fake 9mm in florescent yellow (courtesy of Mayor Bloomberg), I sprayed one side flat black, and I can certainly see why our esteemed Mayor prefers florescent colors, it looked astonishing real. So be careful, you don't want it to be mistaken for a real one.

Next were the locations. Ruben Morales from Onpoint + Innov8ive (yes, they had a name change since my last article) met me in Queens and I drove him to my five outdoor locations so he could take pictures and storyboard the shots.

Oh, I forgot to mention the skin. Good for faking a dead body or at least a piece of one. Luckily, I'm good friends with a local butcher who knows I'm big into the murder mystery scene; anyone else would have thought I was completely off my rocker! Ray was kind enough to slice me a section of skin from a pork shoulder. The resemblance to human flesh is uncanny!

The day of the shoot, which was scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (try to line up your locations by proximity so you're not dragging the crew all over the place) turned out to be a rainy, gloomy day...perfect for a little murder.

Next Noose:

Part III: Finished Product

MWA-NY WINTER REVELS 2009!



A Holly Jolly Time Was Had By All!

Our gracious honorary Santas -- Carol & Mary Higgins Clark

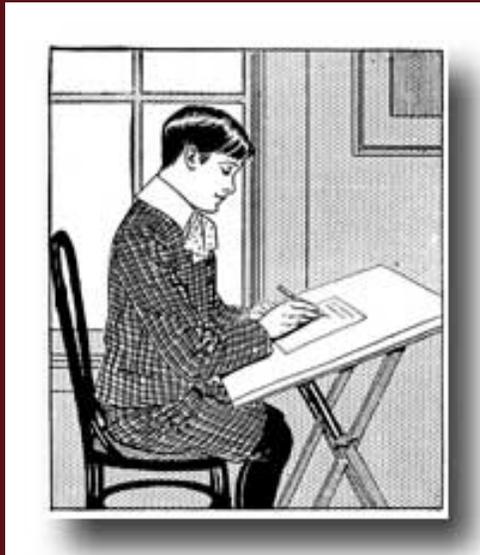


Thanks to Head Elf Rosemary Harris and
all the mysterious elves who helped make the event so festive!



(L to R, Rosemary, Clare Toohey, Gail Stockton, Persia Walker, Liz Zelvin, Marco Conelli, & Catherine Maiorisi)

WRITING CLASSES



For those members interested in attending a writing class, or two, over the next year, here are some of the offerings of MWA-NY members:

JANE K. CLELAND

1. *Writing Killer Fiction: The Mystery Writer's Craft* January 30, 2010 - 9 to noon

Westport Writers' Workshop 32 Webb Road Westport, CT 06880 203.227.3250

www.westportwritersworkshop.com

www.janecleland.net

2. *How to Write and Sell Your Mystery*, a one-day workshop, New York City, February 2010

Morning session: *Writing Killer Fiction: An Anatomy of the Craft*, Jane K. Cleland

Afternoon session: *Finding an Agent: Write Query Letters That Get Read*, Denise Marcil

Please contact Jane for more information: 212.949.0867 or jane@janecleland.net

www.denisemarcilagency.com

www.janecleland.net

REED FARREL COLEMAN

Writing the Novel

Hofstra University

Instructor: Reed Farrel Coleman

July 6-16

9:45 AM thru 2:00 PM

Mon-Fri for two consecutive weeks

An intensive class on building a novel from the ground up. There will be a heavy concentration on plot and character development as well as in class exercises on how to strengthen your expositional prose, dialogue, and editorial skills. Writing a novel is telling a story, but even the best of stories is a bore unless it's told well.

For registration and class details, please contact Jennifer Jokinen at Jennifer.M.Jokinen@Hofstra.edu or Richard Pioreck at Richard.J.Pioreck@Hofstra.edu

S. J. ROZAN

I'll be teaching a two-week workshop in Assisi, Italy in August, under the auspices of Art Workshop International. Details at <http://artworkshopintl.com/> A beautiful place, hard work, good food, the companionship of other writers and artists -- what more could you want?

www.sjrozan.com

ROBERTA ISLEIB

The third annual Seascape "Escape to Write" weekend focused on revising your mystery will be taught by SW Hubbard, Hallie Ephron, and Roberta Isleib September 10-12, 2010 in Madison, CT. More details at <http://www.robertainleib.com/seascape.html>. •

•
"Revisions in Paradise," a two-day workshop on revising your novel, will be taught at the Studios of Key West by Hallie Ephron and Roberta Isleib, March 19-20, 2010. Contact Roberta for more information raisleib@gmail.com.

What's
NOOSE?



Stories

Richard Ciciarelli, "Pink Diamonds"
Woman's World 30 November 2009.

Jenna Weart, "Fast Worker" *Woman's
World* 26 Oct. 2009.

Deals

Daryl Wood Gerber, writing as Avery
Aames, has signed a three-book deal with
Berkley Prime Crime for her series, The
Cheese Shop Mysteries. The first book,
The Long Quiche Goodbye, due out in
2010.

- Send items for "What's Noose?" to Peggy
Ehrhart at pehrhart@sprynet.com . Please
use the format you see in the entries
above. Because of the *Noose's* new
format, we now have limited space (100 to
150 words) and have to give priority to
publications.

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