

# LA PLUME

*New and Improved! Or maybe just new.*

## Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

April/May 2021

### **Board Members:**

President Sudie Landry, Vice President Christopher Fontenot, Treasurer Beth Davis, Publicist Ellen Threatts, Webmaster & Newsletter John Comeaux, John Francois and all past WGA Presidents in good standing.

### **Next Meeting:**

Our meetings are suspended until further notice. We hope to resume in July 2021. We are actively searching for a location to meet.

### **Upcoming Prompts:**

TBA

### **WEB Page and Facebook**

Our web page is here: <https://www.writersguildacadiana.org/>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/writersguildacadiana.org/>

The Writers' Guild is always willing to share the **success stories** of its members. Be sure to let us know about your writing. We will put your blurb on our website, on our Facebook page, and on this newsletter. Let's highlight and showcase our writers! Send us a synopsis or your own paragraph about the work you are working on or have published, and how to get it.

Send to either Sudie at [praisemusicpro@cox.net](mailto:praisemusicpro@cox.net) , or John at [jpcoman9@gmail.com](mailto:jpcoman9@gmail.com) .

### **◆ Writing Tips**

"Writing a novel is like driving at night: You can see only as far as your headlights, but you can make your whole journey that way"

--E. L. Doctorow

This quote hit home for me this week. I'm writing my 4th novel, and I know my destination, but I need to take each segment of the trip in chunks. And my characters are starting to hear me and shape up. I'm talking to you, Humphrey.

"Make your characters memorable." This is a tip from Writer's Relief. Great characters will keep readers turning pages. Think of Charles Dickens' book **Great Expectations**. The personalities

jump off the page and make you love 'em or hate 'em. Kurt Vonnegut agreed when he said, "Use the time of a total stranger in such a way that he or she will not feel the time was wasted."

Writer's Relief also suggests that writing prompts are a great way to get out of the doldrums and the ho-hum of your writing. The WGA offers writing prompts every other month (when we are meeting regularly) and they are a great way to kick off new ideas and get the creative juices flowing. Writer's Digest magazine will also send you writing prompts for a year if you sign up.

## • **Screenwriting**

Are any of our readers writing screenplays, teleplays, or scripts? I have written a few, back in the early 1990's, but I think times and requirements have changed since then. Writer's Digest pointed me to a website called [scriptmag.com](http://scriptmag.com) and an article "Comedy Writing: Fine-Tuning Flaws to Make Characters Timely." It was very interesting, pulling in examples from modern movies and TV shows.

*Without copy/pasting the entire article, I will summarize in one sentence. Maybe two.*

You can derive humor in situations by having one or more (or all) of your characters possess psychological flaws that the viewer will recognize. This can be done walking that line between timely subjects and dangerously controversial topics.

<https://scriptmag.com/comedy-writing/fine-tuning-flaws-to-make-characters-timely>

Also,

Does your main character possess a flaw in his/her personality? Does that drive the main problem in the story? Does the character realize and correct the flaw in the end, or does it remain part of him/her for the next story? *Fun, isn't it? Creating a world and then tweaking it. I love writing.*

## ◆ **CONTESTS, CONFERENCES & FESTIVALS:**

Writer's Digest Annual Writing Competition. Entry deadline June 7, 2021.

<https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/annual-writing-competition>

### **Would you like to join?**

WGA values your membership and we hope that you will give every consideration to renewing it. Membership fee is pending for 2021. In addition, members receive a monthly newsletter along with first notice for workshops, seminars, and conferences put on by the Writers' Guild.

Write to Writers' Guild of Acadiana, Inc., P.O. Box 51532, Lafayette, LA, 70505-1532.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone/Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you find out about us?** \_\_\_\_\_

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