



**Creative Wordshops**

Dorian Haarhoff

082 873 6802

dorianhaa@gmail.com

www.dorianhaarhoff.com

storyteller facilitator speaker writing-coach poet

**What's on  
Dec/Jan  
2021**

**Zoom  
Storyshops  
mini-retreats  
Writeshops**

**Wherever you are in the world... join a 'virtual' group or enjoy one-on-one mentoring...talk to me about choices**

### **1. The Drama of the Moment: Zoom Writing Workshop**

**Zoom:** Sun 29 Nov 09.30 – 12.40 R340 pp (12 max)

*Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colours. Coming back is not the same as never leaving. (Terry Pratchett)*

Dramatic moments are not always about living and dying. When the sky cracks open. They are about the silent and vocal in-betweens - when change knocks on your your front door, when a dream calls you to attention, when you pack a bag.

All writing, in whatever genre – life story, fiction, poem play - is about drama. Paying attention to the moment, to how the present changes, to what happens next. The impact of weather.



This workshop will help you to build dramatic intensity and atmosphere and necessary tension into your writing. It considers the difference between drama and melodrama and how much is enough. To balancing what you as a writer offers with what you leave to the reader's imagination.

### **2. Year Ends Year Begins 3 Zoom(erang) Writing Workshops To take us through the gate of the year**

#### **a. A String of Beads: Threading your 2020 story and life together**

Sun 13 Dec 2020 SAST 15.00 – 18.00. USA east coast -6 hrs (14 max)

## **b. My Collage, Images and Words to Welcome 2021**

Sun 3 Jan 2021 SAST 15.00 – 18.00. USA east coast -6 hrs (14 max)

## **c. Babushka Dolls and you inside you**

Sun 24 Jan 2021 SAST 15.00 – 18.00. USA east coast -6 hrs (14 max)

**Zoomerang?** We hurl our words across oceans. They return to us with images hidden in the curve - like a boomerang.

I am offering this trio as the 2020 candle snuffs out (and what a year) and we light the 2021 one. Beginner writers are welcome. Writing is about beginner's mind. While I suggest you participate in all three for a richer experience and apprenticeship, they also stand alone so you can choose 1 or 2. See info on each below.

### **I create a space that is safe, supportive and encouraging**

#### **a. About Beads**



Beads feature in many cultures and faiths. Some sets are created from organic materials such as grasses, cocoons, shells, gems, crystals and ostrich eggs. There are rosaries such as 'Our Lady Queen of Africa' threaded with semi-precious stones. Upheavals, rituals, joy and suffering have inspired other bead work. Beads honour ancestors. They can be created around passions exchange, relationships, meditations, significant symbols. The

configurations are endless.

In this zoom wordshop we create a set of beads, assign meaning to each bead and string our words around this structuring device. Each bead holds a kaleidoscope of stories asking to be told. So the beads act as a prompt.

#### **b. About Collages**



Collages open us to the patterns, themes and rhythms of our lives. They can be made simply with a number of pictures cut out from magazines and pasted on a large sheet. They offer us insights and surprises. And access the deep self.

Explore your creativity and imagination and write about the emerging images from your collage - around the theme that chooses you. Through this ritual of beginnings, we become playfully present. We set intension, possibility and evoke courage.

#### **c. About Babushka Dolls**

What these peasant crones can teach us? Russian Babushka (crone)



wooden dolls (stacking or nesting dolls), are rich in symbolism. They offer us much about living and writing. Babushka has inspired other sets of dolls. e.g. Inside a Pushkin (writer of Russian fairy tales, love stories and ballads) nesting doll are other authors - Tolsoy Gogol Turgenyev.

The dolls connect us like the *do-ray-me-far* music scale to inner and outer harmonies as we unpack the different layers in our story.

**Payment: \$ 135** for the trio of wordshops (**\$50 for one**) (Payment secures place) for UK and European folk the equivalent US\$ rate in your currency please pay via **PayPal** through my email [dorianhaa@gmail.com](mailto:dorianhaa@gmail.com). **ref:** your name

For **SA participants** R1020 for the three (R360 for one)

### 3. Zoom Register via Buddhist Retreat Centre, Ixopo

## The Buddhist Retreat Centre

[www.brcixopo.co.za](http://www.brcixopo.co.za)

[bookings@brcixopo.co.za](mailto:bookings@brcixopo.co.za) |  
087 809 1687 | 082 579 3037 | 031 2095995

[finance@brcixopo.co.za](mailto:finance@brcixopo.co.za)

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Image: Angela Buckland

### Beginner's Mind A Zoom(erang) A Collage and Writing Mini-Retreat

Sat 9 Jan 2021 SA Time 15.00 – 18.00 - suggested dana (generosity) R450



As we light the 2021 candle, we create a collage to bid the new year welcome. Beginner writers are welcome. Writing is about beginner's mind. Collages open us to the patterns, themes and rhythms of our lives. They can be made simply with pictures cut out from magazines and pasted on a large sheet. They offer us insights and surprises. And access the deep self.

Explore your creativity and imagination and write about the emerging images in your collage - around the theme that chooses you. Through this ritual of beginnings, we become playfully present. We set intension, possibility and evoke courage.

**Preparation:** assemble some 21 magazine pictures (remove any words). Have the A2 (or 2 x A3 stuck together) size sheet/board, glue and scissors ready. We'll take it from there.

This mini-retreat will help you:

- ✚ learn and practice the craft of writing
- ✚ breathe life into words and let words breathe life into you
- ✚ find your voice as you open to your creativity and imagination
- ✚ live a larger life as you explore symbols and archetypes
- ✚ be entranced by the power of stories
- ✚ find support, encouragement and fine company

### And ongoing monthly meetings...



#### 4. Magic Carpet Writing Group R690 (6 sessions)

Next **actual** and **zoom** Wed 29 Jan @ 18.31ish

Need to be part of a fun-loving supportive thinking/being group of aspirant writers?

.... we meet in an art studio. Writing exercises, conversation, energy, soup and wine. Beginners are welcome... make writing friends ....

Our 2020 theme? – **Once upon a life..... Fairy tales – ancient, modern and us**

#### 5. Pringle Bay Poetry Moments

*I want to write poems that are natural, luminous, deep, spare. I dream of an art so transparent that you can look through and see the world. (Stanely Kunitz)*

Monthly bring and share your own or poems you live and love ... **a freebie.....** next... Tues 8 Dec 6,30.

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