

Sofia Writing Workshop
with Josip Novakovich
21-30 March 2017, Sofia

Fiction, non-fiction, literary fiction, genres, parody of genres, scenes from plays - all fair game for experimenting. Surprise yourself - write something you'd never thought of writing. At the end of the workshop, you will have many beginnings and a few endings - anyhow, the aim, unlike in most workshops, is to create a lot of new work, in addition to getting editorial guidance. We will meet daily for three hours, and two evenings for readings of the fresh writing and discussion, and for a final performance reading. The workshop will consist of up to 10 participants: three to four American writers and three to four Bulgarian writers and a couple of expats living in Bulgaria. We will aim to benefit from the cumulative Balkan/Bulgarian and American story telling follies to make our writing more playful and interesting.

The workshop will be beneficial to writers of intermediate and advanced level—those who aren't publishing yet but have been writing, and for published writers as well.

Daily meetings from 10 am to 1 pm to write from a variety of prompts, and to critique participant's work (10-20 double-spaced pages of previously written chapters or stories, and a few pages each day of work created impromptu). The meetings will take place at downtown cafes, at a centrally located apartment where Rayko Alexiev the Bulgarian painter used to live and at the Sofia Literature and Translation House. The workshops will be conducted in English and therefore high level of proficiency in the language is a must.

Program outline

March 21st to 29th March morning meetings from 10 am to 1 pm; individual work in the afternoons; cultural program in the evenings (film screenings at the Literature and Translation House, events in the city); final public reading for all workshop participants on the 30th March

Tuition

400 leva. Two Bulgarians will get a tuition waiver if their writing sample submitted for the workshop admission is impressive.

If interested, please, write to Josip Novakovich at josipn@yahoo.com

Josip Novakovich is a writer and academic. He was born in Yugoslavia and grew up in the central Croatian town of Daruvar near the Hungarian border. He moved to the United States at the age of 20.

Novakovich is currently professor of English at Concordia University in Montreal (Canada). He has published a dozen books of fiction and nonfiction. His *Fiction Writer's Workshop*, a craft book, has been a bestseller for several years. His novel, *April Fool's Day*, appeared in a dozen languages. His work has been recognized by several literary awards: the Whiting Award, a Guggenheim fellowship, two fellowships from the National Endowment of the Arts, an Ingram Merrill Award, and an American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation. Novakovich was a finalist for The Man Booker International Prize in 2013. He was anthologized in *Best American Poetry, Pushcart Prize* (three times), and *O.Henry Prize Stories*.

For his collection of stories, *Heritage of Smoke*, published in January 2017, *The New York Times* declares: "strange and brilliant. . . a master class in the short story." Kirkus Reviews: "One of the best short story writers of the decade."

In Bulgarian translation, four books of his are available, the latest of which is a short story collection, *Predatelstva* (ICU Press, October 2016), translation of *Infidelities* (Harper Perennial USA).

Novakovich is currently (Feb-April 2017) a resident at the newly opened Literature and Translation House in Sofia. During his creative residency stay, Josip Novakovich is working on his new collection of stories.