

SPEED DATING-STYLE PITCH SESSION

Monday, April 26

9 am- 4 pm

The Portland Regency Hotel

20 Milk Street

Portland, ME

www.portlandregency.com

This is your opportunity to network, face to face, with professionals in the publishing industry. We provide 7 minutes to pitch your manuscript or book idea directly to literary agents and acquisitions editors who are open to new clients. While there are no guarantees, a personal connection can only help advance your publishing goals.

Please note: Space is LIMITED to the **first 75 participants received**. Upon registration confirmation, you will be **emailed** with instructions on manuscript format, specific timing, directions, etc. Registration materials will be processed and pitches assigned in the order of receipt.

To register, please provide the following information:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Costs

- 2-Pitch Ticket \$150
- 3-Pitch Ticket \$175
- 4-Pitch Ticket \$225 (Best Value!)
- 5-Pitch Ticket \$265
- 6-Pitch Ticket \$285

Total \$ _____

- My check is enclosed.
- Please charge my VISA or MASTERCARD.

Card Number ____/____/____/____ Expiration Date ____/____

Signature _____

Please mail completed registration and payment to:

Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance

PO Box 9301

Glickman Family Library, Room 318, Portland, ME 04104

Alternatively, you may FAX forms to (207)228-8150.

Choose Your Agents

_____ Robert Astle,
Robert Astle Literary Management

_____ Amy Canfield,
Islandport Press

_____ Ann Collette
Helen Rees Literary Agency

_____ Sorche Elizabeth Fairbank,
Fairbank Literary Representation

_____ Edite Kroll,
Edite Kroll Literary Agency

_____ Colleen Mohyde,
Doe Coover Literary Agency

_____ Joe Spieler
The Spieler Agency

_____ Michael Steere,
Down East Books

_____ Christina Ward
Christina Ward Literary Agency

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Scheduling

Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance will assign participants specific time slots in order of registration material receipt. Because MWPA is scheduling 7-minute sessions for 75 participants, timing is key. Please plan to arrive on time. Absolutely no latecomers will be permitted into the event.

Expectations

Participants should expect three possible results:

- 1) The professional hears your pitch and declines. While disappointing, publishing is a subjective business and the “no” may be for any number of reasons, so please do not take this response personally. On the positive side, a direct answer saves times and energy and allows you to move on to the next potential match.
- 2) The professional hears your pitch and offers personal contact information for a follow-up. This is excellent, as it gives you a frame of reference for future contact and pushes you up from the dreaded slush pile.
- 3) The professional hears your pitch, and is interested enough to ask if you brought sample material. This is also excellent, as you are putting your project directly into the hands of someone who has shown interest.

Preparation

Participants should arrive with a polished, engaging pitch. Since sample material may be requested, MWPA suggests being prepared with a synopsis of your project with contact information, as well as sample chapters. It is rare that a literary agent would request a full manuscript, and typically, sample chapters will suffice.

Research

The brief summaries of literary agent interests listed here are just that--*brief summaries*, meant in no way to be inclusive. MWPA highly recommends detailed research of each literary agency, to include reviewing recent sales and author lists. Most of the scheduled literary agents have websites that are easily accessible via standard search engines.

FINE PRINT*

Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance presents this event as a professional networking opportunity, and makes no guarantee of representation or publication in any way. Because the publishing industry is a fluid and ever-changing entity, and because individual schedules change, some of the scheduled professionals may cancel or send representatives in their place. While this is the rare exception, it has happened at previous pitch sessions. In the event of a substitution, participants will be notified of the change and given the option of: accepting the substitution, switching to another available professional, or receiving a refund. MWPA makes its best effort to represent the event accurately and fairly.

Literary Agents and Editors Scheduled to Participate

Robert Astle

Robert Astle & Associates Literary Management Inc.

Robert worked for 25 years in professional theater in Canada, and toured his acclaimed one-man-shows around the globe. He taught for nine years in the playwrights' unit at the National Theatre School of Canada, (Canada's Julliard) and was an adjunct professor in the Theatre Department of Concordia University. He has written and published extensively and is author of three plays, and a work of non-fiction. He has edited over 20 plays, written adaptations for radio, for which he was nominated the prestigious Prix Italia. Robert's interest in publishing began when successfully negotiated subsidiary rights with Grove Press in 1988. He worked briefly at an established New York literary agency before opening his own agency. Robert is widely read, traveled extensively, and can be called eclectic in terms of interest in fiction and non-fiction. The agency is actively seeking writers who have a fascinating voice, fully formed characters that are believable, have an arc, and write stories that are timely, engaging, informed, and speak to the times we are living in.

Amy Canfield, Editor

Islandport Press

Likes: Maine-based nonfiction, fiction, and young adult material.

Does NOT represent: Titles that are not affiliated with Maine or the New England brand.

Ann Collette

Helen Rees Literary Agency

Likes: FICTION--literary, mystery, thrillers, suspense, medical, commercial & upscale women's--pretty much everything! NONFICTION--memoir, narrative non-fiction, issues of race & class, humor, inspirational, and pop culture. Does NOT represent: Sci-fi, fantasy and YA. Good matches: In category/genre fiction, I like to see compelling characters that are well developed, a fast pace, crisp prose and, of course, a great plot full of twists and turns. In literary fiction, I'm looking for beautiful language and characters I am truly moved by.

Sorche Elizabeth Fairbank

Fairbank Literary Representation

Likes: Our tastes tend toward literary fiction and topical/narrative non-fiction, with a strong interest in women's voices, quality of life issues, class, race, war and its psychological effects, and the intersection of art and science. We are most likely to take on works that are socially significant and newsworthy, and that speak to the human quest for meaning beyond mere escapism -- although we also enjoy a smartly conceived pop-audience book. Does NOT represent: Please do not

submit any romance, poetry, science fiction, young adult, vampire or pirate stories, historical novels set before 1900, or children's books. Good matches: At present, we are actively seeking literary fiction, Latina/Latino works, biographies, one-subject narrative non-fiction, current events, history, art and architecture, food and wine, sports, science, and pop culture.

Edite Kroll

Edite Kroll Literary Agency

Likes: General fiction, nonfiction, some children's/young adult. Humor is a definite plus.

Colleen Mohyde

Doe Coover Literary Agency

Colleen established an affiliation with the Doe Coover Literary Agency in 1992 after a decade as an editor at Little, Brown & Company. She represents an eclectic and wide-ranging list of authors, including Pulitzer Prize winners, PEN Award recipients, and New York *Times* bestsellers. She is first and foremost interested in gifted storytelling, whether in literary fiction or narrative non-fiction, and is also interested in biography, business, psychology, health, sports, music, history, and politics.

Joe Spieler

The Spieler Agency

Likes: General fiction, Mystery, Juvenile fiction, Reference, Biography, Business/investing/finance, History, Religious, Mind/body/spirit, Health, Travel, Children's books, Sports, African-American, Science, Psychology, Current Events, Environment/Ecology, Middle-Grade and Young Adult novels

Michael Steere, Editor

Down East Books

Likes: Will consider all genres that are Maine-based or have a significant Maine appeal. See the Down East website for examples of titles that match our interests.

Christina Ward

Christina Ward Literary Agency

Christina (Kit) Ward, a literary agent in the Boston area since 1992, was previously an editor with Little, Brown and Company. As an agent, she represents a diverse list that includes such nonfiction subject areas as biography, narrative history, psychology, travel and nature writing, creative nonfiction and memoir, and a variety of practical nonfiction. Her fiction list ranges from literary fiction to mystery and suspense. Kit finds her editorial background to be a particular asset in helping writers shape and develop their work in progress.