



SPEED DATING-STYLE PITCH SESSION

Monday, November 2

10 am- 4 pm

Hotel 140

140 Clarendon Street
Boston, MA
www.hotel140.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 _____

What genre is your manuscript? _____

Costs

Members **\$175 for your first 3 choices**
\$ 35 for each additional choice

Non-members **\$250 for your first 3 choices**
\$ 75 for each additional choice

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.

Please rank in order of preference.*

_____ Robert Astle, Agent
Robert Astle & Associates Literary Management

_____ Ann Collette, Associate
Helen Rees Literary Agency

_____ Kate Epstein, Agent
Kate Epstein Literary Agency

_____ Sorche Elizabeth Fairbank
Fairbank Literary Representation

_____ Diane Freed, Agent
Fine Print Literary Management

_____ Edite Kroll, Agent
Edite Kroll Literary Agency

_____ Lauren MacLeod
The Strothman Agency

_____ Jessica Papin, Agent
Dystel and Goderich Literary Management

_____ Lorin Rees, Agent
Helen Rees Literary Agency

_____ Michael Steere, Editor
Down East Books

_____ Jennifer Weltz
Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency

_____ Helen Zimmerman
Helen Zimmerman Literary Agency

*We will do our best to match you with your top agent choices but we fill spaces on a first come, first served basis so please rank the agents in your order of preference.

SPEED DATING WITH THE PROS

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.

Likes: 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.

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.

Kate Epstein

Epstein Literary Agency

I represent nonfiction for adults exclusively. These are my areas of particular interest: Crafts, Fashion, Health, Humor, Inspiration, Journalism, Lifestyles, Memoir, Nonfiction Narrative, Parenting, Pets, Popular Culture, Reference, Relationships, Self-Help, Travel, Women's Interest. I'm happy to take advantage of the serendipity that sends me quality authors outside these core areas. However I am not looking at this time to represent fiction of any kind, books for children, textbooks, or poetry. I do not represent screenplays.

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.

Diane Freed

Fine Print Literary Management

Represents both nonfiction and fiction writers. She is looking for nonfiction projects in the categories of advice/relationships, spirituality, inspiration, health/fitness, memoir, narrative nonfiction, popular culture, lifestyle, women's issues, the environment, and humor. Her fiction interests generally are commercial and literary fiction, including women's commercial fiction.

Edite Kroll

Edite Kroll Literary Agency

Likes: Feminist and issue-oriented non fiction; humor; literary fiction; children's fiction and picture books written and illustrated by artists.

Does NOT represent: NO genre fiction (e.g. mystery/suspense, science fiction, romance; historical); no diet or cookbooks; no illustrated/photo coffee table books

Good matches: Writers rather than projects, and writers open to editorial changes

Lauren MacLeod

The Strothman Agency

Lauren's primary interests are middle grade novels, young adult fiction and nonfiction, as well as highly polished literary fiction and narrative nonfiction. Some of her favorite (non-client) YA authors are Meg Rosoff, Maureen Johnson and John Green.

Looking for: Contemporary YA & MG, narrative nonfiction for young adults, graphic novels, and adult trade nonfiction on quirky subjects or people. She is currently especially drawn to YA & MG projects with humorous situations or funny characters.

Does NOT represent: Fantasy, Paranormal Romance, Historical Fiction, Tragedy Memoirs.

Jessica Papin

Dystel and Goderich Literary Management

Likes: She is interested in literary and smart commercial fiction, narrative non-fiction, history with a thesis, medicine, science and religion. In every case, she looks for passion, erudition, and storytelling skill. She is also interested in health, psychology, and women's issues.

Lorin Rees

Helen Rees Literary Agency

Likes: Literary fiction, memoirs, business books, self-help, science, history, psychology and narrative non-fiction.

Michael Steere, Editor

Down East Books

Likes: Will consider all genres that are Maine-based or have a substantive Maine/New England theme.

Jennifer Weltz,

Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency

In the adult market, I respond to well researched and original historicals and thrillers with a unique voice. I also have a soft spot for a beautiful romance, wry dark humor and some contemporary fantasy or magical realism. Enthralling narrative non-fiction that illuminates and inspires is always welcome as well.

In the realm of children's books, I look for fun, fresh and exciting reads with characters that stay with me. No rhyming books please. I will consider both simple text and author/illustrators, but please do not have someone create illustrations for your text- it is simply NOT necessary. I also love a great Middle Grade read- here I find the voice to be key. If I want to hang out with your character, I'm in! Because of my extensive work in the international market I am always on the lookout for the kind of book that travels well and has a strong international appeal.

Hellen Zimmerman

Helen Zimmerman Literary Agency

Likes: Really, I will consider almost anything except horror, poetry, screenplays, or Science Fiction. I honestly will take on any project for which I see a viable market. I am particularly drawn to fiction that has reading group potential and non-fiction with great backlist potential. My first client was acquired on number-of-hankies-required alone, but I will happily consider memoir (particularly memoir that speaks to a larger social or historical circumstance, or introduces me to a new phenomenon), popular culture, inspiration, women's issues, how-to, humor, narrative non-fiction, and books on relationships.

Etiquette Notes

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 and 16 professionals, timing is key. Please plan to arrive early. 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 at a pitch session, 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

***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.

This list of participating literary agents is current as of this Maine in Print publication. Please continue to check www.mainewriters.org for additions to the roster!