

Playwriting: A Vibrant Profession



By:
Anne Hamilton, M.F.A.

During twenty years as a dramaturg, I have learned many lessons.

The first is that inspiration never dies. Many dramatic writers with whom I have worked have consistently produced new scripts, new stories, new universes, and had new successes over the years.

The second is that writing plays is a lifestyle. As an emerging playwright, I find that I walk around musing about my characters and ideas, and soaking up all the stimuli around me. Then when the time is right, a play pops out. There are universes inside my head which others don't know about. I imagine that it is the same for other playwrights.

The third is that playwrights are strong individuals. Despite many obstacles, we persist. Nothing stops us from practicing our craft to its fullest. That is encouraging.

Last, our numbers are growing. Many, many people are writing plays these days. It is an appealing art, and there are tremendous opportunities for expressing it in many forms – readings, workshops, fellowships, and production. Younger people are arriving daily in New York and in other cities to make a

life in the theatre, and older ones are turning to playwriting as a second career.

I thank each and every artist with whom I've worked. And I look forward to the next twenty years with great expectation.

I would like to share a few important resources with you.

There are some terrific organizations which provide materials and guidance on building a career as a playwright. They include: The Dramatists Guild (www.dramatistsguild.com) – Please take special notice of The Dramatists Guild Bill of Rights; Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (www.lmda.org); Theatre Communications Group (www.tcg.org); and Theatre Development Fund (www.tdf.org).

If you're interested in submitting plays to theatres, festivals and foundations,

there are two indispensable books which are updated yearly in the Fall. The Dramatists Guild publishes its indispensable Resource Directory, and TCG publishes the Dramatists Sourcebook.

Finally, it is good to keep up with news in the business through Backstage, Variety, Stage Directions, and Writer's Digest magazine.

Anne Hamilton has twenty years of experience in the professional theatre in NYC, across the nation, and internationally. She is available for script consultations and career advising through hamiltonlit@hotmail.com. Hamilton Dramaturgy Press has published two anthologies of Anne's plays and poetry, available at www.lulu.com.

Anne M. Hamilton Hamilton Dramaturgy

Established 1991

Dramaturgy
Script Development
Career Development

www.hamiltonlit.com
hamiltonlit@hotmail.com
(215) 536-1074

\$25 discount for BCWJ Readers

From Boot Camp to Bucks County: Donna Beckley Galanti



By:
Linda C. Wisniewski

She enlisted in the Navy on a whim. After she graduated early from high school in upstate New York, Donna Galanti became a Seaman Recruit in the late 1980s and eventually published her letters home as the aptly titled memoir, *Letters From Boot Camp*.

Since that beginning, Galanti went on to write

several novels, the latest a paranormal suspense story called *A Human Element*. She is "drawn to write dark things," stories about people overcoming tragedy, and she describes it as a cathartic process for her as a writer. She is currently working on a fantasy adventure novel for the middle grades.

Following her stint as a Navy photographer at Pearl Harbor, Donna Galanti earned a degree in English and journalism at the State University of New York at Albany. Her background includes news reporting and a ten-year career in marketing and communications, writing ads, newsletters and speeches. She has lived from New Hampshire to Florida and even a few years in England before settling down in an old Bucks County farmhouse with her husband and son.

Galanti publishes a blog on "the passion and business of writing" called "Writing With Gusto" at her website, www.donnagalanti.com. Every

Wednesday, she features an interview with a guest author.

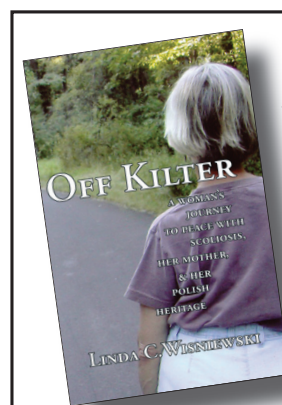
Galanti believes strongly in networking with other writers. She advises others to "get out and socialize, become part of the supportive local writer's community. If the group you choose is not a good fit, move on but don't give up."

She is an active participant in the Philadelphia Liars Club and the Writers Coffee House which meets at the Barnes and Noble in Willow Grove. She also advises working the social media like Facebook and Twitter. "It's like the whole world talking" she says, "with the writing world building a network with agents and publishers." This past June, Galanti won first prize for flash fiction at the Philadelphia Writers Conference.

Scott Morely, former U.S. Marine, has this to say about *Letters From Boot Camp*: "In real time, often writing with lights-out and in a rushed manner,

Beckley shows the fears, bravery, frustrations and excitement in a multi-week vacation called Boot Camp." It's the only Navy boot camp memoir from a woman's perspective. You can order a copy at Amazon.com.

Linda C. Wisniewski teaches memoir workshops and speaks on the healing power of writing. Visit her website at www.lindawis.com or contact her at lindawis@comcast.net to schedule a presentation for your group.



"Funny, honest, deeply moving, OFF KILTER reminds us just how hard it is to adjust to the physical pain, the emotional loss, and even the surprising beauty of being fully who we are."

Susan Wittig Albert

The new memoir from
Pearlsong Press

Off Kilter
A Woman's Journey
To Peace With Scoliosis,
Her Mother, & Her Polish Heritage
by Linda C. Wisniewski

Buy it at the Doylestown Bookshop (Doylestown),
Lion Around Bookstore (Quakertown),
Farley's Bookshop (New Hope),
Canterbury Tales Bookstore (Lahaska)
& Moravian Bookstore (Bethlehem)
or online at www.pearlsong.com.