

New York Times Best-selling Author Sponsors Full-Tuition Writers Conference Scholarships

Two deserving writers will attend Backspace's premier New York City event

Books have made him a wealthy man, but a certain New York Times best-selling author hasn't forgotten what it was like starting out. The anxiety and uncertainty. Self-doubt. Pressure, even ridicule, from friends and family members. *You want to be a writer? Impossible.*

That's why he's sponsoring two full-tuition scholarships to the 2007 Backspace Writers Conference for authors whose work shows exceptional promise, and who have completed a novel and are actively seeking an agent to represent them. Scholarships cover the conference registration fee, travel expenses to and from New York City from within the 48 contiguous United States, and three nights' hotel accommodations.

That he's offering the scholarships anonymously speaks to his character. That he's chosen the Backspace Writers Conference as the vehicle speaks to the event. "Backspace is relatively new, but it's the real deal," he says.

"It's *endlessly* talked about," adds Jonathan Maberry, author and board member of the Philadelphia Writers Conference, and a lecturer who's spoken at dozens of cons. "A few of my students went to the last one and were blown away by it. It has the feel of a conference that has been long-established, and yet is new and fresh and holds great promise. This is the magic formula conference developers have been looking for."

David Morrell, New York Times best-selling author and former professor of American literature, agrees. "The yearly Backspace conference is an invaluable resource. I've taught there and can't say enough good things about the information, encouragement, and enthusiasm they provide."

The 2007 Backspace Writers Conference (www.backspacewritersconference.com), May 31 & June 1 at the Algonquin Hotel in New York City, brings together best-selling authors, top literary agents, and editors for a two-day, two-track event featuring panel discussions, workshops, and socializing in the heart of the publishing world.

Last year, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Douglas Wright and renowned literary agent and author advocate Richard Curtis were keynote speakers. Text and video of their remarks are available on the www.bksp.org website.

This spring, Morrell and Michael Cader, industry insider and Publishers Marketplace founder, will address the group. New York Times best-selling thriller author Gayle Lynds will present a two-hour workshop, "9 Secrets to Writing Best-Selling Thrillers," while literary agents Jeff Kleinman of Folio Literary Management and Kristin Nelson of Nelson Literary Agency offer their popular role-playing workshop, "Buy This Book!"

Additional program participants include best-selling authors Joseph Finder, M.J. Rose and Lee Child, agents Scott Hoffman, Paige Wheeler, Michael Bourrett and Caren Johnson, and many more.

Scholarship applications must be received between January 15 and March 1, 2007. Winners will be notified by April 15, 2007. Details at www.backspacewritersconference.com