



March 2024 Post-Grad Intensive

The Book Project Post-Grad Weekend Intensive

Lighthouse Writers Workshop

3844 York Street

Denver, CO 80205

Schedule

Saturday, March 9

9:00 AM—12:00 PM

“How to Find or Refine Your Inner Storyteller,” Steve Almond

Join Steve Almond for a high-energy session designed to get your writing to its purest place, or the place least likely to let your ego or insecurity get in the way. The goal here will be to get everyone in the room focused on telling the stories that are waiting to burst out of us, the ones we’re meant to tell. Check your inhibitions at the door. It’s gonna get real.

12:00 PM—1:00 PM

Catered Lunch

Plus 45 Minute Q&A with Shana Kelly starting at 12:15

1:00 PM—3:00 PM

“Hacking the Revision Process: Unconventional Approaches, from Line Edits to Overhaul,” Angie Chuang, MA

If rewriting is the real writing, why does it get so hard sometimes? If you’ve ever gotten workshop or mentor feedback – or just wanted to revamp a chapter, scene, or the whole dang book – but found yourself stuck on how to implement suggestions or new ideas, you’re not alone. The irony is, the deeper you immerse into your project, the harder it can be to see the revision forest for the trees. Are you even making things better? Or just different? This session gives you multiple tools to bring fresh eyes to your drafts, even if you’ve seen them a million times. You’ll be given freedom and permission to play with ideas for better line editing, to exercises to experiment with drastic overhauls or restructuring.

What to bring: 3-5 pages of something, anything, from your book manuscript that feels stuck or in need of a different approach to revising.

3:00 PM—3:45 PM

Happy Hour

3:45 PM—4:45 PM

Keynote – “Truth Is an Arrow,” Steve Almond in Conversation with Shana Kelly

This freewheeling conversation will explore everything from the anxiety of exposure to the crippling doubts that drive us into writer’s block. No question is off limits: *Can I tell the truth about my abusive parent? Is it wrong to be jealous of a famous friend? What if I’m just not good enough?* At the center of the discussion will be a radical question: Is it possible to view moments, and even eras, of creative doubt as necessary and even essential to our artistic growth? How can we move from self-loathing to a posture of forgiveness and curiosity?. A session for anyone who’s ever struggled to get going—and keep going—at the keyboard.

5:00 PM—6:00 PM

Book Project Information Session.

Sunday, March 10

9:00 AM—12:00 PM

For Post-Grad Year Members:

“You Have to Want to Tell the Truth: Facing Your Own Intention,” Steve Almond, MFA

By looking closely at excerpts from work in progress, we’ll focus on what Graham Greene calls “the heart of the matter,” the story you sat down intending to tell. (Which isn’t always what shows up on the page). This will be a chance to revisit the deeper themes, and aims, of your manuscripts, in a radically empathic—and honest—setting.

For Weekend Guests:

“From Start to Finish: Exploring the Limits of Your Manuscript,” Bill Henderson, MA, and Andrea Dupree, MFA

What can you learn about your manuscript by looking at the opening and ending? We’ll discuss how understanding the “bookends” of your manuscript can help you understand what material needs to go *between* the bookends. This class includes lecture, exercises, and sharing.

12:00 PM—1:00 PM

Catered Lunch

1:15 PM to 2:00 PM

“You Have to Want to Tell the Truth: A parting word from Steve Almond Joy”

Steve Almond will read and discuss the introduction to his book *Truth Is the Arrow, Mercy Is the Bow*, which speaks to the book’s mission. He will answer questions.

2:15 PM—4:15 PM

Post-Grad Members – Mentor Group Meetings

Post-Grad Weekend Guests – Writing Time

Guest Speakers

Steve Almond, MFA

Steve Almond is the author of eleven books of fiction and nonfiction, including the New York Times bestsellers *Candyfreak* and *Against Football*, and the forthcoming *Truth is the Arrow, Mercy is the Bow*, a book on the writer's craft. After many failed efforts, his debut novel, *All the Secrets of the World*, came out in 2022. The book has been optioned by 20th Century Fox, and based on an excerpt, Almond was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. His essays and reviews have been published in venues ranging from *The New York Times Magazine* to *Ploughshares* to *Poets & Writers*, and his short fiction has appeared in the *Best American Short Stories*, the Pushcart Prize, the *Best American Mysteries*, and the *Best American Erotica*. Almond co-hosted the Dear Sugars podcast with his pal Cheryl Strayed for four years, and teaches Creative Writing at the Neiman Fellowship at Harvard and Wesleyan.

Buy: [Candyfreak](#)

Buy: [All the Secrets of the World](#)

Buy: [Truth Is the Arrow, Mercy Is the Bow](#)

Angie Chuang, MA

Angie Chuang is an associate professor of journalism whose research and teaching focus on race, identity and representations of Otherness. She came to academia after 13 years as a national and regional award-winning newspaper reporter at *The Oregonian*, *The Hartford Courant* and the *Los Angeles Times*. At *The Oregonian*, she launched one of the first regional-newspaper beats on race and ethnicity issues, and traveled to Afghanistan, Vietnam and the post-Katrina Gulf Coast to cover stories. Her scholarly work on race, media and American Otherness has been published in *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, *Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism*, and *Communication, Culture and Critique*. Her reporting in Afghanistan became the

backbone of her literary journalism-memoir book, *The Four Words for Home* (Aquarius Press-Willow Books, 2014), which won an Independent Publishers Book Award Bronze Medal, and was shortlisted for the Saroyan Prize and the International Rubery Award. Her media commentary has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Hyphen*, *Huffington Post*, *The Root*, *Poynter Online*, *The Seattle Times* and *The Oregonian*. In her first academic appointment at American University's School of Communication in Washington, D.C., Chuang was awarded the Ann S. Ferren Curriculum Design Award for creating the pilot of a mandatory first-year course on race and social identity, the American University Experience II. She has also served as a consultant on diversity, equity and inclusion issues to National Public Radio, Atlantic Media and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Buy: [*The Four Words for Home*](#)