

## 2021 MENTORING PROGRAMME

**Mentors:** Richard Beynon and Jo-Anne Richards with associates Michele Rowe for screenwriting and Fred de Vries for travel writing

Our Mentoring Programme is tailored to each writer's needs and provides encouragement, support, substantial feedback and advice every month. It is suitable for writers of fiction and creative non-fiction.

You buy a block of hours (twelve/sixteen/twenty), which are valid for six/eight/ten months. They can be used in a variety of ways: you can receive feedback and personal notes on your writing, as well as brainstorming help and advice on developing ideas. With their distinctive honest-but-kind approach, Jo-Anne Richards and Richard Beynon provide notes and advice on story, characters, structure, scenes, point of view and style.

This programme will help you start - and finish - your book, collection of short stories or screenplay. It is suitable for anyone who has completed a substantial writing course. We hold your hand and walk you through the process.

### How the programme works

- At the start of the programme we will, depending on the nature of your project, we'll assign either Jo-Anne or Richard (or Michele or Fred) as your **primary reader**.
- We'll **assign you to a group**.
- Each month you'll receive full **written feedback** on your submission from your primary reader. The secondary reader will comment if he/she thinks the primary reader has missed something significant.
- The programme is run through a **private mentoring group** on our online course platform, which is hosted by Ning.
- This is where you submit your writing and where Jo-Anne and Richard post their feedback.
- We use **Zoom for brainstorming** and the monthly half-hour feedback sessions.

### Submissions and brainstorms

- **Brainstorms** – We can help you develop a story idea or character details through a three-way Zoom brainstorming session, in readiness for writing a book, or if at any stage you find yourself stuck. These can be in lieu of or in addition to your monthly written submission.
- Your **monthly submission** might consist of character descriptions, story outlines and scene descriptions etc or be part of the narrative.
- Before you get too far into the process, we strongly suggest you prepare by working with Jo-Anne and Richard on your story idea and character development. They will let you know when they think you are ready to begin writing.
- Once you're ready to submit narrative, we suggest you aim for about 5000 words per month but your emphasis should be on quality rather than quantity.

- Feedback on 5000 words generally takes between two and four hours depending on how much work the submission requires.
- We suggest you submit as polished a piece of writing as possible so we don't waste time on correcting typos and grammatical errors.
- If you have any hours in credit after six/eight/ten months and you sign up for another tranche, we will carry your hours forward.
- We'll track your hours month by month and send you an occasional recon.

### Submission dates

- The Group 1 submission date is generally the second last Tuesday of the month.
- The Group 2 submission date is generally the last Tuesday of the month.
- We might occasionally change these dates but you'll have advance warning of this.

### Feedback sessions

- As a bonus to the hours spent on feedback and brainstorming, everyone is entitled to an individual **half-hour feedback session on the specified Zoom days**. During your thirty minutes you can also talk through your next steps.
- Both Jo-Anne and Richard will always be present at the Zoom sessions.
- Group 1 Zoom sessions are on the last Tuesday of the month and Group 2 Zoom sessions will be held on the first Tuesday of the month.
- We might occasionally change these dates but you'll have advance warning of this.
- You also have the opportunity to ask Richard and Jo-Anne's opinion on **urgent problems** between submissions. This must be done through the online forum, and not via email or phone calls.

**One-on-one face-to-face meetings:** Mentees are welcome to use their hours for a face-to-face meeting with Jo-Anne (in Cape Town) or Richard (at the British Library, London or in Bedford). There will be an additional charge for any travel costs incurred.

### In return we ask that participants commit to:

- Reading and commenting on at least some of their colleagues' work.
- Playing an active part on the online forum
- Submitting by the deadline every month. (The only exception is if you submit more than 5000 words then you agree to submit a week before the deadline.) Submitting late may result in only reading and feedback from only your primary reader.

### Cost

Payable in advance unless you discuss taking advantage of our payment plan. We'll invoice you on acceptance into the programme. (Rates may vary for certain projects.)

	GBP	South African Rand
<b>Twelve hour package:</b>	£630 Valid for six months Payment plan: A payment of £220 to be made on the first business day of each of the first three months.	ZAR 10 200 Valid for up to six months Payment plan: A payment of ZAR 3 675 to be made on the first business day of each

		of the first three months.
<b>Sixteen hour package:</b>	£800 Valid for eight months Payment plan: A payment of £210 to be made on the first business day of each of the first four months.	R 13 360 Valid for up to eight months Payment plan: A payment of R 3 507 to be made on the first business day of each of the first four months.
<b>Twenty hour package:</b>	£950 Valid for ten months Payment plan: A payment of £200 to be made on the first business day of each of the first five months.	R15 900 Valid for up to ten months Payment plan: A payment of R 3 339 to be made on the first business day of each of the first five months.

**Plus you receive these bonuses each month:**

- A free individual half-hour feedback session via Zoom on the specified days
- A complimentary read from the second reader if you submit by the deadline.

**How to apply**

The programme is selective and prospective candidates are asked to supply the following:

- Your name, address and phone numbers.
- A one-page synopsis of your proposed project or no more than one page describing your idea as far as you have developed it.
- A covering letter detailing why you feel the programme would be of benefit and listing any creative writing courses you have completed and/or writing experience.
- Please also include character descriptions if you have them, anything you wish to share related to the story as well as the first chapter or two if you have started writing. If you are still in the process of developing your idea, jot down your thoughts, even in their sketchiest form. Submit a maximum of 5000 words including your synopsis.
- If you are accepted onto the programme, you'll receive full feedback on this submission (which will officially be your first submission) and it will be what is discussed at your first Zoom meeting.
- Please email to [trish@allaboutwritingcourses.com](mailto:trish@allaboutwritingcourses.com)