Welcome/Overview
Lisa Alvarez, co-director of the Writers Workshops at the Community of Writers

8:35
Writing with the Senses
A craft talk by Janet Fitch

9:25
Intermission

9:30
Short Takes Staff Readings
Karen Joy Fowler
Gail Tsukiyama
Martin J. Smith

10:15
Intermission: Virtual Nature Walk Part I, with Will Richardson, Naturalist and co-director of Tahoe Institute for Natural Science.

10:30
Literary Nonprofits Lean on Each Other
David Haynes  (Kimbilio/Fiction)
Tom Lutz  (LARB)
Amanda Uhle  (McSweeney’s)
Jared Jackson  (PEN America)
David Kipen  (Libros Schmibros)
David Ulin  (Air/Light)
Oscar Villalon  (ZYZZYVA)
Moderated by Alex Espinoza

11:25
Intermission: Forever Al Young

11:30
On Gill Dennis
On Gill Dennis’ legendary “Finding the Story” Workshop by Leslie Daniels

12:15
15-minute midday break

(cont.)
12:30  How Screenwriting Techniques Build a Scaffold for Story and Character Arc

A craft discussion by Patricia K. Meyer and Megan Fay Raveneau

1:10  Intermission: Interview with staff poets Kazim Ali and Blas Falconer.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gregory Pardlo reads his poem “Metaphor” from Why To These Rocks: 50 Years of Poems from the Community of Writers (Heyday). He will also read a poem by Cleopatra Mathis from the same collection.

1:15  The Tyranny of Realism

A craft talk by Michelle Latiolais

2:00  What the Fiction Writer Can Learn from the Nonfiction Book

A conversation with Martin J. Smith and Julia Flynn Siler

Hosted by Sands Hall

2:50  Intermission

3:00  Deep Dive into a Short Story: Writers Consider Elements of a Short Story by Way of Craft, Technique, and Style

With Dana Johnson, Peter Orner, and Krys Lee. Moderated by Tom Barbash

Audience members are encouraged to read Weike Wang’s story “Omakase” in advance. It is available online at The New Yorker, in the print edition of the magazine, June 2018, as well as on The New Yorker’s The Writer’s Voice, where Weike Wang reads the story.

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/06/18/omakase

4:35  Intermission: Virtual Nature Walk Part II

with Will Richardson, Naturalist and co-director of Tahoe Institute for Natural Science.

(cont.)
SATURDAY, JULY 17 EVENING

4:45  Short Takes Staff Readings

Peter Orner
Kirstin Valdez Quade
Tom Lutz
Andrew Tonkovich

5:35  Intermission: Poet/Musician Cornelius Eady and the CE Trio perform a Lucille Clifton poem “Let There Be New Flowering” they set to music, followed by Shangyang Fang reading his poem “Rider’s Song” from Why To These Rocks: 50 Years of Poems from the Community of Writers (Heyday).

5:45  Approaching Character

Amy Tan and Anna Deavere Smith

A special conversation between two internationally acclaimed alums, novelist Amy Tan, and dramatist-actress Anna Deavere Smith. Decades after attending the workshop as participants, the two are reunited in a fascinating conversation in support of our fifty years of summer writing workshops.

6:45  Closing Comments

Dana Johnson author and Community of Writers Board Member

7:00  Reading of “The Seventh Night”

The Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Robert Hass reads his poem from Why To These Rocks: 50 Years of Poems from the Community of Writers (Heyday).

Music by CE Trio, Louis B. Jones, Sands Hall, Caridwen Irvine-Spatz and Greg Spatz

(cont.)
Acknowledgments:

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More from the Summer Workshops:

Interested in more videos of events from our Summer Workshops in the Virtual Valley? Please visit: https://communityofwriters.org/2021-summer-video. We will post videos as they become available.