

Creating Graphic Novels

by Neal Skorpen, U.S.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This workshop will examine the basic techniques and concepts of graphic novel creation. We will study the mechanisms of the narrative image sequence, and how the comic form may be used to communicate character, events, and mood. Students will further explore the medium with individual and group projects (drawing ability not required) and critiques.

WORKSHOP LEADER

Neal Skorpen is a cartoonist and animator, and teaches graphic novel courses at Pacific Northwest College of Art. He has created several comic strips, short comic stories, and the graphic novel *The Rogues of GranBreca*. Current projects include the webcomic serial *The Introvert Manifesto*, graphic novel *Island of the Moths* (with Peter Gelman) and contributions to the online comic anthology *Serenity Tales*. Neal lives with his wife Marcie in Portland, Oregon, USA.

TARGET AUDIENCE

All WRITERS and GRAPHIC DESIGNERS who is passionate about graphic novels.

COURSE OUTLINE

Nov 19

- **Images as Language**
A discussion on the challenges and opportunities inherent in image-based narratives, and how they differ from text-based narratives
- **Story/Scene Creation**
Using basic dramatic structures, we will outline a story and major characters, and generate specific details of one key scene.
- **Page and Panel Design**
Design a sequence of panels to portray the scene from the exercise.
- **Group Critique of Pages**

Nov 20

- **Fluency with Images**
Building on the previous day's discussion, we will examine the transitions between panels, non-linear treatment of time, and symbolism.
- **Outline multi-page comic story**
We will generate a story of a specific length, and establish the essential content for each page.
- **Design Selected Page**
Create one page from the generated story.
- **Group Critique of Pages**

Nov 21

- **Comics and Other Media**
Some graphic novels are adaptations of novels. Many graphic novels become films. How much of the story depends on the medium? When are comics stronger than other media, and when are they weaker?
- **Translate Text to Panels**
Each person will design a comic adaptation of a chosen work.
- **Group Critique of Pages**

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DATE and TIME

19-21 Nov 2008 (Wed–Fri), 9.30am to 5.30pm

VENUE

Possibility Room, Level 5
National Library Building,
Victoria Street

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COURSE ADMINISTRATION

Registration Fees (please tick one)

S\$280 per person

Special price

S\$250 per person for members of ACAS

S\$150 per person; students from secondary to tertiary levels (undergraduates)

Ways to register

1. Register online by visiting www.bookcouncil.sg/clap.htm
or
2. Complete the form below and fax it to **(65) 6742 9466**.

Cancellation & Substitution

Fees paid are non-refundable but transferable. Requests for substitution must be made on/before 12 Nov 2008. A cancellation charge of 25% of the full course fee is applicable for cancellations made after 12 Nov 2008

Payment

Payment is required before the workshop commences or within 30 days of receipt of invoice, whichever is earlier. Payment to be made in Singapore Dollars, by cash, cheque or bank draft, payable to "NBDCS" and mail the payment together with your form to us. Alternatively you may deliver your payment, with your name and contact details attached, immediately after you have faxed/emailed/submitted your online registration.

Mailing Address

National Book Development Council of Singapore
c/o Geylang East Community Library
50 Geylang East Avenue 1, Singapore 389777

Enquiries

Email : clap@bookcouncil.sg

Tel : (65) 6848 8290

ABOUT THE ORGANISER

NBDCS is a non-profit umbrella body inaugurated in 1969 to promote storytelling, reading, writing and publishing, with a current objective to establish and develop Singapore as the Asian centre for publishing and the literary arts. NBDCS brings Singapore book industry and literary community together through industry events, courses, seminars, conferences and author lectures. NBDCS has been organising the prestigious Singapore Literature Prize since 1990 and also manages the Centre for Literary Arts and Publishing and Singapore Writers Centre

Registration Form – Creating Graphic Novels

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr _____

Organisation: _____

Designation: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Mobile: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature: _____