

The Stockholm Writers Festival

Find your path to published...



Day 1: Friday, April 13

4:00 p.m. Registration opens

5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Author reading and First Pages Prize award presentation

Even the most celebrated wordsmiths get heartburn when they write. We kick off #SWF18 with featured authors reading their peskiest passages and telling us why. The evening concludes with the presentation of the premier De Groot Foundation/SWF literary competition, the First Pages Prize, recognizing the talent of emerging writers with generous cash awards for our winner and finalists.

8:00 p.m. Mingle in downtown location

Day 2: Saturday, April 14

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Additional registration, coffee

8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Breakout Session One (When registering, participants choose one of the following:)

Module A	Module B	Module C
How to use setting to move your story	Memoir: Writing from past pain	Revolutionize your writing with three easy editing hacks

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Breakout Session Two (When registering, participants choose one of the following:)

Module A	Module B	Module C
To “Indie or not to indie,” that is the question...	From inspiration to story: the role of research	Infusing elements of game writing into fiction

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Panel discussion in Berghs auditorium

Pitch Perfect: You’ve finished your manuscript, or you’re about to be finished. Now it’s time for the next challenge: selling it. Our industry experts give inside tips on getting noticed. And take questions from festival goers.

12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch (Our location is in the center of Stockholm. There are places next door to Berghs to eat lunch, or grab a bite and dine in the cafeteria area.)

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Buttonhole the expert

Buttonhole the expert is a "speed-dating" type activity where participants move between tables asking questions of experts. Topics range from how to create a great non-fiction proposal to tips for getting through writer’s block. There are three rounds, so mix it up and take the opportunity to talk to agents, authors and editors in a small group format.

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Breakout Session Three (When registering, participants choose one of the following:)

Module A	Module B	Module C
Subtext: Finding the heart of your story	Writing from abroad: Its effects on language and imagination	Unlikely paths to published: Writers share their unique paths to success

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Panel discussion in Berghs auditorium

State of the industry. Self-publishing. Indie presses. Digital dominance. These are just a few of the trends changing “business as usual” in publishing. Our industry experts discuss the ramifications and take questions from festival goers.

4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Panel discussion in Berghs auditorium

Find your superpower: Turning “weaknesses” into strength to publish your first book. Getting published is a hard, lonely road. Learn how these authors turned their weaknesses into strengths to get their first book deals.

6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Keynote speech in Berghs auditorium

Elinor Lipman published her first novel, *Then She Found Me*, in 1990. A book that went on to become a major motion picture starring Colin Firth and Helen Hunt. Her latest work, *On Turpentine Lane*, (a romantic comedy that according to the New York Times, has “pleasingly ridiculous characters”) was released in 2017. #SWF18 is thrilled to have Elinor as our keynote speaker. Festival goers are sure to gain insight and inspiration from having experienced one of America’s leading writers.

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Mingle in downtown Stockholm

Literary Idol: A fun game-show style event where the first page of an anonymous manuscript is read to an SWF judging panel. Judges buzz in at the point where they would stop reading. A brief summary is conducted reviewing the turn offs and strengths of each piece.

Agent Pitch Sessions: Want to get a live reaction to your latest book project? Sign up for a 10-minute live pitch session to be held on Saturday April 14. Hone your marketing skills before an industry expert. Available to festival goers who book Part I (days one and two, Friday and Saturday) of #SWF18. Limited availability, so book early.

Day 3: Sunday, April 15

As part of #SWF18, we want to give festival goers the opportunity to delve deeper into their craft. That's why we offer a choice of expert-led, in-depth workshops to help you find your path to published. **Remember: To sign up for agent pitching or intensive workshops, you must attend Part I.**

All intensives will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with a one-hour break for lunch.

Manuscript makeover

Participants will receive detailed critique on the first five pages of a work-in-progress. These pages will be used to teach story hooks, narrative voice, characterization, and plot. This workshop will be full of tips and tricks useful to writers of all genres across fiction, non-fiction, and drama.

Finding fiction in truth

Don't let truth get in the way of your story. In this session, participants looking to start a project arrive with a page of description of actual events. Then are walked through the process of fictionalizing their non-fiction writing.

Indie publishing: Building your platform

Learn the steps for creating a great platform for your independent book effort during this in-depth workshop. Topics covered include creating a social media platform authentic to your work, choosing your publication channels, and sustaining marketing to support sales.

Writing a novel: From idea to ISBN

Learn a seven-step process for transforming an idea into a novel in six months. Topics covered in this workshop include crafting memorable characters, building a page-turning plot, creating cinematic settings, and landing an agent or self-publishing. Bring your ideas as well as something to write with and on.

Upping your travel writing game

Participants will learn practical ways of improving both their narrative and service-style travel writing including short peer-to-peer critiques and valuable resources for pitching their travel stories to various publications. This includes finding unique story angles, crafting pitches, and tightening your overall storytelling skills. Take your travel writing to the next level in this session.

Sound and sense

Get to know a language by playing with it! In this workshop we'll be breaking apart familiar and unfamiliar words by their look and their sound in order to make new meaning. We will be composing oddly rhymed poems, homophonic translations of forgotten languages, and alienating ourselves from semantic sense. Bring a notebook and a sense of adventure!
