

# Moab Poets and Writers

Winter/Spring 2005

Volume 2, Issue 1

*Welcome to the Moab Poets and Writers newsletter*

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## **“Western Stars” Shine in Moab**

Expanded from last year's successful beginning, Moab's cowboy poetry weekend proved fun for everyone who attended. The four-day affair, held February 18-21, sported the name “Moab's Western Stars” — a celebration of not only cowboy poetry, but of our Western heritage. At Friday evening's Opening Night at Star Hall, D.L Taylor was spotlighted as the “Western Star of 2005.” The evenings's music and poetry set the festive mood for the rest of the weekend.

The Western Star events offered great poetry and music, along with workshops, lectures, and contests. The appreciative crowd made short work of the chili cookin' entries (after the judging), and the “Rising Stars” western art contest had people browsing around the MARC's foyer, enjoying art, vendor offerings, and quilt demonstrations. The MIC hosted the Western artwork of Pete Plastow, our “Pole Star” artist of the year.

We provided most of the weekend's events free of charge. Those who attended were pleasantly surprised by the variety and quality of events offered. With three evening shows and various performing groups revolving through the venues of Star Hall, the MARC, the MIC, and the Bar M Chuckwagon barn, scheduled events kept folks busy and involved. Many MP&W members were involved in one capacity or another, which helped make this a great event. This fundraiser will help provide for future readings, workshops and more. We certainly hope to see you all at next year's Western Stars!

## On Writing and Publishing - Monthly column by Michaelene Pendleton

### Scamming the New Writer

The greatest words a new writer can hear: "I love your book! With some editorial work, I think it is publishable." In many cases, those are also the saddest words a new writer can hear.

So you've written your book, polished it, and submitted it to a small press you saw advertised in a reputable magazine or writers' guide. While most small presses do business with integrity, there is a growing number of "small press" houses that are nothing but scammers out to take advantage of a new writer's lack of experience and desire to be published.

Typically, your book will be praised in glowing terms and you will be sent a contract. At this point, you're riding high. Your first book! Sold! Then you discover that you are expected to pay editing and publishing fees.

Stop right there. No reputable house charges for these services. If you get involved with one of these scammers, not only will they charge you unconscionable fees, usually more than the book actually costs to print, but it's likely that the book will never be printed at all.

Before you submit your manuscript, research the market. Many writers' organizations post lists of known scammers; check them out. Stay away from these outfits: Creative Arts Book Company; Martha Ivery, aka Kelly O'Donnell, and/or Press-Tige Publishing; M.W. Mills Literary Agent, Janet Kay and Associates, aka Helping Hand Literary Services; Oak Tree Press/Johnson-Warren Literary Agency.

*Next time: Agents – Do You Need One? How to Get One.*

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## Quotes about Writing - by Ann Gordon

### Fighting Words: Writers Lambast Other Writers

Edited by James Charlton

Published 1994 - Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, hardback, 152 pages

This little book contains comedic and caustic quips from noted writers about themselves and other writers. The book also contains a few great black and white author illustrations. For the writing quotes section of this newsletter, I want to share some of this book's writer-on-writer quotes.

*I wish I was as cocksure of anything as Tom Mccauley is of everything.*

**William Lamb, on Thomas Babington Mcaulay**

*You speak of Lord Byron and me. There is a great difference between us. He describes what he sees. I describe what I imagine. Mine is the harder task.*

**John Keats, on Lord Byron**

*There are two ways of disliking poetry: One is to dislike it, the other is to read Pope.*

**Oscar Wilde, on Alexander Pope**

*To me, Poe's prose is unreadable - like Jane Austen's. No, there is a difference. I could read his prose on a salary, but not Jane's.*

**Mark Twain, on Edgar Allan Poe and Jane Austen**

*Thanks to Ann Gordon for creating the MP&W newsletters.*

## April Fools Day - Open Mic Event

Look in your desk, closet or computer! It is time once again for an Open Mic evening with fellow writers. The theme of this Open Mic event is: *Make a Fool of Yourself - or Someone Else!* Come and share your recent poetry or prose with other area writers. This season's Open Mic event will be held at Eklectica on April 1st, starting at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided, but feel free to bring something you would like to share with the group.

Open Mic reading will begin at 7:00. In order to give everyone a turn to share, folks will be limited to 10 minutes of poetry or prose before break, with more time for reading and sharing after break.

Mark your calendars now! Remember to check the Moab Poets and Writers Web site occasionally to read about future and past events. <http://www.geocities.com/moabpoetsandwriters/>

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## Moab Poets & Writers Membership

**It is time to renew your membership with Moab Poets and Writers. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2005, please do so as soon as possible.**

**Remember, along with your membership card you will also receive:**

- Updates about local seminars, workshops, featured readers, and writing contests
- Reduced cost (15%) for attendance at MPW-sponsored workshops, retreats, seminars, and conferences
- Seasonal newsletters about MP&W events and other writing information
- An invitation to participate in local readings of your work and that of others
- List of other members with contact information, when available
- Contact with other regional organizations of similar nature
- Membership in a network of creative people who are there to help and encourage others

As an MP&W member, you will be part of an established poets and writers organization, which has a published forum and has gained regional respect. You will also be helping to support this form of creative arts, to encourage others like yourself to participate, and to introduce young people to the opportunities for self-expression in the written word.



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 General Membership - \$18     Students and seniors - \$15     Sponsoring Business - \$35

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_  Check here if your contact information can be added to the membership mailing list

General Areas of Interests (prose, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

(Please include your membership payment with this form and mail to: MP&W, 59 So. Main, PMB 123, Moab, UT 84532)

## **Book Review** - by Linda Warren

### **The Tale of Despereaux:**

Being the story of a mouse, a princess, some soup, and a spool of thread

by Kate DiCamillo

Candlewick Press, Copyright 2003

2004 Newbery Medal Winner\*

Despereaux, runt of the mouse litter, falls in love with music, stories and Princess Pea. For speaking to a human he is marked with a red thread around his throat and condemned to the castle dungeon. Roscuro, dungeon rat, falls from the chandelier into the queen's soup during his pursuit of light and beauty. Branded an outlaw when the queen dies of shock, he begins to plan his revenge.

Miggery Sow, slow-witted peasant girl, is assigned to take the dungeon jailer his meal each noon. She harbors the impossible dream of being a princess, thus becoming a pawn in Roscuro's plan of revenge. The happily ever after ending returns them all to the light. DiCamillo speaks directly to the reader at the end of each chapter as she weaves this enchanting, expanded fairy tale.

*\* The Newbery Medal: An annual award from the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the author of the most distinguished contribution to children's literature (published in the United States).*

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