

THRILLERFEST XXI - 2026

CRAFTFEST 2026

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

New York Hilton Midtown | www.thrillerfest.com

REGISTRATION | 7:00 am - 4:00pm, 2nd Floor Promenade
THE MYSTERIOUS BOOKSHOP ONSITE AT THRILLERFEST | 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Nassau East & West, 2nd Floor

MORNING COFFEE | 7:30 am - 9:30 am, Hosted by ITW | 2nd Floor East Corridor, 2nd Floor

7:30 am - 7:50 am

WELCOME MEETING | Hosted by ITW with JON LAND, TOSCA LEE, & HANK PHILLIPPI RYAN
 Sutton North & Sutton Center, 2nd Floor

CRAFTFEST CLASSES

Sutton North & Center (2nd Floor) Beekman (2nd Floor) Sutton South (2nd Floor) Regent (2nd Floor)

8:00 am - 8:50 am

MARK SULLIVAN THE SECRETS TO A SUSTAINABLE WRITING CAREER	SAMANTHA SKAL INTERIORITY, POV, AND ASSUMPTIONS: THE TWIST SET-UP	ANDE PLIEGO TRICKING THE READER: HOW TO PLOT AND PLANT RED HERRINGS	JOSHILYN JACKSON THE PANTSER/PLOTTER PROCESS SWAP
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9:00 am - 9:50 am

LUIS ALBERTO URREA INTERVIEWED BY CHARLAINE HARRIS CRAFT SECRETS FROM A PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST	NEIL NYREN & JAMES L'ETOILE FIRST PAGE CRITIQUES	TESSA WEGERT CROSSING SUBGENRE LINES IN THRILLERS AND MYSTERIES	ALLISON BRENNAN SECONDARY CHARACTERS AND SIDEKICKS
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10:00 am - 10:50 am

DONALD MAASS DEEP STAKES & NON-PLOT PACE	YASMIN ANGOE MOTIVES FOR MURDER	JAIME LEVINE DIG DEEP: TOP TIPS FOR REVISING	CHRIS PAVONE SO MUCH DEPENDS UPON A SINGLE PAGE
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11:00 am - 11:50 am

LISA ERBACH VANCE INTERVIEWED BY GREGG HURWITZ AGENT AND THRILLER WRITER SPILL ALL	WANDA MORRIS HOW DO YOU STAY INSPIRED WHEN THE MUSE IS MISSING IN ACTION?	TOSCA LEE OUTSIDE THE ALGORITHM: POWER YOUR CAREER WITH COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT	ELISE HART KIPNESS BUILDING SUSPENSE: TOOLS THAT KEEP READERS TURNING PAGES
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12:00 pm - 12:50 pm

CRAFTFEST LUNCH: THE INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEY FROM BOOK-TO-FILM
 with KARIN SLAUGHTER & LISA UNGER
 Gramercy East & Gramercy West, 2nd Floor

1:00 pm - 1:50 pm

C.J. BOX, NEIL NYREN, & JOHN SANDFORD ASK ME ANYTHING	KATE WHITE HOW TO SEDUCE A READER IN 25 PAGES OR LESS	KAREN DIONNE EDIT YOUR MANUSCRIPT: THE MARSH KING'S DAUGHTER, A CASE STUDY	ELENA HARTWELL TAYLOR VOICE OF THE AUTHOR, VOICE OF THE BOOK, VOICE OF THE CHARACTER
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2:00 pm - 2:50 pm

DOUGLAS PRESTON INTERVIEWED BY ALETHEIA PRESTON MY WORST MISTAKES	BOYD MORRISON THE ART OF PACING: WRITING A BOOK READERS CAN'T PUT DOWN	CARTER WILSON THE VISIBLE WRITER	HANK PHILLIPPI RYAN EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO WRITE YOUR THRILLER —IN FIFTY MINUTES
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3:00 pm - 3:50 pm

RACHEL HOWZELL HALL INTERVIEWED BY HEATHER GRAHAM HOW DO YOU CHOOSE YOUR GENRE?	MARK TAVANI CREATIVE COMMERCE	LYNNE CONSTANTINE THE ART OF THE UNRELIABLE NARRATOR	CANDICE FOX STARTING YOUR NOVEL: THE 'HARD' START IN THE ERA OF DIVIDED ATTENTION
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4:00 pm - 4:50 pm

R.L. STINE MY 20 SECRETS FOR WRITING THRILLERS FOR YOUNG AND OLD	RAPHAEL MONTES LESSONS FROM A NOVELIST TURNED SCREENWRITER	SUZANNE ELISE FREEMAN & SCOTT BRICK AUDIOBOOKS NARRATORS: YOUR PARTNERS IN STORYTELLING	JENNA BLUM CAREER AUTHOR, THRILLER NEWBIE: THE PIVOT
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5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

All authors from the Wednesday CraftFest classes will sign | Murray Hill West & East, 2nd Floor, next to the bookstore

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

CRAFTFEST COCKTAIL PARTY | Hosted by ITW | Trianon Ballroom, 3rd Floor (CraftFest registration required)

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Subject to change – Updated 2026-May-02

Want the audio recordings of these panels? Visit <https://thrillerfest.com/audio/>

THRILLERFEST XXI - 2026

CRAFTFEST 2026

Thursday, May 7, 2026

New York Hilton Midtown | www.thrillerfest.com

REGISTRATION | 7:30 am - 2:15pm, 2nd Floor Promenade
THE MYSTERIOUS BOOKSHOP ONSITE AT THRILLERFEST | 9:00 am - 6:30 pm, Nassau East & West, 2nd Floor

MORNING COFFEE: 7:30 am - 9:30 am | Hosted by ITW | 2nd Floor East Corridor, 2nd Floor

CRAFTFEST CLASSES

	Sutton North & Center (2nd Floor)	Beekman (2nd Floor)	Sutton South (2nd Floor)	Regent (2nd Floor)
8:00 am - 8:50 am	ROBERT DUGONI PLAYING GOD OR CREATING MEMORABLE CHARACTERS	KATHERINE RAMSLAND MORE THAN MURDER IN MIND: INSIDE KILLERS' HEADS	JASON ALLISON & CARLA HOCH SILENT BUT DEADLY: A LIVE-ACTION FIGHT DEMONSTRATION	DARBY KANE WHY DOMESTIC THRILLERS ARE SO COMPELLING AND HOW TO WRITE THEM
9:00 am - 9:50 am	LISA UNGER INTERVIEWED BY K.J. HOWE CRAFT, CREATIVITY, & FINDING THE MUSE	HANNAH MORRISSEY & DOJ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER	STEVEN JAMES ORGANIC WRITING: HOW TO ABANDON YOUR OUTLINE AND ELEVATE YOUR STORY	LISA SCOTTLINE EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT WRITING THRILLERS
10:00 am - 10:50 am	JORDAN MOBLO INTERVIEWED BY MARK GREANEY BOOKSTAGRAMMERS, BESTSELLERS, & BOOK-TO-FILM	AARON PHILIP CLARK EXPLORING NARRATIVE STRUCTURE	DAVID ELLIS & ALEX FINLAY 10 THINGS BESTSELLING AUTHORS DO TO MAKE THEIR MANUSCRIPTS SING	ISABELLA MALDONADO WRITING DYNAMIC ACTION SCENES

11:00 am - 11:20 am **All authors from the Thursday CraftFest classes will sign** | Murray Hill West & East, 2nd Floor, next to the bookstore

11:30 am - 12:20 pm **PITCH PERFECT: CRAFTING AN EFFECTIVE PITCH** | Sutton North & Sutton Center, 2nd Floor
PitchFest Director SUSAN LEE with CLAUDIA CROSS, Folio Literary Agency; JAMES FARNER, JABberwocky Literary Agency; ARIELE FREDMAN, United Talent Agency (UTA); ELIZABETH KRACHT, Kimberley Cameron & Associates, LLP; and KRISHAN TROTMAN, Legacy Lit/Hachette Book Group

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm **PITCHFEST 2026** (PitchFest registration required)
Gramercy East & West, Murray Hill East & West, Regent, Sutton South | 2nd Floor
PITCHFEST BEVERAGE SERVICE - 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Hosted by ITW for PitchFest Attendees

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm **THRILLERFEST OPENING RECEPTION** | Co-Hosted by St. Martin's Press, Minotaur Books, Tor Publishing Group, Forge
Trianon Ballroom, 3rd Floor
(Registration for ThrillerFest required)

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Subject to change – Updated 2026-Apr-27
Want the audio recordings of these panels? Visit <https://thrillerfest.com/audio/>