

SPOTLIGHT ON: THE HORROR WRITERS ASSOCIATION

The Horror Writers Association's Library Liaison, award-nominated author JG Faherty, recently took the time to chat with us about HWA and all it encompasses.



IndiePicks: Please introduce us to the Horror Writers Association.

JG: The Horror Writers Association (HWA) is a nonprofit organization of writers and publishing professionals dedicated to promoting dark literature and the interests of those who write it. One of the HWA's missions is to encourage public interest in, and foster an appreciation of, good Horror and Dark Fantasy literature. This can take many forms, ranging from public readings and lectures, library programs, and reference materials to a strong social media presence, blogs, and partnerships with many industry events and library association meetings and conferences. And, of course, there is the immensely popular StokerCon, our annual convention that includes educational sessions (Horror University), panels on a wide variety of topics, and the long-standing annual Bram Stoker Awards® for superior achievement in horror literature.

The HWA also offers scholarships for adult and young adult writers, stipends for library teen writing programs, a mentorship program, members-only anthology opportunities, and promotional opportunities. The organization also partners with the American Library Association on a variety of initiatives.

IndiePicks: What are the origins of the Association?

JG: The HWA was formed in the late 1980's with the help of many of the field's greats, including Dean Koontz, Robert McCammon, and Joe Lansdale. With more than 1,250 members in countries such as Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Germany, Honduras, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Russia, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad, United Kingdom and the United States, it is the oldest and most respected professional organization for the much-loved writers who have brought you the most enjoyable sleepless nights of your life.

IndiePicks: Who can join the Association and what do members get most out of joining?

JG: The HWA is open to anyone. There are several levels of membership: Active (professionally published writers), Affiliate (published writers who have not yet met the requirements for professional status), Associate (non-writer professionals such as agents, artists, editors, and publishers), Academic, Library (libraries or librarians), and Supporting (anyone with an interest in the horror genre).

Members enjoy a wide variety of potential benefits. For instance, an Affiliate member might want to take advantage of the mentor program, which pairs new writers with established pros for a period of six months. Mentees work one-on-one with mentors on all

aspects of writing. There are blogs and informational sites not open to the public where members can share individual and industry news and discuss the craft of writing. Throughout the year, members can recommend works for Bram Stoker Award consideration (this list is also distributed to libraries as our recommended reading list each

year). Through our library partnerships, writers often are invited to present at local libraries and guest teach for writing programs. There are also regional chapters in many states that have regular meetings, put on presentations, and do public readings, as well as representing the HWA at conventions.

IndiePicks: Tell us a little bit about yourself and what you currently have in the works.

JG: Let's see. Right now I'm working on a novel and a novella (no idea which will be finished first!). My next novel, *Helrider*, will be released in 2018 by Asylum Books. It's a wild horror thriller about a motorcycle gang haunted by a biker they murdered.

Also, I've had several previously out-of-print novels re-released, including *The Cure* (nominated for the Bram Stoker Award) and *The Burning Time* (nominated for the International Thriller Writers' Thriller Award), both out now from Crossroads Press. All of my novels and novellas are available at Amazon and other book sites. And I've got several short stories coming out this year.



I'd also like to mention that I direct the Library and Literacy programming for HWA. In addition to partnering with ALA on events, articles, and panels, we also fund five teen writing programs at public libraries each year, have developed a partnership with United For Libraries to help link libraries and writers for speaking engagements, and offer many special perks for libraries on our website, including recommended reading lists, new release information, and access to the monthly newsletter. Our dual goals are to use horror to bring more people into libraries and get them to read, and to help libraries put more horror books on the shelves by making them aware of books in the small, independent, and specialty press areas, which greatly outnumber the titles published by the Big Five.

IndiePicks: How can people keep track of you and HWA?

JG: The best way to keep up with my goings-on is through Facebook (JG Faherty), Twitter (@JG Faherty), and my website (www.jgfaherty.com). I'm also on the HWA's Facebook site a lot (facebook.com/groups/Horrorwritersassoc) and I contribute to a variety of genre websites and blogs, including a recent one in RA For All: Horror (raforallhorror.blogspot.com) in honor of Halloween.