

Bill Torgerson

Assistant Professor at St. John's University

New York, NY, US

Laughs and Lessons: Whether it's on Growing up in the 80s, Overcoming Divorce, or Learning to Write, Smiles are Guaranteed

Biography

If something here grabs your attention, let's talk about the possibility of working together. I'm an assistant professor in the Institute for Writing Studies at St. John's University in New York. My 80s music and movies themed novel, Love on the Big Screen, came out of my own misguided obsessions when it comes to the films of John Hughes and characters played by John Cusack such as Lloyd Dobler in Say Anything. My adaptation of Love on the Big Screen won the Grand Prize of the Flickers Rhode Island International Film Festival Screenplay Competition. Given my time in front of classrooms, presenting at all sorts of professional conferences, and events such as the one "Girlfriend Weekend" I did last January, I'm a flexible speaker who feels comfortable in front of a variety of audiences. I specialize in interactive presentations that generate a storm of laughs and conversation.

Availability

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop, Host/MC, Author Appearance

Industry Expertise

Entertainment, Print Media, Media - Online, Writing and Editing, Library and Information Management, Social Media, Internet, Motion Pictures and Film, Education/Learning, Media Production

Areas of Expertise

Comedy, Collaborative Teams, Education, Writing, Digital Media, Blogging, Creative Writing, Research, Social Media, Reading

Affiliations

Association of Writers and Writing Programs, St. John's University, New York, National Council of Teachers of English, National Writing Project, College Composition

Sample Talks

Stop Lecturing and Start Engaging: Hands on Activities for the Reading and Writing Classroom

Participants in this lively session will create writing territories and learn how to use those territories to stimulate lively conversation that leads to the writing of meaningful essays, stories, scripts, research projects, and maybe even documentary films.

You Can Finally Do It! Write the _____ You've Been Wanting to Write

Whether it's a story, novel, script, or blog, in this interactive session you'll finally get started on that text that you've always wanted to write.

Love on the Big Screen Comedy Warm Up

"Torg" was so obsessed by 80s music and movies and the impact they had on his love life, that he wrote a book and script about it. Drawing on expertise gained through the writing of his novel Love on the Big Screen, have a good laugh remembering the 80s and thinking harder about how the music and movies of your youth may have influenced you more than you think.

A Writer on the Craft of Writing

From blogs, to websites, to company newsletters, many people find themselves writing much more than they ever imagined. Whether or not you are looking for ideas to write about or honing your craft, this interactive session will get you started toward writing more effectively.

Event Appearances

Title

BlogWorld New Media Expo

Title

National Council For Teachers of English

Title

Association of Writers and Writing Programs

Title

Flickers Rhode Island International Film Festival

Title

Girlfriend Weekend: The Greatest Book Show on Earth

Education

University of North Carolina Charlotte

Masters English Education

Olivet Nazarene University
B.A. English Education

Georgia College
M.F.A. Creative Writing

Accomplishments

Learning to Surf the Sea of Conversation: A Way Into Meaningful Research

The Journal of Teaching Writing published this article in their Fall 2011 publication.

Honorable Mention Los Angeles Script and Film Festival

A Viking on the Subway tells the story of Maija Finehair, a viking warrior killed at the battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066 and whisked away to contemporary New York City. This script was awarded an Honorable Mention distinction at the 2011 Los Angeles Script and Film Festival.

Carolina News Channel 14 Teacher of the Week

Love on the Big Screen

Love on the Big Screen is a novel and script that tells the story of a college freshman whose understanding of love has been shaped by late-eighties romantic comedies. The script was awarded the Grand Prize in the Rhode Island International Film Festival Screenplay Competition.

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