

Todd Petersen

Professor of English at Southern Utah University

Cedar City, UT, US

Specializing in formal structures of visual storytelling, creative writing, film theory, and aesthetics

Biography

Dr. Todd Petersen has worked as a YMCA assistant program director, literary journal editor, and English professor. Currently, he teaches creative writing and film studies courses for the English Department at Southern Utah University. He is also a member of the Author's Guild. Dr. Petersen's research focuses on screen aesthetics, visual narrative theory, heist and superhero films, as well as film adaptation. He has published a book of short stories and three novels. His fourth work of fiction, "Picnic in the Ruins," was released in early 2021. Library Journal calls it "An edgy black comedy examining crucial issues of appropriation and antiquities theft in America." Petersen has a bachelor of arts degree in telecommunications and film from University of Oregon, a master's degree in English from Northern Arizona University, and a Ph.D. in English with emphasis in fictional rhetoric and critical theory from Oklahoma State University.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Research, Writing and Editing

Areas of Expertise

Traditional and Contemporary Models of Successful Writing, Creative Writing Techniques, Coming-of-Age Storytelling, Project-Based Learning in Higher Education, Project Management, Fictional Rhetoric, Film Adaptation, Experiential Education, Visual Narrative Theory, Creative Writing, Storytelling, Project Based Learning, Creative Writing in Higher Education, Religious and Inspiration Fiction, Formal Structures of Visual Storytelling

Affiliations

National Society of Experiential Education, Author's Guild, Nat Sobel at Sobel/Weber

Education

University of Oregon

B.A. Telecommunications & Film

Northern Arizona University

M.A. English

Accomplishments

Storytelling for Influence Certification
IDEO U

Experiential Education Academy Certification
National Society of Experiential Education, 2016

Experiential Education Program of the Year
National Society of Experiential Education, 2016

Award of Excellence
SUU Board of Trustee's, 2015

Change Leader Certification
Utah Division of Art and Museums, 2014

Book Published: Rift

Jens Thorsen's retirement is not what his wife, Lila, was expecting. Rather than tending to things around the house, Thorsen has thrown himself into a life of charity: visiting the sick, the widowed, and the incarcerated. Between these acts of service, Thorsen finds the time to nurse his feud with local bishop Darrell Bunker. The two have hated each other for as long as anyone in Sanpete, Utah, can remember. Zarahemla Books, 2009.

Novel of the Year

Marilyn Brown Unpublished Novel Award, 2009

Outstanding Scholar

Southern Utah University, 2008

Book Published: Long After Dark

A man struggles--literally--with his dead father. A housewife suffers from post-calling depression. The son of a polygamist comes to terms with the damage done by his upbringing. An unwed teen mother faces down her father. In these award-winning stories and a new novella, Todd Robert Petersen takes the reader on expeditions to Utah, Arizona, Brazil, Rwanda, and into the souls of twenty-first-century Mormons caught between their humanity, faith, and church. Zarahemla Books, 2007.

Artys Award

Salt Lake Weekly, 2007

Distinguished Educator

Southern Utah University, 2007

Fiction Award

Oregon State University, 2001

AWP Intro Award

Association of Writers & Writing Program, 1998

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