

Richelle Putnam  
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#### **EXPERTISE:**

Writing, editing, research, computer skills, website design, content writing/editing, Excel, SEO, social media marketing

#### **2010 – Present - Freelance Positions:**

June 2014 – present – Editor/Publisher – Southern Roots online magazine  
July 2017 – present – Managing Editor/Writer – The Bluegrass Standard magazine  
July 2017-present – Contributor – eat. drink. MISSISSIPPI magazine  
2006 – Present – Mississippi Arts Commission Roster Artist (Literary)  
2008 – Present – Mississippi Arts Commission Teaching Artist (Literary/Music)  
2010 – Present – Mississippi Humanities Council Speaker

#### **Past Freelance/Editorial Positions:**

2021 – Grant Writer – Jimmie Rodgers Foundation  
April 2012 – 2019 – Arts Project Director, The Montgomery Institute, Meridian, MS  
2016 – 2020 - Teaching Artist for Mississippi Alliance for Arts in Education  
2013 –2017 – Teaching artist in the Mississippi Arts Commission SPED initiative program in Mississippi schools (has received many hours of special training for this initiative from the John F. Kennedy Center, Washington, DC)  
2013-2018- Talk Show Host - Behind the Scenes, Supertalk Meridian 103.3  
2014-2018- Talk Show Host – Looking Back, Supertalk Meridian 103.3  
2013-2018 – Staff Writer *Town and Gown* magazine, Starkville, MS  
2012-2017 – Contributor *Parents & Kids Magazines (Pine Belt and Mississippi Gulf Coast)*  
June 2014 –April 2017 – Marketing Assistant/ Newsletter Editor/Writer, Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Center (Letters of Recommendations available)  
September 2011 – 2014 - Special Features Director *Southern Writers* magazine  
May 2013- January 2014 - Grant Writer and PR Director Meridian Little Theatre  
2011 – Freelance Writer for *Well Being* magazine  
2012 – Freelance Writer for *Portico* magazine  
2011 – Author of *Lauderdale County, Mississippi: A Brief History* released by The History Press  
2010-2011 – Founder/Managing Editor *LEGENDS, the Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Review*  
Former Children's and Young Adult Genre Editor for "Gotta Write Network"  
Former Staff Writer for Novel Advice, an online writer e-zine

Former First Reader for Net Author's E2K's Literary Journal, fiction category  
 Former First Reader for Futures Mysterious Anthology magazine  
 Former Fiction Editor/Reviewer for Sotto Voce magazine (2009)  
 Founder and Founding President of Mississippi Writers Guild

**Other:**

2020 – Mississippi Arts Commission Literary Fellowship Recipient (Fiction)  
 2020 – Western Governors University Excellence Award in English Composition I for essay entitled, "Educated"  
 2017 – *Mississippi: The Depression Years* (The History Press/Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC); – Bronze Award – Regional Category – 2017 Foreword INDIE Book Awards –  
 2015 – Commissioned by the Mississippi Secretary of State to write a portion of the Mississippi Bicentennial Celebration History Book to be released in 2017; Researched and wrote the East Central Region (nine counties) history. This will be a 500-page coffee table book.  
 2014 – Author of *The Inspiring Life of Eudora Welty*, a young-adult biography of Eudora Welty, illustrated in full color by artist John Aycock and published in April 2014 by the History Press; received the Moonbeam Children's Book Award Silver Medal.  
 2014 - Mississippi Arts Commission Literary Fellowship Recipient (Fiction)  
 2012 – Co-author of *Legendary Locals of Meridian*, published by Arcadia Publishers (2013)  
 2011 – Author of *A Brief History of Lauderdale County*, History Press (2011)  
 2005 –2011- Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) Southern Breeze Contact Person for the State of Mississippi

**Education:**

**High School:** Callaway High School, Jackson, MS 1971:

**Higher Learning:**

Western Governors University – currently a student in the Marketing Management BS degree program. Credits earned: 86 (out of 120)  
 Graduate – Gotham Writers Memoir Certificate Program (2016) Certificate Program  
 Graduate - Gotham Writers Fiction Certificate Program (2009) Certificate Program  
 Graduate of Advanced Writing Program of Open College for the Arts, an affiliate of The Open University, University of Glamorgan in England (2004)  
 Graduate - Institute of Children's Literature Writing Programs: 1. Writing for Children and Teenagers (1998), 2. Novel Writing Course (2001), and 3. Creating and Selling Short Stories and Articles, an Advanced Writing Program (2003)  
 Graduate of Writer's Digest School Novel Writing Course (1999)

Certificate Programs:

Certificate – April 6, 2017 - Introduction to Marketing: Tools to Set Enterprises Apart – The University of Edinburgh

Certificate – The Power of the Pen: Identities and Social Issues in Poetry and Plays; The University of Iowa (2017) Certificate Program

Certificate – How Writers Write Fiction: Storied Woman; The University of Iowa (2016) Certificate Program

Certificate - "Introduction to Guitar by Berklee on Coursera. Certificate earned on March 10, 2014".

Certificate – Songwriting by Berklee on Coursera. Certificate earned on March 10, 2014".

Certificate - Ukulele - Level I – ArtistWorks earned October 2021

Other Completed Courses:

Sara Light's Creating Lyrical Contrast Course (2009)

Danny Arena's Composer Bag of Tricks Course (2009)

Danny Arena's Essential Music Theory for Songwriters (2009)

Gotham Writers Playwriting I Course (2007)

Gotham Writers Advanced Poetry Writing Program (2007)

Poetry Kit of Liverpool England's Advanced Poetry Course (2006)

Poetry Kit of Liverpool England's Advanced Nature Poetry Course (2006)

Anastasia Suen's Rhyming Picture Book Online Course (2004)

Certificate of Outstanding Achievement, Scott Wiggerman's "Poetry 101: The Way We Word" Poetry course (2003)

Certificate of Outstanding Achievement and Certificate of Academic Excellence, Margaret Shauers "Write Short Stories for Children" (2003)

Pamelyn Casto's Flash Fiction Writing Course (2000)

#### **ADDITIONAL TRAINING/EDUCATION: (Please request list of dates before 2016)**

WSI Summer Institute 2016 – Teaching Artist Day

MAC Professional Development – 1/14/16 – Ken Bolinsky

MAC Professional Development: SPED – 02/04/16

MAC Professional Development SPED – 02/16/16

Best Practices Workshop Early Childhood Development – Greater Jackson Area Arts Council – 08/25/16

WSI Summer Institute 2017 – Teaching Artist Day

2017 – MAAE Teaching Artist Training for Mississippi Humanities Project (Unsung Voices of Unheard Heroes)

2020-21 Songwriting/Musical Theory - Full Circle Music

#### **TEACHING/TRAINING FACILITATOR: (Please request list of artist teaching/training before 2016)**

Mississippi University for Women MFA Creative Writing Summer Camp - facilitated "Story to Song" in four-day residency with MFA students – June 2019

Meridian Community College – STEAM Camp – June 2017, 2018, 2019 – Facilitated Monologue, Flash Fiction, and Songwriting workshops in week-long camp

Mississippi State University – Twice annually facilitate a two-hour workshop with students in the Education program on integrating songwriting into language arts, history, and math.

### **WRITING AWARDS**

#### **Awards: (List of writing awards 2014- 2021**

2014 – Literary Fellowship in Fiction – Mississippi Arts Commission

October 2014 – 2014 Moonbeam Children's Book Award – Silver Medal for *The Inspiring Life of Eudora Welty*

August 2015 – Honorable Mention 35<sup>th</sup> Annual New Millennium Non-Fiction category for "Chipped, Not Broken"

August 2015 – Finalist in 35<sup>th</sup> Annual New Millennium Fiction category for "My Friend Anita"

October 2016 – Top Ten Winner, 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Writers Digest Writing Competition, Magazine Article category for "Tally-Ho"

January 2018 – Honorable Mention for "All About Need" in SongDoor International Songwriter Competition

February 2018 – Nomination of *Mississippi and the Great Depression* for the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, non-fiction category

March 2018 – *Mississippi and the Great Depression* – Bronze Award – Regional Category – Foreword INDIE Book Awards –

January 2019 – Honorable Mention for "Uniform" in SongDoor International Songwriter Competition

December 2019 – Excellence Award – English Comp I – Western Governors University

July 2020 – Honorable Mention for "Come With Me," Lyric Writing Contest, *American Songwriter Magazine*, July/August 2020 issue

2020 – Literary Fellowship in Fiction – Mississippi Arts Commission