

# Richelle Putnam

Meridian, MS 39305

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Willing to relocate to: Daphne, AL - Pensacola, FL - Rome, GA

Authorized to work in the US for any employer

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Teaching Artist

Mississippi Arts Commission - Jackson, MS - 2016 to Present

Works with public and private schools, Headstart Centers, community centers, arts programs, museums, and other various organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs, home schools, and after school programs to develop arts-integrated programs that build, improve and enhance core subject areas of learning. Music/Math; Songwriting/Language Arts, etc.

### Editor/Publisher

Southern Roots Online Magazine - Meridian, MS - April 2014 to Present

Founded Southern Roots Online Magazine to highlight History, Heritage and Culture of the South.

### Talk Show Host

Supertalk Mississippi - Meridian, MS - 2013 to Present

Behind the Scenes, Supertalk Meridian 103.3, one-hour talk show on Arts & Entertainment in Mississippi

### Talk Show Host

Supertalk Mississippi - Meridian, MS - 2013 to Present

Hosts a local one-hour talk show on Supertalk Meridian 103.3: Looking Back (looking back at people, places, issues, and events that affected Mississippi and Mississippians).

### Juried Speaker

Mississippi Humanities Council - Jackson, MS - 2013 to Present

Richelle is listed on the Mississippi Humanities Council Speaker Board for Writing from Personal Experience.

### Arts Project Director

The Montgomery Institute - Meridian, MS - April 2012 to Present

Plans, facilitates and implements arts-integrated early-childhood, elementary, middle school and high school workshops incorporating the literary arts and music. Also plans, facilitates and implements the Hwy 80 Songwriters Fest (Alabama/Mississippi), which includes songwriter rounds in various venues in Alabama and Mississippi, as well songwriting workshops for youth and adults. Writes the grants and find the sponsors for these programs and events.

### Freelance Writer

self - Jackson, MS - January 2012 to Present

I write and take photos on assignment for several magazines and publications. (See Publications)

### Award-Winning Author

The History Press - Charleston, SC - 2011 to Present

Moonbeam Children's Book Award Silver Medal for *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

### **Mississippi Arts Commission Teaching Artist**

Literary - 2008 to Present

work with public, private and early childhood education, non-profit organizations who work with children, libraries, community centers and community events. Have received extensive trainings through the Very Special Arts (VSA), Mississippi Arts Commission, Mississippi Alliance for Arts in Education and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

### **Grant Writer**

Self - Meridian, MS - April 2006 to Present

For several initiatives and organizations Richelle has written and received grants from:

Mississippi Arts Commission (The Montgomery Institute, Mississippi Writers Guild, and for continuing education as an Roster Artist)

Community Foundation of East Mississippi

SAM's

Mississippi Humanities (special initiative for Mississippi Bicentennial celebration)

### **Mississippi Arts Commission Roster Artist**

Literary - Jackson, MS - 2006 to Present

Teaches creative writing, non-fiction and fiction to youth and adults at libraries, schools, after school programs, community centers, community colleges continuing education programs, other organizations, and events

### **Interim Social Media/Website Director/Marketing Assistant**

Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Center - Meridian, MS - June 2014 to April 2017

Marketing Assistant/ Newsletter Editor/Writer, Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Center (Letters of Recommendations available)

### **Grant Writer and PR Director Meridian Little Theatre**

- May 2013 to January 2014

### **Special Features Director Southern Writers magazine**

- September 2011 to 2014

### **Managing Editor LEGENDS**

Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Review - Meridian, MS - 2010 to 2011

Founded the Mississippi arts & entertainment magazine and went to work for Blue South Publishing to publish it through the company. Planned themed issues, assigned features and photo shoots, the calendar, and edited and prepared content for upload and publishing.

### **Former Southern Breeze Contact Person & Conference Coordinator**

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators - Birmingham, AL - 2005 to 2011

### **Former Fiction Editor/Reviewer**

Sotto Voce magazine - Charleston, SC - 2009 to 2009

### **Founder/Past President**

Mississippi Writers Guild - Meridian, MS - 2005

Founded the Mississippi Writers Guild and helped carry it through the steps of becoming a 501c3 organization. Served as President for 5 years. Facilitated 11 annual writer conferences, getting the speakers, which have included best-selling authors, agents, publishers, editors, playwrights and screenwriters. Have also facilitated special writing events.

## EDUCATION

### **Certificate in Introduction to Marketing: Tools to Set Enterprises Apart**

University of Edinburgh

2017 to 2017

### **Certificate in Memoir Program (5 courses in Certificate Program)**

Gotham Writers

2011 to 2016

### **Certificate in Introduction to Guitar**

Berklee School of Music

2014 to 2014

### **Certificate in Songwriting**

Berklee School of Music

2014 to 2014

### **Certificate in Fiction (5 courses in Fiction Certificate Program)**

Gotham Writers

2005 to 2009

### **Diploma in Advanced Writing Program**

University of Glamorgan - Open College for the Arts

2002 to April 2004

### **Diploma in Creating and Selling Short Stories and Articles, An Advanced Writing Program**

Institute of Children's Literature

2001 to 2003

### **Diploma in Novel Writing**

Institute of Children's Literature

1999 to 2001

### **Certificate in Novel Writing**

Writers Digest

1998 to 1999

### **Diploma in Writing for Children and Teenagers**

Institute of Children's Literature

1997 to 1998

Callaway High School - Jackson, MS

1971

## SKILLS

Excel, Word, Power Point, proficient computer skills, (10+ years), Creative Writing, Article/Essay Writing (10+ years), Website Development through Wordpress and MURA (6 years), Adobe Lightroom (3 years), Accounts Receivable (10+ years), Accounts Payable (10+ years)

## LINKS

<http://www.richelleputnam.net>

<http://www.southernrootsmag.com>

## AWARDS

### **Writers Digest Annual Writing Competition**

November 1999

Finalist out of 14,000 entries for "Song of Melissa"

### **World Wide Writers**

July 2000

3rd Place Winner for "Truth and Mercy. Monetary award and publication

### **Writers Digest Annual Competition**

November 2000

From over 19,000 entries:

Finalist in Genre Short Story for "The Curse"

Finalist in Children's Literature Category for "My Brother Kevin"

### **Writers Digest Annual Writing Competition**

November 2001

Out of 18,000 entries

Finalist in Children' Literature category for "Grandpa's Overalls"

### **Blue Mountain Arts Poetry Contest**

July 2001

Honorable Mention for "Since I Met You." Received an Option to Publish for Blue Mountain Arts Greeting Cards.

### **Writers Journal**

July 2001

First Place in Romance Writing Contest for "This Old Man." Received award money and publication.

### **A Cup of Comfort for Mothers and Daughters Anthology**

April 2003

Top five finalist, prize money and publication for "The Power of a Mother's Love." This was a New York Times Bestselling anthology published by Adams Media Corporation.

### **Writers Digest Annual Competition**

November 2002

Out of over 19,000 entries, Honorable Mention "Lights in the Darkness"

### **Obadiah Press "Faith" Writing Contest**

May 2002

Finalist and publication in "Living by Faith" Anthology published by Obadiah Press for "Starting Over."

### **Writers Digest Popular Fiction Awards**

July 2005

Top Five Finalist for "You Can't Go Back" in Suspense/Thriller Category.

### **CNW/FFWA Annual Writing Contest**

August 2004

1st Place Winner in Children's Category for first chapter of "You Are My Sunshine." Award money and certificate.

Cassell Network of Writers (CNW) and Florida Freelance Writers Association (FFWA)

### **Fish Publishing**

October 2005

Top 25 finalist for "Confessions of a Single Mother" out of 1700 entries

### **Writers Digest Annual Fiction Contest**

August 2005

3rd Place Winner, Literary Category, award money and mention in Writers Digest Magazine

### **Writers Digest Annual Writing Competition**

November 2005

Honorable Mention for "I Hate You, Mrs. Powell" (First chapter), in Children's Literature category

### **Tallahatchie Riverfest "William Faulkner" Award for Short Fiction**

July 2006

2nd Place Winner for "North and South"

Honorable Mention for "Song of Melissy"

### **American Songwriter Magazine Lyric Writing Contest**

October 2007

2nd Place Winner for "All About Need"

Publication in American Songwriter Magazine

### **Mimi Heitzmann Writers Contest**

October 2007

First Place Winner for "Song of Melissy" Award money and plaque

### **American Songwriter Magazine**

January 2008

Honorable Mention Lyric Writing Contest for "Take the Long Way Home"

### **William Faulkner Poetry Contest**

September 2008

First Place for "Momma's Hillside." Award money and certificate.

### **Crescent Music and Media Compilation Contest**

December 2008

Top Ten Finalist for "Grierson's Raid" and "Rebel Soldier" co-written with Ralph Gordon.

### **American Songwriter Magazine**

February 2009

Honorable Mention for "A Baby on my Knee, A Soldier in my Heart"

### **A Cup of Comfort of Christmas Stories**

February 2009

Top Finalist. Award money and publication in Adam Media's A Cup of Comfort of Christmas Stories anthology.

### **American Songwriter Magazine**

August 2009

Honorable Mention for "Ridin' a Railroad Car"

### **Tallahatchie Riverfest "William Faulkner" Award**

September 2009

1st Place for "Was It Worth It?" in the Playwriting Division as co-writer, prize money, certificate and production of play

3rd Place for "Crossing Bridges" in Short Division Division, prize money and certificate

Honorable Mention for "Life After Death"

### **Songwars Songwriting Contest (Mike Pinder)**

October 2009

Honorable Mention for "My Side of Bad"

### **Billboard Songwriting Competition**

July 2010

Competition receives thousands of submissions from around the world.

Honorable Mention for "True American Hero" co-written with Ralph Gordon; Honorable Mention for "My Side of Bad"

Received several sets of Martin Guitar Strings and certificates

### **City Love "Song About a City"**

September 2010

Songs about cities submitted from around the world. Songs voted on by public and then panel. "Ballad of Meridian" was selected as part of the "Song About a City" compilation.

### **Tallahatchie Riverfest "William Faulkner" Award for Playwriting**

September 2012

3rd Place Winner, prize money and certificate

### **Moonbeam Children's Book Award**

October 2014

Received the Silver Medal in ebook category for The Inspiring Life of Eudora Welty.

### **New Millennium Non-Fiction Award**

August 2015

Honorable Mention for "Chipped, Not Broken"

### **New Millennium Fiction Award**

August 2015

Top Finalist for "My Friend Anita"

### **Writers Digest Annual Writing Competition**

October 2016

Top Ten Winner in Magazine Article category for "Tally-Ho" originally published in Town and Gown Magazine. Received award money, books and recognition in magazine.

### **Mississippi Arts Commission Literary Fellowship**

July 2014

Received a \$4,500.00 "Fiction" Literary Fellowship based on the merits of my work.

## CERTIFICATIONS/LICENSES

### **Parents for Public School Training**

November 2012 to Present

Attended extensive Parent Leader Institute training provided by East Central Mississippi Parents for Public Schools, which included homework and an ending project at a school or in the community that focused on education. My project was to be part of the founding and implementation of The Meridian Freedom Project, an after school and summer educational program which is still going on today in Meridian, MS.

## GROUPS

### **Meridian Council for the Arts**

August 2006 to Present

Board Member, past secretary and Vice President

### **Meridian Performing Arts Center**

August 2014 to Present

Board member

### **Meridian Museum of Art**

August 2015 to Present

Board Member and a member of the house band, Museum Preservation Society Band

### **MUNA Credit Union**

August 2015 to Present

Board member and Secretary

### **Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Experience (The Max)**

August 2010 to July 2015

Resigned from board to become the Interim Social Media, Newsletter and website director until permanent staff was placed.

### **Boys and Girls Clubs of East Mississippi**

May 2003 to August 2006

Served as board member. Also, facilitated the Vacation Bible School for Boys and Girls Club with over 150 children. The VBS was divided into sections of the church like two separate Bible Schools to the numbers would be manageable. Music and puppetry were included.

### **Association of Writers and Writing Programs**

January 2017 to Present

This organization provides information, training, and opportunities to writers, editors and publishers, including conferences, workshops, writing programs, etc. It facilitates the largest writers conference in the country each year.

## **Online News Association**

April 2017

The Online News Association is the world's largest association of digital journalists. ONA's mission is to inspire innovation and excellence among journalists to better serve the public. Membership includes journalists, technologists, executives, academics and students who produce news for and support digital delivery systems

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Town and Gown Magazine**

<https://townandgownmagazine.com/>

January 2014

I write every month for this publication, so rather than include every article (which can be from two to three in every issues, I am only including the website. I can provide sample stories upon request.

### **eat. drink. MISSISSIPPI**

<https://www.eatdrinkmississippi.com/>

June 2016

I write on a regular basis for this magazine. Stories are archived on site, but I can provide sample stories upon request.

### **Parents & Kids Magazine - Gulf Coast/Pine Belt**

<http://www.gulfcoast-parents-kids.com/>

March 2015

I write on a regular basis for this magazine. Archived stories are on the website, but I can provide sample stories upon request.

### **Mississippi Magazine**

<https://www.mismag.com/>

September 2014

Feature story the Archie and Olivia Manning's Family Fund. This was the issue's full-length feature, entitled "Manning the Helm."

### **Legends, the Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Magazine**

<http://www.readlegends.com>

September 2010

I approached Blue South Publishing, for which I had written, about starting a Mississippi Arts & Entertainment magazine. I went on board as Managing Editor and got the magazine off and running. In this position, I created the themes and budgets for every issue, assigned stories and photography, edited, and proofed magazine copy. I wrote features in every issue. Sample of stories area available upon request.

### **Well Being Magazine**

<http://www.wellbeingmag.com/?s=Richelle+Putnam&x=15&y=9>

February 2012

Provided is a link to a few of my features with Well Being Magazine.

### **Portico Magazine**

<https://www.porticojackson.com/>

June 2013

I have written several features for this magazine. Samples of these stories are available upon request.

### **Lauderdale County, Mississippi, a Brief History**

<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com>

October 2011

This book, which includes text and photos, is a brief history of Lauderdale County, Mississippi

### **The Inspiring Life of Eudora Welty**

<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com>

September 2014

This book was one of the first books published in The History Press's children's category. It received the Moonbeam Children's Book Award, Silver Medal.

### **Legendary Locals of Meridian**

<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com>

August 2012

This book highlighted many of Meridian's legends, shakers and movers. It was co-written with June Davidson. There was over 200 photos and included text.

### **Mississippi and the Great Depression**

<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com>

October 2017

This book will be released before Christmas 2017. It is an in-depth history of the Great Depression years in Mississippi and includes over 70 photos.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

As a MAC teaching artist, she was selected to participate in the Special Education initiative through The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Richelle has attended many grant workshops facilitated by the Mississippi Arts Commission and Mississippi Center for Non-Profits. She also completed the non-profit board training facilitated by the Mississippi Center for Non-Profits through the Riley Foundation of Mississippi.

In her early career, she was a legal secretary and an Administrative Assistant for a mall developer. She also kept the books for her and her husband's rental properties. In the early 1990s, she handled Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable for Modern Garden Center and Southern Gardens in Meridian.