



Christian Marcus Lyons
WRITER | ARTIST | EDUCATOR

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CHRISTIAN MARCUS LYONS is an award-winning writer of novel-length fiction, short fiction, creative non-fiction, screenplay, and poetry, and regular columnist for *The Rooster Magazine* and *Ark Magazine*, based in Colorado. He is former Writer-in-Residence with Colorado Humanities' *Writers in the Schools* program. He former professional editor for the *International Freelance Writers Organization* in Quebec, Canada, and Education Editor and Writer for *The Good Men Project*.

He mentored under the late poet and essayist, Jack Collom(1) and taught poetry to grades K-12 with lessons based on Collom's seminal book, *Poetry Everywhere: Teaching Poetry Writing in the School and Community*, and *Second Nature*, which earned Collom the 2013 Colorado Book Award for Poetry.

Marcus's screenplays have been considered by some of the thoroughbreds in the film industry (James Cameron, Barry Sonnenfeld, Jim Carrey, Ryan Reynolds, James Franco).

His writing has appeared in *The Bark*, *New York Magazine*, *Over the Edge*, *Babel*, *Shock Totem*, on the *Freelancers Union* website, in the fiction anthologies *Pull the Trigger* and *Darker Times*, and in the 2017 essay anthology, *Aging: An Apprenticeship*, alongside authors Ursula Le Guin, Judy Blume, Kate Clinton, Gloria Steinam, David Bradley, Donald Hall, Hilary Mantel, Achy Obejas, and others. Marcus also writes and produces programming for public radio and is currently collaborating with *Prairie Public Broadcasting* on a literary arts program, *Words on the Wire*.

He is founder and creative director for *Barking Dog Media U.S.*, a full-service creative agency providing business, legal, and marketing services to artists and creatives, as well as writing and graphic design services. He has served on the Board of Directors for a number of regional non-profits, and currently curates streaming music programs that earn more than 50,000 online listeners a week.

Marcus is Executive Director of the recently established *North Dakota Centre for Writing*, located in Minot, is founder of *Creative Minot*, a meet-up style organization that brings people together creatively, and founded the Kent Haruf Memorial Scholarship program in 2016 in the late author's hometown of Salida, Colorado. He also founded the *North Dakota Freelance Association*.

He has adapted, produced, and written award-winning stage plays for both community theater and other regional programs. He wrote a pilot ensemble television show that was a hybrid of Saturday Night Live

and Monty Python. and mentored under screenwriter and author Clyde Phillips (*Dexter, Suddenly Susan, Parker Lewis Can't Lose, Midas Valley, Trapper John, M.D.*).

He received the *Excellence in Arts Education* grant award from the Boulder Arts Commission for his development and facilitation of *The Writers Salon*, a literary workshop that ran from 2000 until 2015 for the City of Boulder, CO. Marcus relocated to Minot, ND, in May 2018 to implement and foster literary and visual arts programming in the community.

Marcus currently participates on the board of Minot Area Council on the Arts (MACA), and volunteers for other local non-profits. He teaches as guest educator on poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction for grades 7-12, and at the college level.

Additionally, Marcus is involved in the greater arts community in Minot where he is a graphic design artist and freelance professional. He is currently at work on several art and writing projects.

WHAT IF MAMA

What if mama never showed me
how to color inside the borders
and what if teacher never taught me
to write it on the line?

Would I drive on roads
or walk on sidewalks?
Would see-through blue leak outta
the sky and drip to the ground
forming lakes without shores?

Would fish swim above the water
and birds fly beneath the sea?

Would words march out of my mouth
in sentences or would they
slide out in a meaningless jumble

no one could that

under

stand?

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

WEB PRESENCE

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/marcus-lyons/>
Company: <https://barkingdogmediaus.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MarcusLyons2008>
Twitter: @BDMediaUS
Author: <https://authorchristianmlyons.wordpress.com/>
Freelance: <https://northdakotafreelance.wordpress.com/>
Non-Profit: <https://ndcfwriting.wordpress.com/>

ACCOLADES + ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1st Place* Screenplay, “Knock on Wood,” Pikes Peak Writers
1st Place Creative Non-Fiction, “Digging Holes in a Lake,” Pikes Peak Writers
2nd Place Historical Fiction, “Throwing Rocks at God,” Pikes Peak Writers
3rd Place Short Fiction, “Andante, Andante,” Pikes Peak Writers
Finalist SF/Fantasy/Horror, “The Vast,” Pikes Peak Writers
Finalist Short Fiction, “Still Life With Epiphany,” Glimmer Train Magazine
Finalist Mainstream Fiction, “Canary in a Coalmine,” Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers
Hon. Mention* Short Film, “The Proposal,” Asian Int’l Film Festival
Nomination** Short Fiction, “Cold,” Ploughshares Magazine
Award Excellence in Arts Education, Boulder Arts Commission

* *Collaboration with author Karen Albright Lin.*

***Nominated by Catherine Ryan Hyde, bestselling author of Pay It Forward (see below).*

Never Stop

Sometimes I feel
That I will never stop
Just go on forever
Until one of these fine mornings
I'm gonna reach up and grab me
A handful of stars
Swing out my legs
And whip three hot strikes
Burning down the heavens
Look over at God and say
How 'bout that?

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TESTIMONIALS

“I nominated Marcus for Ploughshares Literary Magazine's New Writers edition for his short story, *Cold*, based on the exceptional quality of his writing and ability to depict the complicated emotional landscapes on the darker side of human relationships. I foresee for him a very successful future as an author, leader and humanitarian.”

Catherine Ryan Hyde, Author, *Pay it Forward*

“Marcus is a leader in creating safe environments for writers to flourish. His facilitation skills keep groups on task while still making it fun and creative. He knows about writing and how to inspire the best of each person. I highly recommend Christian for writers looking for knowledgeable, honest and caring guidance to take them to the next level.”

Susan Scott, CEO, CORE Calling

“I've had the pleasure of knowing Marcus for nearly 40 years. Christian has been a friend, colleague, mentor and motivator at different points during our relationship. He has the qualities of a modern-day renaissance man, having exceptional talents in multiple and diverse artistic and business disciplines. Christian is someone I've trusted and lent my trust to and believe him to be a man of strong character and integrity.”

Dean Rizzuto, UX Director, The Integer Group

“Marcus is passionate about writing, teaching, and editing. He is true to his vision, always bringing frothy and full-bodied emotion into his work. He is one of those rare people who can access his inner world as if it were root beer on tap. That makes for an intimate connection between heart and writing. Throwing honesty onto the page is his specialty. Having collaborated with him over the course of many years, I know him to be a talented and generous friend (including being a great listener), a dog whisperer extraordinaire, and a man 100% devoted to his writing as an integral part of his life.”

Karen Albright Lin, Author, *Mu-shu Mac & Cheese*

"Marcus's advice comes from a place of experience won through hard work. He is able to empathize with the difficulties inherent to the craft while simultaneously offering practical, applicable solutions to the challenges which arise. His guidance yielded immediate, measurable results when I put it into practice, as if a floodgate had opened within the creative centers of my mind."

Wade Daniels, Writer/Student

“Let this serve as both a professional and personal recommendation for Marcus Lyons. We have known each other for 30 years and I know him to be a man of pure character and integrity. He cares

deeply for others and will go above and beyond to help another person, human or animal. Marcus is one of the most articulate people I've ever known. He is passionate about his work I writing and I am quite impressed with the creativity, depth, and detail of his work. If you are lucky enough to have Marcus come into your life, you will feel the same way I do. He is genuine, a hard and dedicated worker, and is motivated to succeed in his writing career.”

Lisa L. Wade, Realtor

“I've benefitted in so many ways with Marcus's helpful editing and suggestions and, equally important, his encouragement, his ability to point out what shines. For emerging writers, a self-esteem-building mentor is priceless. Marcus's own unique writing voice leaves me doubtless about his future success as a bestselling author. Marcus Lyons is well on his way to becoming a household name in the literary world.”

Tricia Sutton, Writer

"Marcus has been a constant source of inspiration, motivation, encouragement and support -- and much humor! With his gentle, firm and sometimes downright blunt guidance, I have clarity in my purpose and a strategy to translate my vision into reality. He has helped me navigate rough terrain, held me up when I am down and cheered me on when I am on a roll. He has kept me accountable to myself, taught me new skills, and reminded me to value myself -- without reservation!"

Trevor J. Tod, Graphic Design/Artist

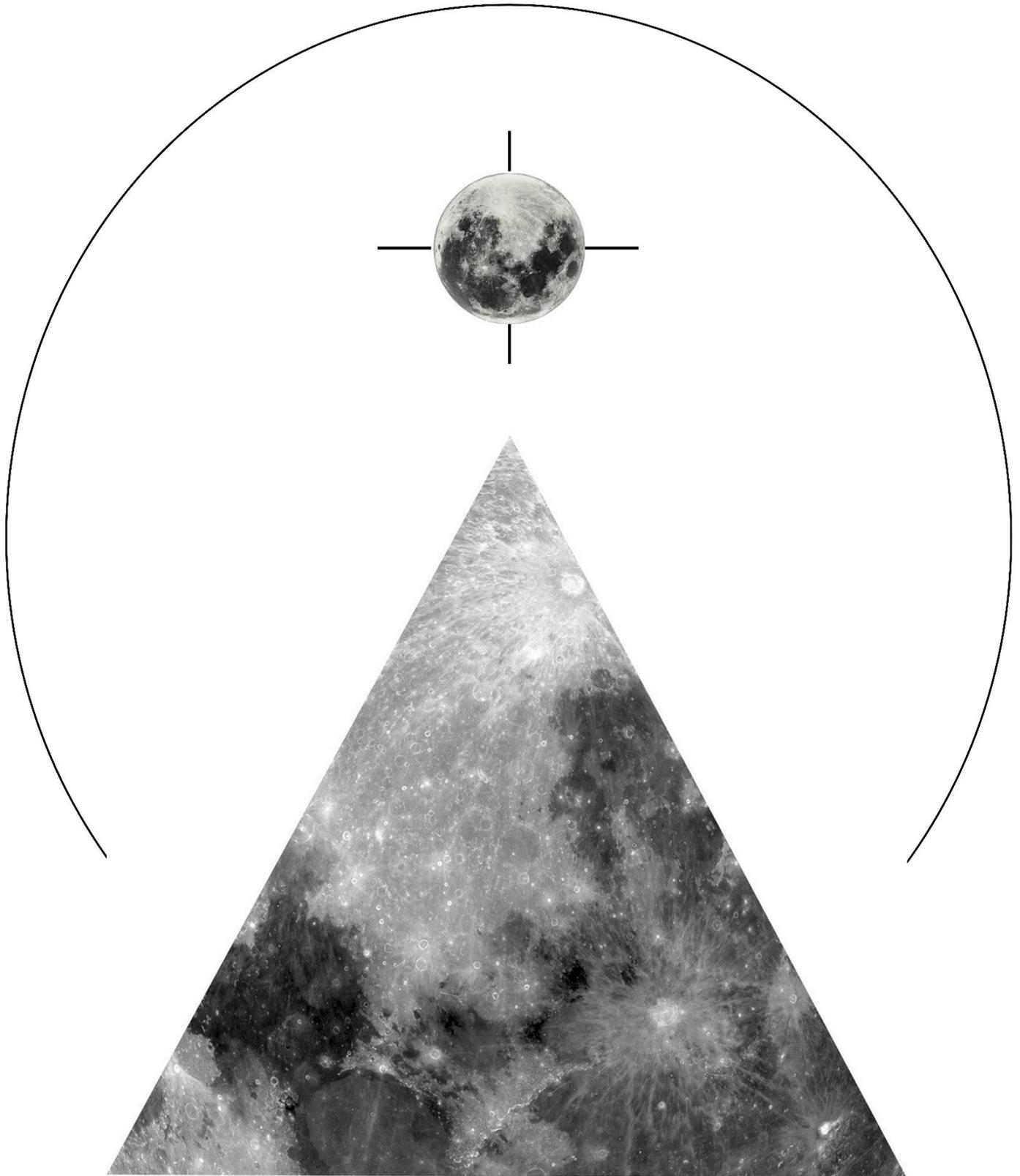
“I have known Marcus Lyons in a professional and a personal capacity for eight years. I can attest to his ability in writing and instructional workshops.

As an adjunct professor, at Front Range Community College for 10 years (2006-2016), I have designed and taught many classes, and hired guest lecturers. Marcus was hired for my Anthropology of Folklore class. My students needed to write their own fairytale, fable, or myth. Marcus presented how he structures his stories with an example, and his presentation on how they could construct their own was so valuable. He interacted personally with each of them during the presentation, and made himself available to look at their stories and critique and comment on them before they handed them in. We had several speakers in that class and the students felt he was the most engaging and helpful, and, my administration also felt he was a very positive addition to the classroom experiences.

I have stated, I have known Marcus a long time, and watched him as he increases his ability as a writer, we have talked many times about overcoming personal experiences and moving forward, he sets a good example for others in this regard. I value his friendship.”

Cherriethel (Cherry) Emerson, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology

LUNAR GODS



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PROGRAM PROPOSAL

GRADES: 9-12
VENUES: NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PROGRAM: POETRY OUT LOUD
NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL on the ARTS

CLASSROOM

MISSION: To foster the creative spirit inherent in poetry and writing, educating students on not only how to write good poetry, but also how to read, interpret, understand, perform, and celebrate it. In this way do we increase personal self-confidence, and provide the platform for social and emotional growth.

“The first objective of any act of learning, over and beyond the pleasure it may give, is that it should serve us in the future. Learning should not only take us somewhere; it should allow us later to go further more easily.”

Jerome Bruner

Create and foster an environment of active participation in the classroom that makes learning not just a brain-oriented function, but a function of the entire body. When students are actively involved in the learning task, they learn more than when they are passive recipients of instruction.

Will utilize dynamic instructional and learning tools created by late poet and essayist Jack Collom, poet and author Tim Z. Hernandez, in addition to resources found on the PoetryOutLoud.org site and others.

SCHOOL

Invite a seasoned poet to provide the lead-in to the school-wide program. There are several who make themselves available for such programs, and also like to participate as a judge in programs like Poetry Out Loud. Their presence adds a level of interest and excitement to events.

As part of the event, it's important to create a respectful, thoughtful, supportive, and safe environment in which students present their work. Divide the presenters into age groups (or grade levels), as that would provide every competitor a level playing field in presenting their work based on life experience, family culture, and class support. Each group has a winner, with one overall winner from the student body.

REFERENCES

**Marnie Lansdown, Program Coordinator
Colorado Humanities' Writers in the Schools**

lansdown@coloradohumanities.org

**Tim Z. Hernandez
Award-winning poet and author**

tzhernandez@yahoo.com

