

Latinidad – April 2006: Children's Books

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For more writing opportunities, including calls for submissions, contests and conferences, visit <http://www.marcelalandres.com/> and click on Writing Opportunities.

1. Saludos

According to Criticas magazine, as of 2004 more than half of Spanish language and bilingual books for children were imported from Latin America and Spain. Given that the Census Bureau reports that by 2025 one in four children in the U.S. will be Latino, agents and editors arguably need to find and publish Latino children's book writers and illustrators to serve this growing market. One children's book editor who is actively seeking Latino writers is featured in the Q&A below.

Helping Latino writers get published,

Marcela Landres

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2. Q&A

Adriana Dominguez is an Executive Editor in the children's book division of HarperCollins. Before joining Harper, she was Criticas magazine's Children's Review Editor. She has many years of publishing experience in the children's market, and has worked for most major publishers, such as Scholastic, Harcourt, McGraw-Hill, and Santillana U.S.A, among others, on either a full-time or freelance basis.

Why is HarperCollins Children's Books a great home for Latino writers?

HarperCollins Children's Books is a major publisher with a reputation for excellence and innovation in the field of children's book publishing. The fact that this company now has an in-house Latina editor dedicated to Latino children's books through their "Rayo" imprint displays its commitment to the Latino market, and represents an opportunity for Latino children's authors to join the ranks of classic and bestselling authors such as Eric Carle, Maurice Sendak, and Margaret Wise Brown.

Which Latino authors has HarperCollins Children's Books published?

Most recently, Rayo helped Grammy Award-winner singer-songwriter Gloria Estefan add "New York Times best-selling author" to her long list of credits. Rayo is also the publisher of literary icon Isabel Allende's wildly popular young adult trilogy.

Additionally, we have published established and respected Latino children's authors such as Alma Flor Ada, Isabel Campoy, and Lulu Delacre.

What kinds of manuscripts do you seek?

Because Rayo is expanding, we are afforded the luxury of publishing all types of relevant work written by Latinos in Spanish, English and bilingually. Rayo recognizes the wonderful diversity of this market, and its interests reflect that.

How can writers avoid your "Reject" pile and get into your "Pursue" pile?

By submitting original work that speaks to the current Latino realitie(s) in the U.S., by avoiding stereotyping while managing to recognize the rich Latino culture and capturing its spirit.

Other than honing their craft, what is the smartest step writers can take to become successfully published?

Honing their craft is the smartest way to get published; don't submit an unfinished work, or a work in progress; you often get only one shot to make an impression on a publisher, make it count. Also, keep yourself informed; see what is being published and what needs to but hasn't yet; keep abreast of the market's trends, and if possible, stay one step ahead of them.

Send submissions to: Adriana Dominguez, Executive Editor, HarperCollins Children's Books and Rayo, 1350 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019-4703

HarperCollins Children's web site: <http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com/harperchildrens/>

Rayo web site: <http://www.harpercollins.com/imprints.asp?imprint=Rayo>

3. Upcoming Workshops

WHAT: Founded and organized by best-selling author Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez, The Chica Lit Club Fiesta is the first and only mainstream chick lit event aimed at modern Latinas in the United States. The fiesta will feature all the excitement of a literary conference, plus the fun of being in one of the world's most beautiful cities. The event will include panels, readings, and book-signings with your favorite Chica lit authors; group brunches and dinners with inspiring Latina celebrity and author keynote speakers; pampering, beaches, shopping and nightclubs; there will also be a book fair sponsored by Books & Books of Miami. For a schedule of events, visit <http://www.chicalitclub.com/schedule.html>

WHEN: Friday, May 19 through Sunday, May 21

WHERE: Wyndham Miami Beach Resort, 4833 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33140

TO REGISTER: Visit <http://www.chicalitclub.com/registration.html>

QUESTIONS?: Contact info@chicalitclub.com or (505) 573-2892

Invite me to speak for your organization: <http://www.marcelalandres.com/id49.htm>

List of upcoming workshops: <http://www.marcelalandres.com/id22.htm>

4. Writing Opportunities

When you contact these organizations, please mention that you were referred by the Latinidad™ Newsletter. Thank you, and let me know what happens.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITERS CONFERENCE

Date: August 4-7

The Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators offers two conferences a year, covering subjects from poetry to plot structure, marketing to time management, revisions to royalties. The conference continues to expand its program for illustrators as well, with a heavy emphasis on the craft and technique of picture book illustration. To register and for more information, visit <http://www.scbwi.org/events.htm>.

CITY COLLEGE SEEKS ENGLISH LIT LECTURERS

Closing Date: April 16

Appointment Available: September 1

The English Department seeks two lecturers to teach undergraduate courses in composition, literature, and creative writing. Teaching load will be 27 contact hours with possible reduction for administrative responsibilities. For more information visit <http://www.marcelalandres.com/> then click on Writing Opportunities then Jobs.

HISPANIC WRITER AWARD

Deadline: May 1

For fiction, non-fiction, or poetry. Open to any New Mexican resident of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish heritage. For more information visit <http://www.unm.edu/~taosconf/scholarships/Hispanic.htm>.

WRITING WORKSHOP IN SAYULITA, MEXICO

Application Deadline: May 1

Workshop Date: June 18 - 25

Fiction workshop led by award-winning novelist, journalist and poet, with an emphasis story, voice and craft. Lively, in-depth workshop critique and one-on-one conferencing. Writers will meet for three hours each weekday morning to discuss and critique their classmates' manuscripts. Afternoons are open for one-on-one conferences with Obejas and for individual writing time. For more information, visit <http://www.toltecatl.com.mx/>.

HBO SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Deadline: May 5

HBO has teamed with The New York International Latino Film Festival to find the next hot Latino filmmaker. The winner will receive \$15,000 in funding to produce and direct on digital video an original short film narrative. The winning film will be presented on screen this summer during the New York International Latino Film Festival. To apply and for more information visit <http://www.nylatinofilm.com/> .

CHICANO/LATINO LITERARY PRIZE

Deadline: June 1

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California, Irvine invites submissions of an unpublished full-length play in Spanish or English. For more information, visit <http://www.hnet.uci.edu/spanishandportuguese/contest.html> .

LATINO PUBLIC BROADCASTING OPEN CALL

Deadline: June 5

An open invitation to independent producers to submit proposals for a public television program or series on any subject that relates to or is representative of Latino Americans. For guidelines and more information visit <http://www.lpbp.org/>

LATIN-AMERICAN EROTICA ANTHOLOGY

Deadline: July 1

Anthology entitled "Erotically Ours" seeks submissions of erotica in the form of stories, poetry, and prose on the Latino experience of erotica. For submission guidelines and more information visit <http://www eroticallyours.com/> .

NBC SEEKS DIVERSE WRITERS

NBC seeks ethnically diverse writers, males and females, all minority ethnicities, for scripted NBC primetime series and programming. The NBC Diversity Initiative program provides funding for minority staff writer positions that are selected and hired by the showrunner/producers of each show, with the guidance of the network and studio(s). Scripts are accepted year-round for screening; however, positions are generally filled during the March-June staffing season. For more information, visit http://www.nbc.com/NBC_Career_Opportunities/Diversity_Initiative_for_Writers.html .

POETS & WRITERS' DIRECTORY

Poets & Writers' Directory of American Poets and Writers includes contact information for over 6,000 poets, fiction writers, creative nonfiction writers, and spoken word artists. The Directory is used by agents, editors, and reading series coordinators; the goal is to include all qualified writers in it (qualifications are specified on the application). If you qualify, please apply for listing, which is free-of-charge, on their Web site, <http://www.pw.org/> . The application is easy to complete and should take no more than five minutes of your time. P.S. Please help us spread the word about the Directory by letting other qualified writers know about it.

CONSULTATIONS

I edit manuscripts, critique proposals and advise on how to launch and maintain a successful writing career. If you are interested in a consultation, please visit <http://www.marcelalandres.com/>, click on Consultations, and follow the instructions.

POST AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN LATINIDAD™

E-mail announcements about contests, calls for submissions, conferences, jobs, book publications, literary events, etc., to marcelalandres@yahoo.com.

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“Writing is only a guided dream.”—Jorge Luis Borges

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Helping writers get published.