

## Latinidad – July/August 2006: Comics

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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.

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### 1. Saludos

The U.S. comic book market is estimated at \$400-\$450 million, per the Comics Buyer's Guide. Book publishing companies are riding the wave by publishing graphic novels and manga; some publishers are even establishing graphic novel imprints. If you are an aspiring comic book writer or illustrator, now is an ideal time to launch your career.

Helping Latino writers get published,

Marcela Landres

[marcelalandres@yahoo.com](mailto:marcelalandres@yahoo.com)

<http://www.marcelalandres.com/>

### 2. Recommendation

Com-Con International is the uber-convention for all things related to comics. It is also an excellent opportunity to network with book publishing professionals. This year more publishers than ever are attending, including Penguin, Simon & Schuster, W.W. Norton, and Warner. Of particular note is the Portfolio Review, a section of the convention where companies are allowed to set up for the sole purpose of looking at new work. In addition there are close to 300 events, including panels and seminars about comics, movies, television, animation, art, and more. Exhibitors include Fantagraphics and Tokyopop as well as the Cartoon Network and Sci Fi Channel; writers include Ray Bradbury and Brad Meltzer (Identity Crisis) as well as Daniel Clowes (Ghost World), and Yoshihiro Tatsumi (The Push Man). If you are serious about pursuing a career in comics, Com-Con would be a smart investment of your time and money. It takes place July 20-23 and you can register on-site at the San Diego Convention Center. For more information, visit <http://www.comic-con.org/>.

### 3. Upcoming Workshops

Two Events in San Antonio, TX on 7/22

#### Event #1: How to Write a Knockout Book Proposal

Most proposals are rejected not because the writing is weak, but because the writer failed to provide agents and editors with all the information they need. This is especially true

for fiction proposals. Topics discussed include: the true purpose of a proposal; why 90% of proposals are rejected based on the cover letter alone; and the three most common mistakes writers make when preparing proposals.

#### Event #2: Private Appointments

The first twenty writers to send a manuscript to Gemini Ink will each receive a 20-minute private consultation with Editorial Consultant Marcela Landres. Ms. Landres will offer suggestions and advice for each writer. Only the first twenty applicants will be notified; other manuscripts will not be returned. If a person sends a manuscript and is not contacted, then s/he can assume her/his manuscript was not one of the first twenty.

WHEN: How to Write a Knockout Book Proposal - 9am-noon, Saturday, July 22  
Private Appointments - 1-8 pm, Saturday, July 22

WHERE Gemini Ink, 513 S. Presa, San Antonio, TX

REGISTER: Visit <http://www.geminiink.org/>

QUESTIONS?: Please call Gemini Ink at 877-734-9673.

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

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

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#### PRISM COMICS QUEER PRESS GRANT

Deadline: September 1

The grant is to be awarded to a project of interest to LGBT comic book readers. To apply and for more information visit <http://www.prismcomics.org/grant.php>.

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#### SEEKING QUINCEANERA STORIES

Deadline for Pitches: July 10

HarperCollins/Rayo will publish the anthology "Fifteen Candles: 15 Tales of Taffeta, Hairspray, Drunk Uncles, and other Quinceanera Stories" in the summer of 2007. They are seeking kitsch-filled, humorous first person tales about this beloved and sometimes over-the-top Latino coming-of-age ceremony. Send pitches and questions to Adriana Lopez at [adrifrida@yahoo.com](mailto:adrifrida@yahoo.com). For guidelines and more information visit <http://www.marcelalandres.com/> and click on Writing Opportunities then Calls for Submissions.

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### SHORT FICTION PRIZE

Deadline: August 29

A prize of \$1000 and publication by the University of North Texas Press is given annually for a collection of short fiction. For guidelines, visit <http://web2.unt.edu/untpress/> .

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### SEEKING LATINA FILMMAKERS

Deadline: September 1

Josefina Lopez, author of Real Women Have Curves, announces the Boyle Heights Latina Independent Film Extravaganza on December 8-10. In order to qualify a film must have been directed by a Latina in one of the following categories: Features, Shorts, Youth Media, Documentaries, Experimental/New Frontier, and Erotica. There is no submission fee. Selected filmmakers will be notified by November 1 and invited to participate in a filmmaker's workshop with other selected Latina directors. Films must be in 1/2 inch VHS tapes or DVDs with a (50 word) bio, photo of the director, (50 word) synopsis, photo still of the film, and contact information. Submit to: BHLIFE/CASA 0101, P.O. Box 33363, Los Angeles, CA 90033. For more information contact Katynka Martinez at [bhlifestival@yahoo.com](mailto:bhlifestival@yahoo.com), <http://www.bhlife.org/> .

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### BILL COSBY SCREEN AND TV WRITING PROGRAM

Deadline: September 15

Established by Drs. Bill and Camille Cosby, the Guy A. Hanks & Marvin Miller Screenwriting Program non USC program is designed to assist writers in completing a television or feature script, while examining the African-American perspective in their storytelling. Although the program was founded to enhance the works of African-Americans, this is not a prerequisite to apply to the program. Participation is free to those selected. For more information and to obtain an applications visit <http://www.CosbyProgram.com> .

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### LITERAL LATTE ESSAY AWARD

Deadline: September 15

A prize of \$1000 and publication in Literal Latte is given annually for a personal essay. For guidelines visit <http://www.literal-latte.com/> .

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### GRAYWOLF PRESS NONFICTION PRIZE

Deadline: September 15

An advance of \$12,000 and publication by Graywolf Press is given annually for a book-length work of creative nonfiction by a writer who has published no more than two books in that genre. For more information, visit <http://www.graywolfpress.org/> .

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### UTAH STATE UP POETRY AWARD

Deadline: September 30

Judge: Alice Quinn, Executive Director of the Poetry Society of America and Poetry Editor of The New Yorker. Prize: \$1000 and publication by Utah State University Press. For guidelines visit <http://www.usu.edu/usupress/> .

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#### PALABRA SEEKS SUBMISSIONS

Palabra, a print litmag of Latino writing, invites submissions of fiction, poetry, CNF, and short plays. Poems: submit 5 max to 50 lines each. Fiction/CNF: up to 3500 words. Plays: up to 12pp. Some pay. Submit via USPS only to Palabra, P.O. Box 86146, Los Angeles, CA 90086-0146. For inquiries and guidelines only, email [palabralit@earthlink.net](mailto:palabralit@earthlink.net) .

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#### JUST PUBLISHED: EMBRACED BY THE SHADOWS

Vampires and forbidden love on the steamy Puerto Rican shores . . .

“Embraced by the Shadows” by Puerto Rican author Mayra Calvani has been released by Twilight Times Books. This Fictionwise Number One Bestseller is currently available as an e-book with the paperback version coming out early next spring. For the cover art, blurb, author’s bio and reviews, please visit: <http://www.bookswelove.net/calvani.html> .

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#### NOMINATE WWW.MARCELALANDRES.COM

If you like my web site, please nominate it for next year’s Writer’s Digest Magazine’s “The 101 Best Web Sites for Writers” list. Send nominations to [writersdig@fwpubs.com](mailto:writersdig@fwpubs.com) with “101 Best Web Sites” as the subject line and include a brief note explaining how <http://www.marcelalandres.com/> has helped you. Thank you in advance for your support!

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#### 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.

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#### POST AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN LATINIDAD™

E-mail announcements about contests, calls for submissions, conferences, jobs, book publications, literary events, etc., to [marcelalandres@yahoo.com](mailto:marcelalandres@yahoo.com).

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#### CHANGE E-MAIL ADDRESS/READ BACK ISSUES

To change your e-mail address and/or to read back issues of Latinidad™ visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/marcelalandres/>.

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#### REPRINTS

If you wish to reprint portions of Latinidad™, please credit The Latinidad™ Newsletter and include a link to <http://www.marcelalandres.com/>

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#### DID YOU LIKE THIS NEWSLETTER?

If so, forward it to friends and colleagues. If not, fill out the Newsletter Survey on <http://www.marcelalandres.com/id59.htm> and tell me what doesn't work and why.

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“If you can speak what you will never hear, if you can write what you will never read, you have done rare things.”—Henry David Thoreau

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Helping writers get published.