



Beverly Hills

F O R U M  
S E R I E S



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS  
PRESENTS

Mystery Writers of America, Southern California Chapter

A Panel Discussion

**“CRIME WRITING TODAY: A PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT”**

Monday, June 1, 2015 at 7:30pm  
Beverly Hills City Hall  
City Council Chambers  
455 North Rexford Drive

Prize-winning authors Craig Faustus Buck, Jeri Westerson, Gary Phillips, Naomi Hirahara and Leslie S. Klinger (moderator), respectively the President and four Presidents Emeritus of the Mystery Writers of America Southern California chapter, convene at the intersection of art, craft, business and murder, to discuss crime writing in today’s cultural climate and tumultuous publishing environment.



**Craig Faustus Buck** is an award-winning author and screenwriter. His neo-noir debut novel *Go Down Hard* was published by Brash Books just a week before this event. Among his six nonfiction books, two were #1 NYT bestsellers. He wrote the Oscar-nominated short film *Overnight Sensation*.

He was one of the writers on the seminal miniseries *V: The Final Battle*. His indie feature film, *Smuggling for Gandhi*, is slated for production in 2016. He is on the board of the Mystery Writers of America and President of its SoCal Chapter. A third generation Angelino, he still lives in LA where noir was born.



Los Angeles native and award-winning author **Jeri Westerson** writes the critically acclaimed Crispin Guest Medieval Noir mysteries, historical novels, paranormal novels, and GLBT mysteries. *Booklist* said of her latest novel *Cup of Blood*, “Westerson paints a murky portrait of a medieval world suitably full of shadowy characters and unexpected twists and turns.” To date, her medieval mysteries have garnered twelve industry award nominations. Jeri is former president of the SoCal chapter of Mystery Writers of America and frequently guest lectures on medieval history at local colleges and museums.



**Gary Phillips** was born under a bad sign and only through writing does he hope to get out from under. He is editor and contributor to *Day of the Destroyers*, a linked anthology based on an actual historical event wherein coup plotters sought to overthrow the Roosevelt administration and *Booklist* said of his novel *Warlord of Willow Ridge*, “Phillips...creates a plausible post-apocalyptic scenario in which the safety of middle-class America can dissolve in a

moment. Exciting, violent, and entertaining.” His graphic novel, *The Rinse*, about a money launderer, was recently optioned for television.



**Naomi Hirahara** is the Edgar Award-winning author of the Mas Arai mystery series, which features a Japanese American gardener and atomic-bomb survivor who solves crimes. Her second mystery series with a 23-year-old female LAPD bicycle cop, published by Penguin Berkley Prime Crime in 2014, received the T. Jefferson Parker mystery award by the Southern California Independent Booksellers Association. The second in the Officer Ellie Rush series, *Grave on Grand Avenue*, was released this April. Her mysteries have been translated into Japanese, Korean and French. A former editor of *The Rafu Shimpo* newspaper in Los Angeles, she also writes nonfiction, short stories and fiction for younger readers.



**Leslie S. Klinger** is the New York Times best-selling editor of the Edgar®-winning *New Annotated Sherlock Holmes* and the critically-acclaimed *New Annotated Dracula*. His previous books include *In the Shadow of Dracula* and *In the Shadow of Sherlock Holmes*, as well as the anthology of new fiction *A Study in Sherlock*, co-edited with Laurie R. King. His newest books are the four-volume *The Annotated Sandman* with Neil Gaiman (the first volume of which was nominated for a Bram Stoker Award®), *In the Company of Sherlock Holmes*, a collection of stories by major writers inspired by the Holmes Canon, with Laurie R. King, and *The New Annotated H. P. Lovecraft*. He is Treasurer of the Horror Writers Association and former President of the SoCal Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America. Klinger is a tax and business lawyer who lives in Malibu with his wife Sharon, a large dog, and three cats.

For additional information or to be included on the mailing list for future Beverly Hills Forums, call the City of Beverly Hills – Art & Cultural Events Office at (310) 285-6830 or sign up to receive this information by e-notice online at [www.beverlyhills.org](http://www.beverlyhills.org). THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – FREE OF CHARGE. Free parking is available in the Civic Center Parking Structure.

**“Building Community via Education and Dialogue” – Founded in 1997 by Mayor MeraLee Goldman**