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## Lafayette author Gini Graham Scott shares secrets of self-publishing

By Kara Navolio



At left, self-publishing author Gini Graham Scott.

Photo provided

Have a story to tell? Want to write a book to help promote your business? Publishing your book is easier than it ever has been. Lafayette author Gini Graham Scott will share her expertise on how to self-publish your book at a talk in Lafayette on July 15.

There were over 1 million self-published books in 2016. The fast-growing phenomenon has created opportunities for writers, but also for companies who are looking to take advantage of would-be independent publishers with high fees for services such as editing and printing. These so-called "Vanity Presses" often charge thousands of dollars to get a book out.

"Of the 1 million self-published books last year, 462,000 were done on Amazon's CreateSpace," notes Scott, "which is a free platform. Self-publishing does not have to

be expensive or take a long time." Scott, author of over 150 books spanning over 30-plus years, published "Self-Publishing Secrets" in May. It outlines the myths about publishing and 10 easy steps to do it yourself at very little cost and within a few weeks of having a completed manuscript.

"Self-publishing has really taken off over the past five-10 years," notes Scott. "The publishing industry has undergone major changes with the market for eBooks and audio books rises. The Great Recession of 2008 also had a big impact on the traditional publishing houses. It's harder to get traditionally published now."

In the early days of her career that was the only option, and she enjoyed success with many of her titles. "Collect Your Court Judg-

ment" sold over 40,000 and has been reprinted under new editions many times. (The newer editions have been rewritten by another author). Scott, who has a Ph. D. from U.C. Berkeley in Sociology and a J.D. from University of San Francisco, uses both traditional and self-publishing, depending on the book.

At her talk on July 15, which is hosted by Women of Influence's Academy, she will discuss the myths of publishing, writing a book to promote your business, ghostwriting, and self-publishing and marketing your book.

Scott has many projects going at all times. This year alone she has published 20 books. While most of her work is non-fiction, she has also written some fiction, film scripts, and children's books. In March, a book she co-wrote with a doctor who specialized in end-of-life care, "At Death's Door," was published traditionally by Rowman Publishing. The book has been turned into a pilot for a TV series based on the doctor's experience in dealing with terminal patients.

To attend Scott's talk on self-publishing, contact her at giniscot@pacbell.net or 925-385-0608 for an invitation to attend Women of Influence as her guest. On July 11 and 18 she will also be leading Meet-up groups to share her ideas on writing and publishing a book as well as marketing and promoting it.

## SMC's MFA dance program presents the first ever 'Process Dance Festival'

Submitted by Michael Lupacchino



Photo Jen Philips photography

Launched in 2014, Saint Mary's College of California MFA in Dance program offers dancers, choreographers, and designers the chance to further their studies and prepare for employment in professional dance organizations and higher education. The second graduating cohort, known as Cohort 2, announces the culmination of its two years of study with the "Process Dance Festival." Taking place at Saint Mary's College on June 17 and 18, the festival is two full days of dance, art and creative expression.

Festival attendees will enjoy multiple performances during the day in the LeFevre Theatre and across the way at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art. Food trucks will be on-site both days for refreshments and the quad in front of the theater will host craft and arts vendors, community dance classes, and other activities. Ticket options include an all-day pass for all 12 performances as well as a two-day pass for the entire weekend. Additional options and pricing information are available online at smarys-ca.edu/process-dance-festival. Following the performances on Saturday (June 17), there will be a reception open to the public at the

Brother Cornelius Art Center Interior Patio starting at 8:15 p.m.

Cohort 2 is one of the most diverse cohorts in the brief history of the MFA in Dance program. With an age range spanning four decades, students come from multiple states and multiple countries. Choreographers include Cassie Kosin Liu Begley (Pleasanton), Byb Chanel Bibene (Brazzaville, Republic of Congo), Danielle Ferguson (Dayton, Ohio), Joy Thiesen (Fresno), Kaveri Seth (New Delhi, India), Kelsey Bergstrom Young (San Francisco), Kevin Paul Hockenberry (Lubbock, Texas), Michael Lupacchino (East Hartford, Connecticut), Raúl Galván (Edinburg, Texas), Sarah Billings Wheeler (New York, New York), Stephanie Emmanuela Engel (Santa Cruz), and Zaquia Mahler Salinas (San Diego). The weekend of new works reflects an eclectic variety of artistic expression inspired by a wide range of personal histories and cultural experiences.

The "Process Dance Festival" features works that are the culmination of two years of scholarship and personal choreographic explorations. Tight-knit Cohort 2 presents a weekend of dynamic and unique works with the common

theme of shared human experience. Bibene and Engel explore the divine, iconography, and the role that spiritual beliefs play in our lives. Seth's work is a journey through the layers of consciousness and the self, while Thiesen delves into the social issues of mental health and how dance can be used as a tool for treatment. Looking at histories, Galván presents a study on the paths of four men who have been guided through life thanks to dance while Bergstrom Young looks at all of our "baggage" and how what we collect along our paths influences our futures.

Begley and Lupacchino offer different views of gender and intersectionality, with Begley's work diving into female sexual expression, while Lupacchino looks at masculinities in American concert dance. Mahler Salinas dissects human connection through biomythography while Billings Wheeler takes us into different spaces, both physical and abstract, that influence our lives and our beings. Freeman and Hockenberry address artistic expression as a form of freedom and healing, with Freeman's emphasis on the therapeutics of dance and Hockenberry's look at LGBTQ dance artistry and liberation. The festival features lighting designs by Danielle Ferguson and Seth, as well as costume designs by Freeman.

The MFA in Dance program at Saint Mary's College of California offers two distinct tracks of study: the MFA in Dance: Creative Practice and the MFA in Dance: Design and Production, which is the first program of its kind in the nation. Students in the MFA program span multiple generations and come from all over the world to study in the San Francisco Bay area, home of one of the largest dance communities in the United States.

### Correction

The May 31 publication of Lamorinda Weekly incorrectly stated the date for this year's Sunstock Solar Music Festival. The correct festival date is Sept. 9. Additionally, Sunstock Berkeley is scheduled on the U.C. campus Sept. 30.

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