

The 7 Question Interview with Joe R. Lansdale



Joe R. Lansdale is an American author and martial-arts expert. He has written novels and stories in many genres, including Western, horror, science fiction, mystery, and suspense. He has also written for comics as well as Batman: The Animated Series. Frequent features of Lansdale's writing are usually deeply ironic, strange or absurd situations or characters, such as Elvis and JFK battling a soul-sucking Ancient Egyptian mummy in a nursing home (the plot of his Bram Stoker Award-nominated novella, "Bubba Ho-Tep") He is the winner of the British Fantasy Award, the American Horror Award, the Edgar Award, and six Bram Stoker Awards. The World Horror Convention recently made him the recipient of the 2007 Grand Master Award for contributions to the field of Horror fiction. He lives in Nacogdoches, Texas, where he also teaches at his own Shen Chuan martial arts school. In addition he is the writer in residence at Stephen F. Austin University.

Some of his novels are:

- The Hap Collins and Leonard Pine series
- The "Drive-In" series
- The "Ned the Seal" trilogy

Stand-alone novels

- A Fine Dark Line
- Sunset and Sawdust
- Lost Echoes
- Leather Maiden

His official website can be accessed here: <http://www.joerlansdale.com>

The WritingRaw.com 7 Question Interview

Please let us know who you are and how we might know you:

Guess unless you come to see me, which is not an invitation, you don't know me. But I have a website and will soon have FACE BOOK and MY SPACE, but I don't attend to them very well. So maybe interviews or meeting me in person are the best way.

Any news you would like to share concerning upcoming projects:

I'm excited about the fact that this year THE BEST OF JOE R. LANSDALE, a collection of short stories, is out from Tachyon Press. THE COLLECTED DRIVE IN, which contains all my drive in series is coming out from UNDERLAND PRESS, and I have a number of new



short stories coming out. This fall VINTAGE will reprint THE BOTTOMS, my Edgar Award novel. Next year I'll have a new novel from Knopf in my Hap and Leonard series titled, DEVIL RED, and last year's Hap and Leonard from Knopf, VANILLA RIDE, will be published by VINTAGE.

Thoughts concerning the current state of the literary world:

I think it's exciting. Story is back, and not just in genre. I think things look pretty interesting. The furniture of so many genres is being moved into the same large room, and there's a little less snobbishness.

Who is/are your favorite author/s and why?

Flannery O'Conner, Harper Lee, Ray Bradbury, William Goldman, Mark Twain, Hemingway, Jack London, Richard Matheson, Robert Bloch, Fred Brown, Carson McCuller. I like them because they are so damn American. They really have the American voice. I read all kinds of novels, from all over the world, but I adore American writers at their best. These guys have really impacted and changed the literary landscape in so many ways. They've effected pop culture, and literary culture, some more one than the other.

Have you written a book you love that you have not been able to publish?

No. Sold them all so far.

Do you have anything specific that you want to say to your readers?

Please keep reading, and go with the changes. I like to change. As a writer it's too easy to stay the same. Same for readers. Experiment with different types of stories.

How do you feel about what WritingRaw.com and other literary sharing sites are attempting to do for new writers?

The world is changing, and so is the delivery system for writers. We best change with it.

WritingRaw.com would like to thank Joe R. Lansdale for taking the time out of his busy schedule for this interview.