

Press release: MWA NorCal

Charlie Newton's writes American Noir, bloody and appalling and highly original...and written so close to the cultural bone that he declines to alter real character names. Heavily influenced by the Beats, Newton's America is a land of moral ambiguity. Oakland's Al Davis would be his prophet; "Just win, baby" his mantra. Religion or race, money or politics—the picture is unflinching—our society as crime culture. Newton's award winning novels offer a searing and beautifully written appraisal of the modern American dream. To quote one of many exceptional reviews for *START SHOOTING* (Jan 10, 2012): "*Newton will do for Chicago what James Ellroy's novels did for Los Angeles.*"

MWA NorCal will host a conversation/roundtable and workshop with Charlie Newton on January 22, 2012 at 2:00 PM. Charlie and his private editor, Ed Stackler, will discuss the publishing journey, the novels, the research, the choice of multiple gender first person, and what we authors may have ahead of us in publishing's brave new world.

Please visit his website www.CharlieNewton.com.

BIO

By Kelli Stanley

Born in Chicago, Charlie has lived everywhere ... and nowhere. His website says he can be found in Cape Town; but he's emailed me from Haiti, Beirut, and Saigon. His debut novel, *CALUMET CITY*, required eight years to publish, but was worth the wait, garnering a string of nominations including the Edgar, ITW Thriller, Macavity, and the Ian Fleming Steel Dagger. It's also on the list of the American Library Association's best crime debuts of 2008, and has been called a modern noir classic. Charlie's second novel, *START SHOOTING*, required another four years to publish. And, boy, did it ever—attracting hall of fame editor Jason Kaufman and a hardcover deal at Doubleday. After twelve years and twenty-five thousand hours of typing, I'm comfortable saying that my friend Charlie defines persistence and commitment. The proof? In spite of his "somewhat salty" language, *START SHOOTING* will be featured in the *Sunday New York Times Book Review* on January 8.

- A re-visitation of the Beat ethos thru Noir.
- Noir as the most appropriate vehicle to examine the state of culture and present day human relations.
- America as a Noir culture. **Land of moral ambiguity.**
- Beat-Noir as alchemical methodology.
- By delving into the dark we flesh out the light. Beat were always aware of the true pulse of America hiding beneath the veneer of the American dream.

Correct me if you think I am putting too much on to this. But that is my initial take.

A thumbnail on the Chicago-born author **mirrors** his characters—a fellow who has seen a bit more reality than is often healthy but come away with P. J. O'Rourke's sense of humor and Hunter Thompson's pathology—sans the .44 magnum. Charlie's early career leaned toward pirate-adventurer rather than responsible citizen, living and working in exotic, often-unhealthy places, doing some of the devil's business and some of the king's.

The semi-adult epiphany arrived with his thirtieth birthday. Charlie Newton has built successful bars/restaurants and resort apartments, raced thoroughbreds that weren't quite so successful, and brokered television and film in the Middle East to gentlemen who often weren't. Generally speaking, he's lived a life in the borderlands (literal and figurative) where stories like **START SHOOTING** and **CALUMET CITY** happen. And survived to enjoy it.