



Bruce Sterling: The Professor and The Writer

Who is Bruce Sterling?

Bruce Sterling, whose full name is Michael Bruce Sterling, was born on April 14, 1954 in Texas. He is an American science fiction author known for his novels and short fiction and editorship of the Mirrorshades anthology. In particular, he is linked to the cyberpunk subgenre. He graduated with a degree in journalism from the University of Texas, Austin in 1976.



What is Cyberpunk?

Cyberpunk is science fiction dealing with future urban societies dominated by computer technology. It is a genre that often features countercultural antiheroes trapped in dehumanizing high-tech future. Cyberpunk roots extend back to the technical fiction of the 1940s and the 1950s, but it was years before it matured.

Bruce Sterling: The Science Fiction Writer

- Sterling is one of the founders of the cyberpunk movement in science fiction, along with a number of other science fiction writers.
- Sterling's first science-fiction story entitled Man-Made Self was sold in 1976.
- As well as being a leading science fiction writer, Bruce Sterling has been involved with numerous projects and written several books of futurist theory. He was the founder of The Dead Media Project, an online archive media technologies.

Bruce Sterling: The Professor

In 2003, Bruce Sterling became a professor of internet studies and science fiction at The European Graduate School/EGS where he teaches intensive Summer seminars on media and design and in 2005, he became “visionary residence” at ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena, California.

Awards and Honors

- John W. Campbell Memorial Award for Best Science Fiction winner for the novel *Island in the Net* in 1989.
- Hugo Award winner for the novelette “Bicycle Repairman” in 1997.
- Another Hugo Award for the novelette “Taklamakan” in 1999 and in the same year for the same novelette, he won Hayakawa’s S-F Magazine Reader’s Award for Best Foreign Short Story.
- Clarke Award winner for the novel “Distraction”.

Reflection

- **Heavy Weather** was written in 1994 and follows high-tech storm chasers in the American Midwest where greenhouse warming has made tornadoes far more energetic than the present day.
- **Holy Fire** was written in 1996 and was set in a world of steadily increasing longevity, a newly rejuvenated American woman drifts through the marginalised subculture of young European artist while dealing with the implications of post humanism.
- **Distraction** was written in 1998. This story is about a master political strategist and a genius genetic researcher find love as they fight an insane Louisiana governor for control of a high-tech scientific facility in a post-collapse United States.
- **Zeitgeist** was written in 2000 and this story is about a girl group like the Spice Girls tours the Middle East under the direction of Trickster Leggy Starlitz. It also explores a world in which postmodernism and deconstructionism were literally true in their postulation of reality.



These Stories were nominated for many awards such as Hugo Award, Locus SF Award, and the Campbell Award.

Class Discussion Questions

- How has cyberpunk influenced other genres, such as film, music, and video games?
- What are some emerging trends or subgenres within cyberpunk literature?

Works Cited

Bruce Sterling-The European Graduate School. n.d.
March 2024.

<<https://egs.edu/biography/bruce-sterling/>>.

Bruce Sterling-Wikipedia. n.d. March 2024.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_Sterling>.

Merriam-Webster-Cyberpunk. n.d. March 2024.

<<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cyberpunk>>.