
THE DEBUT AUTHOR'S CHOICE: LITERARY AGENCIES

Introduction

Any writer knows that the process of writing a book is long and tedious. After finishing a first draft, revising and editing that first draft dozens or perhaps even hundreds of times to make it perfect is an exhaustive pattern that should be celebrated when over and done with. However, debut authors often misunderstand that writing and editing is only a part of the book publishing process. When your book is the best it can possibly be, it is time to start considering how to publish it.

Though there are different routes a writer can take to publish his or her work, such as self-publishing or submitting the manuscript directly to a publisher, the most traditional way to get a novel published is by submitting it to a literary agency. Then, if the manuscript is accepted, the literary agency will sell the manuscript at auction to publishing houses that want to produce the manuscript. If done right, a percentage of the money from the auction goes to the literary agency, and the rest of it goes directly to the author. Because there is the risk that novels from debut authors will not sell, some literary agencies will not accept work from a writer unless that writer is previously published. Therefore, it is necessary to be sure that the literary agency you are interested in accepts work from debut authors.

Two of the largest competing literary agencies in the world that *do* represent debut authors are known as **Writers House LLC** and **Trident Media Group**.

Writers House LLC

Writers House LLC is a New York based literary agency and the employer of a large number of agents seeking new, fresh talent. A quote from their website ensures debut authors that they are highly qualified in the publishing industry:

“Many of our agents have been here together for more than 20 years, as have many of our clients. Writers House is a name which reflects our vision for our authors and ourselves. Our goals are long term, and the environment we strive to create is one that invites authors and agents to stay with us for the duration of their careers.”

Writers House

In favor of debut authors, famous publishing website “Kirkus Reviews” states that the president of Writers House LLC was quoted to say the following:

“...the market among publishers for good books remains quite strong; there is a powerful hunger for unique voices and wonderfully told stories (though it should be admitted that the market vastly prefers the novelty of debuts to nonbest-selling published authors).”

Books

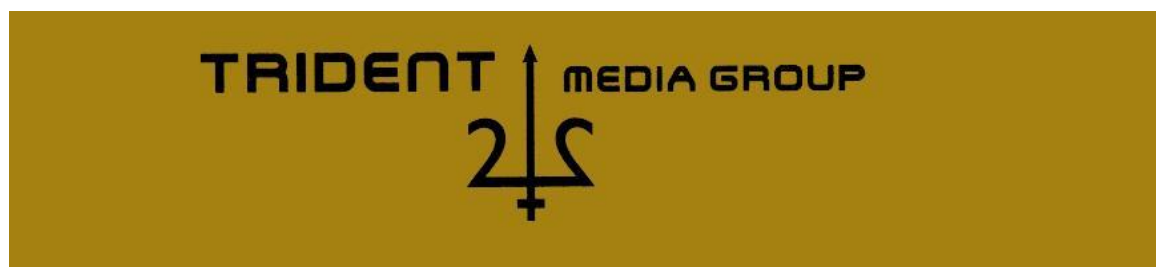
Some of the genres of books that Writers House LLC represents include:

- ❖ Literary/Commercial Fiction
- ❖ Women’s Fiction
- ❖ Science Fiction/Fantasy
- ❖ Narrative Non-Fiction
- ❖ History
- ❖ Young Adult
- ❖ Picture Books

Although these genres are in high demand, the debut author should keep in mind that the publishing industry is extremely competitive. Writers House LLC obtains a very large number of submissions to their agents, so it is vital for the author to research the agents at Writers House LLC thoroughly before making a decision on who to submit to. It is also worth noting that you are not allowed to submit to another agent at Writers House LLC until 30 days past your previous submission. Because agents are looking for different things, even at the same literary agencies, it is important to be sure that the agent you are submitting to fits your manuscript relatively well.

Trident Media Group

Trident Media Group is a literary agency that is also based in New York and is close if not equal in prestige to Writers House LLC. Luckily for debut authors, they are also open to receiving manuscripts from writers that have previously



remained unpublished. There is a page on their website dedicated to persuading the prospective author to submit their work to some of their agents:

“For more than ten consecutive years, TMG continues to rank number one for sales according to publishersmarketplace.com in North America. TMG is the only U.S. literary agency to consistently be in the top ten in both UK fiction and UK non-fiction and has ranked as highly as number one in UK fiction deals.”

Other websites have recognized Trident Media Group’s accomplishments as well. “A View From The Top”, a well-known website that conducts interviews with literary agents, had this to say about Trident Media Group:

“Trident Media Group Agency has also represented some of the biggest and most prestigious book deals for celebrities, including Jerry Seinfeld, Sir Anthony Hopkins, Mel Brooks, Aretha Franklin, Drew Barrymore, Paul Riser, Brian Wilson, Tony Curtis, Carl Reiner, Mariel Hemingway, and Tony Bennet.”

Books

Some of the genres of books that Trident Media Group represents include:

- ❖ Literary Fiction
- ❖ Middle Grade
- ❖ Young Adult
- ❖ Self-Help
- ❖ Narrative Non-Fiction
- ❖ Diverse Fiction and Non-Fiction

As mentioned before, agents at prestigious literary agencies are highly sought after, and this still rings true with Trident Media Group. Debut authors should thoroughly research which agent at Trident Media Group would work best with the author’s manuscript if the author should choose to submit to the agency. In an interview with The Master’s Review, agent Mark Gottlieb states the following:

“Most of my clients are authors making their debut or major debut. My preference is to sell a full-length novel since story collections can be tough. For me, it’s better for an author to first become a household name as a novelist, before trying the short story route.”

Conclusion

Writers House LLC and **Trident Media Group** are both excellent literary agencies for debut authors to submit their manuscripts to. There is no questioning the prestige and qualifications of these companies in the publishing industry. However, it is also important for the debut author to keep in mind that these are not the *only* options. Although good choices, the best thing for your book is ultimately to find an agency and an agent that gives your book the best fitting home.

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