

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 417, Friday 16th April 2010

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Writers' Guild Annual General Meeting - Friday 4th June 2010

Call for motions

This year's Writers' Guild AGM takes place on Friday 4th June 2010 from 10.30 am to 5:00pm at the Free Word Centre, 60 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3GA – a few hundred metres from the Guild office. The meeting is open to all members.

The main business is to approve the Annual Report, including audited accounts, and to debate and vote on motions to amend the Guild rules or on any other subject covered by the objects of the Guild. This year's Annual Report will be posted to members during May.

In the run-up to the AGM the Guild needs nominations for members to stand as Officers – President, Chair, Deputy Chair or Treasurer – or as a member of the Executive Council. Most of the seats on the Executive Council come up for re-election this year – there are seats representing the various nations and regions of the UK, plus seats representing the Guild's different Craft Sectors.

If you are interested in proposing a motion, please use the forms that you will find enclosed with your new issue of UK Writer, which you should have received this week. These forms contain additional information about eligibility, postal ballots, etc., and they can also be downloaded from the Guild website at www.writersguild.org.uk. Motions are also welcome by email – these should be sent to corbett@writersguild.org.uk.

The closing date for receipt of motions is Friday 30th April 2010.

Please check these bulletins or the Guild website and blog over the coming weeks for more information about the AGM.

Guild books co-op launches at the Free Word Centre on Tuesday 27th April 2010

The Writers' Guild is launching a major initiative for members who have self-published their own books, or are thinking of doing so. The Writers' Guild Books Co-operative will provide advice, information, publicity, marketing and ebook services. Phase One of the Books Co-op website is already up and running at <http://www.writersguildbookscoop.co.uk/index.html>.

The Launch Meeting of the Writers' Guild Books Co-operative will take place at the Free Word Centre on Tuesday 27th April 2010 at 11.00am followed by a celebratory drink or two and a sandwich lunch. It is the culmination of several meetings hosted by the Guild over the past three years recognising that self-publishing has become respectable and attractive to many serious writers, and is likely to grow as conventional publishing staggers from crisis to crisis and the world learns to love ebooks and print-on-demand.

The meeting will be open to any member of the Guild involved or interested in self-publishing who may not have caught up with the project yet.

WE NEED TO KNOW IF YOU INTEND TO COME so that we can order the right amount of food, wine and soft drinks so please RSVP to susan@writersguild.org.uk as soon as you can.

At the moment the website has just six writers and 16 books featured. We want this to grow rapidly, so if you have self-published a book, please send us the details and we will include it. You can see from the website what details we need. We hope that other writers will want to join the Guild in order to have their work featured.

We also plan to add more material to the website such as information and advice about self-publishing, marketing, print-on-demand and ebooks. If you have ideas about other ways we can improve the site, please bring them to the launch meeting.

Beyond that, we are investigating how the Co-op can offer authors a comprehensive ebook service. We would take your digital file, convert it to ebook files suitable for the Kindle, Sony Reader, iPad, etc. and make them available for download directly from the site at prices to be fixed by the author.

All these ideas will be discussed on 27th April, along with plans for making sure the Writers' Guild Books Co-op is truly run by the members, for the members. We hope to see you there!

Industry News

Equity's Viewers' petition

Over half the viewing public is female, yet in TV drama for every female character, there are two male characters (36.5% female roles to 63.5% male roles).

While leading parts are frequently played by male actors over 45, women in this age group start to disappear from our screens.

The message this sends to viewers is distorted and distorting. We call on all the major UK television channels to take action to correct this imbalance.

To find out more and to sign the petition go to:
<http://www.gopetition.com/online/24658.html>

Guild Events

Tony Garnett

We're delighted that TONY GARNETT - the celebrated television and film maker - will be our special guest at the next West Midlands Writers' Guild event on the evening of Friday 21st May. Please put this date in your diary - more details will follow. (The event will be open to all and free to Writers' Guild members).

Events

Enough of the Games... Let's Put Ageism on the Agenda

Wednesday 21st April, 6:30-8:30pm

The Simpson Room, Waterstones Piccadilly, 205 Piccadilly, London.

The Women in Film and Television: Is It A Young Girls Game event at BAFTA last month left many in the audience feeling frustrated that their experiences of ageism and gender inequality in the industry were not being understood or taken seriously by members of the panel in front of them.

So how do you make your voice heard?

Join Women in Film & TV for an open discussion about ageism in the TV industry with the aim of bringing women together to have our collective voice heard.

WFTV member and former Countryfile presenter Miriam O'Reilly will speak for the first time at a public event about her experience at the BBC and why she is now taking the organisation to an industrial tribunal accusing it of ageism and sexism.

There will be presentations by key figures from industry bodies such as Equity, Skillset, and Broadcast Magazine, outlining current research and information in this area. We are also pleased to welcome Ceri Goddard, Chief Executive of the Fawcett Society, who will discuss the wider context of gender inequality and what steps are being taken to combat it in other industries.

This is a key moment for you to contribute your voice to the debate by participating in an open discussion with your peers on a subject that affects all women in our industry. Help us to formulate a practical plan for getting ageism and gender inequality firmly on the agenda of TV broadcasters and production companies.

To RSVP please e-mail administrator@wftv.org.uk stating your name, job title and company (where applicable).

The Birmingham Book Festival's Spring Thing: A Festival In A Day

Saturday 29th May 2010

Birmingham Conservatoire, Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG

10.30am (for a 10.45 start) – 5.30pm.

Booking is now open for this day-long literature fest featuring Carol Ann Duffy, Helen Dunmore, Stuart Maconie, Amanda Smyth, Samantha Harvey, Aifric Campbell, Jo Bell and Jenn Ashworth.

Follow this link for more information and to book -

[Birmingham Book Festival](#)

The Story Engine 2010

The Story Engine returns for its fourth annual conference at Newcastle upon Tyne's wonderful Tyneside Cinema on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th May.

The essential Northern event for screenwriters, The Story Engine offers case studies, practical workshops, panel discussions on emerging trends, transmedia experiences, storylining and a focus on the relationships between writers, directors and producers in film, web and TV.

This year The Story Engine explores three main themes: **crisis, collaboration and connections.**

CRISIS Does having a hot script and a good agent guarantee success? We look at what happens when a writer's career stalls and examine ways to get back in the game and stay there.

COLLABORATION Does having more than one brain help make for a more commercially and emotionally rewarding writing experience? We explore team-writing and writing partnerships and ask what role technology has to play in connecting us with potential collaborators across the globe.

CONNECTIONS How can a writer use old-fashioned networking techniques and new-fangled technology to help maximise the exposure they generate for themselves and their projects?

Speakers already confirmed include:

Deborah Moggach, author of *Tulip Fever* and the critically-acclaimed film adaptations of *Pride and Prejudice* (starring Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen) and the TV dramatisation of *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

Gill Isles, producer at the hugely successful Baby Cow Productions. She will discuss the company's writer-led approach to developing and producing comedies such as *Gavin & Stacy* and *Ideal*.

Lisa Holdsworth, whose credits include *Robin Hood*, *Waterloo Road* and *New Tricks*, will deliver a masterclass in structuring television drama, in particular the commissioners' current favourite, the five-act structure.

Kate Rowland from BBC Writersroom will lead a panel discussion on team writing and collaboration and explore ways to successfully manage these relationships. Other confirmed participants include producer Barbara McKissock, writer Michael Chaplin, digital producers Mere Mortals and improvisation masters The Suggestibles.

The full line-up of speakers, along with the confirmed programme for the two-day conference, will be announced on Monday 19th April. Details will be posted on www.thestoryengine.com.

Previous events have sold out quickly so be sure to book soon at www.tynesidecinema.co.uk or by calling the Tyneside Cinema box office on 0845 217 9909.

Tickets cost £110 for two days of events, lunch included.

For more information on The Story Engine or this year's programme of speakers and events, see www.thestoryengine.com.

Courses and Workshops

Le Mépris Film Salon at the De La Warr Pavilion Saturday 22nd May 2010

New Writing South in partnership with The De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill present Le Mépris Film Salon, curated by Jay Clifton

What came first - the book or the film? This unique event looks at the relationship and influences between words and images, literature and film, writers and the media they work in. The day-long event on 22nd May includes a three-hour workshop led by writer Harriet Vyner, an open networking hour with New Writing South to include a book signing session by Harriet Vyner, a pre-film discussion conducted by literary and film event curator Jay Clifton with Harriet Vyner and, finally, the screening of Jean-Luc Godard's movie masterpiece Le Mépris, starring Brigitte Bardot, Jack Palance and Fritz Lang.

<http://www.newwritingsouth.com/development/lemepris.php>

De La Warr Pavilion

Marina

Bexhill on Sea

East Sussex TN40 1DP

Cost: Workshop + discussion + film - £25.

Film + discussion - £5.

To book call the booking line on 01424 229111 or book online
<http://www.dlwp.com/WhatsOn/TheatrePerformances.aspx>.

Find your WritingSpace at Brighton Fringe Festival

This year's Brighton Fringe Festival is offering something very special for a new breed of writer-adventurers. WritingSpace is hosting three creative block-busting workshops led by award-winning authors: Sarah Hall, Peter Hobbs and Clare Pollard will be taking you through the how-to of writing with inspiring and practical tasks to kick start short stories, poetry and even long fiction.

WritingSpace prides itself on offering the highest-quality tuition by authors who have earned their place at the top of their game and who will be on hand to share their advice and experience, tips, tricks and tales to help you to power through to establishing a regular writing practice.

WritingSpace is also unique in offering the chance for structured follow-up to those who are interested - a critical mass could lead to a tutored retreat later in the year, ensuring their fledgling writers maintain the confidence to get off the ground.

Timings and venue:

May 7th - 9th, 10:30am - 4:30pm

Jubilee Library, Brighton

Workshops: £55/45 concessions per day

Friday 7th May - Poetry with Clare Pollard

Saturday May 8th - Short stories with Peter Hobbs

Sunday May 9th - Novel writing with Sarah Hall

For further information, and to arrange author interviews, please contact Des

Mohan (07768 882 843) or Juliette Myers (07951 327 639); email

info@writingspace.org.uk

Magical creativity

A day workshop for the artist and magician in everyone

Saturday, May 22nd at the Seven Dials Club, 42 Earlham Street, WC2H 9LA

“Your sacred space is where you can find yourself again and again.” Joseph Campbell

This is a unique opportunity to engage afresh with your own innate creative power and discover how to apply it more fluidly in everyday life. Magical Creativity is about connecting to your artistic vision and linking your imagination to the essential force that moves all creation.

Join shamanic healer Ursula Barbieri and writer Diane Samuels for a day of practical activities that will encourage your talents, both revealed and hidden.

For more info or to book contact Diane Samuels on dianesamuels@mac.com

Script supervision and continuity for film & television with Beth Multer

Sat 22nd, Sun 23rd, Sat 29th & Sun 30th May

4-day course, 2 consecutive weekends

£550 - 10% Early Bird discount available for one week only! (Offer expires 15th April)

Working closely with the director, DoP, sound, camera, make-up/hair, wardrobe, and art departments, as well as the actors, the script supervisor/continuity person is in a unique position to observe and support the creation of a film.

This comprehensive two-weekend workshop aims to cover all the essential skills, set etiquette, and techniques necessary to work as a Script Supervisor today. In-depth case studies and practical filming exercises will sharpen participants' film-language skills and prepare them for real-life troubleshooting. Topics covered include:

- Prepping a feature film
- 180-degree Rule/"The Line"
- Eyelines
- Essential film language skills
- Understanding shotmaking
- Coverage
- Screen direction
- Forms/paperwork
- Script supervisor's breakdowns
- Lined script
- [Click here for more topics.](#)

For more information, click [on Script Supervision and Continuity for Film & Television with Beth Multer](#)

Opportunities

The Tony Lothian Biographers' Club Prize 2010

The £2,000 Tony Lothian Biographers' Club Prize (sponsored by her daughter, Elizabeth, Duchess of Buccleuch) supports uncommissioned first-time writers working on a biography.

This year's judges are **Matthew Parris**, *Times* political journalist, author and broadcaster; **Kate Williams**, author of *England's Mistress* and *Becoming Queen*; and **Benjamin Buchan**, former editorial director at Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

Applicants should submit a proposal of no more than 20 pages, including a synopsis and 10-page sample chapter (double-spaced, numbered pages), CV and a note on the market for the book and competing literature, to the prize administrator, Anna Swan: anna@annaswan.co.uk or by post to 119A Fordwych Road, London NW2 3NJ.

The deadline for entries is 1st August 2010. Entry fee: £10 (cheques payable to the Biographers' Club). For further details and entry form visit www.biographersclub.co.uk

The winner will be announced at the prize-giving dinner on 21st October.

Only the shortlisted entrants will be contacted.

What Members Are Getting Up To

CAREY ANDREWS wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd April.

CLARA ARMAND has co-written and directed *On The Borderline*. For full details and to book a ticket please go to www.interanimationtheatre.co.uk.

SONALI BHATTACHARYYA wrote the episode of *Casualty* "Clean Slate" going out on BBC1 at 9:15pm on Saturday 17th April.

ADRIAN FLYNN wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Sunday 18th till Friday 23rd April with each episode being repeated at 2:00pm the day following its original broadcast.

BILL GALLAGHER wrote the episode of the new series *The Prisoner "Arrival"*, a re-invention of the iconic 1960s cult drama, starring Jim Caviezel and Ian McKellen.

SASHA HAILS wrote the episode of *Waterloo Road* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Wednesday 21st April.

JULIE JONES wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 23rd April.

NEIL JONES wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Monday 19th April.

DAVID KANE wrote the episode of *Foyle's War "Killing Time"* going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Sunday 18th April.

PETER KERRY wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 20th April.

MIKE LEIGH'S new film *Another Year* will be premiered at the Cannes Film Festival next month.

SUSAN LUND'S new novel *Passion - Beethoven's Son* has just been published by BookSurge and is available from Amazon.

Beyond the Fire written and directed by MAEVE MURPHY will be broadcast by TV3 April 7th at 11:05pm. Critic's Choice in *Sunday Mirror* (Ireland) April 4th.

JANE PEARSON wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 23rd April.

STEPHEN RUSSELL wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Friday 23rd April.

FREDERICK E. SMITH'S novel *The Mysterious Affair* and the first part of his autobiography, *A Youthful Absurdity*, are being published in tandem by Emissary Publishing.

JOE TURNER wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Thursday 22nd April.

AMANDA WHITTINGTON'S radio drama *Writing the Century* begins with the episode *Once upon a Time* going out on Radio 4 at 7:45pm on Monday 19th April.

Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 40 Rosebery Avenue, EC1R 4RX; erik@writersguild.org.uk; www.writersguild.org.uk; tel +44 (0) 20 7833 0777. This email bulletin is a service to members and associates of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain. Comments, suggestions and requests to be removed from the distribution list should be sent to erik@writersguild.org.uk. Items are included from a variety of sources. The Guild does its best to check everything and make corrections when necessary but we will not accept responsibility for mistakes and omissions. You are advised to check terms and conditions before entering any commitments. Copyright Writers' Guild of Great Britain and suppliers of items 2010.