



# The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 392, Friday 9th October 2009

On the Guild's blog this week at [writersguild.blogspot.com](http://writersguild.blogspot.com):

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### **Guild News**

**1. Citizens' Coalition for Public Service Broadcasting**

The Citizens' Coalition for Public Service Broadcasting (CCPSB), to which the Writers' Guild is affiliated, has submitted its response <http://writersguild.blogspot.com/> to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's consultation on sustainable independent and impartial news.

The CCPSB is a broad mix of civil society groups, charities, community groups, unions and arts organisations that believe public service broadcasting is a public good. Its launch statement says that the Coalition:

"believes that public service broadcasting is a public good, and that plurality in public service broadcasting must be maintained in the digital age. British public service broadcasting is a cultural as well as an economic asset to the UK, and we believe the government must take decisive steps to ensure that we have a regulatory environment that allows this sector to prosper."

## Guild Events

### 2. David Edgar – How Plays Work

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 7:30pm**

#### **Birmingham Conservatoire**

David Edgar, President of the Writers' Guild, pioneered the teaching of playwriting in the UK, founding the first Playwriting Studies course at Birmingham University twenty years ago. This Birmingham Book Festival event celebrates the publication of **How Plays Work**, a book that offers a masterclass for playwrights and playmakers and is a fascinating guide to the anatomy of drama. It also gives an opportunity to discuss the wider implications of teaching playwriting studies in terms of quality, quantity and the expectations of writers.

**£3 for Guild members, otherwise £5 (£3.75)**

**Members please email [joanne@birminghambookfestival.org](mailto:joanne@birminghambookfestival.org) to say you're going & then pay on the door. Please say you're a Writers' Guild member in the email.**

## Events

### **3. Embarrassing Bodies**

Royal Television Society - London centre

14 October - Wednesday - 7.00 pm

'RTS London Centre at ITV'

The second event in our 2009/2010 Programme is a Production Focus on Channel 4's hit series 'Embarrassing Bodies' .

Embarrassing Bodies, created and produced by Maverick Television not only has been one of Channel 4's ratings winners but its BAFTA winning website has had a phenomenal 40 million hits. It is a superb example of just how it is possible to create audience winners across multiplatforms. There is much that any producer can learn from the way in which the TV and web come together and engage individual members of the audience after the transmission and how you can get messages of great importance out to the public. In the case of Embarrassing Bodies the medical profession have found the website an invaluable tool.

Speakers:

ADAM GEE - Cross-Platform Commissioner (Factual), Channel 4 JONNIE TURPIE - Director of Digital, Maverick Television STEPHANIE HARRIS - Executive Producer, Embarrassing Bodies, Maverick Television Dr DAWN - Medical Expert on Embarrassing Bodies

COST: FREE to RTS Members and non-members.

TIME: 7:00pm - Tea and Coffee from 6.30pm

VENUE: ITV, the London Studios, Upper Ground, South Bank, London SE1 9LT. Waterloo is the nearest train and tube station.

Please register at E-mail: [LondonCentreEvents@rts.org.uk](mailto:LondonCentreEvents@rts.org.uk)

For details of all RTS London events - put on by the member for the members go to [www.rts.org.uk](http://www.rts.org.uk) >>RTS in your Area>>> London >>Events

#### **4. Meet Legendary Comedy Writer Barry Cryer and Working Title's Eric Fellner in Brighton**

Barry Cryer, the veteran and legendary comedy writer, will be a special guest at 3rd November's Brighton based Space event. Cryer has written for some of British comedy's biggest names, such as Tommy Cooper, Morcambe and Wise, The Two Ronnies, Frankie Howerd and Les Dawson. There will also be an appearance from Working Title Films' Eric Fellner, co-producer of some of Britain's most successful films. Working Title's credits include *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Atonement*, *Billy Elliot*, *Notting Hill* and many more popular films. The two will be discussing their highly successful and respected careers. The event also features an audience Q&A and a raffle with many great prizes, including Cryer's new books and *Billy Elliot The Musical* tickets.

The Space (Southern Performance and Creative Energies) is a unique monthly arts and media event, which brings together the creative community with special guest interviews. Forthcoming guests include bestselling crime writer Ian Rankin, *Labyrinth* author Kate Mosse, comedy writer Armando Iannucci and *Gladiator* and *Shadowlands* screenwriter William Nicholson.

**Tuesday 3rd November / doors at 7:30 / starts 8:00 / Latest Music Bar, Brighton / £6/£4**

[www.thespace.me.uk](http://www.thespace.me.uk)

#### **5. The De Lane Lea Women in Film & Television Awards 2009**

The ceremony will take place at the Park Lane Hilton on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

Now in it's 19<sup>th</sup> year, the WFTV awards celebrates and honours the achievements of women working within all sectors of our industry.

For further information or to request a booking form please contact [info@wftv.org.uk](mailto:info@wftv.org.uk), or call 0207 247 1400.

## **Courses and Workshops**

### **6. Difficult Teenagers: Writing For The Teenage Market Birmingham**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 7:00pm**

**Fazeley Studios, 191 Fazeley Street, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 5SE**

Novelist & playwright David Calcutt, Chris O'Connell from Theatre Absolute, Coventry & Marcus Romer of Pilot Theatre Company will look at writing for a teenage audience.

**Free to Guild Members, otherwise £5 (£3.75)**

You can just turn up, but an email reply is appreciated.

### **7. NPA Character Development Course**

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> & Sun 18<sup>th</sup> October**

**10:00am - 5:00pm**

Characters are one of the great paradoxes of screenwriting. They are not 'real' people but constructs designed by the writer for a specific purpose yet, when done well, the audience feel as if they are old friends.

In this inspiring weekend, Jacqueline Genie will reveal how character is not separate from but integral to every aspect of the screenplay including structure, genre and plot. She will use case studies from successful films and a full range of effective, practical techniques to show how to create memorable characters with dimension

that audiences will take to their heart forever.

Jacqueline Genie has worked as a freelance script consultant for several companies including Brass Hat Films (Premonition). In 2001, she co-founded the London Script Consultancy, script-editing hundreds of features in Europe and the US. She taught the popular weekly screenwriting classes Soho Screenwriters, intensive weekend courses and script development programmes for Film London. She is also a professional screenwriter, currently commissioned to write a feature film treatment, adapted from a novel.

Members: £140 | Non Members £215

You can book your place online, or by contacting the NPA Office:

Telephone: 020 7613 0440

E-mail: [queries@npa.org.uk](mailto:queries@npa.org.uk)

Please note that places are limited.

Venue:

NPA Office  
7.03 The Tea Building  
56 Shoreditch High St.  
London E1 6JJ

## Opportunities

### **8. Media for all? The challenge of convergence**

A one day conference organised by the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom.

Saturday 31st October 2009 School of Pharmacy, 29-39 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AX

Registration and networking from 9 am. Conference 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

The Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom presents an international conference on the challenge of achieving a high quality, diverse and democratic media.

Plenaries:

- \* Media ownership and democracy in the age of convergence
- \* The media as a public service?
- \* Protecting and campaigning for high quality, diverse media in a digital age

Plus a wide variety of workshops.

Cost: Corporations £150, Not for profit and Trade Union organisations £25, Individuals £20, Concessions: students, unwaged, retired £10. 25% discount for bookings before 15th September

Book online at: [www.cpbf.org.uk](http://www.cpbf.org.uk)

## 9. London Borough Film Fund Challenge

If you're an enthusiastic film-maker living in the capital you may be eligible to apply for **Film London's [London Borough Film Fund Challenge](#)** - an initiative to discover grassroots talent and stimulate local film-making. Applications for **Eastern Edge Film Fund** (Barking & Dagenham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest), **Southern Exposure Film Fund** (Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark) and **Reel World** (Bexley) are still open for a few more days.

## 10. Manchester Film Coop Film series on work

Manchester Film Co-operative is a not for profit film co-op that screens political films followed by discussions once a month in Manchester. The new series, which starts on October 27th, is on the theme of work, and most of the films are about union activism. The film nights usually attract between 40 to 60 people interested in politics and activism and who are receptive to new ideas and discussion, so would offer a good opportunity to talk to people about unions.

The Film Co-Op has contacted us to ask that the attached leaflet be circulated but also to ask if any union would be interested in sending a speaker to lead an informal discussion following the screening of one of the films.

If you would be interested please contact Giles Simon direct at: [info@manchesterfilm.coop](mailto:info@manchesterfilm.coop)

## Requests From Members

### 11. Information Request

Information request from Kevin McCann : I've been writing a series of new and original ghost stories for local radio and am now looking to try and get them published – either individually or as a collection – but have so far drawn a complete blank in my search for outlets. There seem to be plenty of places looking for Horror/Splatter but nothing much else. If anyone who knows of an outlet or outlets could get in touch with me at [Mccanngregor@talktalk.net](mailto:Mccanngregor@talktalk.net) I'd be very grateful.

## What Members Are Getting Up To

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JESSE ARMSTRONG and SAM BAIN co-wrote the episode of *Peep Show* going out on C4 at 10:00pm on Friday 16th October.

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SARAH BAGSHAW wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm and 8:00pm on Thursday 15th October.

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RICHARD BURKE wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Thursday 15th October.

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ANNA CLEMENTS wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 13th October.

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DEBORAH DAVIS wrote the episode of *Dickens Confidential "Dickens and Dizzy"*

going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Tuesday 13th October.

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KEVIN FEGAN'S new stage play, "Fireflies, a love story waiting to happen", is premiered at The Lowry, Salford Quays, from 16 - 31st October. It is a Lowry Production, Directed by Noreen Kershaw, starring Naomi Radcliffe and Paul Simmonds. For info visit [www.thelowry.com](http://www.thelowry.com)

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EIRENE HOUSTON wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Friday 126th October.

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JULIE JONES wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Friday 16th October.

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IAN KERSHAW'S new radio series *Pick-Ups* begins on Radio 4 with the episode *Little Grey Cells* at 11:00pm on Thursday 15th October.

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KAREN LAWS wrote the episode of *Casualty "Comfort Zone"* going out on BBC1 at 9:25pm on Saturday 10th October.

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BILL LYONS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 13th October.

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CAROLINE MITCHELL wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 14th October.

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SUE MOONEY wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 12th October.

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ROLAND MOORE'S series *Land Girls* concludes with the episode "*Destinies*" going out on BBC1 at 6:10pm on Sunday 11th October.

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HOWARD OVERMAN wrote the episode of *Merlin "Lancelot and Guinevere"* going out on BBC1 at 6:15pm on Saturday 10th October.

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STEWART PERMUTT: Following a sell-out run at The Finborough Theatre last year Stewart Permutt`s play *Many Roads to Paradise* is being presented at The Jermyn Street Theatre from October 9-Nov 14. Tues-Sat at 7.30. Sundays at 5:00pm.

Directed by Anthony Biggs. Cast: Thelma Ruby, Amanda Boxer, Gillian Hanna, Elizabeth Uter, Jason Wing, Tim Stern.

Box Office: 020 7287 2875

`A rare, real and heart-warming find` Time Out.

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JULIE PARSONS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 16th October.

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PHILIP QIZILBASH wrote next weeks episodes of the BBC Asian Network's daily soap, *Silver Street*. It is broadcast Monday 12th October to Friday 16th October at 12.15pm, with an omnibus edition on Sunday 18th October at 4.35pm

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GILLIAN RICHMOND wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th October.

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STEPHEN RUSSELL wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Monday 12th October.

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CATHY STAINCLIFFE'S radio play *Legacy* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Monday 12th October.

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TIM STIMPSON wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Sunday 11th till Friday 16th October with each episode being repeated at 2:00pm the day following its original broadcast.

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RICHARD STONEMAN wrote the episode of *Doc Martin* "Driving Mr McLynn" going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Sunday 11th October.

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TOBY YOUNG co-wrote and co-produced the docu-drama *When Boris met Dave* that was broadcast on More4 on Wednesday this week. It can be watched again and again on <http://www.channel4.com/programmes/when-boris-met-dave/4od#2972823>

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