

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 362, Friday 13th March 2009

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Guild News

1. Creative Partnerships

As reported by the Writers' Guild in recent e-bulletins, Creative Partnerships is no longer part of Arts Council England but has established itself as an independent organisation. It receives regular funding from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport via Arts Council England and uses this money to instigate creative projects in schools, using creative professionals such as writers, visual artists, web designers, architects, actors and musicians.

Creative professionals can now work with Creative Partnerships either as Creative Agents or as practitioners employed to undertake projects in chosen schools. The role of a Creative Agent is to broker and support partnerships between schools and creative practitioners to enable high quality creative learning programmes to take place.

According to a recent Creative Partnerships report about the role of Creative Agents, called 'The Art of Looking Sideways', it is:

"to work with the school leadership team in order to support the development of creative learning and to contribute to school improvement. This is done by establishing a creative learning vision for the school that is closely linked to the school development plan. The Creative Agent fosters an enquiry based approach and supporting partnerships.

The role involves four phases (not necessarily sequential as they often happen simultaneously).

Diagnostic

Analysing where a school is and how a Creative Partnerships might support development.

Planning and Brokering

Establishing a focus question, enquiry framework and action plan.

Change Management

Supporting the school and creative practitioners in introducing and implementing change.

Evaluation and Sustainability

Encouraging reflective practice and embedding learning and change."

We'd like to know how Creative Partnerships and the Creative Agents in particular are working for the artists employed to undertake projects in schools.

Are you a Creative Agent? If so, how do you think it works? Do you feel the system works well? How much support do you receive from Creative Partnerships staff and what form does it take?

Are you a practitioner? If so, how were you contracted for the project you undertook? How much help did you receive from your Creative Agent and what form did it take? Have you noticed any difference in the way Creative Partnerships works since it was devolved from Arts Council England?

We'd also be keen to hear what sort of projects our members have been involved in recently and what they were paid.

If you have an experience to contribute, please email Naomi MacDonald in the Guild office at naomi@writersguild.org.uk.

2. Are Your Plays Produced in Germany?

Many British plays are translated and produced in Germany and the Guild now has an up-to-date list of German agents who are active in this area. We occasionally get enquiries from members whose work has been used in this way and the information may be helpful in keeping track of performances, payments, etc. Inclusion on the list should not be taken as a recommendation.

Most of the agents listed have "verlag" in their titles, which literally means "publishing house". However, it doesn't mean that these agencies will necessarily publish the texts in the sense that we would think of publishers in the UK. The modus operandi in Germany is that the agencies acquire rights in the English plays, arrange the translations, market the plays within their territory, and monitor and collect royalties. There can be several productions of the same play in different cities.

The list is available by email from the Guild office. Our thanks to the UK agents who have compiled it.

Industry News

3. Andy Burnham maintains ban on product placement

After consultation with various industry bodies, including the Writers' Guild, Culture Secretary Andy Burnham has announced that the Government will maintain the ban on product placement on television.

For the full story, see

http://www.writersguild.org.uk/public/003_WritersGuil/310_WGGBNewsPro.html

4. BBC and ITV Hunt 'Ordinary Lives' Dramas

At the Broadcast TV Drama Forum this week BBC and ITV drama commissioners said they are on the lookout for more contemporary series about ordinary lives.

BBC drama commissioning controller Ben Stephenson said that as well reinventing genres, such as *Life on Mars* or *Spooks*, that BBC1 9pm series and serials should also reflect people's everyday lives more closely.

"I'd like a greater range of stories about ordinary people's lives, with a little more heart," he said, citing *The Street* and *Cutting It*.

ITV drama controller Laura Mackie conceded that recent attempts to add more contemporary character-based pieces to ITV1's drama schedules had yielded mixed results.

"We've come unstuck because we haven't made sure there's enough story," she said. "We really want them, but we need to look at the reason why our crime shows work: because they have a real narrative pulse. We've all got hung up on high concepts rather than stories."

Mackie added that dramas would be given more development time than in the past, so that ITV could get it right first time.

"We've been guilty of rushing things on to the screen," she said. "The Fixer for example, will come back stronger in its second series as Peter Fincham and I know what worked in the first series. We can't make mistakes - but that doesn't mean we don't take risks."

Author: [Robin Parker](#).

Source: Broadcast

5. News from the Red Room

After a highly-productive and pleasant stay at Oval House Theatre, The Red Room is relocating to Covent Garden. **From 1st April 2009**, the new address will be;

11-15 Betterton Street,
Covent Garden,
London,
WC2H 9BP.
Tel: 0207 470 8790

Secondly, May will see The Red Room hold it's fifth platform, this time on the subject of feminism. And lastly, their new website will be going live in spring. Please check it out for details of the platform and other events and opportunities. www.theredroom.org.uk

6. TC Brian Way Award 2009 Short List Announced

An Award for playwrights who write for young people with a cash prize of £6,000.

The Shortlisted plays are:

- *A Sheep called Skye* by Nicola McCartney (National Theatre Scotland)
- *Duck!* by Philip Osment (Unicorn Theatre)
- *I'm A Minger* by Alex Jones (Operating Theatre Company)
- *Romeo In The City* by Amber Lone (Theatre Centre)
- *Space Circus* by writers from Chol Theatre (Chol Theatre)
- *The Mothership* by Douglas Maxwell (Birmingham Rep)
- *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Kevin Dyer (Action Transport)

The judges for this Award are:

Chris Campbell (Literary Manager of the National Theatre), Jamil Dhillon (director), David Greig (winner of TC Brian Way Award 2008), Gbemisola Ikumela (actor/director and writer) and Emma Wee (designer).

TC Brian Way Award Ceremony will be held on Thursday 30th April 2009 at the Water House Restaurant together with the brand new TC Adrienn Benham Award

Full information can be found at: www.theatre-centre.co.uk

Both Awards are funded and administered by Theatre Centre.

Events

7. Minghella Movie Marathon

In memory of the first anniversary of Anthony Minghella's death and in association with the BFI we are holding a retrospective of all Anthony's feature films, with introductions by family and friends.

Special guests include: Alan Rickman, Lord David Puttnam, Guy Barker, Jude Law, Kevin Whately, Martin Freeman, Michael Maloney, Nikki Amuka-Bird, Tim Bricknell

Venues include Medina Theatre, Cineworld & the Quay Arts Centre.

Friday 13th March

TRULY MADLY DEEPLY

Drinks reception from 6.30PM film at 8.00PM £15

Saturday 14th March

THE NO. 1 LADIES DETECTIVE AGENCY & "making of" documentary 11.00AM £5

THE TALENTED MR RIPLEY 2.30PM £5

CLIMBING COLD MOUNTAIN documentary & AUDIENCE WITH JUDE LAW 2.30PM £10

THE ENGLISH PATIENT GALA NIGHT (Black tie event)

Drinks reception 6.15PM Film at 7.30PM £30

Sunday 15th March

MR WONDERFUL 12.00 £5

BREAKING AND ENTERING 2.30PM £5

COLD MOUNTAIN

Drinks reception 6.15PM Film at 7.30PM £15

Limited Edition £50 "Stardust" tickets are available now which give a guaranteed ticket to the Gala night on the Saturday and priority booking for the other films. Call Medina Theatre Box Office on 01983 527020....all proceeds for this event will support local charities for young people.

Newly added event:

Saturday 14th March at the Quay Arts Centre, Newport

Family Funday in Association with the BFI

Animation workshops for 5-10 year olds (must be accompanied by an adult), inspired by the wildlife of Africa and the spirit and setting of No. 1 Ladie's Detective Agency.

Workshop 1, 10:00 - 11:30

Workshop 2, 12:00 - 13:30

Workshops are free, but booking is required.

Full information and programme of events available on the official website. Link below...visit

www.minghellafilmfestival.com

8. Orange Prize Readers' Day

The Birmingham Book Festival would like to announce the third Orange Prize Readers' Day, brought to Birmingham by Orange, the West Midlands Readers' Network, The Reading Agency, and the Birmingham Book Festival.

The event will take place on **Saturday 9 May, 1.00pm – 5.00pm**, at the **Adrian Boulton Hall**, BCU Conservatoire, Paradise Place (Next to Central Library), Birmingham B3 3HG.

Kate Mosse, Honorary Director of the Orange Prize for Fiction and bestselling author, will head a panel of winners, judges and previously shortlisted authors for an afternoon of readings and discussion. Writers scheduled to appear (provisionally) include **Sadie Jones, Joanne Harris, Clare Allan, Diana Evans, Joanna Kavenna** and **Charlotte Mendelson**.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet bestselling female writers as well as some of the UK's most interesting cultural and literary figures. Come and be privy to the next generation as this year's Orange Award for New Writers judges discuss the 2009 shortlist. There will also be a chance for book signings.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and cakes will be in plentiful supply, and all attendees will take home a special books goody bag.

Tickets are priced at just **£5 or £4 for concessions**, or **£20 for a group package (six tickets)**, and are available from: Birmingham Box Office: 0121 303 2323 (www.birminghamboxoffice.com)

Any enquiries should be directed to Sara Beadle: 0121 246 2792 (sara@birminghambookfestival.org)

9. PAWS Event

PAWS (Public Awareness of Science and Engineering) is holding an Evening Event on **Monday 23rd March** at the Institute of Physics, Portland Place, and I think it should appeal to a good number of writers and producers.

The panel of scientists are all women, professors and lecturers in medical sciences, working on everything from osteo-porosis to proton therapy for cancer to the causes and possible cures for obesity. But there is a man on the platform- Tony McHale originator and now Executive Producer

of Holby City.

Coffee at 6.30 pm, presentations at [7.pm](#) and buffet reception at [8.45.pm](#). and a chance to network with scientists and producers.

Admission free, but please apply to PAWS at pawsomni@btconnect.com

or PAWS OFFICE, OMNI Communications

First Floor, 155 Regents Park Road London NW1 8BB

tel: 0207483 4545

10. Meet the Agents - Brighton and Oxford

In association with the Writers' Guild, join three top literary agents working with playwrights, screenwriters and authors in conversation with Chris Taylor, Director, New Writing South.

Find out if and when you need an agent, exactly what agents do and how they can help your career. Find out how to approach agents, when to send unsolicited scripts and learn what agents relay look for when they take on new writers. The evening also offers an informal opportunity to network and ask your own questions.

These events are very well attended, so be sure to book your place early!

Details and booking:

Oxford

with **Meg Davis** - [MBA Literary Agents](#), **Sarah Ballard** - [United Agents](#), **Kerry Glencourse** - [Susanna Lea Associates](#), **Becky Ayebia Clarke** - [Ayebia Clarke Literary Agency & Publishing](#)

Date: Thursday 9th April

Time: 6.30pm - 9pm

Venue: Said Business School, Oxford

Brighton

with **Broo Doherty** - [Wade Doherty Literary Agency](#), **Simon Trewin** - [United Agents](#), **Rupert Heath** - [Rupert Heath Literary Agency](#)

Date: Tuesday 2nd June

Times: 6.30pm – 9pm

Venue: Nightingale Theatre, Brighton

For more information and to book a ticket go to:

<http://www.newwritingsouth.com/development/meet-the-agents.php>

11. The Big Write Children's Literature Festival Event - Writing for Children

East London's children's venue devoted to story-based play, Discover, is hosting a children's literature festival which will include a session on Thursday evening for adults contemplating writing for this demanding audience. Over the following three days there's a programme of workshops and book launches, featuring Jill Lewis, Jan Fearnley, Chris Redmond and others.

Discover, 1 Bridge Terrace, E15 4BG (8536 5555/www.discover.org.uk). Thur Mar 5-Sun Mar 8, various times and prices. Sat Mar 7, Sun Mar 8 £5 per day, family (four tickets) £17. Booking advised.

Courses and Workshops

12. Introduction to Script Development

Saturday 4th April, Saturday 18th April 09 // 10am - 5pm

Venue: Lighthouse, 28 Kensington Street, Brighton BN1 4AJ

Tutor: Julie Everton

Cost: £130 (full) £100 (concessions)

This course is designed for people who are interested in starting or building their careers as script readers or script developers. It is also suitable for writers, producers or directors interested in learning how to best work with a script to maximise its inherent potential.

http://www.lighthouse.org.uk/opportunity/script_development.htm

Opportunities

13. Dare you brave 'The Dragon's Pen'?

Four brilliant industry professionals.

Two minutes to pitch - in front of an audience of other aspiring authors.

One chance to get your novel read by a leading figure in crime fiction publishing.

Part of the Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival, in Harrogate 23-26 July 2009

Do you have the nerve to take on the challenge and the Dragons?

We are offering a limited number of places for Creative Thursday bookers with a completed concept for a crime novel to have the opportunity to pitch their book to two powerhouse agents, Jane Gregory of Gregory and Company and Philip Patterson of Marjacq Scripts, and two renowned and widely-respected editors, David Shelley of Little, Brown and Selina Walker of Transworld Publishers Ltd.

Fail to excite the Dragons' interest and you'll be going back to the drawing board - but - if your pitch rouses the Dragons' keen instincts for bestselling material - they will vie with each other to win the privilege of being the first to read a full synopsis and first chapter of your work.

Between them the Dragons represent and publish such luminaries as Val McDermid, Mark Billingham, Stuart MacBride and Simon Kernick to name but a few.

To register your interest in booking for Creative Thursday and becoming a contestant for The Dragons' Pen, please call the Festival Office on tel: 01423 562303.

To view the full Creative Thursday programme, visit the Festival website www.harrogate-festival.org.uk/crime_

14. BBC Looks for Arab/English Speaking Writers

The BBC Trust are eager to speak to bi lingual arab/english writers currently based in the UK with television/film drama experience to work on a pan arab drama co -production. Please e mail a CV to maia.malas@bbc.co.uk.

15. Creative Writing Jobs at Manchester Metropolitan University

Manchester Metropolitan University is inviting applications for the following posts in

The Department of English:

0.5 Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing (Poetry) – Ref: SW/051

0.5 Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing and English – Ref: SW/052

For more information and to apply on line, visit <http://www.jobs.mmu.ac.uk>

If you do not have access to the internet or require an application in an alternative format please contact Personnel Services on **0161 247 6464** quoting the appropriate reference number. Closing date for receipt of applications is 18th March 2009."

Before acting on this email or opening any attachments you should read the Manchester Metropolitan University's email disclaimer available on its website <http://www.mmu.ac.uk/emaildisclaimer>

16. Templar Poetry Pamphlet & Collection Competition 2009

The details of the 2009 Competition are outlined below and full details are available on the website at www.templarpoetry.co.uk

The Templar Poetry Pamphlet & Collection Competition 2009 invites submissions of short collections of poetry. Four winners each receive £500, publication of their submission in pamphlet format published and launched at the Derwent Poetry Festival in October 2009 and the opportunity to submit a full collection for publication.

Around forty poets have individual poems published in the competition anthology and all writers submitting receive a complimentary copy of the anthology (RRP £8). Pamphlet winners and anthology poets are offered the opportunity to read at the Derwent Poetry Festival .

Submission Fee: £18 or Euro Equivalent.
Further information available on www.templarpoetry.co.uk

Judge: Tim Liardet

Closing Date: 30th April 2009

Submissions should be posted to:

Templar Poetry
2009 Pamphlet & Collection Competition
PO BOX 7082
BAKEWELL
DERBYSHIRE
DE45 9AF

17. Face Front Inclusive Searching for New Play

Face Front Inclusive Theatre is looking for a play with a small cast (anything up to 4 characters) for 2010 performances at The Millfield Theatre North London and possible short tour.

The play will be performed by disabled and non disabled actors although we are not necessarily looking for the play to reflect this. We are open to receiving all style of plays.

Please submit your work no later than March 30th to

Catrin Thomas / Jon French

Face Front Inclusive Theatre,

Upper Level, 52 Market Square,

Edmonton Green Shopping Centre,

Edmonton Green,

London N2 9NX

18. Anderida Writers Circle Looking for Speakers

A writers circle based in Eastbourne are looking for Guild members to come and speak to the group about their career and how they went about becoming a professional writer.

They will be publicising the meeting beforehand with reading groups, library and local newspapers. This would be an ideal opportunity for an up and coming writer to publicise their work. For more information regarding expenses etc. please contact:

Harry and Pam Pope,

Flat 10 * 6 Queens Gardens * Eastbourne *

East Sussex * BN21 3EF

07910 697401 or 01323 734107

19. The Veni Vidi Theatre Company Playwright Competition

The Veni Vidi Theatre Company is launching a new competition for playwrights with brave, imaginative and daring stories to tell.

This competition is Free to enter and is for all ages and abilities.

They are looking for 3 One Act Plays that engage and audience and raise debate on our current social issues but they must be based around the image that they have set (Please go to the website to see stimulus for the competition and to see the competition guidelines)

www.venividitheatre.com

Selected winners will have their play produced in September 2009 at a venue on the London Fringe Scene starring a professional cast of actors.

Submission Guidelines:

- Plays must be written using the image as inspiration
- Plays must be 25-35 minutes running time
- Plays must draw on our current social and cultural issues

All submissions must be in by 1st May 2009

For more information please go to our website or e-mail natalie@venividitheatre.com or heman@venividitheatre.com

20. Call For Five-Minute Play Submissions

5 minutes.

It's not a long time, is it?

What can really happen in just 5 minutes?

What would you make happen?

Eyebrow Productions is asking writers what they think can happen in 5 minutes. From the fantastical to the mundane, whether you're waiting at a bus stop or witnessing the apocalypse, Eyebrow is inviting writers to submit their 5-minute plays for an exciting evening of new writing.

The event, WriteBites, is encouraging writers from all backgrounds and experience to submit material. Twelve plays, to be performed by an ensemble of actors, will be selected for the first event to take place at a London venue, (to be announced), followed by a WriteBites launch party.

The deadline for submissions is Thursday 30 April.

Scripts should be typed on single-side A4, and approximately five pages long.

Please send submissions to:

WriteBites

Eyebrow Productions

13 Charterhouse Square

London, EC1M 6AX

Any scripts received after this date will not be considered for the first WriteBites event, to take place in May, but will be considered for the next WriteBites night, set to be a regular event on the London theatre scene.

For more information about Eyebrow Productions, please visit the WriteBites website:

www.sendusascript.co.uk

21. Submit your short to Cannes Short Film Corner

The Short Film Corner

The short must have been produced after January 1st, 2008

The film must be under 35 minutes long

Only one film per director/writer/filmmaker

The short must not have been registered at the Short Film Corner in a past edition

Registration Deadline: 18th April, 2009

The short films must be sent in a French or English version or with French or English subtitles, on DigiBeta, Beta SP, DV, DVcam or video DVD.

Call for entries - http://www.shortfilmcorner.com/inscrire_us.html

Deadline for submission is April 18, 2009.

Contact Information:

Paris offices until May 1 2009

Short Film Corner - Festival de Cannes

3 rue Amélie

75007 Paris - France

33 (0)1 53 59 61 30

33 (0)1 53 59 61 53

sfc2009@festival-cannes.fr

What Members Are Getting Up To

SIMON ASHDOWN wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Friday 20th March.

ROY BOULTER wrote the episode of *Missing* going out on BBC1 at 2:15pm on Monday 16th March.

D.J. BRITTON'S radio play *Welcome to the Wasteland* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Wednesday 18th March.

RICHARD BURKE wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 17th March.

MARK BURT wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 20th March.

JOHN CHAMBERS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 18th March.

JADEN CLARK wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th March.

ANNA CLEMENTS wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Wednesday 18th March.

HUGH COSTELLO'S radio play *Smoke and Daggers* going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Friday 20th March.

LISA EVANS', adaptation of Melvyn Bragg's best-selling story of romance and betrayal in 19th century Cumbria *The Maid of Buttermere* takes to the stage this month at Theatre by the Lake in Keswick, Cumbria. This world première opens on Saturday 21 March and runs until Saturday 18 April .

The Maid of Buttermere is the story of the passionate love affair between Mary Robinson, daughter of the landlord of the Fish Inn in Buttermere, and Colonel Augustus Hope, a bigamous rogue and chancer. To book call the Box Office on 017687 74411 or book online at www.theatrebythelake.com .

SIAN EVANS'S drama *Seeing Is Believing* is going out on Radio 4 at 7:45pm on Monday 16th March.

JOHN FINNEMORE wrote the episode of *Cabin Pressure "Douz"* going out on Radio 4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 17th March.

PETER FLANNERY will talk to Paul Allen about his theatrical adaptation of *Burnt By the Sun* at the National Theatre (Lyttelton Theatre) on Tuesday 24th March at 6.00 pm.

'Funny, affecting and taut with suspense, *Burnt by the Sun* is a new play that already feels like a classic.' *Daily Telegraph*

Colonel Kotov, decorated hero of the Russian Revolution, is spending an idyllic summer in the country with his beloved young wife and family. But on one glorious sunny morning in 1936, his wife's former lover returns from a long and unexplained absence. Amidst a tangle of sexual jealousy, retribution and remorseless political backstabbing, Kotov feels the full, horrifying reach of Stalin's rule.

I'll give you one chance. Go now and type your confession. I take you and the confession to Moscow tonight – two big feathers in my cap – and maybe, maybe... they'll spare Maroussia... as the wife of a traitor. We all have a choice, Comrade.

Poised at the beginning of Stalin's Great Terror, *Burnt by the Sun* shows a brutal future encroaching on the last days of a fading world.

The play runs until 21st May at the Lyttelton Theatre

<http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/burntbythesun>

BILL GALLAGHER wrote the episode of *Lark Rise to Candleford* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Sunday 15th March.

LUCY GOUGH wrote the episode of *Doctors "Skin Deep"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Monday

16th March.

ISABELLE GREY wrote the episode of *The Bill "Decision Time"* going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Thursday 19th March.

JONATHAN HARVEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Wednesday 18th March.

LISA HOLDSWORTH wrote the episode of *Waterloo Road* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Wednesday 18th March.

JAYNE HOLLINSON wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 16th March.

ALAN MCDONALD'S radio play *Ripley's Game* (part of *The Complete Ripley* series) is going out on Radio 4 on Saturday 14th March.

SUE MOONEY wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 17th

March.

STUART MORRIS wrote the episode of *The Bill "Leap of Faith"* going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Wednesday 18th March.

DAVID STAFFORD co-wrote the episode of *Hazelbeach* going out on Radio 4 at 11:30pm on Monday 16th March.

BRIAN B. THOMPSON'S new series of *Trueman and Riley*, starring Robert Daws and Duncan Preston, is broadcast on Radio 7 from Mon 16th to Friday 20th March.

CHIRS THOMPSON wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March.

KARIN YOUNG wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 16th March.

Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 40 Rosebery Avenue, EC1R 4RX; erik@writersguild.org.uk; www.writersguild.org.uk; tel +44 (0) 20 7833 0777; fax +44 (0) 20 7833 4777. 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 2008.
