

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 421, Friday 14th May 2010

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Guild News

See the T.U.C. in action

The Writers' Guild will not be sending delegates to this years' Trades Union Congress as a cost-saving measure (as in previous years). However any Guild member who wishes to attend can get a Visitor's Ticket through the Guild.

The conference will take place in the Manchester Central Convention Complex from Monday 13th September to Thursday 16th September 2010. If you would like a Visitor's Ticket please contact the Guild office. Tickets are free for unwaged, retired or young (under 27) people; others pay £30. All visitors have to provide a passport-style photograph.

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

This year's Writers' Guild AGM takes place on Friday 4th June 2010 from 10:30am 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.

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

Industry News

Gender Debate Website Soon to go Live - Your Articles/Blogs Wanted!

The Guild is supporting Kate Buffery who is launching a new gender debate website and would like to hear from you with your opinions, articles and blogs.

The website is a non-profit making 'safe' site that aims to engender discussion and keep visitors to the site up to speed with media and public opinion as well as the latest news, research, and campaigns.

Kate is aiming to upload as much substantial 'opinion' from those within the arts and media as is possible before the site actually goes live. She would love you to contribute by writing anything from a few sentences to an article on 'gender equality in the media'.

To take a look at the site, visit: www.thedebate.uk.com

To email Kate directly for more information or to share content for the site, e-mail: info@thedebate.uk.com

Radio drama audiences soar

BBC Radio 7, the digital station that features many archive shows written by Guild members, has just had its best-ever showing in the official RAJAR listening figures, passing the “magic million” for the first time with 1,050,000 listeners per week in the first three months of 2010. The spiritual home of radio drama, Radio 4, now has more than 10 million listeners – with *The Archers* alone scoring a record 4.9 million listeners a week. See <http://www.rajar.co.uk/>

Guild Events

WGGB BBC TV drama event - Wednesday 2nd June

6:30 - 9:00pm (doors open at 6:00pm; event starts promptly at 6:30pm)

The Free Word Centre, 60 Farringdon Road, London EC1

The top people in BBC TV drama will be taking part in a major event for Guild television members. There will be a presentation and a panel session with questions and answers, followed by plenty of time for an informal chat over wine and canapés.

The main speakers will be :

Ben Stephenson, Controller of Commissioning;

John Yorke, Controller of BBC Production;

Kate Harwood, Head of Series and Serials.

Other participants will be announced later. **Tickets are limited and priority will be given to Guild members who have written for BBC TV in-house productions in the past couple of years.**

Tickets: £10, including a wine and canapé reception afterwards supplied by the renowned Clerkenwell Kitchen.

Book via susan@writersguild.org.uk stating which BBC TV shows you have written for recently. Susan is also compiling a reserve list on a first-come, first-served basis.

Is it worth writing for TV now? A West Midlands Writers' Guild event

An evening with Tony Garnett and Hilary Salmon hosted by David Edgar

Friday 21st May at 7:30pm

Venue: BCU School of Art, Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BX

www.bcu.ac.uk/about-us/maps-and-campuses/school-of-art-margaret-street

Last year *Cathy Come Home* producer Tony Garnett caused controversy by attacking the current state of BBC TV drama in a powerful viral email, in *The Guardian* and other media and in his article *How To Kill Creativity While Claiming To Make It Grow*. (www.guardian.co.uk/media/2009/jul/15/tony-garnett-email-bbc-drama). His criticisms have stirred much discussion and caused other writers and producers to come to the BBC's defence. We continue this vigorous debate here in the Midlands with Tony himself and BBC executive producer Hilary Salmon, responsible for several hard-hitting BBC TV dramas. It promises to be a lively and informative evening. We hope you will be able to attend.

Tony Garnett's long and prestigious television career includes *Z-Cars*, *The Wednesday Play*, *Cathy Come Home*, *Kes*, *Ballykissangel*, *The Cops*, *Law & Order*, *Between the Lines*, *This Life* and *No Angels*. Along the way, he has helped to develop the work of Ken Loach, Mike Leigh, GF Newman and Roland Joffe, among others. Born in Birmingham, he is an avid Aston Villa supporter. www.tonygarnett.com

Hilary Salmon is a BBC executive producer. Based at BBC Pebble Mill during the 1990s, she has worked in London since 1998. Her credits include: *Criminal Justice*, *Five Days*, *Moses Jones*, *The Passion*, *Maxwell*, *House of Saddam*, *Silent Witness*, *The Long Firm*, *Shoot The Messenger*, *Babyfather*, *To The Ends of The Earth* and *Nature Boy*. Her work has won RTS, BAFTA and Prix Italia awards. She supports Liverpool FC.

Places are limited for this event. Please reserve a place by emailing WmidWritersGuild@aol.com

Free to Guild members, £5 for non-members.

Events

Sphinx at the Shaftsbury Theatre

Saturday 12th June, 1:30pm - 5:30pm

Ticket: £10

Why are women still the second sex?

Following the success of the 2009 National Theatre conference, Constance Borde and Sheila Malovany-Chevallier present their long-awaited new translation of Simone de Beauvoir's iconic feminist text and Sphinx discusses the strategy for achieving equality for women in the performing arts.

Tel: 020 7587 1596

Email: info@sphinxtheatre.co.uk

Website: www.sphinxtheatre.co.uk

Book now for Freelancers' Fair 2010

BECTU's annual Freelancers' Fair is now taking bookings. The event, on Friday 11th June, offers a rich mix of seminars, an industry exhibition and two sessions of the popular Freelance Toolkit workshop.

A new riverside venue - [Savoy Place, 2 Savoy Place, London, WC2 ORL](#) – will host the event. In fact, Savoy Place was the location for the BBC's first experimental radio broadcasts in 1923, so visitors will feel at home.

[Download event flyer for full programme details](#)

BECTU members can attend the event for free, non-members pay £10.

<http://www.bectu.org.uk/events/freelancers-fair>

Serious screenwriting 2010

Friday 4th & Saturday 5th June 2010

At BAFTA, 195 Piccadilly, London W1

Serious Screenwriting is the annual Screenwriting Forum presented by The Script Factory in partnership with BAFTA. Join us for two full days of expert training, panel discussions, masterclasses, performed readings and pitch clinics, plus the opportunity to apply for the *Serious Screenwriting Development Scheme*.

Screenwriting duo Neal Purvis and Robert Wade (*Casino Royale*, *Quantum of Solace*) have been confirmed alongside a host of other screenwriters including Deborah Moggach (*Pride & Prejudice*) and Stuart Hazeldine (*Exam*).

All forum participants can also apply for the *Serious Screenwriting Development Scheme* entitling one writer or co-writing team to FREE attendance to Script Factory training courses for one year; expert advice from our development team; a private lunch with Peter Morgan (*The Queen*, *Frost/Nixon*); your final draft read by BBC Films; and a bursary award of £1,000.

For further details on the programme visit www.scriptfactory.co.uk.

Serious Screenwriting costs £200 + VAT (total £235). Members of the Writer's Guild are entitled to a 10% discount. To book your place, call The Script Factory on 020 7851 4890 (weekdays between 10am-6pm) or email sheena@scriptfactory.co.uk with any queries.

The rebirth of TV drama

BFI Southbank

May and June 2010

Amid all the noisy debate about the state of British TV drama when compared with the US model, it's easy to miss one crucial point: the present generation of writers is as gifted as any Britain has produced. Whatever might be wrong with UK drama – its funding crises, its overdependence on crime narratives and biopics – there is no want of talent. This two-month season showcases some of the best shorter-form dramas from the past decade or so, all original works for TV by writers who have been steadily building an impressive body of work with a distinctive signature. They

have a number of events/discussions in the two-month season with the likes of [Dominic Savage](#), [Frank Cottrell Boyce](#) and [William Ivory](#) joining in the debates.

- **Clocking Off + The Street** with Paul Abbott and Jimmy McGovern, 14th June, 6:00pm NFT3
- **Donovan Quick + Q&A with Donna Franceschild**, 11th June 8:20pm NFT2
- **England Expects**, 25th June 6:10pm NFT3
- **Faith + Q&A with William Ivory**, 24th May 5:50pm NFT2
- **May 33rd + Q&A with Guy Hibbert and Lia Williams**, 19th June 8:40pm NFT2
- **Out of Control + Q&A with Dominic Savage**, 18th May 6:10pm NFT3
- **Panel Discussion: Second Coming or Looming Apocalypse? The Writer in Modern TV**, 14th June 8:30pm NFT3
- **Second Generation + Q&A with Neil Biswas**, 21st June 8:00pm NFT3
- **Secret Life + Q&A with Rowan Joffe**, 8th June 6:10pm NFT3
- **Sex Traffic**, 29th May 2:30pm NFT2

Go to [The Rebirth of TV Drama for more information](#).

Courses and Workshops

Search engine optimisation training

James Daniel is running a course in South Wales on search engine optimisation and writing for the web. The course will help writers who want to create a new revenue stream producing copy for business websites.

The course is running on Thursday 17th June. For more information please visit www.seotrainingwales.co.uk.

Raindance classes

Raindance has two classes coming up with tutor Josh Golding, looking at "The Art of the Beat Sheet" on 22nd May and how to create an 'original story' with Maverick Screenwriting on 5th/6th June.

More info on The Art of the Beat Sheet - <http://bit.ly/93i6zP>

More info on Maverick Screenwriting - <http://bit.ly/8Z3Rn>

Opportunities

Controller, BBC Radio 4 and Radio 7

The BBC is looking for an outstanding and inspirational leader with a passionate commitment to maintaining its reputation of quality and creativity within BBC Radio 4 and Radio 7.

Your leadership and strategic vision will shape the direction and development of Radio 4 and Radio 7 and the people who deliver it. You'll become a member of the Audio & Music Board, and play a major part in shaping the direction of the BBC's Radio portfolio, meeting the needs and expectations of our audiences.

A recognised industry figure with substantial editorial experience and a formidable creative reputation, you'll have a significant track record of shaping policy, editorial initiatives and directing strategic development issues. With the ability to demonstrate leadership, you'll have had considerable experience of managing teams within a similar environment. Together with a love of speech-based radio, including news, current affairs, drama, comedy and magazine programmes and an understanding of their audiences, you'll know how to challenge traditional assumptions, while contributing your original ideas and developing talent.

Applications to be received by 17th May.

Visit www.bbc.co.uk/jobs

Call 0370 333 1330

Textphone 02890 328 478

One-act play competition

Katapult Productions is looking for submissions for one-act plays with a limit of five characters. The winning entry will be performed in September by a professional theatre company for four performances at Sarah Thorne Theatre Club, Broadstairs, Kent.

Deadline 2nd July. Plays should be sent to James Watts, Katapult Productions, 17 Priory Hill, Dover, Kent CT17 0AA . There is no entry fee, but please include contact details and an SAE if you need your script to be returned.

What Members Are Getting Up To

SARAH BAGSHAW wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 17th Tuesday 18th May.

MARTIN BAUM'S new book *Oi Mate, Gimme Some More! a Yoof-Speak Guide to the Complete Novels of Charles Dickens, Innit* is out on June 9th to coincide with the anniversary of Dickens's passing. www.yoofspeak.net.

STEPHEN BENNETT wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm and 8:00pm on Thursday 20th May.

MOIRA BUFFINI wrote the screenplay for *Tamara Drewe*, based on the graphic novel by Posy Simmonds and directed by Stephen Frears, which will be premiered at the Cannes Film Festival next week. She will be in conversation with journalist Jason Solomons on Wednesday 19th May, 9.30pm- 10.30pm at the UK Film Centre, in the International Village, pavilion no. 121. The event is free but booking essential www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk.

BFI is mounting a retrospective of BRIAN CLEMENS'S work from July 2nd through to July 28th. He will be on stage on July 22nd to talk exclusively about *The Avengers* - and again on July 28th to talk about his other movie and TV work.

BILL GALLAGHER wrote the episode of *The Prisoner "Schizoid"* going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Saturday 15th May.

MATTHEW GRAHAM wrote the series finale of *Ashes to Ashes* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Friday 21st May.

JAYNE HOLLINSON wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 17th May.

JULIE JONES wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Monday 17th May.

JOHN KERR wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Friday 21st May.

PAUL LAVERTY wrote the screenplay for *Route Irish* which will be premiered at the Cannes Film Festival on Thursday 20 May at the Grand Theatre Lumiere. Directed by Ken Loach and produced by Rebecca O'Brien, *Route Irish* is a tense triangular love story of two friends and the woman they both love. The men work as private security contractors in Iraq. Together they risk their lives in a city awash with violence and greed. When one of them is killed on Route Irish (the notoriously dangerous stretch of road linking Baghdad airport with the Green Zone) his friend rejects the official explanation and is determined to investigate the truth. *Route Irish* is a Sixteen Films Why Not Productions and Wild Bunch production made with the support of Les Films de Fleuve, BIM, Diaphana, Tornasol and Alta. Other financiers are France 2 and North West Vision Media. Wild Bunch is handling international sales.

MIKE LEIGH's new film, *Another Year*, starring Jim Broadbent and Imelda Staunton, will premier at the Cannes Film Festival next week. He will be in

conversation with Stuart Kemp, U.K. Bureau Chief, *Hollywood Reporter* Tuesday 18th May, 9.00pm-10.00pm at the UK Film Centre, in the International Village, pavilion no. 121. See www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk for more information.

DAVID NOBBS'S new novel *Obstacles To Young Love* is coming out, paperback only, published by Harper, on June 10th. The novel after that, *Life After Deborah*, is written.

ALAN PLATER wrote the episode of *Lewis* "Your Sudden Death Question" going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Sunday 16th May.

GILLIAN RICHMOND wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Tuesday 18th May.

RICHARD STEVENS'S radio play *Left at Marrakesh* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Friday 21st May.

STEVE TRAFFORD wrote the episode of *The Bill* "Walk on My Grave" going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Tuesday 18th May.

PETER VINCENT co-wrote the episode of *When the Dog Dies* "Portrait of the Artist As an Old Man" going out on Radio 4 at 11:30pm on Friday 21st May.

PETER WHALLEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 21st May.