

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 354, Friday 16th January 2009

On the Guild's blog this week at writersguild.blogspot.com:

- [Exec Keith Richardson leaves Emmerdale](#)
- [Screening problems for 3-D films](#)
- [BAFTA Film nominations](#)
- [What shocks a producer?](#)
- [Mick Imlah 1956 - 2009](#)
- [Burnham issues funding warning](#)
- [What films refuse to learn from TV drama](#)
- [Canongate goes digital](#)
- [Jen Hadfield wins TS Eliot Prize](#)
- [Beaufoy wins Golden Globe](#)
- [The Satanic Verses - 20 years on](#)

Guild News

1. The Writers' Guild's New Home

2. The Writers' Guild of Great Britain Cricket Club

Events

3. Come and See a Smile

4. All Together Now?

5. The State of the Art with Charles Simic

Courses and Workshops

6. Jan Etherington's Comedy Writing Course

7. The Power of Podcasting

8. A Month of Sundays

9. Writing for Theatre - Part Two

10. CULT Cymru - Pilot Workshops - February 2009

11. TAPS – Series Masterclass

Opportunities

12. S.O.S. - Send Out Stories!

13. Pitching Competition

14. New North American Scripts Wanted for Reading

15. The Windsor Fringe Marriott Award for New Drama Writing

16. Archie Markham MA Writing Short Story Scholarship

17. Bath Literature Festival 2009: General Booking Now Open

18. The Script_1 Competition is back!

What Members Are Getting Up To

Guild News

1. The Writers' Guild's New Home

The Writers' Guild office has moved from Britannia Street to **40 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RX** (nearest tubes: Farringdon and King's Cross). The office was closed this week so that the staff could unpack, but we will be open for business as usual from Monday 12th January onwards.

We have only had limited access to our phones and emails this week, so please bear with us. If you are waiting to hear from us, please contact us again by email or **call the switchboard on 020 7833 0777**. Our main phone number and email addresses remain the same, but the old extension numbers no longer work. If you want to get through to a specific member of staff, please call the switchboard and ask to be transferred.

Thank you for your patience this week and we look forward to speaking you, or perhaps seeing you at a meeting in our new home, in 2009.

Happy New Year!

2. The Writers' Guild of Great Britain Cricket Club

After the very positive response from the last ad for the first ever W.G.G.B.C.C. (Any suggestions for a snappier title are most welcome) we would like to remind those keen to play that we will be organising several net sessions throughout the winter months and to come forward with dates when they would be available to come along.

As an incentive, we will be organising the sessions at the indoor nets at Lord's cricket ground for those who have ever dreamed of uttering the eternal phrase "When I played at Lord's". If you would like to come along for the practise sessions and more importantly for the actual games please email the Guild's admin assistant Erik Pohl at erik@writersguild.org.uk.

Events

3. Come and See a Smile

Exclusive theatre offer for Guild members to see Sarah Miles in *Well* and for a special post-show event

Members of the Writers' Guild have been offered the same discount as the Directors' Guild for performances of Lisa Kron's *Well*, at the Apollo Theatre, Shaftsbury Avenue. This will be followed by *Quiet*, a unique one woman show directed by Shevaun Wilder. Sarah Miles shares glimpses of her own life-tale, a journey where love and infinity finally eclipse fear and finality. Along the way she celebrates some of England's greats and, through them, paints an inspiring picture of England.

REDUCED PRICE TICKET OFFER for WGGB members - just QUOTE: DGGB OFFER when booking.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER! By quoting DGGB OFFER you'll get your ticket to *Well* and free access to *Smiles* the special post-show event on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays all for £15! The show ends on Saturday 24th January.

Normal ticket only price £35.00 - special offer £15

4. All Together Now?

Working life and culture in Liverpool

The North West TUC is holding this event on Saturday January 24 2009 at the Novas Centre on Greenland Street, Liverpool starting at 10 and finishing around 5pm. The aim is to debate the links between art and culture and collective campaigning and action and look beyond Capital of Culture '08.

Key note speakers will include TUC General Secretary Brendan Barber, Phil Redmond TV producer and Vice Chair of Culture Company and Frank Cottrell-

Boyce, playwright and screenwriter (24 hour party people, millions, welcome to Sarajevo).

To book places please phone the NW TUC on 0151 236 5432 or e-mail:
unionso8@tuc.org.uk

5. The State of the Art with Charles Simic

The Poetry Society's Annual Lecture
Thursday 5th February • 7.00pm

'For me a poem is a place where one invites someone in. You build a little house, fix it up real nice. Inside you've got a painting on the wall, a new couch, some knick-knacks and souvenirs, a swell meal all laid out on the table, and you open the door and hope somebody comes in...' Charles Simic, *Poetry Review*.

To mark the celebration of its centenary in 2009, The Poetry Society invites Charles Simic to give The Poetry Society's Annual Lecture.

Drawing on his experience as Poet Laureate of the United States, Charles will deliver a playful and provocative lecture about the shifts in today's poetic landscape from Belgrade to Boston.

This event will be hosted by Anne-Marie Fyfe, Chair of the Poetry Society.

Tickets: £12, concs and Poetry Society members £8; advance booking required

Booking: call the ticket line on 020 7392 9220, Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 5.30pm

Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4QH

Tube: Liverpool Street

www.bishopsgate.org.uk/events.

Courses and Workshops

6. Jan Etherington's Comedy Writing Course

Make 'em laugh was never more important than now. When times are hard viewers, listeners – and commissioners – look to humour, to lift the spirits. Well-written comedy will be much in demand.

Learn how to do it, with Writers' Guild member and award winning comedy writer, Jan Etherington, who is holding another of her successful weekend comedy writing courses on March 7/8th, at the Riverside Arts Centre, in Sunbury on Thames, Middx.

Jan, who co-created the prime-time hit television comedy series, Second Thoughts, Faith In The Future, Next of Kin and Duck Patrol plus many radio comedies, is also a successful journalist and broadcaster.

Bring your great idea, scene/sketch/ full script and sense of humour and lift your spirits – and your writing skills.

This weekend's theme will be **MAKE COMEDY COUNT**. The best comedies can tackle edgy, controversial subjects often better than drama. We look at the characters, dialogue and the story which will push your comedy from the mundane to the memorable.

£160 for the two days, includes delicious lunches. Places are very limited, so book early.

More details.....

www.comedycourse.biz

Tel: 020 8133 0110/ 0788 790713

Or email: comedycourse@hotmail.co.uk

7. The Power of Podcasting

London - 10th February

Reading - 26th February

Podcasting distributing downloadable audio programmes online is a dynamic way to deliver your messages directly to large audiences at minimal cost.

This new media tool for broadcasting punchy attractive audio over the internet is rapidly being adopted by organisations looking for exciting ways to reach new

audiences.

Knowing how to produce professional quality audio material allows PR and marketing departments to directly target radio stations and online multimedia news outlets with the exciting and relevant audio materials they want.

Podcasting is also brilliant for reaching internal audiences via an organisations intranet. Training, human resources and internal communications can all benefit from podcastings ability to put a human voice to corporate messages.

Whatever the application, the best thing about podcasting is that its incredibly cost-effective, yielding impressive results for minimal outlay. And thats important at a time of cutbacks and financial uncertainty.

Run by ex-BBC multimedia professionals, this practical one-day 'hands-on' workshop will guide you step-by-step through the process of creating hard-hitting audio communications that will motivate and inspire

[Read more...](#)

8. A Month of Sundays

The Musical Theatre industry is one of the most exciting, popular and lucrative art forms in the world **if you get it right**. With attendance to West End musicals increasing every year with record figures in 2007 and 2008, due in part to the public's positive reaction to reality TV programmes such as "How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria?" and the subsequent competitions for Joseph and Oliver!, now's never been a better time to perfect your writing skills and learn how to market your work to producers and agents.

A Month of Sundays is a short course which aims to address the need for the development of new writers in the UK Musical Theatre industry. The course title refers to the length of each course – literally a month of Sundays. Being a weekend course makes it easy for you to get involved with minimum disturbance to your work and social life.

If you are passionate about learning your craft, perfecting your writing skills or rediscovering your inspiration then 'A Month of Sundays' is an unmissable experience to encounter.

For more information, visit <http://www.chrisgrady.org/> or email tom@chrisgrady.org

Supported by RADA, Arts Council England (London) and OD Musical Korea.

9. Writing for Theatre - Part Two

Students will undertake an organic process towards writing using themselves and the world around them as a way of approaching storytelling. In the manner of exercises and an analysis of each students writing they will work towards the completion of a piece of theatre for performance.

Writers will work with practitioners/working playwrights from Manchester Playwrights Forum, a script development agency who showcase new writing at Contact Theatre. This course is both an opportunity to learn and experience the working conditions of professional theatre. The course is divided in two parts.

Working with a dramaturg

Playwriting as a career (funding opportunities, work etc.)

Workshops with actors and final presentation.

Students should have attended Courses for the Public “Writing for Theatre”, part 1 , or have some writing experience. New students will be expected to submit a short piece work prior to the course. The decision of the tutors for a participant’s suitability for the course is final.

8 Mondays from 7.00 – 9.00pm starting 19th January, 2009

Fee £106

Course No:FC023Wo8

(Bursaries available for those on low income—for an application

10. CULT Cymru - Pilot Workshops - February 2009

CULT Cymru is a joint project between the five unions in the creative and cultural industries in Wales. These are BECTU, Equity, MU, NUJ and Writers Guild of Great Britain.

Working with these unions and external partners they aim to support the professional development of freelancers.

CV Development Workshop

7th February - 9.30am - 3.30pm - Cardiff A hands-on approach to CV development, with top tips and practical advice on how to write a good CV.

Marketing and Promoting Yourself Workshop 7th February - 10am - 4pm

Cardiff Tips and advice on the essential marketing tools to ensure you convey your services effectively to your potential clients.

Finance for Freelancers Workshop

6th February - 10am - 4pm - Cardiff

From making the most of your money to completing your tax return this is your essential guide to freelance finance.

NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE COURSES

Cost for pilot workshops...

Union Members: FREE

Non Union Members: £20

*Cancellation fee of £20 applies if cancelling within 48 hours of workshop date.

**Places on each workshop are limited and allocated on a first come first served basis.

***Please note that these pilot workshops are free. Future workshops are likely to incur a minimal fee.

To reserve your place on one of the above workshops email cult@bectu.org.uk or phone Beth on 029 2055 4601 (Tuesdays / Wednesdays only) .

PO Box 4000

Cardiff

CF5 2XT

CULT Cymru - Gweithdai Peilot - Chwefror 2009

>

CULT Cymru yw prosiect ar y cyd rhwng y pum undeb yn y diwydiannau diwylliannol a chreadigol yng Nghymru. Yr undebau yw BECTU, Equity, Undeb y Cerddorion, Undeb Cenedlaethol y Newyddiadurwyr a Gild

Ysgrifennwyr ym Mhrydain. Trwy gydweithio â'r undebau a'n partneriaid allanol ein bwriad yw cefnogi datblygiad proffesiynol gweithwyr llawrydd.

>

Gweithdy Datblygu CV

>

7fed o Chwefror - 9.30yb - 3.30yp - Caerdydd Dull ymarferol i ddatblygiad CV, gyda awgrymiadau a chyngor defnyddiol ar sut i ysgrifennu CV da.

>

Gweithdy Marchnata a Hyrwyddo eich hun

7fed o Chwefror - 10yb - 4yp -

>

Caerdydd Awgrymiadau a chyngor ar sgiliau marchnata hanfodol i sicrhau eich bod chi'n cyfleu eich gwasanaethau mewn ffordd effeithiol.

>

Gweithdy Materion Ariannol i Weithwyr Llawrydd

6ed o Chwefror - 10yb - 4yp -

Caerdydd O wneud y defnydd gorau o'ch arian chi i gwblau eich ffurflen dreth - hwn yw'r canllaw hanfodol ar gyfer cyllideb i weithwyr llawrydd.

>

NID OES ANGEN GWYBODAETH FLAENOROL I FYNYCHU'R GWEITHDAI UCHOD

>

Cost y gweithdai peilot...

Aelodau Undeb: AM DDIM Di-Aelod: £20

>

*Bydd ffi canslo o £20 yn daladwy os byddwch yn diddymu eich lle ar weithdy o fewn 48 awr o ddyddiad y gweithdy.

>

**Mae llefydd yn brin ac fe'u rhennir ar sail y cyntaf i'r felin.

>

***Nodwch bod y gweithdai peilot yma am ddim. Byddwn yn codi ffi fach ar gyfer gweithdai yn y dyfodol.

>

I gadw lle ar un o'r gweithdai uchod ebostiwch cult@bectu.org.uk neu ffoniwch Beth ar 029 2055 4601 (Dydd Mawrth / Mercher yn unig) .

>

Blwch Post 4000

Caerdydd

CF5 2XT

11. TAPS – Series Masterclass

Two places have become available on the TAPS Series Masterclass course.

The course aimed at writers hoping to make the jump from 30 to 60 minute work has gone from strength to strength. Last year two TAPS writers were commissioned to write an episode of The Bill from the strength of their work, demonstrating that TAPS scripts are seen by the right people.

The course (2 x 2 day workshops) will take place at the Talkback Thames Studios and will be hosted by a key writer on The Bill, Stuart Morris. Working in groups, practical exercises will allow you to master the 4-act structure as well as the complexities of balancing production requirements against serial elements and original story-telling. You'll even get a guided tour of The Bill set.

The fee for the courses is £425 + VAT and is open to all writers with at least one 30 minute transmission credit.

This is a good opportunity for any writer to stand out from the rest of the crowd as your work will be assessed by actual series Script Editors. For application forms please email shamsul@tapsnet.org or for more information visit our site <http://www.tapsnet.org>

Opportunities

12. S.O.S. - Send Out Stories!

Yes, this is the last chance for you budding authors to get into print. If your New Year's Resolution was to change your life then put pen to paper and enter unionlearn's Quick Reads competition. This could be the time to realise your dream, so that you become a published author in 2010. So don't waste a minute – get writing!

www.unionlearn.org.uk/qrcompetition

13. Pitching Competition

TV Eden and EPIC (The East of England Production Innovation Centre) have launched their second annual studio pitching competition with the winner picking up £10,000 in cash and support to produce a pilot at EPIC's Norwich based HD broadcast television studios.

Writers, Producers, Directors and members of the production community from across the UK and Europe are again being invited to pitch ideas for light entertainment, quizzes and even studio drama productions. The best six ideas will go on to pitch in front of a live audience and an industry panel, with the winner receiving £10,000 in cash and support, including two days access to EPIC HD studios and post-production and cash towards developing a pilot or taster tape for broadcasters.

For details and entry forms contact Mark Wells mark.wells@epic-tv.com. The closing date for entries is Friday 27th February 2009.

The Live pitching event will take place on Thursday 26th March.

14. New North American Scripts Wanted for Reading

The North American Actors Association (www.naaa.org.uk) based in Great Britain is pleased to announce a call for manuscripts for its 9th annual NAAA Playreading Festival Competition. Entries selected will be rehearsed and read by professional North American actors at publicized public readings in a popular London theatre in summer 2009.

These rehearsed readings are undertaken as showcase performances for the writer and the actors, and offer the writer the chance to have his/her work presented under professional direction and using the talents of professional actors. No remuneration

will be given, although the exposure could lead to a full production or other opportunities elsewhere.

All the plays must be appropriate for a theatrical reading, so **no screenplays please**, and should not have been previously produced or mounted in the UK. The subject matter should deal with North American culture, and must have primarily North American casts as they will be cast from the membership of the NAAA, though the plays do not necessarily need to be set in North America. Play lengths should be approximately two hours for a full play and one hour or less for a one-act, though other running lengths will be considered.

All entries must be posted to arrive no later than **13th February 2009**. Please submit **two** copies of the script by post only and include a covering note with your name, email address and contact telephone number(s). To allow them to be as fair as possible while reading these submissions they ask that your personal details **only appear** on the covering letter. So please remove your name from the title page as well as any headers or footers. they guarantee accurate logging of your work for copyright purposes.

Although they are predominantly interested in new work, please also include if applicable a list of any readings, workshops or productions of the piece that may have already taken place. They will accept a maximum of two entries per person; no scripts will be returned, so please do not include return postage, and we will not enter into correspondence. Please note that only the winners will be notified, with the list of the winning plays available on our website after the date of selection. Please note also that we will not accept entries which: are submitted by email; arrive past the deadline; include only one copy of the play; or have previously been submitted.

Entries should be mailed to:

Claudette Williams

North American Actors Association

c/o RCGP

14 Princes Gate

Knightsbridge

London SW7 1PU

ENGLAND

15. The Windsor Fringe Marriott Award for New Drama Writing

Amateur playwrights are invited to submit unpublished one-act plays for the **SIXTH £500 Windsor Fringe Marriott Drama Writing Award**. Three winning scripts will be selected for performances during Drama Nights at the Windsor Fringe in October. One of the three scripts will be chosen for the £500 prize. Submissions must be received by 5th of March 2009

Eligibility

Only amateur playwrights are eligible; only one script per author will be accepted. Each play must be an original work by the entrant, and submitted scripts must not have been previously published or performed.

Criteria

Each play must be no more than 30 minutes long, have a cast of no more than six actors, and be suitable for staging in a studio theatre.

Submission guidelines

So that each script may be judged anonymously, the author's name must appear on the cover page only, not in the script. Writers should submit **two copies** of their plays, printed on loose sheets of A4 paper with no binding or stapling. Pages must be numbered. No submissions will be accepted by email; no scripts will be returned. The cover page must show the name of the play and the author's name, contact details and signature. A **£5 reading fee** will be charged per entry. Please make cheques payable to **Windsor Fringe**. Scripts should be sent together with the reading fee to:

The Windsor Fringe Marriott Drama Writing Award

Suite 640, 24-28 St Leonard's Road

Windsor, Berks. SL4 3BB U.K.

The Windsor Fringe Marriott Drama Award will underwrite the staging of the three plays with selected directors.

For additional information: Ann Trewartha

tel: 01753 863218

e-mail: ann.trewartha@btinternet.com

16. Archie Markham MA Writing Short Story Scholarship

The English department at Sheffield Hallam University is launching a short story competition. This is linked to the prestigious MA Writing course which is taught at the university.

Applicants to the MA Writing (Short Story Prize) have the opportunity to apply for this scholarship, which waives the fee for full-time study on the degree. The scholarship is awarded to the best short story portfolio submitted with the application for a place on the course.

The award is in honour of Professor Emeritus E A Markham (1939-2008), who was a tutor at Sheffield Hallam University and a guiding spirit for the MA Writing.

Bev Green

Marketing Assistant

Faculty of Development & Society

Sheffield Hallam University

869 Yorkon Building, Collegiate Crescent Campus

* 0114 225 5658

* b.green@shu.ac.uk <<mailto:j.hollingsworth@shu.ac.uk>>

17. Bath Literature Festival 2009: General Booking Now Open

General booking for the **Bath Literature Festival 2009** is now open! You can book online at www.bathlitfest.org.uk or at www.bathfestivals.org.uk: just click on the event of your choosing and follow the booking links. Alternatively, you can ring the Box Office on 01225 463362 or visit at:

2 Church Street, Abbey Green, Bath, BA1 1NL.

18. The Script_1 Competition is back!

Each year the Cheltenham Screenwriters' Festival launches its 'Script_1' writing competition for South West based writers and this year is no different, but instead of giving you free rein, the competition entries are to be based on one of three themes...

'The Olympics 2012'

'A West Country Love Story'

'Reality Television'

The title can be yours but it must be about or contain elements of these three themes.

If you'd like to enter, just send in your idea for a 10-minute film and, if it is accepted, you will be invited to attend a FREE workshop in Cheltenham where you will be shown how to turn it into a TV or film script. Following the workshop the best three scripts will win cash prizes of £300, £100 and £50 each. The prizes will be presented at the International Screenwriters' Festival in October 2009.

Deadline for entries: 5pm on 27th February 2009. Workshops will be in March and April.

Send entries either by email to cathi@screenwritersfestival.com, or by post to Screenwriters' Festival, Unit 24c, Daniels Ind. Estate, Bath Road, Stroud, GL5 3TJ.

For further information on how to apply and competition rules please go to the Festival website, www.screenwritersfestival.com or contact Cathi Beloe on 07831 733 612.

What Members Are Getting Up To

SARAH BAGSHAW wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 20th January.

PERRIE BALTHAZAR wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Friday 23rd January.

TRACEY BLACK wrote the episode of *Doctors "Arranged Family"* going out on BBC1 at 21st January.

RAY BROOKING wrote the episode of *River City* going out on BBC Scotland on the 20th January. Available on BBC IPlayer.

RICHARD BURKE wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Monday 19th January.

DAVID CROFT and JIMMY PERRY wrote the episode of *Dad's Army "The King Was in His Counting House"* going out on BBC2 at 7:30pm on Saturday 17th January.

ANNE DEVLIN'S new radio play, *The Forgotten*, will be going out on BBC Radio 4 at 9.00pm tonight. Alarming lapses of memory lead to Bee losing her home and career. She returns home to her family and ageing mother, increasingly isolated and

frustrated with herself. Then she meets a strange creature in the park who calls himself The Forgotten. Can he help her?

TIM DYNEVOR wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Thursday 22nd January.

JULIE JONES wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Friday 23rd January.

JUDITH JOHNSON'S play *Starfish*, about clinical trials, goes out on a tour of London Schools by Y-Touring Theatre Co (www.ytouring.org.uk) on the 23rd January.

IAN KERSHAW wrote the episode of *Holby City "Just"* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Tuesday 20th January.

STEPHEN LOWE'S play *Glamour* is being performed at the Nottingham Playhouse from Friday 6th till Saturday 21st February for more info and to book tickets please call the box office on: 01159 419 419.

MYLES MCLEOD and his brother Greg [have been nominated for a BAFTA in the Short Animation category](#) for their film [Codswallop](#).

LYN PAPADOPOLOUS wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Wednesday 21st January.

JULIAN PERKINS wrote the episode of *The Bill "Feet of Clay"* going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Thursday 22nd January.

MARK RAVENHILL is adapting *Nation*, the novel by Terry Pratchett, for a new family show at the National Theatre. It's a story of a boy called Mau who finds himself on a desert island and discovers a girl, Daphne, the sole survivor of a

shipwreck. Pratchett said, "I am remarkably proud that *Nation* is going to be put on at the National Theatre and can't wait to see it."

BILL TAYLOR wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 21st January.

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

MARTYN WADE'S dramatisation of *Orley Farm* concludes on Radio 4 at 9:00pm on Saturday 17th January.

PETER WHALLEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 19th January.