

# The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 430, Friday 16th July 2010

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

- [Ryu Murakami to release novel first on iPad](#)
- [Gwyneth Williams named as Controller of Radio 4 and Radio 7](#)
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## **What Members Are Getting Up To**

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### **Theatre Committee New Writing Encouragement Awards: nominations open**

The Theatre Committee is accepting nominations for its sixth annual 'New Writing Encouragement Awards', for presentation this autumn. Any WGGB member may nominate anyone in any capacity who has given him or her an especially positive and enriching experience in developing his or her new writing for the theatre over the past 12 months. The deadline for entries is 31st August, 2010.

Please include a paragraph on why this experience was so personally valuable to you.

Please email all entries to David James, chair of the Theatre Committee, at [david.sassafras@btinternet.com](mailto:david.sassafras@btinternet.com)

## **Writers' Guild Awards 2010 – Call for Nominations from Guild Members**

It is time to send in your nominations for the Writers' Guild of Great Britain Awards 2010. All members of the Writers' Guild are entitled to nominate in all categories – so don't miss this opportunity to nominate any great writing you have come across in the past year, whether in theatre plays, films, books, radio, television or game scripts.

The award categories are as follows:

- Book (Fiction) \*
- Book (Non-Fiction) \*
- Feature Film Screenplay
- Feature Film Screenplay – Best First Feature-Length Screenplay
- Radio Comedy / Light Entertainment
- Radio Drama
- Television Comedy / Light Entertainment
- Television Drama Series
- Television Short-form Drama \*\*
- Television Soap / Continuing Drama \*\*\*
- TV Children's Drama - Live Action or Animation
- Theatre Play
- Theatre Play for Children and Young People
- Videogame Script

\* Submissions for the Book Awards will also be sought from publishers.

\*\* Short-form drama is defined as being broadcast in a maximum of five parts.

\*\*\* Soap / Continuing Drama is defined as high-volume long-running TV drama series with one or more new episodes broadcast per week.

Television Short-form Drama and Drama Series may include adaptations.

Awards are made to the writer(s), not the production as a whole, so please make your nominations based on the quality of the writing, not the standard of production.

Nominated writer(s) must be British or work in Britain.

To be eligible programmes / plays / games, etc. must have been first released, published, performed or broadcast during the period 1st June 2009 to 31st May 2010 inclusive. If you have any questions about this, please contact the Guild office.

**Please send nominations in any or all of the above categories by email to [susan@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:susan@writersguild.org.uk) with your full name and Guild membership number. Please make it clear which writers you are nominating in which categories. Please nominate only one title in each category.**

**Nominations may also be submitted by post to the Guild office. Please mark envelopes "Award nominations", Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 40 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RX.**

The deadline for nominations is **Friday 3rd September 2010**, and the shortlist will be announced on **Friday 1st October 2010**. The winners will be announced on Sunday 21 November 2010.

The shortlists and winners in each category will be chosen by the relevant Guild Craft Committee or an appropriate jury appointed by the Guild's Executive Council. There will also be a special award - which can change from year to year - that will be awarded by the Executive Council.

## **Writers' Guild Awards for Books**

The Writers' Guild is inviting submissions from UK publishers for the **Best Book Awards** (Fiction and Non-Fiction). These will be judged not only on the quality of the writing - though that may well be of primary importance - but also on their imaginative content (in the case of fiction), the extent to which they fulfil their brief (in the case of non-fiction), and the extent to which they offer a good read.

Each publisher can make a maximum of **two submissions** (one fiction; one non-fiction).

The **entry fee is £50** per submission.

**Publishers should send FOUR COPIES of each book you wish to nominate for the award.**

Cheques should be made out to the Writers' Guild of Great Britain or paid directly into WGGB Awards account no. 34042212. Sort Code: 08-60-01.

The criteria for eligibility for the award is as follows:

Nominated writer(s) must be British or work in Britain. Eligible books must have been first published and released between 1 June 2009 - 31 May 2010 inclusive.

Submissions should be made to:

The Writers' Guild Best Book Award 2010, Writers' Guild of Great Britain,

40 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RX

The deadline for submissions is **Wednesday 1st September 2010.**

**Contact :** [susan@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:susan@writersguild.org.uk)

The Best Book Awards will be presented, along with awards for television, theatre, film, radio and videogames, at a reception in November 2010 to which the nominated authors and their guests will be invited.

## **Discounts for Members**

### **Discounts for Guild Members – save yourself money!**

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain will be announcing a set of discounts to be offered to Guild members as an additional benefit to your Guild membership. The first offer we are offering is a reduced rate subscription to *Variety* magazine and Variety.com.

The offer is:

UK & Europe - \$299 (normal price \$399)

USA - \$248 (normal price \$329)

Rest of the World - \$449 (normal price \$599)

For this you will receive Weekly Variety magazine plus unlimited access to Variety.com – a benefit available only to subscribers. To take advantage of this offer you can either go online or telephone Variety's Customer Services department:

Online – [www.variety.com/wggb](http://www.variety.com/wggb)

Call – 001 515 247 2993 (8am-10pm US time)

Please quote your membership number when claiming this subscription.

## **Guild Events**

### **Summer drinks with Directors-UK**

Film and Television writer members of the Guild we will be joining members of Directors-UK for a summer evening drink in Covent Garden on Tuesday 20th July. There are a limited number of places available. If you would like to attend please contact Anne Hogben at the Guild office for more information.  
[anne@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:anne@writersguild.org.uk)

## **Events**

### **Meet cult television writer and actor Mark Gatiss and Inception's visual effects wizard**

Actor and writer Mark Gatiss, whose credits include *The League of Gentlemen* and *Doctor Who*, and Oscar-nominated visual effects supervisor Paul Franklin (*The Dark Knight*, *Inception*) will appear at August's Space event. The Space (Southern Performance and Creative Energies) is a Brighton-based unique monthly arts event, bringing together the creative community with high-profile interviewees. Previous and forthcoming guests include Ian Rankin, *Being Human* creator and writer Toby Whithouse, Noddy Holder, bestselling author Kate Mosse, screenwriter William Nicholson and film-maker Alan Parker.

Held at Komedia, Brighton's leading arts venue

Thursday 12th August / Doors 7:30 / £7.50/**£5 for Writer's Guild members**

There will be a wealth of wonderful raffle prizes, plus, to mark 80 years since the birth of television drama writer Terry Nation, expect to meet his most famous creations, the Daleks!

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

## **BFI Brian Clemens Season**

From 2nd - 31st July the BFI is celebrating the work of British TV and cinema writer Brian Clemens. He has worked for some of the greatest action/ adventure series ever made and the BFI will be showcasing a selection of his work including *The Avengers*, *Danger Man* and *Captain Kronos: Vampire Hunter*. Clemens will also be at BFI for two on-stage interviews on 22nd July, regarding *The Avengers*, and on 28th July about his fantastic exploits both real and fictional at 6:30pm. **Book now as tickets are running out.**

[www.bfi.org.uk/go/writersguildclemens](http://www.bfi.org.uk/go/writersguildclemens)

## **Courses and Workshops**

### **Write the sitcom, sell the sitcom**

No one can teach you to write jokes, but this one-day course at Raindance will show you techniques to help you turn those jokes into a great sitcom that you can sell. Write the Sitcom, Sell the Sitcom is coming up on 24th July, and you can find out more and book here: <http://tiny.cc/WTSwg>. Raindance is offering a **10% discount on this course for Writer's Guild members**, to receive this discount please call 0207 287 3833

### **Treatment Writing**

**Wed 4th August, 2:30-5:30 pm**  
Soho Theatre, 21 Dean Street, London W1D 3NE

Are you a writer trying to get your project taken seriously by the right people in the industry? The Script Factory's ever-popular course is designed to take the fear out of Treatment Writing. Industry insider Rob Ritchie teaches how to write a treatment that does justice your film idea, by helping you learn the most effective ways of synopsising your drama and gain an understanding of the function of treatments in the development process.

Writers who complete this course will also be invited to apply to the Friendly Producers scheme, giving you the chance to secure a one-to-one meeting with prominent UK producer Amanda Posey (*An Education*).

Visit The Script Factory site for full details and how to book:  
[http://www.scriptfactory.co.uk/go/Training/Article\\_739.html](http://www.scriptfactory.co.uk/go/Training/Article_739.html).

## **Developing Ideas for the Stage Event in Ludlow**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010 (10am-5pm)  
Pentabus Theatre, Ludlow  
Led by Peter Roberts

Suitable for aspiring playwrights, this one-day workshop will provide an introduction to the fundamentals of creating stories for the theatre. Writers will be able to explore how to structure scenes, develop character and plot and how to write effective dialogue. It will also look at the basic practicalities of putting your work on the stage. An essential toolkit to master the art and craft of playwriting.

**Peter Roberts** is a Royal Shakespeare Company award-winning writer with credits for stage, television, and radio. Stage plays include *Education*, *Education* and *Viking Tales* for Derby Playhouse, *Flying For Arthur* (Sherman Theatre, Cardiff) and *Heart and Stone* (New Theatre Works). His adaptation of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* is scheduled for production at Derby Theatre in 2011.

**Cost:** £50 (£40 concessions)

**Booking:** [www.scripionline.net/stage.html](http://www.scripionline.net/stage.html)

## **Opportunities**

**Current opportunities courtesy of Inktip**

## **Baie des Singes (UK) Ltd. - Dark, Gritty, New Worlds**

"We are looking for completed feature-length low-budget scripts that immerse you into a dark and gritty world that we are not familiar with (the public does not often see). The story can contain dark and violent scenes, i.e. the tone should have a rawness and edge to it. Please do not submit stories with characters that are superheroes, Navy SEALs, ex-Marines, FBI/CIA, etc, i.e. no larger-than-life action stars. Examples of the types of films that contain the tone, style and gritty world would be "*The Wrestler*" (reveals the independent wrestling circuit) "*Gomorra*" (inside look at the Mafia) and "*No Country for Old Men.*" We are not open to pure action/adventure, comedies, romances, sci-fi, westerns, rom-coms, musicals or animation."

Budget will not exceed \$1 million. WG and Non-WG writers may submit.

To submit to this lead, please go to:

<http://www.inktippro.com/leads/>

Enter your email address.

Copy/Paste this code: **xcm72bduch**

NOTE: Please only submit your work if it fits what the lead is looking for exactly. If you aren't sure if your script fits, please ask InkTip first.

## **Mediterraneo Films – Smart Action and Sci-Fi**

"We are looking for completed feature-length high-concept smart action or sci-fi scripts. We are not open to low-brow material or mindless popcorn blockbusters. Instead, they should engage the audience with a well-crafted, visceral yet intelligent story. Examples of films in this mold are "*Inception*" or "*The Bourne Identity*". We are not open to scripts in other genres (no crime dramas, etc.)."

Budget has yet to be determined. WG and Non-WG writers may submit.

Their credits include "Day of Wrath."

To submit to this lead, please go to:

<http://www.inktippro.com/leads/>

Enter your email address.

Copy/Paste this code: **18zsrjr99y**

NOTE: Please only submit your work if it fits what the lead is looking for exactly. If you aren't sure if your script fits, please ask InkTip first.

## **A message from the London Screenwriters Festival 2010**

"We want your help.

"We're organising a truly interactive, kick-ass festival for screenwriters and filmmakers, taking place in London (hence the name - see what we did there?) at the end of October this year.

"We've already got some speakers and workshops lined up, but we really want to know what YOU would like to see there. We want to be able to tailor the festival to the needs and desires of the screenwriting community, which is where you all come in.

"Whether or not you think you'll be able to make it to the fest (we hope you will), we'd be hugely grateful if you could take two minutes out of your day to fill out our quick survey on what matters most to you right now.

"You can find the survey here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BVBCNDP> and it closes this Sunday, so we hope you'll find time to do it before then.

"Thanks in advance for your thoughts, feedback and opinions and please keep your eye on the Festival website and blog for more information and announcements."

## **Script Factory Development Scheme with £1,000 bursary**

31st August deadline fast approaching!

Are you interested in a year-long support programme for you and your screenplay, a £1,000 Bursary Award, a guaranteed meeting with BBC Films, and a private lunch with award-winning screenwriter Peter Morgan?

They are looking for one writer (or co-writing team) with a great idea, the talent to write and a commitment to spending the next 12 months developing a feature film project.

The selected writer/s will be invited to work closely with The Script Factory's own development team through at least two further drafts of the script and will enjoy FREE attendance on selected Script Factory training programmes during the development period. Along with lunch with Peter Morgan (The Queen) and a guaranteed meeting with a senior development executive at BBC Films, we are also delighted to be able to offer a £1,000 Bursary Award.

Application Deadline - 5:00pm Tuesday 31st August 2010

Find out more at the Script Factory website:

[http://www.scriptfactory.co.uk/go/Calendar/Event\\_690.html](http://www.scriptfactory.co.uk/go/Calendar/Event_690.html)

### **John Whiting Award**

Awarded annually to the new play which best demonstrates an original and distinctive development in dramatic writing, The Whiting Award, worth £6,000, has been instrumental in the development of the careers of some of the best-known British dramatists in the past 45 years.

Deadline for entries: 20th August 2010.

For more information, see <http://twp2009.wordpress.com/projects/whiting-award>.

### **Sentinel Literature Festival Poetry Competition 2010**

First of a planned annual competition as part of the celebration of creativity at the Sentinel Literature Festival to be held at Pearson Lecture Theatre, University College London between October 28th and 31st. Winners of the competition will be invited to read on the last day of the festival - The Awards and Recognitions Day, when their cheques and certificates of achievement will be presented to them. This competition is judged by the legendary Roger Elkin, former editor of *Envoi* magazine, who has himself won more than 100 literary prizes and awards.

Prizes: £250, £130, £70

Entry fees: £5 per poem, £13 for 3 poems, £20 for 5 poems

Judge: Roger Elkin

Details: <http://www.sentinelpoetry.org.uk/literaturefestival/poetry-competition-2010.html>

### **Arvon International Poetry Competition**

The 2010 Arvon International Poetry Competition is now open for entries. This prestigious biennial poetry competition was founded by Ted Hughes in 1980 and is one of the UK's most important open poetry competitions. This year the first prize has increased to £7,500 – the highest ever offered in the competition and one of the most generous prizes available for a single poem. There's also a special prize of £500, offered in association with The Wenlock Poetry Festival, for the best poem on the theme 'The Pity of War...'

The competition will be judged by Britain's Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, with Elaine Feinstein and Sudeep Sen. It's open to anyone aged 16 or over, from any country. Poems must be written in English, on any subject, and can be a maximum of 42 lines in length. Previous winners include former Poet Laureate Andrew Motion, Don Paterson and Siân Hughes.

Closing Date: 16th August 2010

The Arvon Foundation

Free Word Centre, 60 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3GA

Online: [www.arvonfoundation.org](http://www.arvonfoundation.org)

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.biographersclub.co.uk)

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

(Only the shortlisted entrants will be contacted)

### **The Terry Pratchett prize**

Sir Terry Pratchett and Transworld Publishers have launched a new award for aspiring debut novelists, The Terry Pratchett Anywhere But Here, Anywhen But Now Prize. Transworld will offer the winning author a publishing contract with a £20,000 advance. The award will be judged by Sir Terry Pratchett, Tony Robinson, Michael Rowley from Waterstone's and two senior members of the editorial team at Transworld Publishers. Deadline for submissions: 31 December 2010. For further details about the award, and full terms and conditions, see [www.terrypratchett.co.uk/news%5Ctermsandconditions.html](http://www.terrypratchett.co.uk/news%5Ctermsandconditions.html).

### **Writers' retreat in Rabbin Burns country**

**13th-17th September 2010**

**Writing unlimited** is heading up over the border to Dumfries, to the heart of Rabbin Burns country and the glorious setting of Friar's Carse Hotel, where Burns was inspired to write many of his well-known works.

This rather special retreat is for writers looking for the time and space to make progress with their writing. As writers themselves, they are more than happy to leave you alone to crack on with it, to wander in the grounds, walk by the river, take a trip into Dumfries and follow the tourist trail...

And in the evenings, you can meet up with fellow writers and talk shop over dinner and drinks.

Cost £380 per person in spacious, comfortable, single-occupancy, en suite rooms, plus all meals.

For further details please go to [www.writingunlimited.co.uk](http://www.writingunlimited.co.uk), email: [writingunlimited@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:writingunlimited@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 01204 389327/ 07866278671.

## **Welcome to the extraordinary - short film competition**

Raindance.tv and Intercasino have teamed up to present 'Welcome to the Extraordinary - Short Film Competition' - judged by Matthew Horne.

And when they say short, they mean short. Pack your most original, bold idea into 40 seconds, including credits, for a chance to win a trip to the Cannes Film Festival.

Interested? More details available on the [website](#)

Want some competition? [Forward to a friend](#)

## **What Members Are Getting Up To**

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MARTIN ALLEN wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Monday 19th July.

\*\*\*

JESSE ARMSTRONG and SAM BAIN co-wrote the episode of *The Old Guys* going out on BBC1 at 9:30pm on Friday 23rd July.

\*\*\*

SIMON BOVEY'S radio play *Hive Mind* goes out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Monday 19th July.

\*\*\*

HOWARD BRENTON'S new play *Anne Boleyn* will have its world premiere at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on Saturday 24th July and will run until 21st August. *Anne Boleyn* celebrates the life and legacy of a great English heroine - traditionally seen as either the beautiful and virtuous victim of a tyrant husband, or as an ambitious and ruthless reformist manipulating her way into power. Brenton puts a very different Anne - and her ghost - on the Globe stage. Witty, flirtatious and confident, she's in love with Henry but also with the most dangerous ideas of her day. Conspiring with the exiled William Tyndale, Anne plots to produce a Bible that everyone can read - a translation that will permit her marriage to Henry, haunt her daughter's successor, and transform Britain for ever.

<https://tickets.shakespeares-globe.org/eventlist.asp?ShoID=377>

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MOIRA BUFFINI'S new play *Welcome To Thebes* has had its world premiere at the National Theatre's Olivier Theatre. Directed by Richard Eyre, it will run until 18th August. Faced with an impoverished, war-ravaged country the new president of Thebes surrounds herself with a Cabinet of sensible women and promises peace. But without the aid of vastly wealthy Athens and its swaggering leader, she doesn't stand a chance. Set in the modern day, but inspired by ancient myth, Moira Buffini's new play explores head-on the cost of democracy in the aftermath of war. <http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/57271/productions/welcome-to-thebes.html>

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JANE HOLLINSON wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Friday 23rd July

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MARK HOLLOWAY wrote the episode of *Heartbeat* "A Whiter Shade of Pale" going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Sunday 18th July.

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ALEX JONES has two plays touring this autumn, *I'm A Minger!* will be touring again nationally, beginning with a week of performances at Belgrade Theatre Coventry, and *The Bridge* is touring again with Mouthpiece Theatre. More details soon. In the meantime, some information at: <http://www.imaminger.com/> and [alex-jones.org](http://alex-jones.org) Oberon books are also reprinting *I'm A Minger!* Again, more details when dates are certain.

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PETER KERRY wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 23rd July.

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DAVID LANE wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Thursday 22nd July.

\*\*\*

KAREN LAWS wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Tuesday 20th July.

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MIKE LEIGH is to return to Hampstead Theatre to direct his 1979 play *Ecstasy* as part of Edward Hall's inaugural season as artistic director at the venue. *Ecstasy* will mark the first time that Leigh, whose play *Abigail's Party* began his relationship with Hampstead Theatre in 1977, has returned to one of his own texts. It will play from March 10th to April 9th, 2011, with press night on March 15th.

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GRAHAM MITCHELL wrote the episode of *Holby City "All Cried Out"* going out on BBC1 at 8:30pm on Tuesday 20th July.

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SUE MOONEY wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 20th July.

\*\*\*

DEBBIE OATES wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 23rd July.

\*\*\*

HOWARD OVERMAN wrote the episode of *Misfits* going out on C4 at 10:00pm on Saturday 17th July.

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JEREMY PAUL will have a revival of his 1988 state play *The Secret of Sherlock Holmes* at the Duchess Theatre, Catherine Street, Covent Garden, for a limited eight-week season on Tuesday 29th July, following previews from 15th July. Peter Egan and Robert Daws will star as Holmes and Watson. *The Secret of Sherlock Holmes* takes us on a thrilling journey into the mind of the greatest detective of all time. Following a seemingly deadly encounter with his nemesis, arch criminal Professor Moriarty, at Reichenbach Falls, secrets and betrayal are slowly revealed. Watson finds his loyalty and friendship tested to the very limit. Holmes is forced to turn his unswerving powers of deduction upon himself, and the true relationship between Holmes and Moriarty is finally revealed.

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MARK RAVENHILL'S sinister, tense monologue, *The Experiment*, comes to the Soho Theatre for four nights only, from 21st -24th July, 6:30 -6:50 pm. Tickets £6 (£4). <http://sohotheatre.com/pl1905.html>. Also, for one night only at Latitude Festival on 18th July.

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PAUL ROUNDELL wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm and 8:00pm on Thursday 22nd Thursday.

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RICHARD STONEMAN wrote the episode of *Doc Martin "Perish Together as Fools"* going out on ITV1 at 23rd July.

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

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PETER WHALLEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on 18th July.

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JAMES WOOD wrote the episode of *Rev* going out on BBC2 at 10:00pm on Monday 19th July.

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KARIN YOUNG wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 19th July.