

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 393, Friday 16th October 2009

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Guild News

1. Citizens' Coalition for Public Service Broadcasting

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

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

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

Industry News

2. First Ever World Conference of Screenwriters to Take Place in Athens

The 28 member guilds from 22 countries of the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE) and the eight member guilds of the International Affiliation of Writers' Guilds (IAWG) will meet at the first ever [World Conference of Screenwriters](#) in Athens on November 6th and 7th 2009. Along with colleagues from Latin America, Israel and Japan they will meet to debate and plan a common response to global developments in film and television production and distribution.

Among more than 200 present will be Guillermo Arriaga, Olivia Hetreed, Mateo Gil, Vincenzo Cerami, Marcos Bernstein, Milcho Manchevski, Paolo Sorrentino, Sergio Sanchez, Stefano Rulli, Guy Hibbert, Razvan Radulescu, Mark O' Halloran and Srdjan Koljevic.

Delegates will discuss a range of issues relating to the changes in the production and distribution of film and television programmes worldwide as a result of the digital revolution and the changing strategies of the multinational conglomerates who dominate the industry.

The organisation of the conference is supported by the Ministry of Tourism - Greek National Tourism Organisation, the Greek Film Centre (Hellenic Film Commission), with the collaboration of the Institute for the Audiovisual Media, and sponsored by VG Wort, Germany.

You can read regular updates on [the World Conference of Screenwriters blog](#).

Events

3. Radical TV Drama Before and During Thatcher

Festival at BFI Southbank will screen many modern classics

An upcoming [season of screenings at BFI Southbank](#) will examine "how 'Radical' drama has explored the divisions in British society since the 1960s and responded to the Thatcherite revolution."

Thanks to a special arrangement with the BFI, Guild members will be entitled to purchase tickets for screenings for £6.25 rather than the normal non-member rate £9.00.

The season is being run in collaboration with the Department of Media Arts, Royal Holloway, University of London and with the support from the London Centre for Arts and Cultural Exchange.

Part One of the season, which runs throughout November, offers a chance to see the very best in radical drama across three decades before and during the Thatcher years, and to assess the impact the Thatcher government had on television drama.

November highlights include a focus on some of the early productions of the 60s by Ken Loach, Tony Garnett, and Dennis Potter, finishing in the mid 80s with works by Stephen Poliakoff and Alan Bleasdale and culminating in the debate TV Sold to the Highest Bidder - Thatcher's Television Revolution, a panel discussion focusing on how Thatcher changed the television industry and the consequences for radical TV drama.

On the panel will be Michael Grade, Tony Garnett, David Rose and Alasdair Milne, all of whom experienced at first hand the changes the Thatcher government imposed on broadcasters, particularly with regards to perceived hostility to the BBC and the restructure of the ITV franchises.

There will also be an illustrated lecture in November, with film and television historian John Hill considering how television drama responded to the industrial conflicts of the late 1960s and early 1970s – through an examination of The Big Flame and Leeds United!

The season continues in December (United Kingdom! Part 2: Radical TV Drama, Thatcher and Beyond) by looking at Thatcher's legacy and the way television drama responded to Britain at war (The Falklands Play and Tumbledown).

It moves on to examine the mistrust and cynicism engendered by the reaction to New Labour and the sense of betrayal as evidenced in The Deal and The Government Inspector.

One of the highlights of December will be After Thatcher: The New Radical Drama, a panel discussion examining the response of radical dramatists to the rise of New Labour and the changing definition of what it means to be a "radical" TV dramatist now.

On the panel will be writer Paul Abbott, director Peter Kosminsky, Head of Drama Channel 4 Liza Marshall, Producer Kenith Trodd, and the writer/creator of Skins, Brian Elsley. Many screenings will include talks by writers, producers and directors such as Ken Trodd, Colin Welland, Peter Flannery and Margaret Matheson.

The Festival runs through November and December. Full details are on the [BFI Southbank website](#).

4. Benjamin Barber: Patriotism, Autonomy or Subversion?

Barbican Centre, Wednesday 4th November am

Dr Barber's lecture and the panel discussion that follows will explore the relationship between the arts and democracy to ask - can or should the arts drive social change? He will be joined by a panel of leading cultural commentators and arts practitioners to discuss whether an industry goal of instrumentality is an act of patriotism, autonomy or subversion?

The panellists joining Dr Benjamin Barber include:

Natalie Haynes, Comedian and Writer

Razia Iqbal, BBC

Grayson Perry, Artist

The event is free, to read more about it, and/or book a place, go to the British Council website <http://www.britishcouncil.org/new/about-us/75th-Anniversary/lecture-series/>

5. Calling All Comedy Writers and Comedians

Are you a comedy writer or comedian looking for new contacts and opportunities? The British Society of Comedy Writers is holding its Autumn Conference at The Green Man, 383 Euston Road, London, on Saturday 7th November 2009.

Come along and meet industry representatives, like-minded delegates, make new contacts or try out new material.

For further details of this event and booking form contact: ken@bscw.co.uk

Courses and Workshops

6. WRITERSEARCH UK

TAPS in association with the BBC are running this entry level workshop. They would like to hear from experienced, aspiring or potential writers **from the age of 16 upwards from North Wales** who believe they have what it takes.

Places are being offered **FREE** on this training course to be held on:

6th 7th and 8th of November 2009 in either **Rhyl, St Asaph or Prestatyn.**

(Exact Venue TBC)

Initially they would like you to submit a story of your own choice which you think would work as a 10 minute film. The story can be submitted in either English or Welsh and should be no more than one side of A4 (they do not need the story to be in script format at this stage).

Submissions should be sent to admin@tapsnet.org where you can also request an application form. Alternatively call the TAPS office on 01932 592 151 for more information.

*Please note this workshop is only available to those who live in North Wales.

*This workshop will also run in **Falmouth, Cornwall** on the proposed dates of **20th, 21st and 22nd of November 2009**. Only available to those living in the South West of England. More details to follow soon.

Opportunities

7. FEEDBACK- the New Producers' Alliance Script Reading Service

80-90% of scripts sent to the industry or an agent are rejected outright

Don't let yours be one of them

FEEDBACK is a script reading service run by the NPA for writers, producers, directors and all those who work in script development. You can get your script read by an experienced industry reader who will give you knowledgeable and objective criticism and advice on rewriting the script - as many times as you need to. Then, when you do submit it, it has more chance of being optioned, sold and made.

You want to see it on the screen?

You want it to be the best script it can be?

FEEDBACK will help you get there.

Competitive rates - big discounts for NPA members

**** SPECIAL OFFER - 10% OFF FOR WRITERS' GUILD MEMBERS WHO SEND IN THEIR SCRIPT BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2009 ****

YOU MUST QUOTE YOUR GUILD MEMBERSHIP NUMBER AND YEAR YOU JOINED WHEN SENDING SCRIPTS IN

There's also an additional benefit to everyone taking advantage of this great new NPA service...

NPA FEEDBACK - SCRIPT READING SHOWCASE

**HAVE YOUR SCRIPT PERFORMED TO AN INDUSTRY AUDIENCE!
SHOWCASE YOUR WORK TO AGENTS AND PRODUCERS!**

The scripts judged the best will be put into a showcase in the summer of 2010, organised by NPA, and promoted to the industry. Extracts from these scripts will be read by professional actors to an invited audience of agents, producers and others from the industry.

Your script could be one of these.

Your script could be seen by the people that matter - the ones who have the power to get it made.

In order to be eligible for this, scripts MUST have been read and assessed by FEEDBACK or written in the course of an NPA script development workshop.

The scripts to be showcased will be selected by the Feedback readers. Their decision will be final.

All writers reserve the right NOT to have their script showcased if they do not wish.

The copyright of all scripts showcased remains with the writer

For more information, contact the NPA:

Telephone: 020 7613 0440

E-mail: queries@npa.org.uk

Website: www.npa.org.uk

8. Media for all? The challenge of convergence

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

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

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

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

Plenaries:

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

Plus a wide variety of workshops.

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

Book online at: www.cpbf.org.uk

9. Manchester Film Co-op Film series on work

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

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

If you would be interested please contact Giles Simon direct at: info@manchesterfilm.coop

What Members Are Getting Up To

MARTIN ALLEN wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Thursday 22nd October.

CAREY ANDREWS wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 22nd and at 8:00pm on Friday 23rd October.

JESSE ARMSTRONG and SAM BAIN co-wrote the episode of *Peep Show* going out on C4 at 10:00pm on Friday 23rd October.

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

MARK CLOMPUS wrote the episode of *Doctors "Soul Mates"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Tuesday 20th October.

JOAN COLLINS thinks British women have let themselves go, and she wants to make them glamorous again. She recently made a documentary for ITV called *Joan does Glamour* to show how it is done. It was broadcast on ITV1 on Wednesday 17th October and can be viewed again on ITV.com.

SIMON CROWTHER wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Friday 23rd October.

CLIVE DAWSON wrote the episode of *The Bill "That's Love for You"* going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Thursday 22nd October.

MATTHEW EVANS wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 19th and at 7:30pm on Tuesday 20th October.

CHRIS FEWTRELL wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 23rd October.

LOL FLETCHER wrote the episode of *Doctors "The Hunter"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Wednesday 21st October.

RACHEL FLOWERDAY wrote the episode of *Casualty "Love is a Sacrifice"* going out on BBC1 at 8:10pm on Sunday 18th October.

LUCY GOUGH wrote the episode of *Doctors "Baby Love"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Friday 23rd October.

RAHILA GUPTA is on the board of Clean Break Theatre Company which works with women offenders and those at risk of offending and she urges everyone to go to see the wonderfully titled play "It felt empty when the heart went at first but it is alright now" (on prostitution and trafficking) written by Lucy Kirkwood.

www.arcolatheatre.com

JONATHAN HARVEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Monday 19th October.

JOHN KERR wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 19th October.

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

IAN KERSHAW wrote the episode of *Pick-Ups "The Angel of Death"* going out on Radio 4 at 11:00pm on Thursday 22nd October.

ROB KINSMAN wrote the episode of *Dickens Confidential "The Deal"* going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Tuesday 20th October.

ANDREW KIRK wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 19th October.

JANE MARLOW wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 20th October.

ROY MITCHELL wrote the episode of *New Tricks "Couldn't Organise One"* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Thursday 22nd October.

DAVID STAFFORD co-wrote the radio play *The Day the Planes Came* going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Friday 23rd October.

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

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

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