

# The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 380, Friday 17th J

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

[Authors reject school vetting laws](#)

[Emmy nomination for Andrew Davies](#)

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[Scotland Writes competition](#)

[TV writers and Controller defend BBC drama](#)

[Jemma Rodgers to lead BBC Scotland comedy](#)

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

## **Guild News**

**1. Guild subscription increase takes effect**

The increase in Guild Full Member subscriptions agreed by the Annual General Meeting in June wi

All renewals from that date will be at the new rates, which are 1.2 per cent of earnings from writing, maximum of £1,800. For example if you earned £20,000 in the past year your renewal subscription work out your subscription – including a table to save you calculating 1.2 per cents – please see the ([http://www.writersguild.org.uk/public/002\\_WritersGuil/016\\_FullMembershi.html](http://www.writersguild.org.uk/public/002_WritersGuil/016_FullMembershi.html)).

If you pay by direct debit you will be posted details of the new rates in accordance with the regulation (currently postal strikes that may delay the mail).

New Full Members joining since the AGM have already been asked to pay the £180 minimum.

This is the first increase in Full Member subscriptions for six years. Other subscription rates are unchanged. Youth Membership at £100.

All Guild subscriptions can be paid by cheque, credit or debit card, or by quarterly or monthly direct debit. An online payment option shortly. In the meantime please follow the payment instructions included with your subscription, or call our membership hotline on 01952 214 063.

## **2. Athens to host world screenwriters' conference**

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain will be taking part in the first World Screenwriters' Conference, Fédération des Scénaristes d'Europe and the International Affiliation of Writers' Guilds in November.

About 200 writers and representatives of guild, unions, etc., are expected to attend and they will cover issues such as the future of scripted drama in the digital revolution; and other issues. Writers from Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and elsewhere will join representatives from around 28 European countries.

WGGB participants will include our new Chair Robert Taylor and General Secretary Bernie Corbett, as well as some of our well-known UK screenwriters. To see some promotional videos about the conference, visit [www.screenwriters.org.uk](http://www.screenwriters.org.uk)

## **3. Short-lists for the Imison and Tinniswood Radio Award announced**

The Imison Award honours the best original radio drama script by a writer new to radio, broadcast by the Peggy Ramsay Foundation and judges are members of the Society of Authors Broadcasting Committee. The shortlist is:

*Flaw in the Motor, Dust in the Blood* by Trevor Preston (Toby Swift, BBC Radio Drama)

*Girl From Mars* by Lucy Caldwell (Anne Simpson, BBC Northern Ireland)

*Cobwebs* by David Hodgson (Gary Brown, BBC Radio Drama)

The Tinniswood Award honours the best original radio drama script broadcast during 2008. It is awarded by the Society of Authors. The prize of £1,500 is donated by the ALCS and judges are Kate Chisholm, F. C. O'Connell and Peter Souter. The award is:

*The Switch* by Ali Smith (David Jackson Young, BBC Scotland)

*Goldfish Girl* by Peter Souter (Gordon House, BBC Radio Drama)

*The Heroic Pursuits of Darleen Fyles* by Esther Wilson (Pauline Harris, BBC Radio Drama, Manchester)

*Far North* by Louis Nowra (Judith Kampfner, Corporation For Independent Media)

The presentation of the awards, by Mike Hodges, will take place on 27 October 2009.

#### **4. Notice for all members working with Creative Partnerships**

Many members have had rewarding experiences working on projects in schools for Creative Partnerships/ C

Please be aware that, following a recent policy shift, Creative Partnerships, who broker these projects, will no longer be responsible for the terms and conditions of employment.

These will now be entirely the responsibility of the individual school that is hiring you. We would, therefore, advise you to ensure that until you have some sort of written agreement in place. We are in the process of putting a sample agreement on our website.

#### **5. BBC looks eastward to save on payments**

The slightly surreal development of the British Broadcasting Corporation running its contributor payments for the first time this week with the announcement that payments for secondary television exploitation of BBC and independent production BBC Worldwide, and archive programming used on digital channels, will join the exodus.

There is little surprise in this, given that the BBC is obsessed with saving money and will be able to do this with far cheaper workers in Chennai (formerly Madras) in south-eastern India.

The transfer will begin this autumn and is planned to be wholly operational by March 2010. The company that already provides most of the BBC's accounting services and also runs contracts for the NHS and

A BBC letter to the Writers' Guild states: "Your members in receipt of secondary payments should not be concerned about the processing of their payments – except that for example, we anticipate that contributors' queries will increase on programme sales due to the enhanced hours operated by the teams in Chennai."

The Guild will monitor the changeover and will follow up any issues or complaints raised by members.

## **6. Theatre Committee Encouragement Awards**

The deadline for nominations for the next Theatre Committee Awards for the Encouragement of New Writing has given you a particularly positive or encouraging experience in developing your theatre writing over the past year. Please send a paragraph on what is behind the nomination to Theatre Committee chair David James at [david.sassafras@bbc.co.uk](mailto:david.sassafras@bbc.co.uk)

## **Events**

### **7. PIM Club - People in Media**

Summer Networking Evening

Wednesday 29th July, 6.45pm - 10.30pm

A great opportunity to meet many likeminded people & we have a great speed networking session to help you exchange contacts.

Sign up via our website for free membership & we will email you full details.

[www.pim-club.co.uk](http://www.pim-club.co.uk)

## **8. Lewd, Rude and Nude: the art of translating private parts**

In many languages, our private parts can be described in neutral language, for example the French. In English however we often find ourselves vacillating between medical, pornographic and downright

Translators from any language are invited to join Polly McLean in a facilitated discussion of the im perfect choices. If you would like to contribute some problems or examples in advance, please email

Wednesday 29 July 2009, 3-5pm, The Society of Authors, 84 Drayton Gardens, London, SW10 9S  
Sarah Burton on 020 7373 6642 or [sburton@societyofauthors.org](mailto:sburton@societyofauthors.org)

## **9. The Greenwich Film Festival**

The Greenwich Film Festival runs from Friday 24 to Sunday 26 July 2009. There will be a series of classic movies that celebrate Greenwich.

Highlights include open air screenings of The Railway Children and Blow Up.

<http://www.greenwich.gov.uk/Greenwich/LeisureCulture/EntertainmentEvents/Create09/GreenwichFilmFestival>

## **Courses and Workshops**

### **10. BAFTA Family Workshop: Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince - the Videogame**

Sunday 26 July @ 4.30pm  
BAFTA, 195 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LN

Presented in association with EA

Come and find out how the makers of the latest Harry Potter translated the books and films into a game. Wh

Following the film screening, create your own scenes based on what you've seen. You'll also have the chance to create your own Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince – the Videogame.

Parents please note – both the game and the film are rated 12A. This workshop is recommended for ages 10-12 and adult.

## [More information](#)

### **11. Inaugural “Piper’s Frith” offers a new writing experience in Newfoundland**

The Literary Arts Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (LAFNL) is launching a four-day writing workshop for established, mid-level writers at beautiful Kilmory Resort in Swift Current, Newfoundland. From O’Neil will join experienced, award-winning Faculty writers for workshops, one-on-one discussions and peaceful writing work.

Three experienced mentors have signed on to serve as Frith Faculty for this inaugural event: Don M. and Jessica Grant will mentor groups in prose. \$595 includes all program and application fees, accommodation and events.

“Piper’s” comes from the Piper’s Hole River, which runs through the Kilmory area, and which has a few ghostly openings of “firth,” is a geographic term that refers to an opening of a river into the ocean, an estuary. But a frith also means peace, sanctuary or a wooded place. LAFNL has appropriated this old word and is reconstituting it to mean: ‘where one can engage in good writing.’

Space is limited, and applications are now being accepted. Writers are encouraged to check out the event and apply as soon as possible. For more information, please contact [pipersfrith@literaryartsnl.com](mailto:pipersfrith@literaryartsnl.com)

### **12. TAPS SUMMER SCHOOL – PLACES REMAINING on the following one day workshops**

- **360° Commissioning** with *Gina Fegan*, Chief Executive of the SEMN.
- **Comedy – TV Sitcom Workshop** with *Charles Garland*, “Allo Allo”, “Dad’s Army”, “Hi-De-Ho”, “My Hero” and comedy veteran *Steve Nallon*. Have 5 pages of your own TV sitcom idea read by the faculty.
- **Writing for Games** with leading games writers *James Swallow* “Deus Ex 3”, “Battlestar Galactica” and *Andy Walsh* “Risen, Prince of Persia” “Heavenly Sword”, “Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix”

- **Beyond the Usual Suspects – Criminology & Character Creation Workshop** Find out how “The Bill” Writer Stuart Morris and former Detective Chief Inspector *Jackie Malton*, the inspiration for the character and long term story consultant on “The Bill”.
- **Screaming ‘Blue Murder’ – TV Drama Series Workshop** Meet the “Blue Murder” team and Script Editor *Hayley McKenzie* who will take you, step by step, through the process of turning a script into a popular ITV1 show Blue Murder. This is Blue Murder Boot Camp!

\*For more details on each workshop visit our website – [www.tapsnet.org](http://www.tapsnet.org) or call the office –

## Opportunities

### 13. Scriptapalooza Television Writing Competition OPENS

Scriptapalooza TV has seen major success in their 10 years...2 writers won Emmys, numerous writers have gotten agents, managers and meetings.

The four categories include existing 1 hour shows like True Blood and Merlin.

Existing half hour sitcoms like The Office and Two and a Half Men.

Original pilots and reality shows. (for reality shows we would like a 1-5 page synopsis only)

Supported by the Writers Guild of America west and the Writers Guild of Canada.

[www.scriptapaloozaTV.com](http://www.scriptapaloozaTV.com)

323.654.5809 office

[info@scriptapalooza.com](mailto:info@scriptapalooza.com)

FINAL DEADLINE October 15th

01932 592 151.

### 14. The CRA needs an administrator

The CRA is an alliance of UK organisations, established in October 2000, representing creators – authors and their members for a reform of moral rights, the introduction of regulation of authors' contracts to ensure that they are fair and remedies.

The CRA needs one day's work a week from a self-employed administrator, able to run the secretariat and provide support. The deadline for applications is **4th September**. Note that the position is offered on a freelance/self-employed basis with the possibility of renewal in future years. The fee will be competitive and discussed with interviewees.

For details see [www.creatorsrights.org.uk](http://www.creatorsrights.org.uk)

## **15. An Invitation to Apply for Accommodation at a Writers' Residence in the North of France**

The Villa Marguerite Yourcenar: a crossroads of European cultural diversity.

Lying at the heart of the Mounts of Flanders on the Belgian border and 25 miles from Lille, the Villa Marguerite Yourcenar is a residence for European writers that is managed by the Conseil général du Nord and offers authors from all over Europe the opportunity to spend two months in order for them to carry on or finish their manuscript on the exceptional verdant site of Yourcenar (1903-1987), which is now listed as *sensitive natural area*.

In order to be entitled to apply, you must live in Europe and/or have published at least one book at least two publications at the author's expense. All literary genres are admitted : novel, poetry, theatre, essay, etc. Applicants are selected by an independent jury of specialists and personalities from the European literary scene. Marguerite Yourcenar is accompanied with a 1800-euro monthly grant.

For information and application forms, contact Françoise Bultez : [fbultez1@cg59.fr](mailto:fbultez1@cg59.fr)

Application submission deadline : 31st January 2010

## **16. The Ruth Rendell Short Story**

The InterAct Reading Service is a registered charity, which will be celebrating its tenth anniversary and has kindly lent her name to this competition.

Using professional actors the service provides live interactive reading sessions in hospitals and stroke clubs (fourteen in London and six in the Regions) and twenty seven stroke clubs. Over two hundred actors

The value of their work is widely recognised by the medical profession, and the charity has received

The objectives:

To provide stimulation.

To alleviate boredom and depression.

To improve the ward environment and the patients' quality of life.

To provide respite from the role of patient.

Over the last ten years we have found that the majority of patients, whilst still in hospital, get very t  
are limited. They are also often depressed.

With these criteria in mind we have found it difficult to find stories that are short enough, narrative  
Stroke can affect any one, of any age, there is the need for a wide variety of all kinds of stories.

To remedy this problem they have commissioned many stories, and two years ago started this bi-an

To find out more please call 020 7471 6789 and also look on [www.interactreading.co.uk](http://www.interactreading.co.uk)

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

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MARTIN ALLEN wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 24

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SIMON ASHDOWN wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Tuesday 21st

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DAVID ASHTON'S radio play *McLevy* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Tuesday 21st July.

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SARAH BAGSHAW wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 21st

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LUCY BLINCOE wrote the episode of *Doctors "History Repeated"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on

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TONY BASGALLOP wrote the episode of *Moonshot: the Flight of Apollo 11* going out on ITV1 at 10:

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PAUL COATES wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 21st July.

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Congratulations to ANDREW DAVIES for his nomination for an Emmy Award for his adaptation of

It has been nominated in the Outstanding Miniseries category.

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SARAH DEANE wrote the episode of *Moving On* "Drowning Not Waving" going out on BBC1 at 10

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DAVID EDGAR'S new book *How Plays Work* examines the mechanisms and techniques which dramatists use to structure their plays and to express their meaning. Written for playwrights and playgoers alike, it covers all the blocks of whole plays – plot, character creation, genre and structure – and moves on to scenes and the common architecture without which the uniqueness of their authors' vision would be invisible.

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ARNOLD EVANS wrote the episode of *Doctors* "Gentlemen's Excuse Me" going out on BBC1 at 1:45

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JOHN FINNEMORE wrote the episode of *Cabin Fever* "Gdansk" going out on Radio 4 at 11:30pm on

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JULIA GILBERT wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 23rd

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ROB GITTINS wrote the radio play, *Investigating Mr Thomas*, which goes out on Radio 4 at 2.15pm on Rob's award-winning film, *The Far-Ago Land*, which won the documentary prize at the Celtic and

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JONATHAN HARVEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 20th July.

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EIRENE HOUSTON wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 20th July.

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PENNY LEICESTER'S adaptation of "*The Help*" is beginning a ten episode run on Radio 4 at 7:45pm on Monday 20th July.

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HILARY LYON wrote the episode of *Baggage "The Father, The Lover, the Dead Friend and her Mother"* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Wednesday 22nd July.

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BILL LYONS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 22nd July.

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ANDREW MCCULLOCH co-wrote the episode of *The Royal "Counting Chickens"* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 22nd July.

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JIMMY MCGOVERN and JAN MCVERRY wrote the episode of *The Street* going out on BBC1 at 9:0

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PAULINE McLYNN'S latest novel, *Missing You Already*, is now out in paperback, published by He

At a remote railway station in Norfolk, Kitty Fulton runs the ticket office and her pet project is the l  
pleasure than to reunite possessions with their rightful owners. It is an experience that remains elu  
Alzheimer's pulls them further and further apart and, on top of this, she must endure the disintegra  
friend. Just when Kitty feels her life can't get more complicated a series of extraordinary events cha  
in struggling to find the answers Kitty embarks on a journey that questions the importance of life an

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TOM NEEDHAM wrote the episode of *The Bill "Live by the Sword"* going out on Thursday 23rd Ju

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DEBBIE OATES wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Thursday

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HEATHER ROBSON wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Friday 24th Jul

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CAROLE SIMPSON-SOLAZZO wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm f  
each episode being repeated the day following its original broadcast.

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

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BILL TAYLOR wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 20th July

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MIRANDA WALKER co-wrote the play *Coronation*, a comedy set in 1953, which will be performed at Cheltenham on 25th July. Box office: [www.everymantheatre.org.uk](http://www.everymantheatre.org.uk)

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JOY WILKINSON wrote the episode of *Doctors* "*But for the Grace of God*" going out on BBC1 at 1:40pm