

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 402, Friday 18th December 2009

Merry Christmas to all our readers. Please note that this is the last e-bulletin of 2009.

Our first issue of 2010 will appear on Friday 8th January.

The Guild offices will be closed from 5.30pm on Tuesday, 22 December, until Monday, 4 January. Should you urgently need to contact the Guild, please email Susan (susan@writersguild.org.uk), Anne (anne@writersguild.org.uk) or Bernie (corbett@writersguild.org.uk).

In the Guild blog this week:

[Matt Greenhalgh on Nowhere Boy](#)

[The Tinniswood and Imison Radio Awards 2010: Call for Entries](#)

[BBC Writersroom update](#)

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[Bring back rejection letters](#)

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[Rachel Cusk on 'women's writing'](#)

A message from the Chair

Merry Christmas to all members of the Guild. I would like to send special greetings to everyone who has joined or rejoined the Guild during the past 12 months. You have helped to make the Guild bigger and stronger than ever in our fiftieth anniversary year.

Recruitment continues to be a priority for us, and the best recommendation is always a personal one, so please tell your colleagues about the Guild and encourage them to join.

The economic downturn has been hard for many writers as commissions become ever more scarce. In the face of this the Guild has maintained an incredible level of activity in our London HQ, in our national and regional branches, in Europe and worldwide. We

continue to fight hard to renegotiate our core minimum terms agreements with broadcasters and are already in the thick of staking writers' claims for a fair share of the profits from digital media. We embrace all areas of writing, from self-published authors to games writers, and will continue to act whenever our members interests are affected.

The past 50 years have seen enormous changes in the writing industry; the next 50 will see ever more. One thing will remain: the need for writers to act collectively to secure their rights. It is on this one simple idea that the future of the Guild is based.

Finally, a huge thank you all those who have paid their subscriptions early - our new [membership](#) system can [accept payment by](#) credit or debit card and monthly direct debit.

I wish you all a fantastic Christmas, and the imagination and courage to continue writing in 2010.

Robert Taylor

Guild News

Guild Comedy Award for Graham Linehan

Events

The 7th London short film festival - programme announced 8th-17th January 2010

Q&A with Gregory Burke at the Glasgow Centre for Contemporary Arts

Courses and Workshops

Writersearch UK - Scotland & Northern Ireland

Jan Etherington's Comedy Writing Course

Comedy, crossing the boundaries - 360 ways to be funny! Applications now open

LFS Workshops Schedule: January – March 2010

Series Masterclass, Talkback Thames Studios

Opportunities

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Guild News

Guild Comedy Award for Graham Linehan

Graham Linehan was presented with the Ronnie Barker Writers' Guild of Great Britain award at the Comedy Awards in London on Saturday, 12th December.

Linehan, whose credits include co-creating and co-writing Father Ted and Black Books and creating and writing The IT Crowd, was presented with the award by Griff Rhys Jones. He received a standing ovation from the industry audience and paid tribute to his long-time co-writer Arthur Matthews.

Other winners at the 2009 Comedy Awards included:

- Outnumbered (best sitcom and overall winner for best comedy)
- Harry Hill's TV Burp (best comedy entertainment)
- Psychoville (best new television comedy)
- In The Loop (best comedy film)
- Pulling (best comedy drama)

Events

The 7th London short film festival - programme announced 8th-17th January 2010

10 days / 12 venues across London / 16 programmes of new UK short film talent, with 200 shorts / live music & film events / industry & networking.

Venues: ICA / Curzon Soho / Roxy Bar & Screen / Rich Mix / Shortwave Cinema / BAFTA / Lexi Cinema / Cinephilia West / The Roundhouse / The Frontline Club / The Hospital Club / Vibe Live

Full details at www.shortfilms.org.uk <http://www.shortfilms.org.uk/>.

Q&A with Gregory Burke at the Glasgow Centre for Contemporary Arts

Wednesday 20th January 2010

Centre for Contemporary Arts, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow

7:00pm - 8:30pm

BBC Scotland and the Playwrights' Studio, Scotland present Gregory Burke, award-winning author of *Gagarin Way* and *Black Watch*. In the New Year his first television drama, *One Night in Emergency*, will air on BBC 1 Scotland. Gregory will be in conversation with Julie Ellen, Creative Director of the Playwrights' Studio, Scotland. Their talk will cover his career, his inspirations and his experiences, as well as questions from the floor. This event is part of the Scotland Writes initiative from BBC Scotland, which aims to find new Scottish writers.

This is a free event, but spaces are limited. To book tickets call the CCA Box Office on 0141 352 4900. For more information email: info@playwrightsstudio.co.uk

Courses and Workshops

Writersearch UK - Scotland & Northern Ireland

Location: Inverness, Scotland or Newry, Northern Ireland

Date: Scotland 19th - 21st Feb 2010, Northern Ireland 26th - 28th Feb 2010

If you are a Writer based in Scotland or Northern Ireland, this course could be for you. Visit the taps website www.tapsnet.org for more info.

Jan Etherington's Comedy Writing Course

The Riverside Arts Centre

Thames Street, Sunbury on Thames

Jan's first course of the New Year will be on
Saturday January 30th and Sunday 31st 2010

New Beginnings.....is how we're starting 2010. Of course we are! A New Year, a new decade, a new script, a new idea - or simply, a fresh look at work that's driving you nuts!

Book and check out details of this and our next one day course on **Sunday March 14th**

on our website

www.comedycourse.biz; telephone 0788 7907713

Comedy, crossing the boundaries - 360 ways to be funny! Applications now open

Price: £450 + VAT

Location: Cardiff or Central London - Venue TBC soon!

Date: 5th, 6th and 7th March 2010

Skillset bursaries available: Yes (for freelancers and employees!)*

TAPS three-day workshop - Comedy Crossing the Boundaries - is a writer development programme, teaching skills needed to address multiplatform comedy content for internet, mobile phones, games, film, television and radio. Writers will also learn how to pitch a multi-platform brief.

Submit an idea for your own comedy TV sitcom, internet clip or mobile upload and watch your words come to life (or death) as professional actors read your lines and discuss your ideas in a constructive workshop environment.

The course for established freelancers is supported by Skillset and BBC Training & Development and features tutor input from the EU Media Expert on Digital Media, an internet Guerilla Producer, Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran and Charles Garland amongst other special guest tutors.

Please email shamsul@tapsnet.org for an application form.

**Participants on this course may be eligible to receive funding (of 80% of the costs up to £800) through Skillset's Multiplatform Bursary Scheme. Please visit www.skillset.org/multiplatformbursaries to check availability and see if you are eligible.*

Series masterclass - applications now open

Price: £425 + VAT for two 2-day workshops

Location: Talkback Thames Studios, South London

Date: Module 1: **21st & 22nd** January 2010 Module 2: 25th & 26th February 2010

Bursaries Available: No

Writing 60-minute episodes is easy - it's just like two 30-minute parts, right? It's this misconception that sees many writers hitting a glass ceiling in their careers as they cannot make the jump from 30 to 60-minute work. That's where TAPS comes in.

This course will show you exactly how to modify your views of story and structure to the 60-minute format. Split across two workshop sessions, you will work with top writers and creative staff from *The Bill* to follow the creation of an episode from storyline to transmission.

Please email shamsul@tapsnet.org for an application form

Script editing - applications now open

Price: £225 + VAT for two 2-day workshops

Location: London

Date: 26th & 27th February 2010

Bursaries Available: No

The script editor is vital in the creative process though it is often unclear just what that role consists of and how one becomes an editor. This course, created and led by script consultant Diane Culverhouse will guide you step-by-step through the editor's position. Topics range from searching for original talent to a detailed exploration of the relationship between writer, script editor and producer. You will also work on honing your script analysis technique as well as investigating the storylining process.

Please email shamsul@tapsnet.org for an application form

LFS Workshops Schedule: January – March 2010

Applications are now open for the following short courses at the London Film School. For more info click on the course titles below, visit www.lfs.org.uk or contact Carolyn Atherton: workshops@lfs.org.uk/+44 (0)20 7836 9642.

Early Bird Discount: Book any of the following courses by 15th December to receive a 10% discount!

[Sales, Marketing & Distribution with Mia Bays](#) 8 & 9 Jan

[EP/Movie Magic Budgeting & Scheduling with Emma Dobinson](#) 16 & 17 Jan

[Alexander Mackendrick on Filmmaking with Paul Cronin](#) 23 & 24 Jan

[Script Supervision & Continuity for Film & TV with Beth Multer](#) 6 & 7 Feb

[A Practical Introduction to Location Sound: Recording and Mixing with Joel Cahen](#) 13 & 14 Feb

[Sound & Music Techniques for Narrative Filmmaking with Gustavo Costantini](#) 27 & 28 Feb

[Directing as Visual Storytelling with Josh Appignanesi](#) 6 & 7 Mar

[Writers' Gym I with Ellis Freeman](#) Starts 8 Mar – app deadline 1 Feb

[Writers' Gym II: Feature Script Development Programme with Ellis Freeman](#) Starts 9 Mar – app deadline 1 Feb.

Opportunities

The Tinniswood and Imison Radio Awards 2010: Call for Entries

The Tinniswood Award for best original radio drama script was established by the Society of Authors and the Writers' Guild of Great Britain to perpetuate the memory of

Peter Tinniswood, as well as to celebrate and encourage high standards in radio drama.

Submissions are by producer only and are restricted to a maximum of two entries per producer. We would like to encourage producers to send in quality scripts and would prefer a script that you are confident is the best.

The Tinniswood Award is generously supported by the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society Ltd.

Please note that the 2010 Tinniswood Award will be administered by the Writers' Guild of Great Britain and submissions should be sent to Anne Hogben at the offices at 40 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RX.

The Imison Award encourages new talent by rewarding the best original radio drama by a writer new to radio. Now in its seventeenth year the Award perpetuates the memory of Richard Imison to acknowledge the encouragement he gave to writers working in the medium of radio, and is given in memory of the support and friendship he invariably offered writers in general, and radio writers in particular.

The Imison Award is administered and judged by the Society of Authors and we are grateful to the Peggy Ramsay Foundation for generously funding the £1,500 prize money.

Please send submissions to Sarah Baxter, The Society of Authors, 84 Drayton Gardens, London SW10 9SB.

The deadline for entry to both Awards is Friday 5th February 2010.

12th Annual Scriptapalooza International Screenplay Competition

Early deadline: January 5th.

www.scriptapalooza.com

Why should you submit your script to Scriptapalooza?

-Grand Prize: \$10,000

-All the reading is done by 90 production companies -Entertainment Weekly Magazine calls them 'One of the Best'

-they promote the winners, runners-up, finalists and semifinalists for a full year -We are considered one of the best screenplay competitions by agents, managers and producers

-Supported by the Writers Guild of America west -Supported by the Writers Guild of Canada

About Scriptapalooza:

The Scriptapalooza Screenwriting Competition, was founded in 1998, and has generated heat, publicity and a reputation that demands respect. Scriptapalooza, Inc., along with its

various divisions was created to nurture talent and create opportunities. Storytellers come from all over the world and from all walks of life, because of the simple fact that everyone has a story. Scriptapalooza's goal: to seek out that storyteller and honour their script with a grand prize of \$10,000. Each year dozens of production companies and literary representatives sign on as participants to read our winners, resulting in many scripts being optioned, sold or outright bought.

Questions? Comments? Call the office on 323.654.5809 or email info@scriptapalooza.com.

www.scriptapalooza.com

Seeking women writers

She Writes is a new training programme for women screenwriters co-presented by **Birds Eye View** and **The Script Factory**, and supported by **Skillset**. It has been designed to address the remarkable statistic that only 12% of British films are written by women. The programme, catering for eight emerging women writers, will take place over a year, during which time participants working on a feature screenplay will enjoy a residential retreat, attend specialist workshops, meet with mentors, gain a better understanding of the industry, have exclusive access to the Birds Eye View Film Festival, and workshop their projects with actors.

She Writes is now looking for eight women writers who must have at least one writing credit, in either short film, TV, radio or theatre, or at least one feature script either optioned or funded, but not yet produced. The selected writers will:

- meet for three distinct training workshops during 2010 covering **Story Development**, the **Wider Industry**, and have the chance to workshop their ideas with **Actors**
- have the opportunity to participate in a public/industry performed reading of their work
- be networked with highest level film industry producers and commissioners
- enjoy masterclasses and Q&As with leading UK and international talent
- see their own profiles raised through a focused industry PR campaign

For more information and to find out how to apply please visit the Birds Eye View Website www.birds-eye-view.co.uk or click [here](#).

Deadline for applications: 5pm, Friday 29th January 2010

What Members Are Getting Up To

Congratulations to JESSE ARMSTRONG and his writing team. *In The Loop* has just won Best Screenplay at New York Film Critics Circle, and runner up screenplay at Los Angeles film Critics Circle.

CAREY ANDREWS wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 21st December.

BENNETT ARRON has written 21 episodes of the children's sitcom *Genie in the House* - the No.1 children's programme on Nickelodeon - as well as writing and performing in the *Genie in the House* TV movie *Legend of the Dragon*. He was also one of the writers on the BAFTA winning children's programme *The Slamme*.

SIMON ASHDOWN wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:00pm on Saturday 26th December.

DAVID ASHTON'S Victorian detective drama *McLevy* begins its new four-part series on Radio 4, with the episode "*Bolt from the Blue*" going out at 2:15pm on Monday 21st December. The second episode *End of the Line* is going out on Monday 28th December.

PIERS BECKLEY's adaptation of *Oliver Twist* is running at the Lion & Unicorn Theatre in Kentish Town, London, over Christmas till 10th January. <http://www.giantolive.com/>

GREGORY BURKE's first television drama, *One Night In Emergency*, will go out on BBC1 in Scotland in the New Year. Gregory will hold a Q&A at the Glasgow Centre for Contemporary Arts on 20 January. See above for further details

PAUL COATES wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 22nd December.

LIN COGHLAN'S dramatisation of *Black Hearts in Battersea* is going out on Radio 4 in two parts at 2:15pm on Wednesday 23rd and 24th December.

DAVID CROFT will be re-united with the cast and crew and other writers on *The Story of Are You Being Served* on New Year's Day on BBC2 at 6.30 pm. It will be preceded with a festive issue of the show from 1975 at 6.00 pm and followed by the pilot episode, first broadcast in 1972 being shown for the first time in a new colourised version.

SIMON CROWTHER wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Friday 1st January.

RICHARD CURTIS wrote and directed the film *Love Actually* going out on ITV1 on Saturday 19 December at 9.00 pm

MARY CUTLER wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from

Sunday 27th December till Friday 1st January, with each episode being repeated at 2:00pm the day after its original broadcast.

ANDREW DAVIES has adapted Joanna Briscoe's erotic thriller *Sleep With Me* for television. It will go out on ITV1 on New Year's Eve from 9.00 - 10.30 pm.

TIM DYNEVOR wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 1st January.

MATTHEW EVANS wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 24th December.

CHRIS FEWTRELL wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Monday 28th December.

PATRICK HARBINSON'S version of John Wyndham's *The Day of the Triffids* is going out in two parts, starting on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Monday 28th December.

JONATHAN HARVEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm Thursday 31st December.

JOOLES HOLLAND presents *Jools' Annual Hootenanny* from 11.00 pm on New Year's Eve on BBC2. He's been doing this now for 16 New Years!

PATRICK HOMES wrote the episode of *The Bill "On the Street"* going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Tuesday 29th December.

MARK ILLIS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 23rd December.

MARTIN JAMESON wrote the episode of *Casualty "All I Want for Christmas"* going out on BBC1 at 7:40pm on Saturday 19th December.

CHARLOTTE JONES'S dramatisation of Roald Dahl's book *Matilda* is going out in two parts on Radio 4 at 9:00pm on Saturday 26th and at 3:00pm on Sunday 27th December.

JULIAN JONES wrote the episode of *Merlin "The Last Dragon Lord"* going out on BBC1 at 5:45pm on Saturday 19th December.

JESSICA LEA wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 29th December.

DAVID LEMON is writing for the new RDF Nickelodeon series *The Freak Farleys*, a sitcom about an ordinary family in Transylvania created by Andy Watts. It shoots early next year.

DARAN LITTLE wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Monday 21st December.

ANJI LOMAN-FIELD went to Cambodia in March 2005 on a 3-6 month project story-lining, script editing and team-writing a TV drama series called Rous Cheat Chivit (A Taste of Life). More than five years later and Anji is still there where she is now running a production company. See www.indevelopmentproductions.com – the website will be updated soon to show shots and clips of their first production *Channa and Her Sisters*, a 50 min drama aiming to reduce the massive maternal mortality rate in Cambodia.

IAN MADDEN wrote the episode of *Taggart "Fact and Fiction"* going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Thursday 24th December.

JANE MARLOW wrote the episodes of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st December.

PAUL MENDELSON'S radio comedy drama *Fireworks at the Villa Lucia* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Thursday 31st December.

LIZZIE MICKERY wrote the episode of *Paradox* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Tuesday 22nd December.

DEBBIE OATES wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 21st December.

JEREMY PAUL co-wrote the book of the musical *The Lady Or The Tiger*, lyrics by Michael Richmond, music by Nola York is running at the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond,

south-west London, from 16th December to 13th February.

HEATHER ROBSON wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Friday 1st January.

ALISTAIR RUTHERFORD has a new radio play, *Happy New Year*, going out on BBC Radio Scotland on Thursday 31st December at 11.30 am. The play will also be available on the BBC iPlayer for the following 7 days.

STEPHEN SHERIDAN'S dramatisation of five darkly comic tales from Roald Dahl begins with the episode *Man from the South* going out on Radio 4 at 7:45pm on Monday 21st December. Other episodes will be shown each night during the week at the same time. Episodes include *Skin*, *Lamb to the Slaughter*, *Dip in the Pool* and *Nunc Dimittis*. The cast includes Charles Dance, Andrew Sachs, Sarah Badel and Kerry Shale.

TOM STOPPARD and Marc Norman won the Oscar for Best Screenplay for *Shakespeare in Love* in 1998. There will be another chance to see it on Christmas Eve at 11.15 pm on ITV1.

BILL TAYLOR wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm and 8:00pm on Thursday 31st December.

HEIDI THOMAS has written a new three-hour *Cranford* drama (adapted from the original novels by Elizabeth Gaskell) going out in two parts for BBC1. The first half "August 1844" is going out from 9:00 - 10:30 pm on Sunday 20 December. The second half "October to December 1844" is going out on Sunday 27th December at the same time

CHRIS THOMPSON wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 30th December.

EMMA THOMPSON's sequel to *Nanny McPhee* will be released next year. She has written and will perform the title role in *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang*. She is also working on a new screenplay of *My Fair Lady*.

SANDI TOKSVIG will be treading the boards at the Royal Festival Hall with *Sandi Toksvig's Christmas Cracker* along with Ronnie Corbett and other guests. Until 24th December. Box office: 0844 875 0073

JOE TURNER wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 25th December.

VICTORIA WOOD's Christmas Special is called *Midlife Crisis* and it goes out on BBC1 on Christmas Eve at 9.00 pm.

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