

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 422, Friday 21st May 2010

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Guild News

Writers' Guild Annual General Meeting - Friday 4th June 2010

This year's Writers' Guild AGM takes place on Friday 4th June 2010 from 10:30am to 5:00pm at the Free Word Centre, 60 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3GA – a few hundred metres from the Guild office. The meeting is open to all members.

The main business is to approve the Annual Report, including audited accounts, and to debate and vote on motions to amend the Guild rules or on any other subject covered by the objects of the Guild. This year's Annual Report, which appears in the current UK Writer, has now been posted to members. If for some reason you have not received the latest issue of UK Writer, please go to our website or contact the Guild office, copies will be available at the AGM.

Please note: As a money-saving measure the Guild will not provide lunch this year. There are numerous cafes, restaurants, pubs, sandwich counters and open-air food stalls within a few minutes' walk of the Free Word Centre, but if you have special dietary requirements you may be well advised to bring your own food.

Please check these bulletins or the Guild website and blog over the coming weeks for more information about the AGM.

Guild Events

WGGB BBC TV drama event - Wednesday 2nd June

6:30 - 9:00pm (doors open at 6:00pm; event starts promptly at 6:30pm)

The Free Word Centre, 60 Farringdon Road, London EC1

The top people in BBC TV drama will be taking part in a major event for Guild television members. There will be a presentation and a panel session with questions and answers, followed by plenty of time for an informal chat over wine and canapés.

The main speakers will be :

Ben Stephenson, Controller of Commissioning;

John Yorke, Controller of BBC Production;

Kate Harwood, Head of Series and Serials.

Other participants will be announced later. **Tickets are limited and priority will be given to Guild members who have written for BBC TV in-house productions in the past couple of years.**

Tickets: £10, including a wine and canapé reception afterwards supplied by the renowned Clerkenwell Kitchen.

Book via susan@writersguild.org.uk stating which BBC TV shows you have written for recently. Susan is also compiling a reserve list on a first-come, first-served basis.

Events

Content by mobile - how can you measure it?

Following on from its review of Digital Britain and to complete its review of Distribution Platforms, RTS welcomes the GSM Association to explain what content is now available on Mobiles and how the operators can measure the 'viewing figures'.

Mobile is a very personal viewing experience, and whilst there has not been the take-up of broadcast channels, there has been a growth in the viewing of *on demand material* and interactivity.

But until this year there has been no way of measuring who is viewing what on their phones so the GSM Association Mobile Media Metrics initiative is working to give timely statistics to benefit the content owner, aggregator/brand as well as the Operators. So you will be able to find out what works on Mobile (and what does not) and how creative input can reach more people in new ways.

Speakers: GSM Association and ComScore

COST: FREE to RTS Members and non-members. The event is organised by London Centre Members for everyone interested in the future of television. To attend please register at LondonCentreEvents@rts.org.uk

DATE: 2nd June 2010

TIME: 7:00pm

VENUE: ITV - The London Studios, Upper Ground, South Bank, London SE1 9LT. Waterloo is the nearest train and tube station.

Please register at: LondonCentreEvents@rts.org.uk

Poet in the City - Poets Who Made Nations

7:00pm on 17th June

At The National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2H 0HE.

An event exploring the role of poets and thinkers in the construction of nations and national identities. Featuring discussions of the poet José Martí, who inspired an independent Cuba, the philosopher Thomas Masaryk, who invented the idea of the former Czechoslovakia, and Dafydd ap Gwilym, one of the great European poets of the Middle Ages, whose work helped to preserve Welsh national identity and culture into the modern age.

Sphinx at the Shaftsbury Theatre

Saturday 12th June, 1:30pm - 5:30pm

Ticket: £10

Why are women still the second sex?

Following the success of the 2009 National Theatre conference, Constance Borde and Sheila Malovany-Chevallier present their long-awaited new translation of Simone de Beauvoir's iconic feminist text and Sphinx discusses the strategy for achieving equality for women in the performing arts.

Tel: 020 7587 1596

Email: info@sphinxtheatre.co.uk

Website: www.sphinxtheatre.co.uk

Book now for Freelancers' Fair 2010

BECTU's annual Freelancers' Fair is now taking bookings. The event, on Friday 11th June, offers a rich mix of seminars, an industry exhibition and two sessions of the popular Freelance Toolkit workshop.

A new riverside venue - [Savoy Place, 2 Savoy Place, London, WC2 ORL](#) – will host the event. In fact, Savoy Place was the location for the BBC's first experimental radio broadcasts in 1923, so visitors will feel at home.

[Download event flyer for full programme details](#)

BECTU members can attend the event for free, non-members pay £10.

<http://www.bectu.org.uk/events/freelancers-fair>

Serious screenwriting 2010

Friday 4th & Saturday 5th June 2010

At BAFTA, 195 Piccadilly, London W1

Serious Screenwriting is the annual Screenwriting Forum presented by The Script Factory in partnership with BAFTA. Join us for two full days of expert training, panel discussions, masterclasses, performed readings and pitch clinics, plus the opportunity to apply for the *Serious Screenwriting Development Scheme*.

Screenwriting duo Neal Purvis and Robert Wade (*Casino Royale*, *Quantum of Solace*) have been confirmed alongside a host of other screenwriters including Deborah Moggach (*Pride & Prejudice*) and Stuart Hazeldine (*Exam*).

All forum participants can also apply for the *Serious Screenwriting Development Scheme* entitling one writer or co-writing team to FREE attendance to Script Factory training courses for one year; expert advice from our development team; a private lunch with Peter Morgan (*The Queen*, *Frost/Nixon*); your final draft read by BBC Films; and a bursary award of £1,000.

For further details on the programme visit www.scriptfactory.co.uk.

Serious Screenwriting costs £200 + VAT (total £235). Members of the Writer's Guild are entitled to a 10% discount. To book your place, call The Script Factory on 020 7851 4890 (weekdays between 10am-6pm) or email sheena@scriptfactory.co.uk with any queries.

The rebirth of TV drama

BFI Southbank

May and June 2010

Amid all the noisy debate about the state of British TV drama when compared with the US model, it's easy to miss one crucial point: the present generation of writers is as gifted as any Britain has produced. Whatever might be wrong with UK drama – its funding crises, its overdependence on crime narratives and biopics – there is no want of talent. This two-month season showcases some of the best shorter-form dramas from the past decade or so, all original works for TV by writers who have been steadily building an impressive body of work with a distinctive signature. They have a number of events/discussions in the two-month season with the likes of [Dominic Savage](#), [Frank Cottrell Boyce](#) and [William Ivory](#) joining in the debates.

- **Clocking Off + The Street** with Paul Abbott and Jimmy McGovern, 14th June, 6:00pm NFT3
- **Donovan Quick + Q&A with Donna Franceschild**, 11th June 8:20pm NFT2
- **England Expects**, 25th June 6:10pm NFT3
- **Faith + Q&A with William Ivory**, 24th May 5:50pm NFT2
- **May 33rd + Q&A with Guy Hibbert and Lia Williams**, 19th June 8:40pm NFT2
- **Out of Control + Q&A with Dominic Savage**, 18th May 6:10pm NFT3
- **Panel Discussion: Second Coming or Looming Apocalypse? The Writer in Modern TV**, 14th June 8:30pm NFT3
- **Second Generation + Q&A with Neil Biswas**, 21st June 8:00pm NFT3
- **Secret Life + Q&A with Rowan Joffe**, 8th June 6:10pm NFT3
- **Sex Traffic**, 29th May 2:30pm NFT2

Go to [The Rebirth of TV Drama for more information.](#)

Courses and Workshops

Sitcom Writing Workshop

Every 1's A Critic Ltd, the award-winning production company behind The Sitcom Mission, the showcase that presents sitcoms to all the TV comedy commissioners, is running a one-day sitcom-writing workshop.

Introduction to Sitcom Writing workshops are day-long 'entry-level' courses for people who haven't written a sitcom before.

Do you have an idea for a sitcom, but don't know how to go about writing it?

Have you written a first episode, but it just doesn't feel right?

On this one-day, entry-level course, you'll find out how to:

- Construct a central character, identify their flaws and how they create plots
- Construct another central character who will antagonise your first character
- Introduce other characters to set up a co-dependent unit or sitcom family
- Introduce external characters to challenge your family structure
- Identify your characters' needs, wants and desires
- And much, much more

Saturday, June 5th at the Beyond Arts Centre, London. Cost £30.

To book, go to http://www.comedy.co.uk/sitcom_mission/workshops/2/

For further details, email info@every1sacritic.com

Norfolk: The Comedy Writing Weekend

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th June 2010

Make a holiday of it. North Norfolk's coastline is stunning. Book a holiday ([click here](#) to see examples of self-catering cottages) then take two days out to write some comedy.

Lectures about writing are like poems about swimming: they may be inspiring but they don't improve your technique. The only way to learn how to write is by writing.

This course isn't fatal but it is hard work. Over the weekend you'll participate in intensive, practical exercises that are designed to develop the basic skills you need to make your material funny in any format or medium you're writing for: film, television, radio, theatre, stand-up or print.

DATE:

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th June

Registration: 10.15am

Workshop: 10.30am to 5pm

VENUE:

Theatre Royal

Theatre Street
Norwich
NR2 1RL

PRICE:
£150 (concessions £135)

FURTHER DETAILS FROM:
E-mail: paul.bassettdavies@euroscript.co.uk
Telephone: 07958 244656

[Click here for information about the tutors Paul Bassett Davies and Fenella Greenfield.](#)

Please note, places are strictly limited as you will be writing and reading out your work all weekend.

Plotting and Pitching TV and Radio Drama.

Manchester Metropolitan University in collaboration with Edge Hill University, presents two Saturday workshops for scriptwriters.

Saturday 19th June in Manchester: Phil Collinson, currently producer of *Coronation Street*, ex producer of *Dr Who* leads a workshop on storylining and working in writing teams. Phil will be assisted by Simon Judd of BBC Development. Workshops will be facilitated by professional writers and teachers Julie Wilkinson and Ian Pike. You'll work on existing storylines and develop your own ideas.

Saturday 16th October at the Rose Theatre, Edge Hill University near Liverpool: writers Tony Marchant and Sally Wainwright will be speaking during a day concentrating on pitching original stories. The day will offer a chance for writers to shape and pitch original ideas for new one-off or series dramas to a panel of producers led by development consultant Jo Calam, formerly of Granada and the BBC.

All material written and presented during these events remains the property of the writer.

The events are intended for writers who have written complete scripts and writers with some production experience who would like to sharpen their skills in writing series drama and to pitch original ideas to professional producers.

For more information go to www.mmu.ac.uk/plot-pitch or contact project manager Jenny Kane and the team at plot-pitch@hotmail.co.uk

Search engine optimisation training

James Daniel is running a course in South Wales on search engine optimisation and writing for the web. The course will help writers who want to create a new revenue stream producing copy for business websites.

The course is running on Thursday 17th June. For more information please visit www.seotrainingwales.co.uk.

Opportunities

One-act play competition

Katapult Productions is looking for submissions for one-act plays with a limit of five characters. The winning entry will be performed in September by a professional theatre company for four performances at Sarah Thorne Theatre Club, Broadstairs, Kent.

Deadline 2nd July. Plays should be sent to James Watts, Katapult Productions, 17 Priory Hill, Dover, Kent CT17 0AA . There is no entry fee, but please include contact details and an SAE if you need your script to be returned.

What Members Are Getting Up To

SALLY ABBOTT wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 24th May.

CAREY ANDREWS wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Friday 28th May.

MARK BURGESS has written *A Modern Love Story*, part of the *Three Tales From Tate Modern* series of short stories on BBC Radio 4. Written to celebrate ten years of Tate Modern it is being broadcast at 3.30pm on Tuesday 11th May and is read by Clare Corbett. *A Modern Love Story* is a Pier Production for BBC Radio 4 and is directed by David Blount.

MARK BURT wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 24th May.

CHRIS CHIBNALL wrote the episode of *Doctor Who* "*The Hungry Earth*" going out on BBC1 at 6:15pm on Saturday 22nd May.

DAVID CROFT and JIMMY PERRY wrote the episode of *Dad's Army* "*Enemy within the Gates*" going out on ITV1 at 7:45pm on Saturday 22nd May.

SIMON CROWTHER wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Friday 28th May.

MARY CUTLER wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Sunday 23rd till Friday 28th May with each episode repeated at 2:00pm the day after its original broadcast.

BILL GALLAGHER wrote the concluding episode of *The Prisoner* "*Checkmate*" going out on ITV1 at 10:10pm on Saturday 22nd May.

ROB GITTINS wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th May.

JONATHAN HARVEY's new play *Canary* is on at the Hampstead Theatre from 19 May - 12 June. In 1960s Liverpool, two lovers hide in the closet, then are forced to go their separate ways. While pits close and dole queues grow, a couple of runaways find Heaven in 1980s London. In 2010, despite civil partnerships and an equal age of consent, the paparazzi chase a love story that could tear a family apart. Laced with surreal touches and pitch-black humour, *Canary* is an unflinching story about love, honesty and being brave enough to sing out. www.hampsteadtheatre.com

NICOLA JONES'S radio play *Scorched* goes out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Tuesday 25th May.

PETER KERRY wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 26th May.

JESS LEA wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 25th May.

MYLES McLEOD co-wrote *Sticks* the new short animated series by The Brothers McLeod *Sticks* has launched on the BBC Comedy website with episode *Prisoner*.

More information here: <http://www.brothersmcleod.co.uk/posts/view/315>

First video is here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/comedy/clips/p007yfbo>

ABI MORGAN is working on an adaptation of *The Invisible Woman*, Claire Tomalin's award-winning biography of Ellen Ternan, a young actress who has an affair with Charles Dickens. It is being produced by Stewart Mackinnon at Headline Pictures for BBC Films.

TOM NEEDHAM wrote the episode of *The Bill "Ultimatum"* going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Tuesday 25th May.

CHRIS THOMPSON wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm and 8:00pm on Thursday 27th May.

PETER VINCENT co-wrote the episode of *When the Dog Dies "Squeaky Shoes"* going out on Radio 4 at 11:30am on Friday 28th May.

NICK WARBURTON'S dramatisation of *The Snow Goose* goes out on Radio 4 at 3:00pm on Sunday 23rd May as part of Radio 4's *Neglected Classics* season.

Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 40 Rosebery Avenue, EC1R 4RX; erik@writersguild.org.uk; www.writersguild.org.uk; tel +44 (0) 20 7833 0777. This email bulletin is a service to members and associates of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain. Comments, suggestions and requests to be removed from the distribution list should be sent to erik@writersguild.org.uk. Items are included from a variety of sources. The Guild does its best to check everything and make corrections when necessary but we will not accept responsibility for mistakes and omissions. You are advised to check terms and conditions before entering any commitments. Copyright Writers' Guild of Great Britain and suppliers of items 2010.