

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 431, Friday 23rd July 2010

Guild News

Writers' Guild website

Theatre Committee New Writing Encouragement Awards: nominations open

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

Writers' Guild Awards for Books

Events

A Sense of Wonder - Tomohiro Maekawa in Conversation

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

BFI Brian Clemens Season

Courses and Workshops

Conference on self-publishing

Treatment writing

Opportunities

Get creative in Andalusia

Call for submissions for Revival

Liverpool Lennon Poet Competition

NW venue looking for touring theatre companies

Current opportunities courtesy of Inktip

A message from the London Screenwriters festival 2010

Script Factory Development Scheme with £1,000 bursary

John Whiting Award

Sentinel Literature Festival Poetry Competition 2010

Arvon International Poetry Competition

The Tony Lothian Biographers' Club Prize 2010

The Terry Pratchett prize

Writers' retreat in Rabbin Burns country

What Members Are Getting Up To

Guild News

Writers' Guild website

Over the past week you may have had trouble visiting our website.

Problems with the security of the servers hosting the Guild's website have now been fixed and we're awaiting clearance from Google. If you are still experiencing problems or still feel that your computer might be at risk, you can visit the Guild's blog <http://writersguild.blogspot.com/> which has not been affected by the same problems. We will be putting any urgent news on the blog as well as on the main website.

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

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 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 they 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

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.

Events

A Sense of Wonder - Tomohiro Maekawa in Conversation

Date: 3rd August 2010 from 6.30pm

Venue: The Japan Foundation, London

Free event but please book in advance

Tomohiro Maekawa is an intriguing Japanese playwright whose compelling works have caused a stir in Japanese theatre in recent years, making Maekawa one of Japan's most popular playwrights. In this event, Maekawa will, for the first time in the UK, discuss the style and philosophy of his work and his approach to playwriting by showcasing some past examples. Maekawa has been selected as one of the resident playwrights in this year's Royal Court International Residency programme

and will talk about his first experience of working with UK professionals gained through this prestigious programme.

This event is a very special opportunity to hear from one of the most sought-after and exciting playwrights Japan has produced in recent years, responsible for setting a new standard at forefront of contemporary theatre.

This events is free to attend. For further details and booking information, please visit the site here <http://www.jpf.org.uk/whatson.php?department=art#257>

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

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

Courses and Workshops

Conference on self-publishing

After the success of last year's publishing conference at Kingston University, this year's conference, which runs from 3rd-4th September, is on the highly topical subject of self-publishing. The approach will be objective and practical, discussing the various options and choices involved. To find out more, see www.kingston.ac.uk/publishingconference. There is a range of prices and a discount for those who book before 6th August.

Treatment writing

Wed 4th August, 2:30-5:30pm

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.

Opportunities

Get creative in Andalusia

Earlier this year, NWN director Claire visited Casa Acequia, a retreat centre set in a beautiful old olive grove in Algodonales in Andalusia. Run by Karin and Lasse, the centre currently provides creative writing and other arts opportunities in a wonderfully relaxed setting. As well as eight bedrooms for guests set around a private courtyard, the site also has a fantastic meeting room, not to mention a pool, lots of terraces to lounge about on, an organic vegetable garden and almost best of all, Karin's amazing cooking.

Writers looking for a place to buckle down for some work can book a room for individual writing time, or attend one of the courses that Caroline Mitchell – who works at Sunderland University and now lives in Spain – is developing there. It would be a perfect setting for a writers' group to spend a week or for a staff retreat. You can find out more at www.casa-acequia.se and if you'd like to join a mailing list to find out what might be coming up, contact Caroline at caroline.mitchell@sunderland.ac.uk. A new site that will detail the courses will be launched soon and they will let you know about it when it arrives.

Call for submissions for Revival

Revival Poetry Journal is calling for submissions from local, national and international poets for the next issue which will be published in Limerick in October 2010. Deadline for submissions: 31st August. For more information, see www.revivalpress.com.

Liverpool Lennon Poet Competition

The Liverpool Lennon Poet 2010 competition is part of the John Lennon Tribute Season, a two-month cultural programme of events in Liverpool, which will mark 70 years since Lennon's birth and 30 years since his untimely death. Poets from across the world are encouraged to enter unpublished verses in three categories, which celebrate the life of the music legend. For more information, see www.beatlesstory.com. Deadline for entries: Friday 10th September.

NW venue looking for touring theatre companies

They Eat Culture would like to invite touring theatre companies based in the North East to get in touch if they're interested in taking their shows to the North West. Based at The Continental, Preston, They Eat Culture is supported by Lancashire County Council and Preston City Council and develops cultural and creative opportunities in Lancashire. It has got a great events space, capacity 100 seated, that's just about to be black boxed, and kitted out with a new lighting rig and sound desk and is always looking for good shows, including new writing, and family friendly/children's theatre.

Contact shirley@theyeatculture.org or on 01772 499 207. For more information, see www.theyeatculture.org and www.newcontinental.net.

Current opportunities courtesy of Inktip

Catsnake – Parkour/Freerunning Scripts

A note from Inktip.

"We are looking for feature-length stories in any genre featuring parkour/freerunning action sequences - i.e. something in the vein of *Banlieue 13*, or *Breaking and Entering*. Note: Please do not submit if you have submitted to us before. Parkour, or Freerunning, is the physical discipline of training to overcome any obstacle within one's path by adapting one's movements to the environment. It is usually expressed in film in a chase scene, such as in the rooftop sequence in *Casino Royale* or early Jackie Chan films or Tony Jaa films feature elements of parkour throughout city streets.

"Freerunning must be an integral part of the action. The storyline does not have to revolve around parkour specifically, e.g. "The Bourne" series or featured parkour action scenes. The production team includes a very well-known freerunning name who is willing to co-produce and star in the picture.

"Budget will not exceed \$5 million. WG and non-WG writer may submit.

"Our credits include *Baseline* and *The Grind*."

To submit to this lead, please go to:

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

Enter your email address.

Copy/Paste this code: **dnjst7e2zg**

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 film-makers, 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

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

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, 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

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.

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, email: writingunlimited@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01204 389327/ 07866278671.

What Members Are Getting Up To

SIMON BLACKWELL wrote the episode of *The Old Guys* going out on BBC1 at 9:30pm on Friday 30th July.

ANNA CLEMENTS wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Friday 30th July.

PAUL COATES wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 27th July.

KATE COXON'S new book *Coeliac Disease* is being published on 1st August. It provides clear and comprehensive information about what the disease is and how it can be treated, proving that it is possible to live successfully with the condition.

SARAH DANIELS' radio play *Humanly Possible* goes out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Tuesday 27th July.

STELLA DUFFY's first historical novel, *Theodora, Empress, Actress, Whore*, has been published by Virago. Theodora of Constantinople rose from nothing to become the most powerful woman in the history of Byzantine Rome.

CHRIS FEWTRELL wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Friday 30th July.

JOHN FINNEMORE wrote the first episode of the new season of *Cabin Pressure "Helsinki"*; he also stars as Arthur. The episode goes out on Radio 4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 27th July.

CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON'S radio play *White Chameleon*, which he also narrates, goes out on Radio 4 at 2:30pm on Saturday 24th July.

HENRIETTA HARDY wrote the episode of *Doctors* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Monday 26th July.

JONATHAN HARVEY wrote the episode of *Rev* going out on BBC2 at 10:00pm on Monday 26th July. He also wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Monday 26th July.

MARTIN JAMESON wrote the episode of *Casualty "Making Other Plans"* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Saturday 24th July.

Liberated Theatre presents the world premiere of *Next!*, a one-woman exposé of life behind the scenes and a brave comic satire in search of the dream. Guild member KIKI KENDRICK invites you into the "glamorous" world of acting where you'll find there's more muck than stardust. 5th-30th August, Edinburgh Festival, Baillie Room, Assembly Hall (venue 35) at midday.

JOHN KERR wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Thursday 29th July.

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

JANE MARLOW wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 29th July.

RIK MAYALL co-wrote the episode of *Rik Mayall's Bedside Tales "Train to Paris"* going out on Radio 4 at 11:15pm on Wednesday 28th July.

TONY McHALE wrote the episode of *Holby City "Two in Five Marriages"* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Tuesday 27th July.

KAY MELLOR will talk about her childhood in Leeds in *The House I Grew Up In* in the series of the same name on Monday 25 July at 9:00am.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/boot3vlo>

CHINA MIEVILLE's new book *Kraken* is now out in paperback. A dark urban fantasy thriller. Deep in the research wing of the Natural History Museum is a prize specimen, something that comes along much less often than once in a lifetime: a perfect, and perfectly preserved, giant squid. But what does it mean when the creature suddenly and impossibly disappears? For curator Billy Harrow it's the start of a headlong pitch into a London of warring cults, surreal magic, apostates and assassins. It might just be that the creature he's been preserving is more than a biological rarity: there are those who are sure it's a god. A god that someone is hoping will end the world.

STEVEN MOFFAT wrote the first episode of the new series *Sherlock "A Study in Pink"* starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman respectively as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson.

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

JOHN O'FARRELL is a self-confessed grump. He will be talking to psychologist Professor Richard Wiseman on BBC Radio 4 tomorrow morning, Saturday 24th July, at 10:30am asking for help from all this pessimism.

LESLEY CLARE O'NEILL wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 30th July.

HOWARD OVERMAN wrote the episode of *Misfits* going out on C4 at 10:00pm on Saturday 24th July.

STEWART PERMUTT'S new play *Real Babies Don't Cry* will play at the Gilded Balloon in Edinburgh at 5:15pm from August 4th-30th. A funny, bizarre tale of love, obsession and loss. Cast: Richard Dempsey, Janet Prince, Mandi Symonds. Director: Gene David Kirk. Designer: Cherry Truluck. Box Office: 0131 622 5552. There will be two pre-Edinburgh previews at Jermyn Street Theatre on July 27th and 29th at 7:30pm. Box Office: 020 7287 2875.

CHRISTOPHER REASON wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 26th July and at 7:30pm on Tuesday 27th July.

RICHARD STONEMAN wrote the episode of *Doc Martin* "Driving Mr McLynn" going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Friday 30th July.

SUSAN WILKINS wrote the episode of *Heartbeat* "The War of the Roses" going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Sunday 25th July.

VICTORIA WOOD will be interviewed on Woman's Hour at 10.00 am on Tuesday 27th July about her work with the Mines Advisory Group

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

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