

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 355, Friday 23rd January 2009

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Guild News

1. The Writers' Guild's New Home

The Writers' Guild office has moved from Britannia Street to **40 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RX** (nearest tubes: Farringdon and King's Cross)

Our main phone number and email addresses remain the same, but the old extension numbers no longer work. If you want to get through to a specific member of staff, please call the switchboard and ask to be transferred.

2. The Writers' Guild of Great Britain Cricket Club

After the very positive response from the last ad for the first ever W.G.G.B.C.C. (Any suggestions for a snappier title are most welcome) we would like to remind those keen to play that we will be organising several net sessions throughout the winter months and to come forward with dates when they would be available to come along.

As an incentive, we will be organising the sessions at the indoor nets at Lord's cricket ground for those who have ever dreamed of uttering the eternal phrase "When I played at Lord's". If you would like to come along for the practise sessions and more importantly for the actual games please email the Guild's admin assistant Erik Pohl at erik@writersguild.org.uk.

Guild Events

3. Touching A Nerve

Writers' Guild West Midlands Event

Date: Tuesday 24th February 2009

Time: 7pm

Venue: Birmingham Rep Theatre (St Paul's Suite)

Free to Writers' Guild members. £5 non-members/guests (payable on the door)

Please let us know you are coming by emailing Jenny Stephens at:
WMidWritersGuild@aol.com

Touching A Nerve looks at theatre that tackles controversial community issues.

How is it handled? What is the potential, what are the pitfalls? Does the playwright divide or unite communities by his or her examination of sensitive issues within them?

We will be joined by Janet Steel, artistic director of Kali Theatre Company, who has worked with over 50 new Asian Women writers. In 2004 she directed **Behzti**, a play that provoked violent protests from the Sikh community when it was staged at the Birmingham Rep. The theatre was forced to cancel the play on safety grounds and playwright Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti fled into hiding after receiving death threats.

Now Birmingham Rep is presenting **These Four Streets** (12-28th Feb), a play focussing on the Lozells riots of 2005. One of the writers, Naylah Ahmed, will be discussing the writing and production of this play. Naylah was one of the winners of this year's Bruntwood Playwriting prize at the Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre and is a producer on **Silver Street**, the radio soap opera on the Asian Network.

Using these two experiences as a starting point, we will discuss the role of drama in tackling community issues. How far should community views inform the piece, when does sensitivity become self-censorship, what is the role of theatre in these areas? Is it a matter of freedom of speech or of community rights?

Anyone interested in drama (or other writing) that explores complex community issues should find this a stimulating and possibly provocative evening.

Events

4. Poet in the City - Desert Blues - 6.30pm on Monday 26th Jan

In a perfect antidote to a gloomy January, *Poet in the City* is bringing together poets and musicians for a fantastic fusion of poetry and music from three continents.

Introduced by **Lucy Duran** of BBC Radio 3, the event will feature the distinguished poets **Patience Agbabi**, **David Constantine** and **Melanie Challenger**, and a 45 minute set of live music from the fabulous world-jazz ensemble, the **Adriano Adewale** group.

Tickets to this event can be booked online for £9.50 via www.kingsplace.co.uk
Otherwise tickets cost £11.50. Box office 0844 264 0321 (local rate).

For enquiries relating to your booking please contact tickets@kingsplace.co.uk For
general enquiries please email info@kingsplace.co.uk

Kings Place is at 90 York Way, London N1 9AG. See the map at

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/idmap.srf?x=530352&y=183430&z=110&sv=530352,183430&st=4&ar=Y&mapp=idmap.srf&searchp=ids.srf&lm=0>

5. The 4th Huddersfield Literature Festival 11th-15th March 2009

This is the 4th year of the festival and it is the biggest and best yet, with a cracking line up: Ian McMillan, John Cooper Clarke, Lemn Sissay, Joanne Harris and Mark E Smith. As well as a burlesque show to kick things off.

We all want literature festivals to be stimulating forums for debate and portholes for high minded ideas to enter our culture, but let's face it, they can be a bit boring. Puffed up Oxbridge poets stooped over pulpits reading impenetrable pentameters. Well, this festival is different.

You can have a look at it here: www.litfest.org.uk

6. Will your work be featured on the BBC Archive?

Roly Keating, Director of Archive Content will discuss the BBC's plans to improve public access to the BBC's television, radio and multimedia archive as well as the management of catch-up and archive content on the BBC iPlayer and on-demand television. Put your questions to him at this event, organised by the Society of Authors.

The event will be held on Tuesday 10th February 2009, 6-8pm at The Society of Authors, 84 Drayton Gardens, London SW10 9SB
(www.societyofauthors.org/how_to_find_us/) Cost: £7.50 for Society of Authors members, £10 for non-members (prices include VAT).

For full details of this meeting, including how to book, please contact rmorgan@societyofauthors.org quoting event ID 277

7. The Darwin Day Lecture 2009 with Professor Richard Dawkins

"Can British Science Rise to the New Challenges of the Twenty-First Century?"

It's never too early to book your ticket for the British Humanist Association's annual Darwin Day Lecture, chaired by Professor Richard Dawkins. 200 years after the birth of Charles Darwin, arguably Britain's greatest scientist, and 150 years after the publication of *On the Origin of Species*, Darwin's greatest work, what is the state of British science? Professor Sir David King will ask "Can British Science Rise to the New Challenges of the Twenty First Century?" at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 on Wednesday 11th February at 6.30pm.

Attendance at the lecture is £5 for members of the BHA and £7 for non-members. If you want to pay by debit or credit card, tickets are available from the BHA on 020 7079 3580. Alternatively you can send a cheque made payable to "British Humanist Association" and clearly marked "FOR DARWIN DAY LECTURE" with your name and a return address, to 1 Gower Street, London, WC1E 6HD.

This is a joint event with the South Place Ethical Society.

25 Red Lion Square, [Holborn](#), London WC1R 4R 020 7242 8032
www.humanism.org.uk

8. 2010 - The Year of Women in Theatre

A catalytic project aiming to unite the entire theatre industry in a proactive and permanent redress of gender balance in the onstage artform

You are cordially invited to attend 2010 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS:-

at Independent Theatre Council

12 The Leathermarket

Weston Street

LONDON SE1 3ER

on Wednesday 28th January at 11:00am

OR at Dance Base (Studio one)

14 – 16 Grassmarket

EdinburghEH1 2JU

on Monday 26th January at 2:00pm

THE TWENTY-TEN GROUP – a pro-active, non-producing organisation, is promoting the 2010 PROJECT to **unite the entire theatre industry, across the UK and Ireland** in a determined and co-operative rebalancing of gender representation on stage.

They aim to make contact with every **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ASSOCIATE & FREELANCE DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, PROGRAMMER, PLAYWRIGHT, PUBLISHER, AGENT, CASTING DIRECTOR** and many other industry professionals across the five countries, to inspire a concerted, creative response to this challenge.

If you would like to attend one of the two Project Development Meetings or find out more about the 2010 PROJECT, please email or call:

HELEN ALEXANDER

2010 PROJECT DIRECTOR

020 8543 4085 / 07876 128 418

twentytengroup@ymail.com

Courses and Workshops

9. Trespass Workshops: Book Now!

How to get published: Trespass workshops for writers and poets

Get your work published in Trespass magazine, plus learn a raft of invaluable skills like reviewing, interviewing, Quark and Indesign basics, poetry and short fiction workshops...everything you need to know in order to get published.

There's more. The best of the work produced will be published in *Trespass* magazine. Everyone who takes part will get to perform at a fabulous event in London, Leeds or Brighton. Sign up now!

Sessions will take place on Saturday mornings, venue: Goldsmith's or The London Magazine and Associated Publications Ltd office near Turnham Green.

They will also be running the course(s) in Leeds (May and June) and Brighton (July and August).

PLEASE SEND EMAILS STATING INTEREST TO trespassmagazine@yahoo.co.uk

10. The Comedy Writing Weekend

Saturday 28th February and Sunday 1st March 2009

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.

Working on your own, in pairs and in groups, you'll:

- write gags, quickies and sketches;
- create and develop comic characters;

- discover your own unique comic persona and write a stand-up monologue;
- write the outline for the pilot episode of your own original sitcom;
- and plunder the best source of comedy material you'll ever find - your own sad, lonely life.

Bring pencils, notebooks and a list of everything you hate about your friends and family.

DATE:

Saturday 28th and Sunday 1st March 2009

Registration: 10.15am

Workshop: 10.30am to 4.30pm

VENUE:

The Red Room

Walkabout

136 Shaftesbury Avenue

London W1D 5EZ

PRICE:

£150 (concessions £135)

FURTHER DETAILS FROM:

07958 244 656

[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.

Contact Information

e-mail: paul@hatmolester.demon.co.uk

11. Jan Etherington's Comedy Writing Course

Make 'em laugh was never more important than now. When times are hard viewers, listeners – and commissioners – look to humour, to lift the spirits. Well-written comedy will be much in demand.

Learn how to do it, with Writers' Guild member and award winning comedy writer, Jan Etherington, who is holding another of her successful weekend comedy writing courses on March 7/8th, at the Riverside Arts Centre, in Sunbury on Thames, Middx.

Jan, who co-created the prime-time hit television comedy series, Second Thoughts, Faith In The Future, Next of Kin and Duck Patrol plus many radio comedies, is also a successful journalist and broadcaster.

Bring your great idea, scene/sketch/ full script and sense of humour and lift your spirits – and your writing skills.

This weekend's theme will be **MAKE COMEDY COUNT**. The best comedies can tackle edgy, controversial subjects often better than drama. We look at the characters, dialogue and the story which will push your comedy from the mundane to the memorable.

£160 for the two days, includes delicious lunches. Places are very limited, so book early.

More details.....

www.comedycourse.biz

Tel: 020 8133 0110/ 0788 790713

Or email: comedycourse@hotmail.co.uk

12. The Power of Podcasting

London - 10th February

Reading - 26th February

Podcasting distributing downloadable audio programmes online is a dynamic way to deliver your messages directly to large audiences at minimal cost.

This new media tool for broadcasting punchy attractive audio over the internet is rapidly being adopted by organisations looking for exciting ways to reach new

audiences.

Knowing how to produce professional quality audio material allows PR and marketing departments to directly target radio stations and online multimedia news outlets with the exciting and relevant audio materials they want.

Podcasting is also brilliant for reaching internal audiences via an organisations intranet. Training, human resources and internal communications can all benefit from podcastings ability to put a human voice to corporate messages.

Whatever the application, the best thing about podcasting is that its incredibly cost-effective, yielding impressive results for minimal outlay. And thats important at a time of cutbacks and financial uncertainty.

Run by ex-BBC multimedia professionals, this practical one-day 'hands-on' workshop will guide you step-by-step through the process of creating hard-hitting audio communications that will motivate and inspire

[Read more...](#)

13. A Month of Sundays

The Musical Theatre industry is one of the most exciting, popular and lucrative art forms in the world **if you get it right**. With attendance to West End musicals increasing every year with record figures in 2007 and 2008, due in part to the public's positive reaction to reality TV programmes such as "How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria?" and the subsequent competitions for Joseph and Oliver!, now's never been a better time to perfect your writing skills and learn how to market your work to producers and agents.

A Month of Sundays is a short course which aims to address the need for the development of new writers in the UK Musical Theatre industry. The course title refers to the length of each course – literally a month of Sundays. Being a weekend course makes it easy for you to get involved with minimum disturbance to your work and social life.

If you are passionate about learning your craft, perfecting your writing skills or rediscovering your inspiration then 'A Month of Sundays' is an unmissable experience to encounter.

For more information, visit <http://www.chrisgrady.org/> or email tom@chrisgrady.org

Supported by RADA, Arts Council England (London) and OD Musical Korea.

Opportunities

14. S.O.S. - Send Out Stories!

Yes, this is the last chance for you budding authors to get into print. If your New Year's Resolution was to change your life then put pen to paper and enter unionlearn's Quick Reads competition. This could be the time to realise your dream, so that you become a published author in 2010. So don't waste a minute – get writing!

www.unionlearn.org.uk/qrcompetition

15. Pitching Competition

TV Eden and EPIC (The East of England Production Innovation Centre) have launched their second annual studio pitching competition with the winner picking up £10,000 in cash and support to produce a pilot at EPIC's Norwich based HD broadcast television studios.

Writers, Producers, Directors and members of the production community from across the UK and Europe are again being invited to pitch ideas for light entertainment, quizzes and even studio drama productions. The best six ideas will go on to pitch in front of a live audience and an industry panel, with the winner receiving £10,000 in cash and support, including two days access to EPIC HD studios and post-production and cash towards developing a pilot or taster tape for broadcasters.

For details and entry forms contact Mark Wells mark.wells@epic-tv.com. The closing date for entries is Friday 27th February 2009.

The Live pitching event will take place on Thursday 26th March.

16. New North American Scripts Wanted for Reading

The North American Actors Association (www.naaa.org.uk) based in Great Britain is pleased to announce a call for manuscripts for its 9th annual NAAA Playreading Festival Competition. Entries selected will be rehearsed and read by professional North American actors at publicized public readings in a popular London theatre in summer 2009.

These rehearsed readings are undertaken as showcase performances for the writer and the actors, and offer the writer the chance to have his/her work presented under professional direction and using the talents of professional actors. No remuneration will be given, although the exposure could lead to a full production or other opportunities elsewhere.

All the plays must be appropriate for a theatrical reading, so **no screenplays please**, and should not have been previously produced or mounted in the UK. The subject matter should deal with North American culture, and must have primarily North American casts as they will be cast from the membership of the NAAA, though the plays do not necessarily need to be set in North America. Play lengths should be approximately two hours for a full play and one hour or less for a one-act, though other running lengths will be considered.

All entries must be posted to arrive no later than **13th February 2009**. Please submit **two** copies of the script by post only and include a covering note with your name, email address and contact telephone number(s). To allow them to be as fair as possible while reading these submissions they ask that your personal details **only appear** on the covering letter. So please remove your name from the title page as well as any headers or footers. they guarantee accurate logging of your work for copyright purposes.

Although they are predominantly interested in new work, please also include if applicable a list of any readings, workshops or productions of the piece that may have already taken place. They will accept a maximum of two entries per person; no scripts will be returned, so please do not include return postage, and we will not enter into correspondence. Please note that only the winners will be notified, with the list of the winning plays available on our website after the date of selection. Please note also that we will not accept entries which: are submitted by email; arrive past the deadline; include only one copy of the play; or have previously been submitted.

Entries should be mailed to:

Claudette Williams

North American Actors Association

c/o RCGP

14 Princes Gate

Knightsbridge

London SW7 1PU

ENGLAND

17. Archie Markham MA Writing Short Story Scholarship

The English department at Sheffield Hallam University is launching a short story competition. This is linked to the prestigious MA Writing course which is taught at the university.

Applicants to the MA Writing (Short Story Prize) have the opportunity to apply for this scholarship, which waives the fee for full-time study on the degree. The scholarship is awarded to the best short story portfolio submitted with the application for a place on the course.

The award is in honour of Professor Emeritus E A Markham (1939-2008), who was a tutor at Sheffield Hallam University and a guiding spirit for the MA Writing.

Bev Green

Marketing Assistant

Faculty of Development & Society

Sheffield Hallam University

869 Yorkon Building, Collegiate Crescent Campus

* 0114 225 5658

* b.green@shu.ac.uk <<mailto:j.hollingsworth@shu.ac.uk>>

What Members Are Getting Up To

DAVID ASHTON'S radio play *Mclevy* begins on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Tuesday 27th January. There are four instalments.

RAY BROOKING wrote the episode of *Doctors "Moments In The Sun"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Tuesday 27th January.

MARK BURT wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 26th January.

STEVE CHAMBERS' radio dramatisation of James Ellroy's autobiography *My Dark Places* starring Toby Stephens as Ellroy and Matthew Marsh is being broadcast by BBC WORLD DRAMA Saturday 24th January 8:00pm on the BBC World Service.

DAVID CROFT and JIMMY PERRY wrote the episode of *Dad's Army* "*All Is Safely Gathered In*" going out on BBC2 at 6:30pm on Saturday 24th January.#

HELEN FARRALL wrote the episode of *Doctors* "*Tears of a Clown*" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Wednesday 28th January.

BILL GALLAGHER wrote the episode of *Lark Rise to Candleford* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Sunday 25th January.

ROB GITTINS wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on

Tuesday 27th and Thursday 29th January.

JAYNE HOLLINSON wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 30th January.

LINDA JAMES' book *How to Write Great Screenplays* is about to be published by How To Books.

DAVID LANE wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Wednesday 28th January.

PAULINE McLYNN's new novel, *Missing You Already*, has recently been published. It got a terrific review in the Irish Times:
<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/opinion/2009/0109/1231406001519.html>.

HEATHER ROBSON wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Monday 26th January.

CAROLE SIMPSON SOLAZZO wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Sunday 25th January till Friday 30th January with each episode being repeated at 2:00pm the day following its original broadcast.

STEVE TRAFFORD wrote the episode of *The Bill "Feet of Clay"* going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Wednesday 28th January.

NICK WOOD'S new play *My Name is Stephen Luckwell* opens next week in Nottingham and then tours until March mainly to schools and colleges. It returns to Nottingham Playhouse for the w/b 16th February.

KARIN YOUNG wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th January.