

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 381, Friday 24th July 2009

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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 will take full effect from 1 August 2009.

All renewals from that date will be at the new rates, which are 1.2 per cent of earnings from writing, subject to a minimum of £180 and a maximum of £1,800. For example if you earned £20,000 in the past year your renewal subscription will be £240. For more details on how to work out your subscription – including a table to save you calculating 1.2 per cents – please see the Guild website (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 regulations set by banks (but please note there are 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, for example Candidate Membership at £100.

All Guild subscriptions can be paid by cheque, credit or debit card, or by quarterly or monthly direct debit. We are planning to introduce a full online payment option shortly. In the meantime please follow the payment instructions included with any renewal letter or email

2. Hairspray half-price tickets

The Writers' Guild has a limited number of 2-for-1 theatre vouchers for members to see Hairspray at the Shaftesbury Theatre.

The free show pairs voucher entitles you to purchase 2 top-price tickets for £62.50 (normally £62.50 each). If you wish to buy more than 2 tickets, you can, at £31.25 each.

Monday - Friday at 7.30pm and Thursday at 3pm. Valid from 27 July - 9 October (excluding 17 - 28 August).

If interested, please send a stamped addressed envelope to The Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 40 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RX.

Events

3. Cannes the sequel:

Sequel to Cannes, is a networking opportunity for screenwriters, actors, film companies, film artists and other film professionals, to meet and mingle at the RNLI Training College in Poole, Dorset on Thursday 30 July from 7pm -11pm.

Evening events include the launch of a new national script writing competition

with a top prize of £500; a live demonstration of the new film location website and film talent database 'Location Poole',

speed networking sessions, plus the chance to see a live demonstration of the RNLI's Sea Survival Tank, which is available for hire to film production companies.

The events sponsors, UnLtd, Creative Dorset and the Poole Arts Development Unit will be available during the evening along with organisations such as Location Poole, South West Screen, UK Trade and Investment, The Writers' Guild of Great Britain, The Production Guild, A Member of the Skillset Board all are able to offer advice and support on funding, bursaries and training for individual artists or projects.

Rosie Jones, the event founder said "I'd really encourage any film professional to attend as the opportunities to promote your own skills and projects are all available on the night.

Tickets are £16.50 available through the Lighthouse box office 08700 668 701 or £25 on the door (cash only). For further details call Rosie on 07763 988662 or visit

www.sequeltocannes.biz or email rosiecreativethoughts@btinternet.com

Anne Hogben will be attending and looks forward to meeting Guild members at the event.

Courses and Workshops

4. 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 experience for emerging and established, mid-level writers at beautiful Kilmory Resort in Swift Current, Newfoundland. From October 13-17, 2009, writers are invited to join experienced, award-winning Faculty writers for workshops, one-on-one discussions and peaceful surroundings in which to pursue their work.

Three experienced mentors have signed on to serve as Frith Faculty for this inaugural event: Don McKay will lead the poetry, while Kevin Major and Jessica Grant will mentor groups in prose. \$595 includes all program and application fees, accommodation for four nights, meals and social events.

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

Space is limited, and applications are now being accepted. Writers are encouraged to check out the website at <http://www.literaryartsnl.com/> and apply as soon as possible. For more information, please contact pipersfrith@literaryartsnl.com

5. Screenwriting Course at BAFTA

Jul 30 2009 7 pm *until* 10 pm

with Georgina Wood, Award-winning writer of Watermark

Cost £25

Full details at www.onthetake2.co.uk

6. Comedy Course

Do you ever watch comedy on television and think you could do better? Do you make people laugh and want to use that talent to make money? This London based course, taught by a professional and commissioned scriptwriter, teaches you all the techniques of comedy writing giving you the tools you need and the practical advice to get your comedy noticed.

Monday July 27th 7-9pm for six weeks. Price £130
Email paul@seriouslywise.co.uk

www.seriouslywise.co.uk

01932 592 151

Opportunities

7. High Tide seeks new plays

HighTide is open for play submissions for HighTide Festival 2010.

HighTide are looking to fully produce and premiere new works by emerging writers.

HighTide welcome international scripts, written in English, on the basis that all selected writers are available in the UK for the dramaturgy, rehearsal and production period.

The play should be sent to the address below, and must have a title page with author's name, address and telephone number. **Scripts will not be returned.**

The play must also be emailed to scripts@hightide.org.uk

Please enter your name and title of script in the subject line.

Submission deadline: **31st July 2009.**

Please send all submissions to:

HighTide
24a St John Street
London EC1M 4AY

The Festival 2010 season will be announced in January 2010.

8. 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

323.654.5809 office

info@scriptapalooza.com

FINAL DEADLINE October 15th

9. Waterford Film Festival and new screenplay competition

The Waterford Film Festival will be launching this year's call for entries for the film competition as well as the new website in a few weeks' time but in the meantime we would like to announce a new short screenplay competition.

This is open to people from any nationality and from any country and all genres will be considered. We are looking for screenplays between 5-15 pages.

Short Screenplay Competition: Cash Award

Call for entries is now open. There will be 20 finalists, and each will receive a certificate and on the last day of the festival, an award of 600 will be awarded to one overall winner. The winning writer will also be able to meet a professional film-maker to discuss the development of the script and to discuss opportunities in getting the film made.

Submission Fee: 10 Euros

Deadline : August 17

www.waterfordfilmfestival.com

10. Loft Theatre New Voices

Loft Theatre is launching a new competition to promote the work of new writers.

To be judged by BAFTA Award-winning writer Andrew Davies

Deadline 30th July 2009

www.loft-theatre.co.uk

11. The Peter Wolff Theatre Trust Supports the Whiting Award

The Whiting Award supported by the Peter Wolff Trust will be hosted by the [Birmingham Rep](#) this autumn, and the award is now calling for plays to be submitted for consideration. This national playwriting award gives £6,000 to the writer of a new play that demonstrates an original and distinctive development in dramatic writing. Previous winners include [Bryony Lavery](#), [David Edgar](#), [David Greig](#), [Tanika Gupta](#), [Terry Johnson](#), [Joe Penhall](#), and [Tom Stoppard](#), for whom the award was instrumental in launching his writing career.

For this year's award, eligible plays must have had their first performance between 1 August 2008 and 31 July 2009.

Deadline: 17 August 2009

To be eligible to enter for the award the play must be:

- An original piece of writing. Plays created through a devising process, must have a named writer to be eligible. Adaptations and verbatim theatre will not be considered.
- Produced by a company within the subsidised sector. (Subsidy being defined as funding of £1,000 or more from the Arts Council, a local government body, a trust or a foundation.)
- Produced under a professional contract to [ITC](#), TWU, [WGGB](#), or [TMA](#) guidelines.
- Performed for the first time in the UK during the award time period.

The Judges will use the following criteria to decide the award:

- A play in which the writing is of special quality
- A play of relevance and importance to contemporary life
- A play of potential value to British Theatre

To find out more and apply, [visit the Birmingham Rep Theatre website](#)

12. STAGE International Script Competition

The Professional Artists Lab and the California NanoSystems Institute at the University of California, Santa Barbara continue their collaboration with the fourth [STAGE International Script Competition](#), open to plays about science and technology.

The winning script will receive a prize of \$10,000 at a public awards event with distinguished professionals from the worlds of theatre, film, science, and technology, to be held in conjunction with a staged reading/performance/demonstration with a cast of professional

actors.

- Submitted plays must explore scientific and/or technological stories, themes, issues, and events.
- Science and/or technology must figure prominently in the script, whether in form or content or both.
- Biographical dramas, history plays, and medical dramas are discouraged unless they significantly employ science and/or technology.
- Authors are strongly urged to avoid the stereotypes often assigned to science, technology, and those who engage in these disciplines.
- This competition is not open to plays written in the genre of science fiction.

Deadline: December 15, 2009

Entries will be accepted on or after June 15 2009.

To find out more and apply, [visit the STAGE website](#)

13. The Alfred Fagon Award

[The Alfred Fagon Award](#) is the pre-eminent Award for playwrights of African and Caribbean descent. It was established in 1996 in memory of the late Jamaican playwright and actor, Alfred Fagon. In 2009 the winner will be awarded £5,000 in recognition of his or her outstanding achievement in the art of playwriting.

Already an annual feature in the theatre calendar, this high-profile Award will be presented to the recipient at the Cottesloe, National Theatre, followed by a staged reading at the end of November 2009.

The Alfred Fagon Award is supported by [The Peggy Ramsay Foundation](#) and is awarded annually. To enter, submit your play, a CV, a brief synopsis of your entry and confirmation of Caribbean and/or African heritage as well as your residency in the UK.

Deadline: August 1 2009

To find out more and apply, visit [the Alfred Fagon Award website](#).

14. The CRA needs an administrator

The CRA is an alliance of UK organisations, established in October 2000, representing creators – authors and performers of all kinds. It lobbies on behalf of its members for a reform of moral rights, the introduction of regulation of authors' contracts to ensure that they are fair, and reforms relating to litigation and remedies.

The CRA needs one day's work a week from a self-employed administrator, able to run the secretariat and prepared to assist in lobbying and campaigning.

The deadline for applications is **4th September**. Note that the position is offered on a freelance/self-employed contract, until mid-2010 with the possibility of renewal in future years. The fee will be competitive and discussed with interviewees.

For details see www.creatorsrights.org.uk

What Members Are Getting Up To

KAY MELLOR'S drama *A Passionate Woman* will be aired on BBC1 in 2010. It will be broadcast as two feature-length films looking at an affair and its consequences 30 years later.

Sherlock, a reimagining of the Holmes stories co-written by STEVEN MOFFAT, will appear on BBC1 next year.

GUY JENKIN co-wrote *Outnumbered*, being aired on BBC1 on Saturday at 9.30pm.

MICHAEL RUSSELL wrote the "Mind Games" episode of *A Touch of Frost* showing on ITV1 on Saturday at 8.40pm.

ANN McMANUS and MAUREEN CHADWICK wrote (with Liz Lake) Sunday's instalment of *Hope Springs*, to be shown on BBC1 at 8pm.

SUSAN WILKINS wrote *The Royal*, going out on ITV1 on Sunday at 7pm.

PAULA MILNE wrote the drama *Whatever It Takes*, about the transience of modern celebrity, going out on ITV1 on Sunday at 9pm.

ROB KINSMAN wrote the "Toys" episode of *Doctors* being shown on BBC1 on Monday at 1.45pm.

SALLY ABBOTT wrote the episode of *EastEnders* being shown on BBC1 on Monday at 8pm.

JIMMY McGOVERN and ESTHER WILSON wrote the episode of *The Street* going out on BBC1 on Monday at 9pm.

PETER WHALLEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 on Monday at 7.30pm, while JONATHAN HARVEY wrote the one being aired at 8.30pm.

STEPHEN MOLLETT wrote the episode of *Doctors* being shown on Tuesday on BBC1 at 1.45pm.

EMILIA DI GIROLAMO wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on Tuesday on BBC1 at 7.30pm.

PETER LLOYD wrote the episode of *Holby City* being shown on Tuesday on BBC1 at 8pm.

PETER BOWKER's series *Desperate Romantics* continues on BBC2 on Tuesday at 9pm.

DAVID McDERMOTT wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 on Tuesday at 7pm.

TOM NEEDHAM wrote the "Die by the Sword" episode of *The Bill* being shown on ITV1 on Tuesday at 10.35pm.

MICHAEL AITKENS wrote the "Secrets and Spies" episode of *Midsomer Murders* going out on ITV1 on Wednesday at 8pm.

CHRISTOPHER REASON wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 on Thursday at 7.30pm.

LISA HOLDSWORTH wrote the "Fresh Starts" episode of *New Tricks* being shown on BBC1 on Thursday at 9pm.

PAUL ROUNDELL wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 on Thursday at 7pm and 8.30pm.

MATTHEW BARDSLEY wrote the "Cry Wolf" episode of *The Bill* being shown on ITV1 on Thursday at 9pm.

RICHARD BURKE wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on Channel 4 on Thursday at 6.30pm.

SIMON WARNE wrote the "Dolly Mixtures" episode of *Doctors* going out on BBC1 on Friday at 1.45pm.

CHRISTOPHER REASON wrote the episode of *EastEnders* being shown on BBC1 on Friday at 8pm.

LESLEY CLAIRE O'NEILL wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* being shown on ITV1 on Friday at 7pm.

MARTIN ALLEN wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 on Friday at 7.30pm, while MARK WADLOW wrote the one being shown at 8.30pm.

JESS LEA wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on Channel 4 on Friday at 6.30pm.

IAN POTTER wrote the *Afternoon Play: Antimacassars and Ylang Ylang Conditioner*, being aired on BBC Radio 4 on Monday at 2.15pm.

DAVID ASHTON wrote the *Afternoon Play: McLevy, the Chosen One*, being aired on BBC Radio 4 on Tuesday at 2.15pm.

MIKE HARRIS wrote the *Friday Play: The Prospect*, being aired on BBC Radio 4 on Friday at 9pm.

ROBERT FORREST's dramatisation of John Le Carre's *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* concludes on *Classic Serial: The Complete Smiley* on BBC Radio 4 on Saturday at 9pm.

GRAHAM LESTER GEORGE, former Guild Chairman, wrote *Washdays*, a short film officially selected for the Rushes Soho Shorts Festival, and one of the finalists. It can be viewed as part of the Rushes Short Films programme at The Institute of Contemporary Arts on Saturday 25th and Wednesday 29 July at 9pm.

MIRANDA WALKER co-wrote the play *Coronation*, a comedy set in 1953, which will be performed at Cheltenham's Everyman Studio Theatre from 22nd-25th July. Box office: www.everymantheatre.org.uk

EMMA REEVES' adaptation of *Carrie's War* continues its run at the Apollo Shaftesbury.

TONY READ's latest book in his Baker Street Boys children's novels, *The Case of the Haunted Horrors*, was published on 6 July, by Walker Books. This is the sixth and final book in the series, which continues to sell well both in the UK and overseas, and has been translated into seven different languages.

SUE TEDDERN has three of her short stories read by Lynda Bellingham on BBC Radio 4 on Tuesday 28, Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 July from 3.30 to 3.45 pm. The stories, about three women who take a short but eventful trip in a mobile home, are written to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jerome K. Jerome.

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