

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 390, Friday 25th September 2009

On the Guild's blog this week at writersguild.blogspot.com:

- [Stella Duffy interview](#)
- [Tom Stoppard honoured in Japan](#)
- [Court asked to delay Google Books hearing](#)
- [Jana Bennett sees 'market failure' in comedy, children's and drama](#)
- [John Collee on Creation](#)
- [Diablo Cody 'will sizzle again'](#)
- [Simon Van Booy wins O'Connor short story prize](#)
- [Emmy Award for Andrew Davies](#)
- [John Wells elected WGAW President](#)
- [Misreading fiction as fact](#)
- [Mike Stott 1944-2009](#)

If you want your blog or Twitter account added to those listed on the Guild blog, please contact the editor Tom Green (tom.green2@gmail.com)

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Guild News

1. Your Statement is in the Post

Many Writers' Guild members eagerly look forward, at this time of the year, to receiving their ALCS statements detailing the extra money they are being paid for photocopying and overseas cable TV rights. But some members have mentioned that the statements are a little late this year.

In recent weeks frequent postal strikes have played havoc with deliveries and it seems that quite a few envelopes from the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society may be languishing in a warehouse at the foot of a mail mountain. However ALCS

reassures us that the statements were all mailed in the week of 14-18 September, so if you haven't had yours yet please be patient.

ALCS has paid out a total of almost £6 million to just over 15,000 members – the average payment is £346.89. You should find that your payment has already been credited to your bank account, and if you wish to check your ALCS account and statement details, you can do so on their website -- <http://www.alcs.co.uk/>.

2. Writers' Guild AGM 2010

Guild members are asked to note that the 2010 AGM will take place on Friday 4th June. Venue to be confirmed nearer the time.

3. Writers of the Archers

If any writers on The Archers, past or present, would like to contribute to a feature in the next issue of the Guild's magazine, UK Writer, please contact the editor Tom Green on tom.green2@gmail.com

Events

4. Freed Speech

6.30pm on Wed 30th Sept 2009

A joint event with Modern Poetry in Translation and Amnesty International, presented by David and Helen Constantine and featuring poetry written by refugee and exiled poets. Taking place at the headquarters of Amnesty International UK at 17-25 New Inn Yard, Shoreditch, London EC2A 3EA. This is a FREE event but it is necessary to RSVP to *Poet in the City* c/o News International, 1 Pennington Street, London E9 8 1ST, call 07908 367488 or email info@poetinthe-city.co.uk

5. Open Mic

Bar Odder, Manchester

Oct 04 2009 7:30 PM *until* Oct 04 2009 11:55 PM

The next Filmonik Screening will be on Sunday October 4th, 7.30pm till Late, Odder, Oxford Road, Manchester.

Filmonik is the North West's premier "open mic" night for filmmakers, offering a warm welcome and a censure-free platform to those making films with the minimum of means. Films are not pre-selected, but simply booked in, and screened, sight unseen. Anyone is free to submit. Anyone is welcome to attend.

If you want to be a part of our next event, let us know. If you have work to screen, we want to hear about it. If you've a film you want to make, start making it. If you've something to show, all you need to is contact them and book a slot. If you're simply keen to see what's happening in the world of low budget independent short film, then come on down. They want full screens, and big audiences.

For more information, visit www.filmonik.com

Courses and Workshops

6. Free Writing Workshops

Organised by Exeter Northcott and Show of Strength Theatre Company in September and October to produce 5 minute monologues for

TRADING LOCAL –

Theatre in shops, Sidwell Street, Exeter, EX4

Part of Exeter Autumn Festival on Saturday 14th November.

Whether you are experienced, professional or a first time writer they would like to hear from you.

They are looking to create new 5 minute monologues to be performed by professional actors in Trading Local. This is a great opportunity to learn how to turn a story into a drama!

Pieces will be developed in workshops led by Shelia Hannon, Creative Producer of Show of Strength, and at least 12 selected for professional production.

Workshops are free so just turn up!

For more information email:

info@showofstrength.org.uk

7. Continuing Drama Coming Soon

As part of a change TAPS will be holding its Continuing Drama workshop in London this year. There will be **only one workshop**. Yes, one workshop so the chances of having your script chosen to be filmed on an actual TV set has **doubled** from last year! Your original 23 minute story could be filmed at ITV Yorkshire with a professional cast and crew. Wouldn't that be great for your showreel? If you're interested in finding out more about the course visit <http://www.tapsnet.org/course.html> or email shamsul@tapsnet.org for an application form.

Opportunities

8. FEEDBACK - a brand new Script Reading Service

80-90% of scripts sent to the industry or an agent are rejected outright

Don't let yours be one of them

FEEDBACK is a script reading service run by the NPA for writers, producers, directors and all those who work in script development. You can get your script read by an experienced industry reader who will give you knowledgeable and objective criticism and advice on rewriting the script - as many times as you need to. Then, when you do submit it, it has more chance of being optioned, sold and made.

Scripts for any dramatic medium can be submitted - film, TV, theatre and radio

Our readers are writers and other working professionally in the industry.

You want to see it on the screen?

You want it to be the best script it can be?

FEEDBACK will help you get there.

Competitive rates - big discounts for NPA members

It is possible to apply to Skillset for a bursary to cover the cost of reading. For more information, go to:

www.skillset.org.uk

9. NPA Character Development Course

Sat 17th & Sun 18th October 10:00 - 17:00

Characters are one of the great paradoxes of screenwriting. They are not 'real' people but constructs designed by the writer for a specific purpose yet, when done well, the audience feel as if they are old friends.

In this inspiring weekend, Jacqueline Genie will reveal how character is not separate from but integral to every aspect of the screenplay including structure, genre and plot. She will use case studies from successful films and a full range of effective, practical techniques to show how to create memorable characters with dimension that audiences will take to their heart forever.

Jacqueline Genie has worked as a freelance script consultant for several companies including Brass Hat Films (Premonition). In 2001, she co-founded the London Script Consultancy, script-editing hundreds of features in Europe and the US. She taught the popular weekly screenwriting classes Soho Screenwriters, intensive weekend courses and script development programmes for Film London.

She is also a professional screenwriter, currently commissioned to write a feature film treatment, adapted from a novel.

Members: £140 | Non Members £215

You can book your place online, or by contacting the NPA Office:

Telephone: 020 7613 0440

E-mail: queries@npa.org.uk

10. Edinburgh fringe 2010 - one-act playwriting competition

Award-winning Edinburgh-based BigVillage Theatre Co. is proud to announce an exciting new competition for aspiring playwrights.

Following the success of their writing competitions in 2005 and 2007, the group is now offering writers the chance to win a full-scale production of their play at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2010.

The winning script will be performed in a six or seven-night run at an established central Edinburgh venue in August 2010. The winning playwright will be welcome to attend rehearsals and will receive two complimentary tickets to each performance.

BigVillage founder Jacqui McIntosh says, "Bringing a new show to the Fringe can be a big risk, but BigVillage's base in Edinburgh all year round means we're really well-placed to deliver a good audience for new writing at the heart of the biggest arts festival on the planet.

It's a fantastic opportunity that we hope will excite and inspire a wide range of writers to enter."

The basic rules for entering the competition are as follows:

- Plays must run at between 40 and 60 minutes.
- Plays must feature roles for a minimum of six actors of any gender mix.
- Plays must not have been previously performed, even as rehearsed readings.
- Plays must be presented and formatted ready for the stage (i.e.

not radio or screenplays).

- Fringe-show conditions will favour scripts which feature a low budget, minimal set etc.
- Playwrights must hold copyright or permissions for everything in their script, including any music.
- Plays will be judged anonymously by three professional writers:

Lorraine McCann, Jim McSharry and Alistair Rutherford.

- Entries must be in the form of a Word document with a title

page giving the entrant's name and contact details. Entrant's names must not appear anywhere else on the script.

- Please note: PDF files are not acceptable.
- Maximum two entries per writer.
- The winner will be announced within two months of the closing

date. BigVillage reserve the right not to award the prize, if a suitable play has not been received.

- Closing date for entries is midnight on Friday 27th November

2009.

- If you have any queries, please contact the BigVillage secretary, Anne Robertson at the email address below.

Please send entries to: AnneRobertson252@yahoo.co.uk

More details on the winner's contract, can be found at: www.bigvillage.org.uk/news

11. TAPS - Muslim Writers Award Announcement

TAPS, the leading training scheme for new television writers, have worked closely with the Muslim Writers Award (MWA) to establish a new “Best Screenplay” category for the 2010 awards ceremony. TAPS is excited to be involved with the MWA and looking forward to reaching out to writers in the Muslim community and developing original voices for tomorrow’s mainstream media.

MWA and TAPS would like to announce that submissions for “Best Screenplay” category are now open. If you are a Muslim writer and have a short, a feature or an original TV episode script then visit www.muslimwritersawards.co.uk for submission details and deadlines.

What Members Are Getting Up To

FRANCES BRODY'S crime novel *Dying in the Wool, A Kate Shackleton Mystery*, will be published in paperback by Piatkus on 1st October. Visit www.frances-brody.com for details. There is a lunchtime signing at Waterstone's, Albion Street, Leeds on Friday 23rd October and a talk and signing at Waterstone's, Bradford Wool Exchange, on Thursday 29th October at 6.30 p.m.

AMELIA BULLMORE'S radio series *Craven* begins on Radio 4 at 7:45pm on Monday 28th September

ANNA CLEMENTS wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Friday 2nd October.

KATE DELIN wrote the episode of *Doctors "Wake Up Call"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on 28th September.

TIM DYNEVOR wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm and 8:00pm on Thursday 1st October.

RACHEL FLOWERDAY wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 1st and at 8:00pm on Friday 2nd October.

JEREMY FRONT'S dramatisation of fellow guild member SIMON BRETT'S *A Charles Paris Mystery: the Dead Side of the Mic* concludes on Radio 4 at 11:30pm on Wednesday 30th September.

CHRISSIE GITTINS'S first children's poetry collection *Now You See Me, Now You...* is now available to buy on Amazon (isbn 9780954328801). The book was shortlisted for the CLPE Poetry Award. It includes two Belmont Poetry Prize winning poems and twenty five credits for poems which have been anthologised. Sample poems and illustrations can be found on the children's poetry page of my website www.chrissiegittins.co.uk

TONY GREEN wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Wednesday 30th September.

ANDREW HOLDEN co-wrote the episode of *Waking the Dead "End Game"* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Sunday 27th September.

JULIE JONES wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Thursday 1st October.

JOHN KERR wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Monday 28th September.

NICK KING wrote the episode of *Doctors "The Black Widow"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Tuesday 29th September.

ROB KINSMAN wrote the episode of *Doctors "Nobody"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Friday 2nd October.

ANDREW KIRK wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 29th September.

CAROLINE MITCHELL wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 30th September.

ROLAND MOORE created the period drama series *Land Girls* and wrote the episode *Codes of Honour* going out on BBC1 at 6:10pm on Sunday 27th September.

P.G. MORGAN won the Emmy for Outstanding Writing in Documentary for the HBO/BBC film *ROMAN POLANSKI : WANTED AND DESIRED*. The award was shared with director Marina Zenovich and editor Joe Bini.

DAVID NOBBS'S radio comedy *The Maltby Collection* concludes on Radio 4 at 11:30am on Monday 28th September.

SHARON OAKES wrote the episode of *Doctors* "Billy Boy" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Thursday 1st October.

HOWARD OVERMAN wrote the episode of *Merlin* "The Once and Future Queen" going out on BBC1 at 6:40pm on Saturday 26th September.

COLIN WAKEFIELD will be reading from his *Verse History of England* at an event organised by Poet in the City entitled HEROES AND HEROINES at the National Portrait Gallery on National Poetry Day, Thursday October 8th, at 7:00pm. (www.poetinthecity.co.uk) (www.npg.org.uk/events)

SUE WALKER has her fourth psychological thriller, *The Burning*, published by Penguin, coming out on October 1st. Set in Edinburgh, it centres around a couple, Rowan and Murray Shaw, and their new home. All seems well until Rowan discovers that the house has a dark past. Forty years earlier, Murray's school friend lived in the house – until his shocking death in an unexplained arson attack. So, what has

drawn Murray back to the scene of such terrible memories and what else is he hiding from his wife? Soon, Rowan finds herself investigating her husband's dark past, wherever it may lead....

LAURA WATSON wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 28th September.

VICTORIA WOOD's play *Talent* is being revived at the Menier Chocolate Factory in London SE1 until 14th November(Box Office 020 7907 7060). Set in the world of a talent contest, it was her first breakthrough play, first performed at the Sheffield Crucible in 1978