

# The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 377, Friday 26th June 2009

On the Guild's blog this week at [writersguild.blogspot.com](http://writersguild.blogspot.com):

- Best Picture Oscar nominations doubled
- Female playwrights 'discriminated against' in US
- Why levies make sense (II)
- Why levies make sense
- Mind the funding gap
- Polly Toynbee on Digital Britain
- Ask not what Digital Britain can do for you...
- Doctor Who novelisations
- CBBC Q&A
- Rupert Creed on Every Time It Rains
- Bill Gallagher on The Prisoner
- Beyond 'narrative exhaustion'
- Lucy Lumsden is Sky's new Head of Comedy

## **Guild News**

### **1. How many women actually get paid work in TV and Radio?**

## **Guild Events**

### **2. Writers' Guild of Great Britain – 'ScreenLit' East Midlands Event - Guy Hibbert in conversation with David Edgar' - Nottingham**

### **3. Writers' Guild West Midlands Branch Meeting - Coventry**

### **4. New Writing inspired by 1984**

## Events

5. London Literature Festival 2 - 16 July Southbank Centre
6. David Morrissey to chair Roccliffe New Writing Forum in Nottingham  
30 June
7. Hotbed new writing theatre festival - Cambridge

## Courses and Workshops

8. Sitcom Writing Workshop
9. How to Write a Book to Build your Business and Increase your Profile
10. Your Screenplay Sucks!
11. TAPS Summer School

## Opportunities

12. Italian-speaking writer wanted for translation
13. Writers' Guild Full member looking for a Collaboration
14. Screenwriters Festival 2009 - Producer/Agent Speed Dating
15. Artists' Retreat in Rhodopa Mountains, Bulgaria

## What Members Are Getting Up To

## Guild News

1. How many women actually get paid work in TV and Radio?

In this week's Radio Times, a total of 65 writers are credited for television and radio drama. Of these, 45 are men and 20 are women - that's 69% men and 29% women. That's even worse than last week when it was a 70% male and 30% female. The previous week was even worse when out of a total of 52 writers, 41 were men and 12 were women - that's 75% men and 25% women. The week beginning 23rd May was worst with 80% male and a mere 20% female. That's only one in five jobs going to women writers.

Do you think the Guild should do something about this? Why not let us know what you think on the blog section of our website.

Join the discussion on the Guild blog: [Vamps, Vixens and Feminists](#)

## Guild Events

### **2. Writers' Guild of Great Britain – ‘ScreenLit’ East Midlands Event ‘Guy Hibbert in conversation with David Edgar’ Nottingham – 6.45pm Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009**

The Writers' Guild cordially invites you to a special event at the Broadway Media Centre, 14-18 Broad Street, Nottingham, NG13AL on Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup> between 6.45pm and 8pm.

From 29th June 29<sup>th</sup> until 5th July Broadway Nottingham is playing host to ScreenLit – an exciting new festival celebrating film, television and writing (see [www.broadway.org.uk/festival](http://www.broadway.org.uk/festival) for more information). The Guild is delighted to support the festival, stay in touch with existing members and also encourage the recruitment of new members.

The event will start with a conversation between playwright David Edgar (President of the Guild) and the award-winning screenwriter Guy Hibbert (*Five Minutes of Heaven, Omagh*), about writing for the screen. This will be followed by a questions and answers session and a reception that should offer a great opportunity to network with fellow writers from the East Midlands region over a glass of wine.

Our event is FREE but will be followed at 8pm by a ticketed event – a screening of Guy's new film '*Five Minutes of Heaven*', winner of the world screenwriting award at the recent Sundance Film Festival. Those interested in purchasing tickets for the 8pm screening of '*Five Minutes of Heaven*' (£6.20) and/or for the 3pm Paul Shrader Masterclass (£20) can contact Broadway by telephone (01159526611) or book on-line at [www.broadway.org.uk/festival](http://www.broadway.org.uk/festival)

If you are intending to come to the event, please RSVP to Erik Pohl in the Guild office at [erik@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:erik@writersguild.org.uk). Numbers are limited so we will deal with requests on a first come first served basis and we recommend you book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment..

### **3. Writers' Guild West Midlands Branch Meeting - Coventry**

Date: Monday 6th July 2009

Time: 7.45pm

Venue: Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

Come and meet Hamish Glenn, Artistic Director of the Coventry Belgrade Theatre who will talk about the theatre since its recent re-opening and plans for the future.

This is also a networking and forward planning event. Discussions will include:

- \* Feedback from the Writers' Guild West Midlands questionnaire and issues arising
- \* Ideas for future events and activities
- \* The current structure of the West Midlands Branch and opportunities for involvement

Please let us know you are coming by emailing Jenny Stephens at:  
[WMidWritersGuild@aol.com](mailto:WMidWritersGuild@aol.com)

### **4. New Writing inspired by 1984 - invitation to Guild members**

First Thursdays at The Kowalsky Gallery

A collaboration between DACS and The Writers' Guild of Great Britain  
Thursday 2 July, 6pm - 9pm

6.45-7.45pm Readings and performances from writers

Abby Ajayi, Stella Duffy, Tom Green, Alexis Flynn, Gail Renard & Shelley Silas will each give a reading of their work especially composed for the evening and inspired by work on display.

The Kowalsky Gallery  
33 Great Sutton Street  
London EC1V 0DX

This event is free, but places are limited so booking is essential.  
To book: [info@kowalskygallery.co.uk](mailto:info@kowalskygallery.co.uk) or 020 7336 8811

Exhibition runs: 27 May – 21 August 2009  
Monday - Friday, 10am - 5pm by appointment  
[www.kowalskygallery.co.uk](http://www.kowalskygallery.co.uk)

DACS, the Design and Artists Copyright Society, is the UK's copyright society for artists and visual creators. The Kowalsky Gallery provides a platform for showcasing work by artists who use DACS services.

## Events

### **5. London Literature Festival 2 - 16 July Southbank Centre**

The 2009 London Literature Festival promises an enticing programme of the world's best writing, internationally renowned music, poetry and path-breaking debate, with unique headlining events from Buzz Aldrin, Arundhati Roy, Benjamin Zephaniah, Sarah Waters, Lemn Sissay, Amartya Sen, Peter Ackroyd, Martin Bright, Billie Whitelaw, and Vikram Seth.

From 2 to 16 July the festival brings both established and emerging talents alongside an exciting programme of new live performance of much-loved classic stories.

You can enjoy an outdoor production of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, an intimate storytelling of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, two rare stagings of Samuel Beckett's *Not I*, and Shakespeare's sonnets set to music by Gavin Bryars and other musicians, including Antony Hegarty.

Read, reflect, join in, and respond, with bibliotherapy sessions from The School of Life and Southbank Centre Book Club. Get involved at our Southbank Centre Creative Writing Summer School.

[www.southbankcentre.co.uk/festivals-series/london-literature-festival-09](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/festivals-series/london-literature-festival-09)

## **6. David Morrissey to chair Rocliffe New Writing Forum in Nottingham 30 June**

The film industry's leading lights help BAFTA and Rocliffe provide an interactive platform for New Writing.

Actor David Morrissey (State of Play, Blackpool) has been announced as the next chair for the BAFTA Rocliffe New Writing Forum taking place in Nottingham on 30 June.

Tickets are available now from the Broadway Cinema website:  
<https://broadwaysales.clients.newmanonline.org.uk/book>

### **ABOUT THE FORUM**

The BAFTA / Rocliffe New Writing forum is both a platform for new writing, and a networking event. Created in 2000, the original format selects three 7-8 minute script extracts - feature film, short film, television drama, sitcom, theatre, radio or sketches.

The pieces are cast by a casting director, and rehearsed by professional actors and directors on the evening. A narrator sets the piece in context and the extracts are then performed to an industry audience of producers, development executives, directors, actors and literary agents.

Following each performance, the writers received feedback from the industry co-chair and answered questions from the audience. The evening is rounded off with a Q&A with the event host and a relaxed networking session.

The benefits to a writer, new or seasoned, are multiple: hearing their work read by professional actors; a development focused discussion generated by the readings; exposure to and advice from experienced industry members; feedback from an audience and an invaluable method to test out new concepts and material. Given the often isolating nature of the industry, the New Writing Forum creates the ideal environment for networking.

## **7. Hotbed new writing theatre festival - Cambridge**

Menagerie theatre company are excited to announce that Hotbed new writing theatre festival will open on the 25 June at The Junction in Cambridge, with a huge and exciting range of productions of brand new work, rehearsed readings, guest shows, seminars and workshops taking place every day until the 4th July.

All you have to do is write a one page play on the theme of 'Competition' and email it to [office@menagerie.uk.com](mailto:office@menagerie.uk.com) before 1st July. Full details can be found here:

<http://www.menagerietheatre.co.uk/hotbedfest/one-page-play-competition-athon/>

The winners are decided by the audience each night and it's all for charity, with the winner of our Grand Final donating £250 to a good cause of their choice.

Even if you don't submit an entry, we hope to see lots of you at some of the many events taking place over the course of the festival.

## Courses and Workshops

### 8. Sitcom Writing Workshop

Production company Every 1's a Critic held a sitcom showcase competition at the Leicester Square Theatre in May 2009. Our judges were Lucy Lumsden (then Head of Commissioning, BBC TV), Jane Berthoud (Head of Comedy, BBC Radio), Michaela Hennessy-Vass, (Commissioning Editor, Scripted Comedy, ITV) and Andrew Newman (Head of Comedy, Channel 4).

Our writers' work was seen by (among others) Baby Cow, Avalon, Tiger Aspect, Objective, Hat Trick, Talkback, Kudos, So! TV and Roughcut.

The winner has since had his work commissioned by the BBC (and is now represented by PBJ Management), another of the finalists is in talks with BBC Radio, and three others are in discussion with production companies.

Their next workshop, How To Get In The Yes Pile, is this Saturday (27th June) in East London. Hours are 11-6 and the cost is just £40 or £45 with a hot pub lunch part-subsidised by them.

Email [info@every1sacritic.com](mailto:info@every1sacritic.com) for details, and see our website for more details about the workshops.

<http://www.every1sacritic.com/Every1sacritic/Workshops.html>

### 9. How to Write a Book to Build your Business and Increase your Profile

Have you ever thought about writing a book but don't know where to start, or have started to write only to stall with it?

At this workshop you will work in a small group with publishing expert, Jacqueline Burns who has worked on many

bestselling non-fiction books. You will pitch and get feedback on concepts that could be worked into a book,

and brainstorm your all-important book title.

**This workshop will show you how to create a book or e-book that you can use to generate income, market your services and establish you as an expert in your niche.**

You will:

- **Work on title, concept and content that really works**
- **Find out how to pitch to publishing houses or how to self-publish your book**
- **Receive a free step-by-step guide to writing and publishing your book**
- **Have access to a little black book of publishing experts**

A book provides opportunities to increase your income, expand your client base and give you greater credibility in your niche.

It gives you a chance to showcase your work and to differentiate your business in the marketplace, elevating you above the competition.

**Price: Was £377, now just £197 for bookings before July 3rd including a FREE self-publishing Guide**

**Book now for Friday, July 17th – limited places available – a maximum of 8 people only**

Presented by Literary Agent and co-founder of the London Writers' Club, Jacqueline Burns.

Read about her wealth of experience on: [www.publishabestseller.com](http://www.publishabestseller.com)

**Don't miss out, email for a place now: [jacq@publishabestseller.com](mailto:jacq@publishabestseller.com)**

## **10. Your Screenplay Sucks!**

Fatal Errors New (and experienced) Writers Make!

An intensive and informative workshop with William M. Akers, author of "Your Screenplay Sucks! 100 ways to Make It Great"

Thursday 2nd July 2009 6.30 - 8.30 pm

Tickets £15 (pay on the door)

To book your tickets please email [beka@metfilm.co.uk](mailto:beka@metfilm.co.uk)

Met Film School

Ealing Studios

Ealing Green

London W5 5EP

## **11. TAPS Summer School Programme**

Kick off the summer with a series of one day workshops aimed to inform, entertain and inspire.

From Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August TAPS will offer industry focussed workshops as put forward by its Artistic Advisory Board, made up of forward thinking industry professionals.

The following workshops have been confirmed on the dates below at a London location:

### **Comedy – TV Sitcom Workshop**

#### **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July**

Meet working industry professionals in the comedy business. Submit the first 5 pages of your own TV sitcom idea and watch your words come to life (or death) as professional actors read your lines and discuss your ideas in a constructive workshop environment.

## **Beyond the Usual Suspects – Criminology & Character Creation Workshop**

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July**

Find out how to write convincing characters with Met Detective **Jackie Malton**, the inspiration for DI Tenant in Prime Suspect and long term story consultant on The Bill, and Bill Writer **Stuart Morris**.

## **Screaming ‘Blue Murder’ – TV Drama Series Workshop**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**

Producer **Mike Dormer** will take you, step by step, through the process of turning a one line idea into an episode of the popular ITV1 show **Blue Murder**.

Additional workshops will include; Scriptwriting Software - Using Final Draft; Genre; Script Analysis; The 10-minute Script (2 days); Writing for Video Games. The exact dates of these workshops are yet to be confirmed and further information will follow.

Visit the TAPS website [www.tapsnet.org](http://www.tapsnet.org) for more information or email [Shamsul@tapsnet.org](mailto:Shamsul@tapsnet.org) for an application form.

## **Opportunities**

### **12. Italian-speaking writer wanted for translation**

Andy Jordan Productions is looking for a writer who could translate a one-hour long new documentary style play devised and developed by a young Italian theatre company from Italian into English of sufficient polish to be reasonably ready to be performed in English. We will then refine the text in the final rehearsals. We are co-presenting this piece with this Italian company at the Edinburgh Festival where they will perform it in English. There will be a modest fee available.

Contact Andy Jordan direct at [andy@andyjordanproductions.co.uk](mailto:andy@andyjordanproductions.co.uk) or on 07775 615205

### **13. Writers' Guild Full member looking for a Collaboration**

Matt Davies is looking to collaborate with other comedy writers based in London. Matt is a fulltime, professional writer (late thirties, worked in TV and radio), looking for similar. He would like to find three or four London based writers to work on ideas and scripts.

Don't mind how much experience you have as long as you've written something you think is funny.

You need to be committed, positive, professional, up for team working and having a laugh.

If interested send your CV and a sample of your recent work.

[matthewdaviesemail@gmail.com](mailto:matthewdaviesemail@gmail.com)

### **14. Screenwriters Festival 2009 - Producer/Agent Speed Dating**

Need to speak to successful TV and Film Producers/Agents? Previous years' Delegates have requested it and now you've got it at the SWF's new Producer and Agent Speed Dating sessions.

You can introduce yourself, pitch an idea, pitch yourself or ask questions, and the best thing about it is that it's free to every Delegate who has purchased a Festival ticket.

Each Delegate chosen will get three five-minute meetings within the one hour session with the countries top TV and film producers, development funders and agents.

The Dating Session Days will take place on Tuesday 27th and Thursday 29th October.

Places are limited. So standby for what you need to know. In order to be eligible to apply on the 1st July to apply for one of these 40 places released that day (20 for each for the two days), you must have already bought a ticket to attend this year's SWF.

Entries submitted before 9.00am (GMT) July 1st 2009 will not be considered.

After 9.00am (GMT) on the 1st of July 2009 you will need to e-mail your name, your ticket confirmation number and area of your interest, e.g. Film or TV, the genre of your project and your preferred date (either 27/10 or 29/10) to [speed@screenwritersfestival.com](mailto:speed@screenwritersfestival.com); and the first forty applicants will get the first forty places on a first come first served basis.

**Producer Speed Dating** - More details will be out on the producers soon, but they include representatives from the BBC, UK Film Council etc. and independent producers like Kevin Loader, *Brideshead Revisited*, David Thompson, *Revolutionary Road* and Sam Taylor, *Guy X*

**Agent Speed Dating** - More details will be out on the agents soon but they include A. P. Watt, Blake Friedmann, Sayles Screen, Rod Hall Associates and Jill Foster Limited.

### **Rules and Regulations –**

- You MUST have purchased a ticket on or before Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 to be eligible;
- You MUST e-mail AFTER 9.00am (GMT) on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009, any e-mails received before 9.00am (GMT) will not be counted;
- You must send your name, your ticket confirmation number, your area of interest and your preferred date;
- They will TRY and connect you like with like i.e. you don't want to pitch a horror to a producer who is looking for a rom-com, but cannot guarantee your preference;
- Any meeting does not guarantee any deal, contract or any kind of option;

Any contact after the meeting is between the interviewee and the interviewer.

### **15. Artists' Retreat in Rhodopa Mountains, Bulgaria**

"My name is Silvia Haralambova. I am a Bulgarian contemporary artist in the field of fine and textile art, particularly in weaving. I live and work in the town Pazardzhik, Bulgaria.

Some of my pieces can be seen on my web page: <http://sharalambova.googlepages.com/>

Me and my husband have opened an Artist Retreat in the village Patalenitza in the Rhodopa Mountains, Bulgaria. We offer to textile artists, photographers, actors, writers, poets and translators from abroad the whole retreat house for living, atelier and 650 sq. m. yard, where they can live and create in quiet countryside surroundings and find inspiration for their work.

The proximity to the village Vetrendol - well known for its interesting [biological species](#) (including the Great Crested Grebe and the Little Bittern) makes it is suitable for artists working in the field of bird art.

Here is the web site of our residency with more detailed information about the location, the conditions, the rates etc."

<http://silviaretreat.googlepages.com/>

## What Members Are Getting Up To

SIMON J. ASHFORD wrote the episode of Robin Hood "Something Worth Fighting For" going out on BBC1 on Saturday 27 June and 6.45 pm.

\*\*\*

SARAH BAGSHAW wrote the episode of Emmerdale going out on ITV1 on Friday 3 July at 7.00 pm.

\*\*\*

SAMINA BAIG wrote the episode of EastEnders going out on BBC1 on Monday 29 June at 8.00 pm.

\*\*\*

PERRIE BALTHAZAR wrote the episode of Hollyoaks going out on C4 on Wednesday 1 July at 6.30 pm.

\*\*\*

JOHN BASHFORD'S new play *The Hop Garden* is having a staged reading at the Ludlow Assembly Rooms on Saturday 27th June at 2:30pm. For more information please visit [www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk](http://www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk)

\*\*\*

LEN COLLIN wrote the episode of The Bill going out on ITV1 on Wednesday 1 July at 8.00 pm.

\*\*\*

RUPERT CREED'S new drama, *Every Time It Rains*, draws eyewitness accounts from some of those in Yorkshire whose lives were turned upside down by the floods of 2007. It will be performed at Hull Truck Theatre until 4th July.  
<http://www.hulltruck.co.uk/>

An article about the making of the play appeared in the Guardian last Friday:  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/stage/2009/jun/19/flood-hull-truck-every-time-it-rains/print>

\*\*\*

DECLAN CROGHAN wrote the episode of Waking the Dead going out on BBC1 on Wednesday 1 July at 9.00 pm.

\*\*\*

SIMON CROWTHER wrote the episode of Coronation Street going out on ITV1 on Friday 3 July at 8.30 pm.

\*\*\*

RICHARD DAVIDSON wrote the episodes of EastEnders going out on BBC1 on Tuesday 30 June at 7.30 pm and Thursday 2 July at 7.30 pm.

\*\*\*

CLIVE DAWSON wrote the episode of The Bill going out on ITV1 on Thursday 2 July at 8.00 pm.

\*\*\*

KEVIN DYER'S *Baghdad Zoo*, part of the Playhouse Project is on at Dundee Rep and Polka on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> of June and York Theatre Royal on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July and Plymouth Theatre Royal on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July.

\*\*\*

CHRIS FEWTRELL wrote the episodes of Coronation Street going out on ITV1 on Wednesday 1 July at 7.30 pm and on Friday 3 July at 7.30 pm.

\*\*\*

ADRIAN FLYNN wrote next week's episodes of The Archers going out on BBC Radio 4. Ambridge gets a new resident.

\*\*\*

DAWN HARRISON wrote the episode of The Royal going out on ITV1 on Sunday 28 June at 7.00 pm.

\*\*\*

JONATHAN HARVEY is really is big down under. *Beautiful People* got the highest viewing figures.. like, ever.. for a show on ABC2 in Australia!

\*\*\*

MARK ILLIS wrote the episode of Emmerdale going out on ITV1 on Monday 29 June at 7.00 pm.

\*\*\*

DAVID LANE wrote the episode of Coronation Street going out on ITV1 on Monday 29 June at 8.30 pm.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to Guild member KAY MELLOR who has received an OBE in the [Queen's Birthday Honours List](#) (pdf) for services to drama. She is back at her desk now working on a new drama for ITV called *Women of a Certain Age*.

\*\*\*

CAROLINE MITCHELL wrote the episode of Emmerdale going out on ITV1 on Wednesday 1 July at 7.00 pm.

\*\*\*

PAUL PARKES wrote the episodes of *Noddy "High Tide"* and *"The Goblin Express"* going out on Five on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th June at 7:45am.

\*\*\*

JULIE PARSONS wrote the episode of Emmerdale going out on ITV1 on Thursday 2 July at 7.00 pm.

\*\*\*

HEATHER ROBSON wrote the episode of Hollyoaks going out on C4 on Friday 3 July at 6.30 pm.

\*\*\*

PAUL ROUNDELL wrote the episode of Emmerdale going out on ITV1 on Tuesday 30 June at 7.00 pm.

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CHRIS THOMPSON wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* that went out on ITV1 on Thursday 25th June at 7:00pm.

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*Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 40 Rosebery Avenue, EC1R 4RX; [erik@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:erik@writersguild.org.uk); [www.writersguild.org.uk](http://www.writersguild.org.uk); tel +44 (0) 20 7833 0777; fax +44 (0) 20 7833 4777. 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](mailto: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 2009.*