

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 414, Friday 26th March 2010

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Guild News

Guild books co-op launches on Tuesday 27th April 2010

The Writers' Guild is launching a major initiative for members who have self-published their own books, or are thinking of doing so. The Writers' Guild Books Co-operative will provide advice, information, publicity, marketing and ebook services. Phase One of the Books Co-op website is already up and running at <http://www.writersguildbookcoop.co.uk/index.html>.

The Launch Meeting of the Writers' Guild Books Co-operative will take place in central London on Tuesday 27th April 2010 at 11.00 a.m. followed by a celebratory drink or two and a sandwich lunch. It is the culmination of several meetings hosted by the Guild over the past three years recognising that self-publishing has become respectable and attractive to many serious writers, and is likely to grow as conventional publishing staggers from crisis to crisis and the world learns to love ebooks and print-on-demand.

The meeting will be open to any member of the Guild involved or interested in self-publishing who may not have caught up with the project yet.

WE NEED TO KNOW IF YOU INTEND TO COME so that we can book a suitably-sized venue and order the right amount of food, wine and soft drinks. So please RSVP to susan@writersguild.org.uk as soon as you can but in any case by THURSDAY 8 APRIL 2010 at the latest.

At the moment the website has just six writers and 16 books featured. We want this to grow rapidly, so if you have self-published a book, please send us the details and we will include it. You can see from the website what details we need. We hope that other writers will want to join the Guild in order to have their work featured.

We also plan to add more material to the website such as information and advice about self-publishing, marketing, print-on-demand and ebooks. If you have ideas about other ways we can improve the site, please bring them to the launch meeting.

Beyond that, we are investigating how the Co-op can offer authors a comprehensive ebook service. We would take your digital file, convert it to ebook files suitable for the Kindle, Sony Reader, iPad, etc., and make them available for download directly from the site at prices to be fixed by the author.

All these ideas will be discussed on 27th April, along with plans for making sure the Writers' Guild Books Co-op is truly run by the members, for the members. We hope to see you there!

Shock as ITV kills The Bill

The Writers' Guild has written to ITV director of television Peter Fincham seeking a meeting in the wake of today's announcement that ITV is to axe "The Bill".

General Secretary Bernie Corbett said: "Many TV writers will be hit hard – so will actors, production staff and crews. No series has the right to live for ever, but for the health of the entire UK TV industry it is imperative ITV replaces The Bill with innovative home-grown drama.

"We welcome Mr Fincham's ongoing commitment to drama programming. But when he says that ITV will continue to invest more in drama programming than any other commercial broadcaster, we note that broadcast hours of drama on other commercial channels are already very limited.

"Writers, both newcomers and experienced, are bursting with ideas and they will be beating a path to ITV's door. Our message to ITV and Peter Fincham is: Nothing less than 52 hours of new, original, exciting drama each and every year will do.

“ITV has a long and proud history of drama and comedy which must be continued. It is good news that the money saved will be going into new shorter form drama and this needs to preserve the original spirit of The Bill in terms of inventive, writer-led rather than producer-led story-telling and nurturing new writing talent. This is the way to bigger audiences and stronger overseas sales.

“Millions of viewers will mourn an iconic British series. The writers of The Bill over its 27 years deserve a lap of honour.” The Bill won the 2008 Writers’ Guild Award for the best soap/continuing drama series and the 2009 BAFTA for best continuing drama.

<http://www.writersguild.org.uk/public/userimages/File/News/letter-to-peter-fincham.pdf>

Reorganisation threat to public lending right

The Public Lending Right scheme, which pays authors 6p per loan from public libraries, is threatened by a major reorganisation proposed this week.

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport issued its long-awaited policy statement “The Modernisation Review of Public Libraries” (http://www.dcms.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/6752.aspx) but it contained a surprise that had not been signalled in last year’s consultation exercise: a new “strategic body” that would wrap up PLR in an organisation covering museums, libraries and archives.

The Guild, alongside the Society of Authors and the Authors’ Licensing and Collecting Society, has written to Margaret Hodge, Minister of State for Culture, seeking assurances and a meeting to air our concerns. The letter points out that PLR has a good reputation among writers and that it is not primarily concerned with giving a voice for libraries, but with the rights of authors.

The writers’ organisations demand that PLR should remain independent and properly funded, and retain its expert staff. The full text of the letter will be posted on the Guild’s [website](#)

<http://www.writersguild.org.uk/public/userimages/File/News/letter-to-margaret-hodge.pdf>

Events

Getting it Good, Getting it Right – an evening with David Edgar and Bryony Lavery.

Thursday 29th April, 7:00-9:00pm at Derby Theatre Studio.

To launch the revival of this famous studio venue (formerly Derby Playhouse) the Theatre Arts department at Derby, in partnership with the Writers Guild of GB and in association with Theatre Writing Partnership, present this event. Details on www.derby.ac.uk/launch.

At a time of economic recession, the theatre seems to be thriving. And with the recent British Theatre Consortium survey revealing just how widely newly commissioned writing figures in this success, the challenge of what the playwright can bring to the contemporary stage has never been more relevant.

From their different personal perspectives, these two accomplished playwrights will talk about how they approach this challenge (both creatively and structurally) including discussion of David Edgar's new publication 'How Plays Work' and Bryony Lavery's latest collaboration with Frantic Assembly Theatre Co.

(N.B. 'How Plays Work' and other play publications will be on sale and signed by the playwrights at the end of the evening).

ALSO on Wednesday 5th May, 7:00pm...

Penny Dreadful – a theatrical reading of Richard Pinner's black comedy about the controversial, final chapter of Charles Dickens' life.

Both events all-ticket @ £5, £2.50 concessions. But FREE for Guild members!

BOX OFFICE 01332 255800, www.derbylive.co.uk

Further enquiries contact Richard Pinner at r.a.pinner@derby.ac.uk.

Re-building the TV Drama industry in the West Midlands

With TV drama series like Hustle and Survivors now filming here, they look at how

we can rebuild our TV drama industry in the region. Come along to The Bond to hear a stellar panel of TV drama names give their views.

This is an unmissable event for local screenwriters, directors, producers and anyone who cares about the future of television drama in the West Midlands.

30th March 2010

Venue: The Bond, 180-182 Fazeley Street, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 5SE

6.00pm Registration/Drinks

6.30pm Panel : **'Re-building the TV Drama industry in the West Midlands'**

Chaired by Lee Thomas (Screen WM)

Speakers already confirmed: Tony Jordan, Peter Lloyd, Michael Eaton (more speakers to be confirmed very soon)

8.00pm Networking/Drinks

To register for this event please visit <http://rebuilding-tv-drama-industry-in-wm.eventbrite.com/>

Southbank Centre announces programme for London Literature Festival 2010

Thursday 1st – Sunday 18th July 2010, Southbank Centre

London Literature Festival returns to Southbank Centre this summer, the highlight of the Centre's unrivalled year-round literature and spoken word programme, and an essential date in the city's cultural diary. Writers and speakers including **Bret Easton Ellis**, **John Cooper Clarke**, **Barbara Kingsolver**, **Marcus du Sautoy**, and **Sócrates** are just some of the names appearing at the Festival in its fourth year. The 21-acre site will be full of site specific performances, book groups and workshops, with graphic artists, youth programmes and bloggers

projecting the Festival to London and beyond.

Alongside this mix of bestselling novelists, punk poetry and debate, the Festival includes special programmes of events on **Science and Arts, Brazil and Classic Stories**, to whet Londoners' appetites for a summer of reading.

The opening weekend of the 2010 Festival hosts a series of events on **Science and Writing** as part of the See Further festival marking the 350th anniversary of the Royal Society. During the final weekend of the London Literature Festival, writers and thinkers from across the cultural spectrum explain what Brazil is thinking right now, to coincide with Southbank Centre's summer-long Festival Brazil, sponsored by HSBC. There is also a series of retellings of **Classic Stories**, with presentations of classic literary works in a variety of styles and settings.

Some of the highlights of the **London Literature Festival 2010** include:

Bret Easton Ellis, author of *American Psycho*, launches his new novel *Imperial Bedrooms*

John Cooper Clarke, the original punk poet, does his first solo show at Southbank Centre in over a decade

Top Brazilian footballer **Sócrates** talks about football and Brazil (part of Southbank Centre's Festival Brazil)

Marcus du Sautoy lectures on the Maths of Music (part of See Further, to mark the 350th anniversary of the Royal Society)

American novelist **Barbara Kingsolver** reads from her latest novel *The Lacuna*

Jackie Kay discusses her newly published memoir *Red Dust Road*

Gare St. Lazare Players perform classic American novel **Moby Dick**

Dramatised readings based on Lyndall Gordon's biography of poet **Emily Dickinson**

Gary Younge launches his new book *Who Are We?: Should it Matter in the Twenty-First Century*.

Premiere of a staged adaptation of **Tahmima Anam's** novel *A Golden Age*, about the 1971 war of independence in Bangladesh.

Site specific student performance of **Dante's Inferno** at Southbank Centre's famous riverside skate park.

The full programme for the London Literature Festival will be announced in early May when tickets will go on sale. Bookings can be made via:

www.southbankcentre.co.uk or telephone: 0870 160 2522.

For further information or to request an interview with performers, please contact:
Sarah Watson or Kate Wright-Morris at Colman Getty

on 020 7631 2666 or

sarah@colmangetty.co.uk / kate@colmangetty.co.uk

A PAWS evening on: impact of a low carbon future

A Revolution in Jobs and Products that will affect us all

Tuesday 30th March, 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Institute of Physics, London W1

An event for writers and TV producers, a chance to meet scientists and technologists in an emerging area of interest. **There has been much talk in the press about the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions. But what does this mean to people both as citizens and professionally?**

Agenda

The speakers are:

- **Professor Sandy Black**, Professor of Fashion and Textile Design Technology, Director LCF Centre for Fashion Science, London School of Fashion
- **Dr Rosie Bryson** is BASF Development Manager for UK, Ireland and Nordic and Baltic countries
- **Natalie Roberts**, Engineering and Energy Consultant for ARUP, working on projects in the UK and across the world
- **Flora Daniels**, Research Student in Fuel Cell Technology, Department of Chemical Engineering, UCL
- **Ben Richards**, Lead Writer on the BBC1 drama series *Spooks*, produced by Kudos Films

Chair: **Dr Andrew Millington**, Director PAWS, OMNI Communications

The event is open to all, at no charge, by registration/RSVP at the PAWS Office, at OMNI Communications:

pawsomni@btconnect.com or tel: 020 7483 4545

Courses and Workshops

Playwriting 2, City Lit.

Playwriting 2, at City Lit (Covent Garden, London) A continuous workshop for playwrights and comedy and drama writers who have work in progress: an opportunity to review the elements of a play and to continue working on your own draft.

New students are welcome to join. City Lit (Covent Garden, London) will hold a 'Playwriting 2' weekly classes, for playwrights who have a work in progress or are starting a new play. Places available.

Start date 15th April 2010, end date 17th June 2010.

Classes are held on Thursdays afternoon, from 3.30pm to 5.30pm.

You do not need to have attended previous terms. Concessions available...

Visit www.citylit.ac.uk for more information/enrolment.

Street Voices 3 - Theatre By A New Generation of Writers

Street Voices 3 is a playwriting course for committed, emerging writers, particularly from first and second generation born Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds aged 17 and over from Yorkshire.

This is an opportunity to say it the way you see it, without borders, without fear and without compromise, a chance to challenge theatrical conventions. This is an

opportunity to have your work performed in front of live paying audiences in Yorkshire and London.

Street Voices 3 will take place over five weekend workshops between May and September 2010 to develop and support emerging writers in the realisation of original twenty-minute short plays. There will be one to one mentoring sessions, feedback on work in progress and creative communication and exchanges.

Eight of the short plays will be performed by an ensemble of actors to the public and invited theatre writers, performers, directors and producers in October 2010. Workshops will take place on Saturdays and Sundays and will be hosted at Freedom Studios, Bradford, The Lawrence Batley Theatre in Huddersfield and Theatre in the Mill, Bradford. The workshops will be lead by Madani Younis, Artistic Director of Freedom Studios and there will be master-classes with national theatre artists.

Request an application from hello@freedomstudios.co.uk, stating your full name and e-mail address. If you have any questions, send an e-mail or ring 01274-730077. Closing Date Friday 23rd April.

Freedom Studios invests in emerging writers and developing talent so you do not have to pay any fees. The course will cost you time, travel and effort.

WriterSearch – Scotland and Northern Ireland

TAPS in association with the **BBC Training and Development**, is offering places on its free training course with the aim to find and train writers for film, television and other media.

If you are a writer with experience or potential from the age of 18 upwards and living in the Highlands and Islands or Northern Ireland you can apply to the course by submitting your original story. Please ensure your story can work as a 10 minute film. Places are limited so apply soon!

Your story needs to be no more than one side of A4. Please Note: We do not need your story to be in script format for submission.

Course Details for Scotland

LOCATION: Cowan House, Inverness

DATE: 16th-18th April 2010

COURSE FEE: FREE

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 11 :00am Tuesday 6th April 2010

Course Details for Northern Ireland

LOCATION: Belfast City Centre - TBC

DATE: 23rd-25th April 2010

COURSE FEE: FREE

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 11:00am Tuesday 6th April 2010

For an application form please email admin@tapsnet.org or call the TAPS office on 01932 592 151.

Screenwriters' Workshop & Retreat, Morocco, 8th–15th May 2010

There is still time to get away from it all and write.

Based in a beautifully restored riad in the heart of Essaouira, one of the most charming towns on Morocco's Atlantic coast, the Screenwriters' Retreat offers writers the chance to hothouse their work in progress in an inspiring and stimulating environment, far away from the pressures and routines of a busy life. Whatever stage your project is at, from story outline to treatment or draft screenplay, this is an ideal opportunity to gain fresh insights into your writing with expert guidance: to overcome blocks, resolve problem areas and significantly deepen characters and stories. All participants will have the opportunity to receive in-depth feedback on their projects through small group workshops and one-to-one consultations, or simply take invaluable time to write and think.

For further information please contact fromanne@yahoo.co.uk

Opportunities

The Royal Literary Fund

Are you a commercially established writer who is experiencing financial difficulties due to professional or personal setbacks?

The Royal Literary Fund is a registered charity which has been helping authors since 1790. Last year it made means-tested grants and pension to 200 writers of literary merit. Applications are welcome throughout the year. More information can be found at www.rlf.org.uk or contact Eileen Gunn at egunnrlf@globalnet.co.uk tel 0207 353 7159

What Members Are Getting Up To

SEBASTIAN BACZKIEWICZ'S radio comedy *Arabian Afternoons* is going out on Radio in three parts beginning with *The Casper Logue Affair*, *The Porter and the Three Ladies* and *A Dish of Pomegranates*. The first part goes out on Monday 29th March at 2:15pm.

SARAH BAGSHAW wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 2nd April.

STEPHEN BENNETT wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm and 8:00pm on Thursday 1st April.

RICHARD BURKE wrote the episodes of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on

Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd April.

PAUL CAMPBELL wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Friday 2nd April.

SONIA CASTANG has been selected to participate in the Tribeca All Access (TAA) programme which is part of the Tribeca Film Festival in New York in April. TAA is a programme for BME & female directors to help get projects that are ready for financing/production in front of US producers, financiers and agents. The script she is taking, 'Windward' is one she has written and is a moving and funny drama set in London and St Lucia. <http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/article/16616/Tribeca-Film-Institute-announces-24-projects-for-the-2010-Tribeca-All-Access-programme>

PAUL COATES wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Monday 29th March.

BILL GALLAGHER wrote the episode of *Lark Rise to Candleford* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Sunday 28th March.

MATTHEW GRAHAM wrote the first episode of the new series of *Ashes to Ashes* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Friday 2nd April.

GUY HIBBERT's new two-part drama, *Blood and Oil*, will be shown on BBC2 on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th March from 9.00 - 10.20pm. A powerful drama about two British women and their extraordinary journey deep into the hinterland of the Niger Delta – a beautiful but highly dangerous region of Nigeria.

Ben Stephenson, Controller, BBC Drama Commissioning, says: "Guy Hibbert has created an authored, original, thrilling drama with emotional heart and a huge visual and political backdrop. Two women from different worlds are brought together by tragedy and forced into danger far away from their comfort zone. In a volatile world where chaos and corruption are rife, they are forced to ask tough questions of themselves in a battle to survive and find the truth."

Made by Tiger Aspect Productions, and directed by David Attwood, *Blood and Oil* has an impressive and diverse cast including Naomie Harris (*Pirates Of The Caribbean*, *28 Days Later*), Jodhi May (*Einstein And Eddington*, *The Street*, *Friends And Crocodiles*), Paterson Joseph (*Survivors*), David Oyelowo (*Five Days*) and Peter Firth (*Spooks*).

JANE HOLLINSON wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 2nd April.

JILL HYEM Her new stage comedy "We'll Always Have Paris" has been published by Josef Weinberger Ltd. The play continues to run at the Mill at Sonning until April 10th.

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

PHILIP SHELLEY will lead a one-day workshop on working as a script editor in TV on 10 April. Philip spent seven years at Carlton TV Drama, as Head of Development, then as Producer. At Carlton he was script editor on the last two *Inspector Morse* films, *Kavanagh QC*, *Anybody's Nightmare*, *The Waiting Time*, *Noah's Ark* and many other shows. For more information please see www.initialize-films.co.uk

LINDSAY SHAPERO'S drama *Enid*, starring Helena Bonham Carter as Enid Blyton, is going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Sunday 28th March.

CHRIS THOMPSON wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 31st March.

JOANNA TOYE wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Sunday 28th March till Friday 2nd April with each episode being repeated at 2:00pm the day following it's original broadcast.

JOE TURNER wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Monday 29th March.

NICK VIVIAN'S biographical drama *Gracie!* is going out on BBC2 at 9:00pm on Thursday 1st April starring Jane Horrocks as Gracie Fields.

KATHARINE WAY wrote the episode of *Doctors* "*Save the Children*" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Monday 29th March.

JOY WILKINSON wrote the episode of *Doctors* "*Catching*" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Thursday 1st April.