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Guild News

1. Annual General Meeting - Friday 5th June 2009

All members of the Guild are invited to attend the AGM on Friday 5th June from 10.30 am - 5.30

pm at

The Old Sessions House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0NA

Nearest underground station: Farringdon

Admission to the AGM is by a current membership card. Full Members and Life Members may vote on all matters. Affiliate Members may vote on the presentation and approval of the Accounts.

A light sandwich lunch will be served (no charge). To help us estimate the numbers please contact the office to let us know if you will be staying for lunch – telephone 020 7833 0777 or email erik@writersguild.org.uk.

Motions for debate at the AGM, including proposals to amend the Guild rules, may be tabled by any two Full Members who are in benefit, or by any Branch or National Region of the Guild. Motions must be received at the Guild office no later than

Friday 1 May 2009.

2. TV Good Practice Guide

The Guild's Television Committee is just a few days away from finalising its new Good Practice Guide for television, entitled 'Working with Writers'. The Guide is aimed at producers, directors, script editors and other production personnel working with writers and also advises writers on their rights and responsibilities.

Many thanks to the Television Committee members who've been working on this document and to Guild member Tony Read, whose original document this Guide was based on.

We hope to have this resource printed and up on our website within the next month or so. Watch this space!

3. Cult Cymru - Calling Wales-Based Guild Members

CULT Cymru is a joint project between the five unions from the cultural and creative industries in Wales (BECTU, Equity, the MU, the NUJ and the Writers' Guild of Great Britain) funded by the Welsh Assembly Government's Wales Union Learning Fund. The aim of the project is to enhance learning opportunities for freelance workers in the industry.

If you would like to be kept up to date on training and professional development opportunities for freelancers in Wales, please send your name and preferred e-mail address to the Guild's Union Learning Rep. in Wales, Othniel Smith (othnielsmith@yahoo.com).

Events

4. Meet the Agents

In association with the Writers' Guild, join three top literary agents working with playwrights, screenwriters and authors in conversation with Chris Taylor, Director, New Writing South.

Anne Hogben, Deputy General Secretary of the Writers' Guild, will be there to answer questions about the Guild and its services

Find out if and when you need an agent, exactly what agents do and how they can help your career. Find out how to approach agents, when to send unsolicited scripts and learn what agents relay look for when they take on new writers. The evening also offers an informal opportunity to network and ask your own questions.

These events are very well attended, so be sure to book your place early!

Details and booking:

Oxford

with Meg Davis - MBA Literary Agents, Sarah Ballard - United Agents, Kerry Glencourse - Susanna Lea Associates, Becky Ayebia Clarke - Ayebia Clarke Literary Agency & Publishing

Date: Thursday 9th April

Time: 6.30pm - 9pm

Venue: Said Business School, Oxford

You can book a place on our website at www.newwritingsouth.com.

5. Africa Oyé 2009

A celebration of African music and culture Sefton Park, Liverpool Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st June 2009 12:30pm-9:30pm on both days.

Admission: Free

Africa Oyé is the UK's largest free celebration of African music and culture and takes place annually in Liverpool. Beginning in 1992 as a series of small gigs in the city centre, the event has gone from strength-to-strength, moving to its present Sefton Park home in 2002 to cope with demand. Now in its seventeenth year, Africa Oyé continues to grow. In 2008 the event attracted an audience of over 20,000 people and even more are expected to attend Oyé 09.

Please check www.africaoye.com for tour update, ticket info, and festival information.

For more information contact:

Another Media

info@anothermedia.org

ali@anothermedia.org

0151 708 2841

Find this event on Facebook - Africa Oye Festival www.africaoye.com

www.myspace.com/africaoye

6. BAFTA, Shooting People and Northern Film and Media present Short Sighted

Tuesday 31st March @ 13:30

Tyneside Cinema, 10 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6QG

If you're a short film-maker, making your film is only half the battle. This Short Sighted! event takes to the road to tell you how to plan an effective distribution and exhibition strategy in the digital age. Learn the tricks of the trade - from making the most of your festival run, to exploring new digital distribution channels.

For more information: <http://www.bafta.org/calendar-event.html?btype=day&Gday=20090331000000>

7. Screening of Better Things + Interview - Stoke-on-Trent

Stoke-on-Trent Film Theatre, College Road, Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire ST4 2EF

A special screening of BETTER THINGS will take place at Stoke-on-Trent Film Theatre on Wednesday 8 April in association with The Producers' Forum, BAFTA and Screen WM. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the film's producer Samm Haillay who will talk about his experiences of making the film and British filmmaking. The event will be chaired by regional producer Natasha Carlish, who recently completed filming of her feature Souled Out in and around Stoke.

Booking Information:

BAFTA have a limited number of free tickets to give away to this screening. To request tickets email REGIONS@BAFTA.ORG and include the date and location with 'BETTER THINGS' in the subject line. Tickets are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. The deadline for ticket applications is **Wednesday 1 April**.

8. London Writers' Club - First Event

April 2nd, 6 for 6.30-8pm

David Godwin, literary agent, and former MD of publishing imprints, Secker & Warburg and Jonathan Cape, talks to the London Writers' Club on:

How to Publish a Bestseller in a Recession

As literary agent for three Booker Prize winners, including Arundhati Roy and the recent winner, Aravind Adiga, author of The White Tiger, David really knows what works and what doesn't.

David says that his interest lies in 'books that break the mould and transform our understanding of the world'. He is now writing a book of his own, recently commissioned by a leading publisher.

The London Writers' Club was founded by Jacqueline Burns and Kirsty McLachlan who have over 30 years publishing experience between them.

London Writers' Club

The Hub, King's Cross, London.

April 2, 6.30-8pm Doors/ bar opens 6pm.

Tickets: £10 in advance and £15 on the door.

www.londonwritersclub.com

For tickets contact Jacqueline or Kirsty@publishabestseller.com

Or call: 07894 919 910

9. Apply Now for The BBC Drama Writers Academy

The 2009 BBC Drama Writers Academy will accept applications from Monday 6 April.

The Writers Academy is a major initiative aimed at discovering and training the next generation of writers for BBC One's flagship drama series: EastEnders, Casualty, Holby City, and Doctors.

Eight writers are selected out of hundreds of applicants, to undergo an intensive 15-month programme designed to equip them with all the skills necessary to write successfully for BBC Drama. The course entails classroom training, lectures from the country's best writers, instruction in all aspects of television production, and direct writing experience on the four Continuing Drama shows...

You are eligible to apply if you have had your work broadcast on television or radio, or performed professionally at the theatre. You will need to send in an original sample of your writing.

This will be the Academy's fifth year. Full details, including the entry requirements and how to apply, are on [the BBC Writersroom website](#).

Courses and Workshops

10. Script Factory: Writing Radio Drama

Thursday 16th July 2009, 2 - 5.30pm
Soho Theatre, Central London

A practical workshop intended to illuminate the craft and industry of radio drama for those that usually think 'film' when they think storytelling. Radio scripts share similar techniques and qualities to screenwriting and whilst nothing is ever easy or guaranteed, it is very possible that a good idea for a radio play by a first time writer will be commissioned as radio can be seriously writer-friendly! A number of previous participants on The Script Factory's Radio Training led by tutor Sam Hoyle have subsequently seen their work commissioned.

To book your place with debit or credit card or to find out more about *Writing Radio Drama* call 020 7851 4890 or email general@scriptfactory.co.uk.

The fee for attending is **£60** + VAT (£69 total).
Script Factory Members receive a 10% discount making their price **£54** + VAT (£62.10 total).

For full information, see http://www.scriptfactory.co.uk/go/Training/Article_398.html

11. Dave Cohen's Sketch Course

On Saturday 4th April writer and comedian Dave Cohen will be running a workshop offering advice on how to improve your chances of getting sketches onto BBC Radio's new topical comedy show '7 on 7'.

The show begins in May and will run for ten weeks, and there'll be another series probably later in the year, so there will be plenty of opportunities for your sketches to be broadcast.

Dave is one of the best-known topical comedy writers in the country. He has written for 'News Quiz', 'Dead Ringers', 'Spitting Image' and 'Mock The Week' and has been a regular writer on 'Have I Got News For You' since 2001.

The course will look at what makes a good sketch, you get to write and perform some sketches of your own, and discuss other ways of breaking in to the BBC. And there'll be pages of helpful notes for you to take home after the course.

The course costs £60 plus VAT (£69) and runs from 10am to 4pm at the London Canal Museum (5 mins walk from King's Cross station). PLACES ARE STRICTLY LIMITED, so if you're

interested you'll need to contact Dave at bindmancohen@hotmail.com

Dave has written a couple of articles on this site about sketch writing which you can read at http://www.sitcom.co.uk/writers/writing_sketches.shtml and http://www.sitcom.co.uk/writers/write_for_tilt.shtml

12. Love Story Day

Robert McKee will be bringing his brand new class **LOVE STORY DAY** to London on **Thursday 16th April 2009**. The class covers all aspects of the love story - both dramatic stories and romantic comedies - and is ideal for screenwriters, filmmakers and just about anyone who loves a great love story.

When:

16th April 2009 (Thursday)

Where:

Cayley Theatre

University of Westminster
35 Marylebone Road
London NW1 5LS

Fee:

£135 + VAT

To Register:

Online:

[Click for McKee's Website](#)

or phone: +44 (0)870 080 1833

13. Introduction to Script Development

Saturday 4th April, Saturday 18th April 09 // 10am - 5pm

Venue: Lighthouse, 28 Kensington Street, Brighton BN1 4AJ

Tutor: Julie Everton

Cost: £130 (full) £100 (concessions)

This course is designed for people who are interested in starting or building their careers as script readers or script developers. It is also suitable for writers, producers or directors interested in learning how to best work with a script to maximise its inherent potential.

http://www.lighthouse.org.uk/opportunity/script_development.htm

Opportunities

14. 2009 BBC National Short Story Award

This week sees the launch of the 2009 BBC National Short Story Award. Now in its fourth year, the award stands at the heart of a UK-wide campaign - *story*- with both aiming to expand opportunities for British writers, readers and publishers of the short story. The shortlist will be announced in November and the five stories broadcast on BBC Radio 4 each weekday before the winner is announced.

BBC Radio 4 is the world's leading broadcaster of short stories and a great supporter of the form. Short stories are broadcast on Radio 4 every week attracting more than a million listeners.

If you would like to know more about the awards please visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/nssa/>

15. New Play Search for Off Broadway Production in 2009

New York Theatre producer Madeline Austin and Stir Man Productions, are in search of a new play to produce Off Broadway in the autumn of 2009. An established American actor is attached and a budget is already in place for the production as is a GM. This is a great opportunity for new and established UK writers to have their work seen and produced in New York. The requirements for the play are as follows:

- Leading male in his late thirties to early forties

- Contemporary setting a preference
- Should be set in or have the ability to be adapted to an American setting
- New to American audiences but will welcome work which has previously been produced in the U.K.

Please make submissions with personal or representative details to the producing associate Gwenfair Vaughan Jones at the following address GwenfairVaughan@gmail.com

16. The Edinburgh Pitch 2009

Deadline: May 11th 2009

Organisation: Scottish Documentary Institute

Seeking: This is a fantastic opportunity for all filmmakers looking to produce a feature length documentary to attend a pitching and development workshop and to pitch formally in front of a carefully selected panel of International and UK commissioning editors, sales agents and producers.

Last year, the three day workshop covered a pitching practice day, the pitch itself, followed by one to one meetings with each member of the panel. We had representatives from BBC Storyville, Channel 4, Britdoc Foundation, First Hand Film Sales, ZDF, Arte France, Lichtpunt, Belgium, Scottish Screen.

Already confirmed for 2009: Wim Van Rompaay, Lichtpunt, Belgium; Doris Hepp, Arte, ZDF; Ian Davies, Initialize Films; Scottish Screen, Esther Van Messel, First Hand Films, (Sales and Distribution).

Please download information on how to apply with a project or as an observer from: <http://www.docscene.org/apply> or contact Rebecca Day on 0131 221 6125

17. The Veni Vidi Theatre Company Playwright Competition

The Veni Vidi Theatre Company is launching a new competition for playwrights with brave, imaginative and daring stories to tell.

This competition is free to enter and is for all ages and abilities.

They are looking for 3 One Act Plays that engage and audience and raise debate on our current social issues but they must be based around the image that they have set (Please go to the website to see stimulus for the competition and to see the competition guidelines)

www.venividitheatre.com

Selected winners will have their play produced in September 2009 at a venue on the London Fringe Scene starring a professional cast of actors.

Submission Guidelines:

- Plays must be written using the image as inspiration
- Plays must be 25-35 minutes running time
- Plays must draw on our current social and cultural issues

All submissions must be in by 1st May 2009

For more information please go to the website or e-mail natalie@venividitheatre.com or heman@venividitheatre.com

What Members Are Getting Up To

SIMON ASHDOWN wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 2nd April.

PERRIE BALTHAZAR wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Friday 3rd April.

TRACY BRABIN wrote the episode of *Shameless* going out on C4 at 10:00pm on Tuesday 31st March.

RAY BROOKING wrote the episode of *Doctors* "*Strange Little Girl*" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Monday 30th March.

MICHAEL CHAPLIN wrote the first episode of the new series of *Robin Hood* "*Total Eclipse*" going out on BBC1 at 6:50pm on Saturday 28th March.

PAUL COUTES wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 31st March.

MARY CUTLER wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Monday 30th March till Friday 3rd April.

TIM DYNEVOR wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 1st April.

JOHN FINNEMORE wrote the episode of *Cabin Pressure "Fitton"* going out on Radio 4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 31st March.

EMILIO DI GIROLAMO wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Friday 3rd April.

ROB GITTINS wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st March.

DEBBIE HORSFIELD wrote the first episode of *All the Small Things* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Tuesday 31st March.

JULIE JONES wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 30th March.

JESSICA LEA wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Thursday 2nd April.

JANE MARLOW wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Wednesday 1st April.

NEIL McKAY has been commissioned by Channel 4 to write a drama based on the life and times of politician Mo Mowlam. Called *Mo*, the lead will be played by Julie Walters. Neil will be working with the same team who produced his Writers' Guild award-winning drama *See No Evil: The Moors Murders for ITV* with Jeff Pope executive producing and Lisa Gilchrist producing.

GRAHAM MITCHELL wrote the episode of *Holby City "Locked Away"* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Tuesday 31st March.

JULIE PARSONS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 31st March.

ALAN PLATER wrote the episode of *Lewis "The Quality of Mercy"* going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Sunday 29th March. His new Jazz musical *Looking For Buddy* is on at the Bolton Octagon and from May 6th will be at the Live Theatre, Newcastle. The last week of the current tour of *Blonde Bombshells of 1943* is next week at the New Theatre, Hull.

MARC PYE wrote the episode of *Waterloo Road* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Wednesday 1st April.

EMMA REEVES wrote the episode of *Half Moon Investigations* going out on BBC1 at 4:35pm on Monday 30th March.

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

DAVID STAFFORD co-wrote the episode of *Hazelbeach* going out on Radio 4 at 11:30pm on Monday 30th Monday. He also co-wrote the radio play *Tony's Little Sister and the Paradox of Monasticism* going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Friday 3rd April.

BILL TAYLOR wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd April.

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

NICK WARBURTON wrote the episode of *Witness: Five Plays from the Gospel of Luke "Outsiders"* going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Tuesday 31st March.

TREVOR WOOD'S new play *Maggie's End* is being performed from Tuesday 7th April till Saturday 18th April at The Shaw Theatre, Euston Road

The play, which stars Mark Wingett, Melanie Hill, Russell Floyd, Johanne Murdock and Robert Fyfe is being staged to help mark the 25th anniversary of the miner's strike and is supported by the NUM North East Area, the GMB, the RMT, Unison and Unite

Box office 0871 594 3123 or book online www.theshawtheatre.com

STEPHEN WYATT'S dramatisation of *Ripley Under Water* is going out on Radio 4 as part of *The Complete Ripley* series at 2:30pm on Saturday 28th March.

Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 40 Rosebery Avenue, EC1R 4RX; erik@writersguild.org.uk; 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. 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 2008.