

# The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 428, Friday 2nd July 2010

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## **Guild News**

**Theatre Committee New Writing Encouragement Awards: nominations open**

The Theatre Committee is accepting nominations for its sixth annual 'New Writing Encouragement Awards', for presentation this autumn. Any WGGB member may nominate anyone in any capacity who has given him or her an especially positive and enriching experience in developing his or her new writing for the theatre over the past twelve month. The deadline for entries is 31 August, 2010.

Please include a paragraph on why this experience was so personally valuable to you.

Please email all entries to David James, chair of the Theatre Committee, at [david.sassafras@btinternet.com](mailto:david.sassafras@btinternet.com)

**Major theatres lift writers' fees**

The Writers' Guild has agreed a full 3.7 per cent cost-of-living increase on minimum fees and other payments by the leading subsidised theatres – Royal National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company and Royal Court.

The agreement brings the basic minimum fee for a new play to £10,654. The table of financial terms and the full text of the Guild agreement can be found on the Guild website.

The increases, which are effective from 1 April 2010, are based on the “headline” Retail Prices Index, which covers a representative range of goods and services including housing costs. There was no increase in 2009 because RPI stood at zero.

### **Mobile catch-up for Guild event and AGM**

You can now catch up on Writers' Guild activities on smart mobile devices such as the iPhone, iPad and BlackBerry, using podcasts or an app available through the iTunes store.

Extended high-quality recordings are available of our recent BBC TV Drama event, featuring Ben Stephenson, John Yorke and Kate Harwood; and highlights of the Guild AGM with the keynote report by Chair Robert Taylor and guest speaker Nick Yapp's entertaining account of researching and writing the history of the Guild.

The podcasts can be downloaded free to any suitable phone or mp3 player; the app for Apple devices costs £1.19 – search for “Writers Guild of GB” or see <http://itunes.apple.com/app/writers-guild-of-gb/id378522349>.

### **Writers' Guild Awards 2010 – Call for Nominations from Guild Members**

It is time to send in your nominations for the Writers' Guild of Great Britain Awards 2010. All members of the Writers' Guild are entitled to nominate in all categories – so don't miss this opportunity to nominate any great writing you have come across in the past year, whether in theatre plays, films, books, radio, television or game scripts.

The award categories are as follows:

- Book (Fiction) \*
- Book (Non-Fiction) \*
- Feature Film Screenplay
- Feature Film Screenplay – Best First Feature-Length Screenplay
- Radio Comedy / Light Entertainment
- Radio Drama
- Television Comedy / Light Entertainment
- Television Drama Series
- Television Short-form Drama \*\*
- Television Soap / Continuing Drama \*\*\*
- TV Children's Drama - Live Action or Animation
- Theatre Play
- Theatre Play for Children and Young People
- Videogame Script

\* Submissions for the Book Awards will also be sought from publishers.

\*\* Short-form drama is defined as being broadcast in a maximum of five parts.

\*\*\* Soap / Continuing Drama is defined as high-volume long-running TV drama series with one or more new episodes broadcast per week.

Television Short-form Drama and Drama Series may include adaptations.

Awards are made to the writer(s), not the production as a whole, so please make your nominations based on the quality of the writing, not the standard of production.

Nominated writer(s) must be British or work in Britain.

To be eligible programmes / plays / games, etc. must have been first released, published, performed or broadcast during the period 1st June 2009 to 31st May 2010 inclusive. If you have any questions about this, please contact the Guild office.

**Please send nominations in any or all of the above categories by email to [susan@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:susan@writersguild.org.uk) with your full name and Guild membership**

**number. Please make it clear which writers you are nominating in which categories. Please nominate only one title in each category.**

**Nominations may also be submitted by post to the Guild office. Please mark envelopes “Award nominations”, Writers’ Guild of Great Britain, 40 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RX.**

The deadline for nominations is **Friday 3rd September 2010**, and the shortlist will be announced on **Friday 1st October 2010**. The winners will be announced on Sunday 21 November 2010.

The shortlists and winners in each category will be chosen by the relevant Guild Craft Committee or an appropriate jury appointed by the Guild’s Executive Council. There will also be a special award - which can change from year to year - that will be awarded by the Executive Council.

## **Writers' Guild Awards for Books**

The Writers’ Guild is inviting submissions from UK publishers for the **Best Book Awards** (Fiction and Non-Fiction). These will be judged not only on the quality of the writing - though that may well be of primary importance - but also on their imaginative content (in the case of fiction), the extent to which they fulfil their brief (in the case of non-fiction), and the extent to which they offer a good read.

Each publisher can make a maximum of **two submissions** (one fiction; one non-fiction).

The **entry fee is £50** per submission.

The criteria for eligibility for the award is as follows:

Nominated writer(s) must be British or work in Britain. Eligible books must have been first published and released between 1 June 2009 - 31 May 2010 inclusive.

Submissions should be made to:

The Writers’ Guild Best Book Award 2010, Writers’ Guild of Great Britain,  
40 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RX

The deadline for submissions is **Wednesday 1st September 2010**.

Please send **FOUR COPIES** of each book you wish to nominate for the award.

Cheques should be made out to the Writers' Guild of Great Britain or paid directly into WGGGB Awards account no. 34042212. Sort Code: 08-60-01.

The Best Book Awards will be presented, along with awards for television, theatre, film, radio and videogames, at a reception in November 2010 to which the nominated authors and their guests will be invited.

## **Discounts for Members**

### **Discounts for Guild Members – save yourself money!**

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain will be announcing a set of discounts to be offered to Guild members as an additional benefit to your Guild membership. The first offer we are offering is a reduced rate subscription to Variety magazine and Variety.com.

The offer is:

UK & Europe - \$299 (normal price \$399)

USA - \$248 (normal price \$329)

Rest of the World - \$449 (normal price \$599)

For this you will receive Weekly Variety magazine plus unlimited access to Variety.com – a benefit only available to subscribers. To take advantage of this offer you can either go online or telephone Variety's Customer Services department:

Online – [www.variety.com/wgggb](http://www.variety.com/wgggb)

Call – 001 515 247 2993 (8am-10pm US time)

Please quote your membership number when claiming this subscription.

## Events

### **BFI Brian Clemens Season**

From 2nd - 31st July the BFI is celebrating the work of British TV and cinema writer Brian Clemens. He has worked for some of the greatest action/ adventure series ever made and the BFI will be showcasing a selection of his work including *The Avengers*, *Danger Man* and *Captain Kronos: Vampire Hunter*. Clemens will also be at BFI for two on-stage interviews on 22nd, regarding *The Avengers*, and on 28th July about his fantastic exploits both real and fictional at 6:30pm. **Book now as tickets are running out.**

[www.bfi.org.uk/go/writersguildclemens](http://www.bfi.org.uk/go/writersguildclemens)

### **Brand Literary Magazine at the Southbank Centre**

Two exciting events of performances, presentations and discussions, at the Southbank Centre on the 8th of July, as part of the London Literature Festival, including the premiere of a new short play by legendary playwright Howard Barker.

Book at: [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

### **Writers Guild of America Foundation Launches Online Streaming Event**

#### ***Twilight Saga Screenwriter, Melissa Rosenberg, To Be Interviewed Before International Audience – July 13th***

The Writers Guild Foundation launches live video streaming of their events with their July 13th Melissa Rosenberg interview – (screenwriter of the *TWILIGHT SAGA: Twilight, New Moon, Eclipse*). The new WGF Live Stream will allow ticketed viewers to watch WGF events from anywhere in the world.

At the Writers Guild Foundation event, Rosenberg will tell how her career (*Dexter, Ally McBeal, The O.C.*, etc.) led to the *Twilight* franchise opportunity, and how it has impacted her life. She will be interviewed by LA Times writer Gina Piccalo. *Twilight: Eclipse*, release date late June, is the third of the mega-popular series that Melissa Rosenberg has adapted for the big screen.

## **How:**

Those interested in viewing the live stream can purchase a ticket to log into the WGF Live Stream at <http://wgfoundation.payperlive.com/event> to watch events. Viewers with Twitter accounts can also participate in the Q&A portion of the interview by posting questions on the WGF Live Stream site.

## **Event Details:**

**WHAT: MELISSA ROSENBERG screenwriter of the TWILIGHT SAGA (*Twilight, New Moon, Eclipse*).** will be interviewed by LA Times writer Gina Piccalo. This is your chance to hear how Rosenberg's career (*Dexter, Ally McBeal, The O.C.*, etc.) led to the *Twilight* franchise opportunity, and what it has meant for her.

**WHEN: Tuesday, July 13 - 7:30pm**

**WHERE: At the WGF/WGA headquarters, 7000 W 3rd St, Los Angeles 90048**

### **TICKETS TO WGF LIVE STREAM:**

<http://wgfoundation.payperlive.com/event>

**\$9.99**

### **TICKETS TO PHYSICAL EVENT:**

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/116634>

**\$20 (discounts for WGA members, Students, and Military/Veterans) or call 800-838-3006**

## **About the Writers Guild Foundation:**

The Writers Guild Foundation is a 501 c 3 educational charity. All proceeds from ticket sales to the physical event or the WGF Live Stream support its library and educational outreach programs. For more information about the Writers Guild Foundation, visit: [www.WGFoundation.org](http://www.WGFoundation.org)

## **Women, Power and Politics Film Festival**

Four days of award-winning cinema, director Q&As and panel debates, celebrating women making change global. [Full details here](#)

Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn, NW10

Until 17th July.

[Download the Season Brochure here](#)

Box Office 020 7328 1000 [www.tricycle.co.uk](http://www.tricycle.co.uk).

## **Guild Events**

### **Meet the Writers' Guild in Glasgow**

There is a chance for Scottish members to meet their new Executive Council rep, Julie Ann Thomason, and General Secretary Bernie Corbett at a Writers' Guild event in Glasgow on Tuesday 13th July 2010.

The venue is Bar Budda, 400A Sauchiehall Street G2 3JD and the event starts at 7.00 p.m. Bring your questions, opinions and ideas for the Writers' Guild, and how we should improve our activities and services for Scottish members.

## **Courses and Workshops**

### **Dr Linda Seger comes to London July 10th**

World-renowned coach, Dr Linda Seger, whose clients regard her as the 'Rolls Royce of screenplay consultants' is coming to London for a one-day workshop on July 10th, 1030-1730 at the University College London. All Change Productions has negotiated a 15% discount for members of the Writers' Guild, bringing the price down to £55 and £34 concessions. See [www.alternatives.org.uk](http://www.alternatives.org.uk). To book at the discounted price, ring Alternatives on 020 7287 6711 and quote YOEPD9553.

*Linda is the author of 11 books, including the seminal Making a Good Script Great (of which movie director Ron Howard says: "I found Making a Good Script Great so helpful, specifically your section on the central question and creating scene sequences. I've used those concepts on all my films starting with APOLLO 13.")*

She has consulted on over 2,000 scripts, including over 40 produced feature films and 35 produced television projects. She is the recipient of the Candlelight Award from Regents University for being "a light to the entertainment industry", the Distinguished Alumni Award from Pacific School of Religion, and the Living Legacy Award from the Moondance

International Film Festival for her work in support of women's equality in the film and television industry.

Some Guild members have been experiencing difficulty getting through to Alternatives on 020 7287 6711 in order to quote the discount code YOEPD9553.

For information about the course and to buy discounted tickets on line, please go to this link:

<http://allchangeproductions.co.uk/making-a-good-script-great>

## **Three New One-day Scriptwriting Courses at The Script Factory: Horror, Thriller & Adaptations**

### **Horror & Slasher**

An intense full-day session aimed at understanding the craft of writing scripts in the Horror genre.

Tutor Rob Ritchie

Tuesday 13th July at the Soho Theatre (21 Dean Street, London W1)

### **Truth & Fiction: Adaptations**

The skills every screenwriter needs to adapt novels, plays and real-life stories to the screen.

Tutor Rob Ritchie

Thursday 15th July at the Soho Theatre (21 Dean Street, London W1)

### **Thriller**

A film commissioner recently bemoaned the lack of great thriller scripts out there: spend a day honing your scriptwriting skills in the Thriller genre.

Tutor Angeli MacFarlane

Friday 16th July at The Hospital (24 Endell Street, , London WC2H)

### **Friendly Producers Scheme:**

Amanda Posey, Producer of the Oscar-winning film *An Education* joins us as a Friendly Producer. Writers completing any of the above courses will be invited to apply to our Friendly Producers scheme, where one writer will have the chance to meet with Amanda to discuss their film idea at a one-to-one meeting.

Full course details are here: [www.scriptfactory.co.uk](http://www.scriptfactory.co.uk)

Course fees for any of the above one-day courses are priced at £120 (+VAT). To book call The Script Factory on 020 7851 4890 or email [sheena@scriptfactory.co.uk](mailto:sheena@scriptfactory.co.uk) with any questions.

## Community Theatre Event in Warwick

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July (10am-5pm)  
Friends' Meeting House, Warwick  
Led by Stephanie Dale

**Stephanie Dale** is a professional playwright and member of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain. Her plays have been produced by Soho Theatre, LAMDA, Birmingham Rep and BBC Radio 4. Dale is a tutor on the Mphil in Playwriting Studies at Birmingham University and also teaches at BSA, City University.

She is currently working on her new play, *Dealing with Dreams*, and has been commissioned by Birmingham Repertory Theatre to write a site-specific play around the ruins of Weoley Castle.

**Cost:** £50 (£40 concessions)

**Booking:** [www.scripionline.net/stage.html](http://www.scripionline.net/stage.html)

## Developing Ideas for the Stage Event in Ludlow

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010 (10am-5pm)  
Pentabus Theatre, Ludlow  
Led by Peter Roberts

Suitable for aspiring playwrights, this one-day workshop will provide an introduction to the fundamentals of creating stories for the theatre. Writers will be able to explore how to structure scenes, develop character and plot and how to write effective dialogue. It will also look at the basic practicalities of putting your work on the stage. An essential toolkit to master the art and craft of playwriting.

**Peter Roberts** is a Royal Shakespeare Company award-winning writer with credits for stage, television, and radio. Stage plays include *Education, Education* and *Viking Tales* for Derby Playhouse, *Flying For Arthur* (Sherman Theatre, Cardiff) and *Heart and Stone* (New Theatre Works). His play-with-music, *A Maid With A Lamp*, based on the life of Florence Nightingale, is scheduled for Derby Theatre in May 2010. His adaptation of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* is scheduled for production at Derby Theatre in 2011.

**Cost:** £50 (£40 concessions)

**Booking:** [www.scriptonline.net/stage.html](http://www.scriptonline.net/stage.html)

## **Opportunities**

**An invitation to apply for accommodation at a writers' residence in the north of France in 2012**

### **The Villa Marguerite Yourcenar**

#### **A crossroads of European cultural diversity**

Lying at the heart of the Mounts of Flanders on the Belgian border and 25 miles from Lille, the Villa Marguerite Yourcenar is a residence for European writers that is managed by the Conseil général du Nord and offers authors from all over Europe accommodation for a period of one to two months in order for them to carry on or finish their manuscript on the exceptional verdant site of the former family property of Marguerite Yourcenar (1903-1987), which is now listed as *sensitive natural area*.

In order to be entitled to apply, you must live in Europe and/or have published at least one book at a European publishing house, except for publications at the author's expense. All literary genres are admitted : novel, poetry, theatre, essay, comics, youth-oriented literature, etc. Applicants are selected by an independent jury of specialists and personalities from the European literary sphere. Residence at the Villa Marguerite Yourcenar is accompanied with a 1800-euro monthly grant.

**For information and application forms, contact Françoise Bultez :**  
[fbultez1@cg59.fr](mailto:fbultez1@cg59.fr)

[www.cg59.fr](http://www.cg59.fr) [→ Villa Marguerite Yourcenar]

**Application submission deadline : 31st January 2011**

## **Kelpies Prize 2011**

The Kelpies Prize is an annual competition run by the independent Edinburgh-based publisher Floris Books, and supported by the Scottish Arts Council, which seeks to

find a new work of children's writing set primarily in Scotland and suitable for children aged eight to 12 years. The winning author receives a cash prize of £2,000 and has his or her manuscript published in our Kelpies range of children's novels set in Scotland. We hope that this prize will encourage writing for children.

The Kelpies Prize is a fantastic vehicle for new children's writers to gain publication and recognition. Previous winners include *Chill* by Alex Nye and *Hox* by Annemarie Allan. Kelpies author Lari Don has also had recent success with *First Aid for Fairies and Other Fabled Beasts*, which won a Royal Mail Award in 2009. Although the winning novel must be set in Scotland, its author need not be Scottish.

Further information, including terms and conditions, can be found at [www.florisbooks.co.uk/kelpieprize](http://www.florisbooks.co.uk/kelpieprize)

### **Essex Poetry Festival announces 10th Open Poetry Competition**

First prize £1,000. For poems of up to 40 lines.  
Entry Fee: £6 per poem or £20 for 5 poems

Sole Adjudicator: Kathryn Simmonds.

Contact: Essex Poetry Festival Competition, 15 Seeleys, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0AD. [www.essex-poetry-festival.co.uk](http://www.essex-poetry-festival.co.uk)

### **Wasafiri New Writing Prize 2010**

Creative submissions in poetry, fiction or life writing. Prize £300 in each category. 3000 -word limit. Judges: Susheila Nasta, Romesh Gunsekera, Moniza Alvi and Marina Warner. Mark envelopes 'New Writing Prize'.  
Entry Fee: £5

Contact: Wasafiri, The Open University in London, 1-11 Hawley Crescent, London NW1 8NP

Website: [www.wasafiri.org](http://www.wasafiri.org)

## **International Playwriting Festival 2010 - Call for Entries**

Warehouse Theatre Company

Location: London, UK

Deadline: 31st July 2010

The 25th Year International Playwriting Festival 2010 competition accepts entries from all over the world, and is judged by a panel of distinguished theatre practitioners. The best selected plays will be showcased at the Festival weekend, held in March 2010, with a view to further production.

For further information, visit [www.warehousetheatre.co.uk/ipf10.html](http://www.warehousetheatre.co.uk/ipf10.html) or email Ted Craig at [ted@warehousetheatre.co.uk](mailto:ted@warehousetheatre.co.uk)

## **The McLellan Award for Play Writing 2010**

Arran Theatre and Arts Trust

Location: Arran, Scotland

Deadline: 31st July 2010

This award asks for plays in contemporary living Scots, in any urban or rural dialect. Plays should be for a cast of up to five actors, without doubling, with a running time of between 40 and 90 minutes.

The winning playwright will receive prize money of £1,000, as well as the McLellan Award 2010 created by sculptor Marvin Elliot and, funding permitting, the opportunity to workshop their play with Nutshell Theatre Company, culminating in a script-in-hand performance at the McLellan Arts Festival in September 2010.

Previous winners include Shetland writer Jacqui Clarke and young Ayrshire writer Fiona Connor. Among the judging panel is Julie Ellen, Creative Director of Playwrights' Studio, Scotland.

For entry details and more information, visit [www.mclellanartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.mclellanartsfestival.co.uk) or contact Heather Gough on 01770 302 670 or [gough.carlo@virgin.net](mailto:gough.carlo@virgin.net)

## What Members Are Getting Up To

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ALAN AYCKBOURN will direct the world premiere of his 74th play, *The Life of Riley*. It will play at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough from 16th September - 16th October. With a few months of his life remaining, George Riley's closest friends remember with love, nostalgia or occasional bursts of downright fury, how deeply he has affected all their past lives. George, though, is plotting one last final farewell which threatens to upset all their future lives. What exactly is the eccentric maverick Riley playing at?

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SARAH BAGSHAW wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm and 8:00pm on Thursday 8th July.

\*\*\*

SIMON BLACKWELL wrote the episode of the new series of *The Old Guys* starring Roger Lloyd Pack and Clive Swift.

\*\*\*

STEPHEN CHURCHETT wrote the episode of *Lewis "Allegory of Love"* going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Sunday 4th July.

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JEFF DODDS wrote the episode of *Casualty "Going Solo"* going out on BBC1 at 8:50pm on Saturday 3rd July.

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*The Bridge* by KEVIN DYER is on at The Rep Dundee, opening on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of July.

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CHRIS FEWTRELL wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Monday 5th July.

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IAIN FINLAY MCLEOD'S radio play *Mr. Anwar's Farewell to Stornoway* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Tuesday 6th July.

\*\*\*

ROB GITTINS wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Friday 9th July.

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KATE GLOVER'S play *Judenfrei: Love and Death in Hitler's Germany* is running in London at the Jewish Museum on 14th and 15th July at 7:30pm , book online at [www.jewishmuseum.org.uk](http://www.jewishmuseum.org.uk), then at The Church of All Hallows by the Tower EC3R 5BJ on 16th July at 7:30pm, book online at [www.historiatheatre.com](http://www.historiatheatre.com) and then at The Guild Church of St. Dunstan-In-The-West on 27th July at 7:30pm, tickets can be booked from the later website address.

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PENNY GOLD'S radio play *A Chaos of Wealth and Want* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Friday 9th July.

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PHILIP GOULDING'S stage adaptation of William Woodruff's best-selling memoir *The Road to Nab End* runs at the Oldham Coliseum Theatre from 17th June to 10th July 2010.

[www.philipgoulding.com](http://www.philipgoulding.com)

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LISA HOLDSWORTH wrote the episode of *New Tricks "A Face for Radio"* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Wednesday 7th July.

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

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JOHN KERR wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 5th July.

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JAN MCVERRY wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Friday 9th July.

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JULIE PARSONS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 9th July.

\*\*\*

CHRISTOPHER REASON wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 8th July.

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MIRANDA WALKER wrote the play *Collaboration*, which is at The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury on July 1st – 2nd.

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JAMES WOOD wrote the episode of *Rev "Jesus Is Awesome"* going out on BBC2 at 10:00pm on Monday 5th July.

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STEPHEN WYATT'S radio play *Gerontius* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Thursday 8th July.

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