

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 395, Friday 30th October 2009

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Guild News

Writers' Guild Awards 2009 shortlists announced

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain has announced the shortlists for its 2009 Awards covering TV, theatre, film, radio and video games. The winners will be revealed at a reception on Sunday 29 November 2009 along with individual awards for Lifetime Achievement and Special Contribution to Writing for Children.

The Writers' Guild Awards are sponsored by the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society, BBC Writersroom, BBC Talent Rights, and H.W. Fisher & Company, the accountants with many media and trade union clients.

The Writers' Guild Awards are special because the work of writers is honoured by their peers and colleagues. The Awards date back to 1961 and the list of recipients is a roll-call of the greatest British writers of the past half century.

This year's event also marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain as an independent trade union affiliated to the TUC.

The 2009 Awards reception will be held at the Free Word Centre in Clerkenwell, central London, the newly-opened home of English PEN, Free Word, Index on Censorship, Arvon Foundation, Literary Consultancy, Reading Agency Apples & Snakes, Article 19, Booktrust and Dalkey Archive.

The shortlists

Television comedy / light entertainment

Outnumbered, by Andy Hamilton & Guy Jenkin.

Peep Show, by Sam Bain & Jesse Armstrong.

The IT Crowd, by Graham Linehan.

Television drama series

Being Human, by Toby Whitehouse.

Doctor Who, various writers.

Little Dorrit, adapted by Andrew Davies.

Television soap / continuing series

Doctors, various writers.

Casualty, various writers.

Coronation Street, various writers.

Best feature film screenplay

The Damned United, by Peter Morgan

Hunger, by Enda Walsh, Steve McQueen.

In the Loop, by Jesse Armstrong, Simon Blackwell, Armando Iannucci, Tony Roche, (additional dialogue by Ian Martin).

Feature film screenplay – newcomer

Is Anybody There? by Peter Harness.

Shifty, by Eran Creevy.

Summer, by Hugh Ellis.

Best theatre play

Apologia, by Alexi Kaye Campbell.

At the Gates of Gaza, by Juliet Gilkes Romero.

Relocated, by Anthony Neilson.

Best theatre play for children and young people

Knock Against my Heart, by Oladipo Agboluaje.

Red Fortress, by Carl Miller.

Scarlet Ribbons, by Brendan Murray.

Radio comedy / light entertainment

The Now Show, by Steve Punt, Hugh Dennis, Laura Shavin, Jon Holmes et al.

15 Minute Musicals, by Richie Webb, David Quantick and Dave Cohen.

Bleak Expectations, by Mark Evans.

Cabin Pressure, by John Finnemore.

Radio drama

A Prayer for Owen Meany, adapted by Linda Marshall Griffin.

The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists, adapted by Andrew Lynch.

The Gunshot Wedding, by Katie Hims.

Video games award

Prince of Persia, by Andy Walsh.

Fable II, by Mark Hill.

Routes, by Tom Edge.

Imison and Tinniswood Radio Award winners

The Writers' Guild and the Society of Authors are pleased to announce the results of the 2009 Imison and Tinniswood Radio Awards:

The Imison Award Winner - *Girl From Mars* by Lucy Caldwell (to be repeated on R4, 23-26 November 2009 tbc)

The Tinniswood Award Winner - *Goldfish Girl* by Peter Souter (to be repeated on R7, January 2010 tbc)

The Tinniswood Award Highly Recommended - *Far North* by Louis Nowra (to be repeated on R4, 23-26 November 2009 tbc)

Awards of £1,500 (sponsored by the ALCS and The Peggy Ramsay Foundation) and digital radios (gifted by PURE) were presented to the winning plays by film director and writer Mike Hodges.

The following shortlisted plays will also air on R4's Afternoon Play slot over 23-26 November 2009: *Cobwebs* by David Hodgson (2009 Alfred Bradley Bursary runner-up) and *Flaw in the Motor*, *Dust in the Blood* by Trevor Preston (shortlisted for the 2009 Mental Health Media Awards). All plays including the shortlisted *The Switch* by Ali Smith and *The Heroic Pursuits of Darleen Fyles* by Esther Wilson will receive a further broadcast on BBC7 over January 2010 (dates tbc). Plays are available on the BBC iPlayer for a further seven days from broadcast.

Girl from Mars was Lucy Caldwell's first radio play and it won the Irish Playwrights and Screenwriters Guild O Z Whitehead 'ZeBBie' Writers' Award 2008 for Best Radio Script. As a playwright she has won the George Devine Award 2006, 2008 Stewart Parker Trust and a

joint winner of the Susan Blackburn Smith Prize 2007. As a novelist she was shortlisted for the inaugural EDS Dylan Thomas Prize.

Peter Souter was formally the Worldwide Creative Director of one of the biggest advertising agencies in Britain. This is his second radio play; his first, Puddle, was broadcast to excellent feedback from both listeners and critics.

Louis Nowra has had a celebrated career in Australia beginning with radio plays and then extensive work in stage, TV, novels, film and opera. He won a Prix Italia award in 1990 for his radio play Summer of the Aliens and has since won AFI screenplay awards and major Australian prizes. His movie credits include K-19 The Widowmaker and Heaven's Burning.

DON'T PUT YOUR CHEQUE IN THE POST

The Writers' Guild is already used to postal delays because our office is directly opposite London's Mount Pleasant sorting office, where one-day strikes have been taking place for the past couple of months. But now the strikes have gone nationwide, it is likely that mail will be much more seriously delayed.

This affects the Guild because many members renew their subscriptions by posting us a cheque – this is virtually our only source of income. Until the dispute is settled, please will members try to find a different way of paying Guild subs?

You can:

Call our membership service on 01952 214 063 – you can pay by debit card or credit card over the phone;

Use internet banking to make an electronic transfer into our account. You will need to quote our account number (34042241) and sort code (08-60-01). There will also be a "reference" or "notes" box in which you should give your membership number (with or without preceding zeroes) and the first few letters of your surname.

In addition we are testing new pages for our website that will allow you to make payments online – we will notify you through the Friday email bulletin when this service becomes operational.

When should you pay? On your Guild membership card you will see an expiry date – this is the date your renewal is due, so please pay on or before that date. You should receive a reminder by email two weeks before the due date.

How much to pay? For Candidate Members the annual subscription is £100. For Full Members the minimum is £180 and the maximum is £1,800. You should calculate 1.2 per cent of your last full year's income from writing (see our ready reckoner at <http://www.writersguild.org.uk/public/userimages/File/Membership%20forms/Reckoner.pdf> to work out the exact amount you need to pay).

You can also pay by monthly, quarterly or half-yearly installments using direct debit. If you already use this system, please remember to call the subscriptions helpline on the number above to update your declaration of income. Also call this number to set up a new direct debit – usually this can be done over the phone without using the postal service.

SPECIAL NOTE ON ROYALTY PAYMENTS: At this time of year the Guild distributes royalty payments to writers of *The Avengers* and some other classic TV shows, and to members whose work has been used by the British Forces Broadcasting Service. If you are due to receive one of these payments, this will also be made by electronic transfer and we will contact members individually by email over the next few days to check your bank account details.

For subscriptions inquiries please telephone the Guild membership helpline on 01952 214 063. For queries about royalties please contact the Guild London office on admin@writersguild.org.uk.

The Trades Union Congress (to which the Writers' Guild is affiliated) has issued an appeal for donations to a Hardship Fund from the postal workers' union London Region. The CWU says the situation in London is urgent – workers have already taken at least 14 days of strike action and therefore incurred heavy losses of pay, and the Royal Mail does not provide highly paid employment.

Should you wish to make a donation you can transfer funds to CWU LONDON DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE – HARSHIP FUND: Unity Trust Account No. 20232065;

Sort Code: 086001, or send donations to: Hardship Fund, c/o London Divisional Committee, 2nd Floor, 33-41 Dallington Street, London EC1V 0BB.

Industry News

Norman Painting 1924-2009

Norman Painting, who played Phil Archer in the BBC radio soap *The Archers*, has died at the age of 85. As [BBC News](#) reports, as well as being an actor, Painting also wrote for the series "under the pen name Bruno Milna, and was responsible for more than 1,100 episodes, receiving a Writer's Guild Award in 1967."

For the full story please visit the Guild's blog.

Events

Writersroom Q&A with Miranda Hart

[Miranda](#) - a new sitcom based on the [Radio 2](#) series [Miranda Hart's Joke Shop](#) - will start on [BBC2](#) in November.

On Tuesday 10 November 2009, writer and star [Miranda Hart](#) will be in conversation with Kate Rowland from 5pm - 6:30pm at the Soho Theatre in London, where she will talk about writing and performing comedy and the new series, as well as answering your questions.

Miranda has had roles in [Not Going Out](#), [Jack Dee's Lead Balloon](#), [Angelo's](#), [Nighty Night](#), and [Smack the Pony](#), and was nominated for a British Comedy Award in 2006 for her role in [Hyperdrive](#). Her stage work has included *Miranda Hart's House Party*, and her stand up comedy work recently earned her a successful appearance on [Have I Got News For You](#). Miranda writes all of her own solo and stand up work.

The event takes place at;

Soho Theatre

21 Dean Street

London, W1V 6NE

Tickets are free, to add your name to the guest list all you have to do is email writersroom.events@bbc.co.uk.

Poet in the City - Poetry and Film

This is a reminder of *Poet in the City's* amazing **Poetry and Film** event, which is taking place from 6.30pm on Mon evening (2 Nov) in Hall One at Kings Place. The event itself will start promptly at 7.00pm.

The event is a fantastic celebration of the many connections between poetry and film. Hosted by the poet **John Mole**, the event will feature the director and screenwriter **Terence Davies**, film critic **Phillip French**, poet **Nick Drake**, and the Indian film

experts **Kaleem Sheikh and Jay Visva Deva**, with readings from the actor **Lucy Tregear**.

Tickets for this amazing event can be booked online for £9.50 via www.kingsplace.co.uk Otherwise tickets cost £11.50. The box office number is 020 7520 1490.

For enquiries relating to your booking please contact tickets@kingsplace.co.uk
For general enquiries please email info@kingsplace.co.uk

For the location of Kings Place see the map at

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/idmap.srf?x=530352&y=183430&z=110&sv=530352,183430&st=4&ar=Y&mapp=idmap.srf&searchp=!ids.srf&lm=0>

Don't miss what promises to be a fantastic celebration of both poetry and cinema.

Courses and Workshops

Tearing down the walls

Bypass the Gatekeepers and Turn Your Web Series Viral

From the producers of this year's most-talked about web series, LIVING WITH THE INFIDELS, here's the insiders' guide to creating, producing and marketing a web series.

From 10-6pm on the 12th December at the Jerwood Space, London

Sessions include:

Developing the Concept (what works and what doesn't)

All About the Money (budgets, funding, distribution and monetizing)

Production (case studies, do's and don'ts, cameras, workflows and formats)

Encoding for the Web

Turning it Viral (developing the strategy; creating a disturb; hitting the headlines)

Cost: £120 & VAT

Email aasaf@thesystempredicts.com to book, or call 0797 661 3150

3G-3D Storytelling: New narrative structures and writing opportunities in the digital age

Saturday 7th November 2009 (10am-5pm)

Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Centenary Suite

£50 (£40 concessions*)

TV/film producer: Claire Ingham

Online Drama writer: Neil Mossey

Screen & Games writer: Graham Joyce

From the traditionally structured TV and film stories that attempt to appeal to wide audiences (which ITV controller Peter Fincham termed '3G' – three generations watching together), to the 3D structures of games and online drama, this day-long course looks at new opportunities offered to writers by the rise of digital technologies. Suitable for writers, film-makers and drama practitioners interested in looking at new ways of telling stories across screens of all sizes.

*Concessionary rate also available to early bird bookings received BEFORE Friday 30th October.

For booking and further information, please visit www.scriptonline.net/screen.html

Or email catherine.edwards@scriptonline.net

Screenwriting and book courses by Brendan Foley

Guild member Brendan Foley is bringing his popular training courses on screenwriting and Writing your First Book to London and Wales. WG Members are entitled to the same lower price as NUJ members.

The **Screenwriting** course comes in one-day and two-day versions, the first focusing on the craft and writing aspects, the second also covering how to develop and sell scripts.

His other course, **Writing Your First Book** has proven very popular with writers and journalists moving into the world of books and authorship. It is a practical and upbeat one-day course.

Brendan Foley has written and directed feature films, including **The Riddle** with Derek Jacobi and Vanessa Redgrave, and **Johnny Was** with Vinnie Jones and Roger Daltrey. He is also an author, including WWII bestseller **Under the Wire**.

Dates Nov-Jan are available from Tracy at NUJ Training on 0207 843 3717 or online at <http://www.nujtraining.org.uk>

Be sure to mention you are a WG member to get the NUJ rate.

What Members Are Getting Up To

JESSE ARMSTRONG co-wrote the episode of *The Thick of It* going out on BBC2 at 10:10pm on Saturday 31st October.

SARAH BAGSHAW wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm and 8:00pm on Thursday 5th November.

SONALI BHATTACHARYYA wrote the episode of *Doctors* "Worst Critic" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Wednesday 4th November.

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

NAZRIN CHOUDHURY wrote the episode of *Doctors* "Great Expectations" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Thursday 5th November.

LESLIE CLAIRE O'NEILL wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 2nd and Wednesday 4th November.

RICHARD DAVIDSON wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 5th and at 8:00pm on Friday 6th November.

FIONA EVANS wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Tuesday 3rd November.

STEVEN FAY wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Wednesday 4th November.

ADRIAN FLYNN wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Sunday 1st November till Friday 6th November with every episode being repeated at 2:00pm the day following its original broadcast.

JONATHAN R. HALL wrote the episode of *Doctors "Family Values"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Monday 2nd November.

JONATHAN HARVEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 6th November.

MARTHA HILLIER wrote the episode of *Holby City "The Professionals"* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Tuesday 3rd November.

LISA HOLDSWORTH wrote the episode of *New Tricks "Communal Living"* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Thursday 5th November.

NICK HORNBY co-wrote the episode of *The Richest Man in Britain* going out on Radio 4 at 11:30am on Friday 6th November.

IAN KERSHAW'S radio comedy *Pick-Ups* continues with the episode *"All Bar Nun"* going out on Radio 4 at 11:00pm on Thursday 5th November.

DAVID LANE wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Thursday 5th November.

KAREN LAWS and FIONA EVANS'S BBC Radio 3's drama *Beware the Kids* is now available on BBC i-player until Sunday 1st November.

This new drama tackles the family head on. When should the State intervene and where does the line between personal and public responsibility lie?

GRAHAM LESTER GEORGE wrote the short film WASHDAYS, which has been nominated for a BIFA. Earlier this year, Washdays won Best Film at the Rushes Soho Short Film Festival.

BILL LYONS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 6th November.

OLLY PERKIN wrote the episode of *Doctors "Doctor Who?"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Friday 6th November.

DIANE SPEAKMAN'S play *Taliswoman* is to have a production at Leicester Guildhall from the 17th to the 27th of November 2009, directed by Heather Taylor.

RICHARD STONEMAN wrote the episode of *Doc Martin "Do Not Disturb"* going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Sunday 1st November.

SUE TEDDERN'S five-part *Woman's Hour* comedy-drama serial, *Singleparentpals.com*, is on BBC Radio 4 from Monday November 2nd to Friday November 6th, at 10.45am (repeated 7.45pm). It stars Maxine Peake and Kris Marshall and is the story of the developing friendship between two single parents who correspond via a parenting advice website.

HEIDI THOMAS has been commissioned by Ben Stephenson and Jay Hunt (Controller, BBC 1) to bring the legendary TV series *Upstairs Downstairs* back to life. It will not be a remake but a completely new version, set in a different era with a whole new cast of characters. She will also be executive producer along with Piers Wenger. Jean Marsh will reprise her role of Rose, the parlourmaid, returning to the same house in Eaton Place as housekeeper to its new residents, the wealthy and well-connected Holland family. A new role will be created for Dame Eileen Atkins. Filming begins early next year.

MIKE WALKER wrote the last episode of the series *Dickens Confidential "Why Are We in Afghanistan?"* going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Tuesday 3rd November.

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