

# The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 365, Friday 3rd April 2009

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

## Guild News

- 1. Annual General Meeting - Friday 5th June 2009**
- 2. TV Good Practice Guide**
- 3. Cult Cymru - Calling Wales-Based Guild Members**

## Events

- 4. Blake Snyder's Beat Sheet Seminar**
- 5. Meet the Agents**
- 6. Africa Oyé 2009**

## Courses and Workshops

- 7. BBC College of Comedy - Open for Applications**
- 8. Script Factory: Writing Radio Drama**

## Opportunities

**9. Senior Teaching Fellow Scriptwriter wanted in Gold Coast, Australia**

**10. Scene & Heard Initiative**

**11. £10,000 Stage Script Competition**

**12. Rewrite the Future**

**13. 2009 BBC National Short Story Award**

**What Members Are Getting Up To**

## **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](mailto: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 Guild 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 project - 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](mailto:othnielsmith@yahoo.com)).

## **Events**

### **4. Blake Snyder's Beat Sheet Seminar**

LIVE IN LONDON!

May 2nd - 3rd, 2009

At The Central School of Speech and Drama, Swiss Cottage, London

Learn the tips and tactics that will turn your idea into a screenplay in a career-changing weekend with Blake Snyder, author of the best selling books and software on screenwriting, *Save the Cat!*® and *Save the Cat!*

*Goes to the Movies*® !

For more information please go to:

[https://www.blakesnyder.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&products\\_id=10](https://www.blakesnyder.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=10)

## **5. Meet the Agents event in Oxford**

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 also be there to answer questions about the Guild.

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 really 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 usually very well attended, so be sure to book your place early!

Details and booking:

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 the website at [www.newwritingsouth.com](http://www.newwritingsouth.com).

## **6. 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](http://www.africaoye.com) for tour update, ticket info, and festival information.

For more information contact:

Another Media

[info@anothermedia.org](mailto:info@anothermedia.org)

[ali@anothermedia.org](mailto:ali@anothermedia.org)

0151 708 2841

Find this event on Facebook - Africa Oye Festival [www.africaoye.com](http://www.africaoye.com)  
[www.myspace.com/africaoye](http://www.myspace.com/africaoye)

## Courses and Workshops

### 7. BBC College of Comedy - Open for Applications

The college is the Comedy equivalent of the BBC drama Writers Academy, and is now inviting applications for its second year. The scheme will run for 12 months, and six successful applicants (writing pairs will be treated as a single applicant) will be attached to an existing production, and will also be mentored in the creation of original work.

The scheme is open to writers of half-hour narrative comedy, and to sketch writers from the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland.

Applicants will have had their work broadcast; had work commissioned for development by a broadcaster or production company; or had their work performed professionally, either as a writer or a writer/performer. Applications which do not meet these criteria will not be considered.

The deadline for submissions is noon on 24 April 2009. Full details can be found at [www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom](http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom)

### 8. 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](mailto: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](http://www.scriptfactory.co.uk/go/Training/Article_398.html)

## Opportunities

### **9. Senior Teaching Fellow Scriptwriter - Bond University, Gold Coast, Aus.**

The Centre for Film and Television is seeking to appoint a new member to its academic staff in the position of Senior Teaching Fellow in Scriptwriting. The expected commencement date is 11 May, 2009.

The appointee will be required to teach scriptwriting for film and television, including the development of relevant coursework materials, and associated administrative duties. The successful applicant will also be expected to contribute to the Centre's on-going development, engage in other professional activities, and maintain active links with the film and television industry.

The successful applicant will have a notable portfolio of film and/or television scripts that have been produced, and extensive scriptwriting/script editing experience, have a tertiary qualification in a related field, and an appropriate level of teaching experience.

Depending on the level of appointment the remuneration will be commensurate with qualifications and experience and will be on a pro-rata basis (\$62,428.30 - \$68,886.40 pa), plus 9% superannuation.

The expected commencement date is 11th May, 2009.

The successful incumbent will have six face to face teaching hours plus two student consultation hours per week.

Further information can be obtained from Associate Professor - Michael Sergi, Director of film & Television (07) 559 54067 or email: [msergi@bond.edu.au](mailto:msergi@bond.edu.au).

Applications addressing the selection criteria, including a resume and three referees, should be forwarded to:

Applications close 5pm, Wednesday, 15 April 2009.

Further details, including the selection criteria [www.bond.edu.au/employ](http://www.bond.edu.au/employ) .

## **10. Scene & Heard Initiative**

Scene & Heard is a unique mentoring project that partners the inner-city children of Somers Town, London with volunteer theatre professionals, providing each child who participates with quality one-on-one adult attention and an experience of personal success through the process of writing and performing plays.

Set up in 1999 Scene & Heard is run by founder members Sophie Boyack and Kate Coleman. It is based on the American organisation The 52nd Street Project, which has been successfully working with economically disadvantaged children in New York for 20 years and with whom Co-Artistic Director, Kate Coleman worked during 1998. Scene & Heard currently runs five courses annually for children aged 9 to 14.

They are always in need of volunteers, so any interested writers can find further information at [http://sceneandheard.org/about\\_whoare.html](http://sceneandheard.org/about_whoare.html)

This is from a recent Guardian article, featuring Guild member Shelley Silas who has been involved with the project:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/mar/26/scene-heard-youth-plays>

## **11. £10,000 Stage Script Competition**

The 4<sup>th</sup> round of the *STAGE* International Script Competition is now officially underway, and scripts will be accepted June 15 – December 15, 2009. For more information about *STAGE*, or to access the online entry form and official guidelines for the current cycle of the competition, please visit [www.stage.cnsi.ucsb.edu](http://www.stage.cnsi.ucsb.edu).

## **12. Rewrite the Future**

Did you know that Education is being destroyed for 40 million children in conflict-affected countries? Kids are missing out on school and losing their future.

CAN YOU take this message and turn it into a stunning video/animation (or something else) that will INSPIRE, PROVOKE and MOTIVATE the world to do more NOW!

**GET STARTED NOW!** To find out the reward, to sign up for the challenge, email: [rewritethefuture@save-children-alliance.org](mailto:rewritethefuture@save-children-alliance.org) (Subject line: "Worldwide Wake Up Call").

## **13. 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/>

## What Members Are Getting Up To

\*\*\*

PAUL ABBOTT has just signed a three-year, first-look distribution deal with FremantleMedia Enterprises and his new company, Abbott Vision. Paul said that FME's approach to project development was "spot on." He said: "Too many industry people are reacting to the economic situation by diving for their emergency media survival manuals. That's the opposite of where I stand. It's wrong, it's destructive and it will force creative talent into a tailspin. We should all be investing in imagination now. It's a lot more fun and it's the only credible asset that can rescue the screen drama industry."

\*\*\*

SIMON J. ASHFORD wrote the episode of *Robin Hood "Cause and Effect"* going out on BBC1 at 6:25pm on Saturday 4th April.

\*\*\*

SAMINA BAIG wrote the episode of *Holby City "Careful What You Wish For"* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Tuesday 7th April.

\*\*\*

RICHARD BURKE wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Wednesday 8th April.

\*\*\*

RICHARD CURTIS wrote and directed the film *The Boat that Rocked*, now on general release nationwide.

\*\*\*

MARY CUTLER wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Monday 6th till Friday 10th April with each episode being repeated at 2:00pm the day following its original release.

\*\*\*

HELEN FARRALL wrote the episode of *Doctors* "One for the Road" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Wednesday 8th April.

\*\*\*

RACHEL FLOWERDAY wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 9th April.

\*\*\*

JULIA GILBERT wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 6th and at 7:30pm on Tuesday 7th April.

\*\*\*

DAWN HARRISON wrote the episode of *Doctors "Hole"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Tuesday 7th April.

\*\*\*

GUY HIBBERT'S award-winning drama *Five Minutes of Heaven* is going out on BBC2 at 9:00pm on Sunday 5th April. Starring Liam Neeson and James Nesbit, it explores aspects of Northern Ireland's troubled past.

\*\*\*

DEBBIE HORSFIELD wrote the episode of *All the Small Things* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Tuesday 7th April.

\*\*\*

STEVE HUGHES wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Thursday 9th April.

\*\*\*

ROBERT JONES wrote the episode of *The No. 1 Detective Agency "Problems in Moral Philosophy"* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Sunday 5th April.

\*\*\*

MIKE LEIGH: The BBC Collection DVD boxset will be released on 6 April. In six DVDs it contains all of the BBC's surviving Mike Leigh works, from 1973's *Hard Labour* to the *Long Goodbye* in 2000, including classics like *Abigail's Party*, *Nuts In*

May and Grown-Ups. It includes his own director's commentaries, a booklet, documentaries and a few rarely-seen short films from 1975.

\*\*\*

BILL LYONS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 7th April.

\*\*\*

DAVID MCDERMOTT wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 8th April.

\*\*\*

DAVID NOBBS'S adaptation of *What a Carve Up!* begins on Radio 4 at 11:30pm on Monday 6th April.

\*\*\*

JESSE O'MAHONEY wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Monday 6th April.

\*\*\*

DAVID STAFFORD co-wrote the episode of *Hazelbeach* going out on Radio 4 at 11:30am on Monday 6th April.

\*\*\*

CHRIS THOMPSON wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 6th April.

\*\*\*

JOE TURNER wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Friday 10th April.

\*\*\*

NICK WARBURTON'S radio series *Witness: Five Plays from the Gospel of Luke* continues on Radio 4 with *Jerusalem* going out at 2:15pm on Tuesday 7th and *Tested* on Thursday 9th April.

\*\*\*

PETER WHALLEY wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Monday 6th and at 7:30pm on Wednesday 8th April.

\*\*\*

*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.*