

# The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 374, Friday 5th June 2009

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

- [David Eddings 1931-2009](#)
- [Estate agents sue CSI](#)
- [YouTube XL and beeTV](#)
- [Jason Arnopp's Bloggery Pokery](#)
- [Guild AGM](#)
- [John August self-publishes The Variant](#)
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### **1. Writers' Guild office closed for A.G.M.**

The Writers' Guild office in Rosebery Avenue will be closed during the hours of 9:30am till 5:30pm as all the staff will be attending the Annual General Meeting.

## **2. Southern TV**

The Guild's TV Committee would like to hear from any members who've written series for Southern TV. If you've written any of the series listed here:

<http://www.renownpicturesltd.com/projects.asp?Type=Distribution%20Library&DLTitle=BRITISH&Genre=All&MODE=Series&curpage=1>

then please get in touch! Email: [erik@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:erik@writersguild.org.uk)

## **3. Theatre Questionnaires - update**

The deadline for the Arts Council study has now passed, but we are still looking for contributions to the Writers' Guild's own Theatre Questionnaire.

This study is being conducted by the Writers' Guild Theatre Committee and the results will be used by the Guild in its lobbying and campaigning on theatre issues.

Log on and tell us about your experiences of working in theatre:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=eByFqUBk\\_2bXmrUaNdKEiSIA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=eByFqUBk_2bXmrUaNdKEiSIA_3d_3d)

Deadline: Friday 12th June 2009

## **4. Writers and Portfolio Development - Your Help Needed!**

Along with the Musicians Union, National Union of Journalists, Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union, and Equity, the Writers' Guild's Welsh branch is developing training materials for 5 workshops on career-development topics highlighted by a members' survey. Have you got a tangible or digital portfolio you'd like to put forward as an example for consideration in the

Portfolio Development workshop? Also your experience of using a portfolio to get work, hire staff or network would be useful.

Please email your comments to Guild member Angela Graham at [AngelaGraham2003@aol.com](mailto:AngelaGraham2003@aol.com).

If you want to help but need more information about what Angela is looking for, please get in touch with her. Thank you.

## Events

### **5. Vamps, Vixens and Feminists: The Elephant in the Room**

June 16th 10:00am -1:30pm National Theatre, Olivier Theatre

New Speakers Announced!

Sphinx are delighted to announce that this landmark conference concerning the employment of women in the performing arts is to be opened by Baroness Prosser of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, and will be chaired by Oona King, Head of Diversity for Channel 4.

The line up of speakers continues to be incredibly exciting. Sphinx can confirm that Gurinder Chadha will be joining Lucy Pitman-Wallace in a director's discussion, the Director of the Fawcett Society Katherine Rake will be talking with Beatrix Campbell and Jean Rogers about the Gender Equality Duty, Tracy Brabin and David Edgar will be examining the difficulties that writing women can entail, and Kate Buffery, Hilary Salmon and Laura Mackie will be debating whose responsibility it is that women are given diverse and complex roles on screen and stage.

Join them and contribute to this highly significant milestone in the development of women's equality in the performing arts. Come and have your say!

To reserve a place and receive an e-ticket please email [info@sphinxtheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@sphinxtheatre.co.uk) with the subject line "Vamps Vixens and Feminists".

## 6. Edinburgh International Film Festival

The festival gets underway from on 17th June with 12 days of premieres, filmmaker workshops and debates. Films screening include the UK premiere of Andrea Arnold's Cannes award-winning *Fish Tank*, co-funded by the UK Film Council's New Cinema and Development Funds, screenings of UK Film Council Completion Fund and Cinema Extreme shorts, information events on funding for filmmakers, one-to-one meetings for filmmakers with production executives, Take 12 case study sessions with companies sharing their experiences on using digital to develop their businesses, pitching panels with Birds Eye View and much more. To view the full programme, visit the [website](#).

## 7. Art for Lunch: Keith Bayliss – ‘Some Welsh Narrative Artists’

The Dylan Thomas Centre

Friday, 12th June at 1:00pm

**Keith Bayliss** discusses ‘**Some Welsh Narrative Artists**’ at the Dylan Thomas Centre on **Friday, 12 June** at **1pm**.

This is the second in a new monthly series of short talks on a wide range of arts topics which can be squeezed into a lunch-hour.

Swansea artist Keith Bayliss will present an informal, illustrated talk, exploring the work of Wales-based artists whose work displays a personal poetic narrative, including **Tony Goble**, **William Brown** and **Clive Hicks-Jenkins**.

Tickets are only £5-00, **which includes soup and a sandwich** from our Bookshop-Café. Please contact the Dylan Thomas Centre. <http://www.dylanthomas.com>

## 8. Independents' Day

Get in the head of independent publishers and their decision-making

Independent publishers produce some of the most exciting, zestful and cutting edge work around. So what makes independent publishers tick? What do they look for in new writing? Join us at Foyles' flagship store on July 4th to find out.

A panel of four publishers and writer/editors will share what makes them passionate about their work. They will discuss their editorial approaches, how they engage with their readership and how, in a crowded publishing market, they survive and succeed.

The panel discussion and audience Q&A will be followed by a choice of two expert-led masterclasses: Understanding Editing and Promoting your Work.

The panel includes:

Nina Rapi, BRAND

Tom Chivers, Penned in the Margins

Courtia Newland, Tell Tales

Tom Chalmers, Legend Press.

The event will be chaired by Danuta Kean, freelance journalist and publishing commentator.

[Book now](#)

## **9. Screenwriters' Festival 2009**

BAFTA hosts an evening of drinks and presentations with...

BAFTA Award-winning Screenwriter

**CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON**

(The Quiet American, Dangerous Liaisons, Atonement)

&

Literary Agents

**Matthew Bates** (Sayle Screen) & **Rob Kraitt** (A. P. Watt)

To mark the launch of the 2009 International Screenwriters' Festival, BAFTA hosts a lively evening for producers, directors and writers, in which an award-winning

screenwriter in the shape of Christopher Hampton (*Dangerous Liaisons*, *Carrington*, *The Quiet American* and *Atonement*) offers his own personal observations on the craft of screenwriting and the role of the writer in the industry today. Christopher's presentation is entitled 'The ones that got away'.

In addition, literary agents Matthew Bates (Sayle Screen) and Rob Kraitt (A. P. Watt Ltd) will share their perspective on the industry and the factors that govern the fickle screenplay market.

The evening will also include a session looking at this year's 'ScriptMarket' initiative. On the strength of their submitted scripts, each finalist has been selected for a special one-to-one meeting during the festival in October with an influential industry insider who may be able to propel their project to the next level.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009, @ BAFTA, 195 Piccadilly, London, W1J 9LN

Doors open 7pm / Sessions begin 7:30pm

Admittance is by Confirmed RSVP only. Places are limited. (Deadline for RSVPs Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June).

RSVP to: [Ron@screenwritersfestival.com](mailto:Ron@screenwritersfestival.com) (Non BAFTA members)

[baftaoffer@screenwritersfestival.com](mailto:baftaoffer@screenwritersfestival.com) (BAFTA members)

## 10. The Media Festival

**The Media Festival** is the only one-stop-shop for **innovation, inspiration and networking** for everyone working in the digital content industries. [Request the event brochure here.](#)

**The Media Festival** is the only place where professionals from across the digital media landscape – from gaming to film to mobile to advertising, TV, radio, online, music, the arts and beyond – congregate to discuss, challenge and create new ideas, new business models and new partnerships. **Here's what the experts said about 2008's inaugural event:**

*"I thought the festival went fantastically well. I hope you are delighted by what you've managed to achieve."*

**Richard Deverell**, Controller, **BBC Childrens**

*"A fantastically creative and productive thing to do."*

**Stephen Carter**, Minister for **Communications, Technology and Broadcasting**

*"It really found a niche and everyone I spoke to seemed to have thought so."*  
**Alex Connock**, Chief Executive Officer, **Ten Alps PLC**

*"The bringing together of all the major constituencies from the media and creative industries was well conceived and timely and made for a very worthwhile couple of days for delegates and speakers alike."* **Eric Nicoli**, Chairman, **Vue Cinemas**  
(Former Executive Chairman **EMI group** and **HMV Group**)

2009 promises to bring you the best elements of the 2008 event with new added features to make it **more practical, more interactive and more inspiring** than before. **For a limited time only the lowest price from 2008's event has been frozen - [save £300, register online today.](#)**

## Courses and Workshops

### 11. LFS Workshops Update

**Writers Guild members may claim a 10% discount on the following short courses at the London Film School:**

Our next 2-day [Script Supervision and Continuity for Film & Television](#) workshop with **Beth Multer** will take place on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June**. Whether you're a director or line producer who needs to know more about what a script supervisor does, or you're interested in becoming a Script Supervisor yourself – this course will give you a great overview of what the role entails. Fee: £180. [Click here for info.](#)

Improvisation expert **Sean McCann** returns to LFS in July for a week-long course: [Improvisation for Directors in Film & TV \(Mon 27<sup>th</sup> – Fri 31<sup>st</sup> July\)](#). Learn how to get actors to improvise successfully, discuss improvisation using pre-existing material and from scratch, and examine how improvisation can be used to improve the quality and effectiveness of the written screenplay. Fee: £380. [Click here for info.](#)

[The Other Side of the Fence WITH RICHARD KWIETNIOWSKI \(Mon 7<sup>th</sup> – Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Sep\)](#) is an intensive 5-day workshop giving 10 filmmakers and 10 actors a unique opportunity to explore each others' roles both in front of and behind the camera. The week will cover the stages of preparation where actor and director meet (i.e. audition, rehearsal, blocking, camera rehearsal) as well as on-set directing procedure, where communication and collaboration are crucial. Fee: £350. [Click here for info.](#)

**Skillset Screen Bursaries available. Visit [www.skillset.org/screenbursaries](http://www.skillset.org/screenbursaries) for details.**

**To apply for any of the above workshops please contact Carolyn Atherton: [workshops@lfs.org.uk](mailto:workshops@lfs.org.uk) / +44 (0)20 7836 9642.**

## **12. Writing for Health Taster Day**

Pen and Tonic is a community organisation that promotes the health benefits of creative writing with the intention of providing a variety of workshops, groups and taster days

### **The Day aims to provide:**

- An introduction to the health benefits of writing.
- Explore what it's all about including creative, different ways of using writing and storytelling.
- Demonstrate how exercises and techniques can support individuals and groups to find their voice and build up their confidence.

### **Of particular interest to:**

- Community and health workers.
- Anyone who is interested in how writing can improve physical and mental health well being.

For more information and to apply please email: [penandtonic@btinternet.com](mailto:penandtonic@btinternet.com)

## **13. Carte Blanche: A New Women's Writing Group (Newcastle)**

This new women's writing group will meet on Thursdays at 9.30am-12.30am, upstairs at the Brunswick Church (behind Fenwick's) in Newcastle and welcome you

to join them from this week. Guest tutors will be: Anna Woodford (pictured) on 7th May, Linda France on 18th June and Peter Mortimer on 2nd July.

The cost is £60 for ten weeks (this includes all three guest tutor dates), £15 for each individual tutor-led session, or £10 for each group-led session. Places for the three guest tutor days are limited, so please book early. Email Liz for further information at [lizkirsopp@madasafish.com](mailto:lizkirsopp@madasafish.com).

## Opportunities

### 14. Short Circuit writing competition

The [Media Lunch Club](#) is running Short Circuit, a search for the best 10 minute drama script on the theme of: "A discussion about film or TV over lunch"

You have to be [a member of the Lunch Club](#), a non-profit making networking organisation, to apply.

Submissions Deadline: All script submissions to be received by Gareth Owen, c/o The Lunch Club, Pinewood Studios, Iver Heath, Bucks SLO ONH ~ or via email to [lunch@lunch-club.org.uk](mailto:lunch@lunch-club.org.uk) by Thursday, 30th June 2009

The best three scripts, as chosen by the judging panel, will be rehearsed and staged by a well-known film director and by actors, and performed at a special evening in front of the Media Lunch Club audience and guests in late September 2009.

There will be an opportunity for the winning script to be produced as a short film by members of the Brighton Film School, plus a year's subscription to [Twelve-Point scriptwriter magazine](#) for the winner and finalists.

## What Members Are Getting Up To

MARTIN ALLEN wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 12th June.

MARK BURTON'S dramatization of *May Contain Nuts* is going out in two parts on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Thursday 11th June.

JADEN CLARK wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 8th June.

ANNA CLEMENTS wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Monday 8th June.

KEVIN DYER'S new play 'The Monster Under The Bed', a play about friendship and facing your fears is on at Polka Theatre, London SW19 from 6<sup>th</sup> June to 25<sup>th</sup> July.  
Info @ [www.polkatheatre.com](http://www.polkatheatre.com)

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

ROB GITTINS has written the screenplay for the feature film, *BLUE MONDAY*, which has just begun principal photography. The film, a loose updating of *Under Milk Wood*, follows four sets of characters over the course of one single night. Bafta Award winner Suzanne Phillips is directing.

JONATHAN R. HALL wrote the episode of *Doctors* "The Lodger" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Tuesday 9th June.

LISA HOLDSWORTH wrote the episode of *Robin Hood* "Bad Blood" going out on BBC1 at 6:45pm on Saturday 6th June.

PAUL LAVERTY'S has been interviewed about his new film with Ken Loach *Looking For Eric*. You can see the interview here: <http://www.route-online.com/authors/paul-laverty.html>

JESSICA LEA wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 9th June.

BILL LYONS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 12th June.

LYNDON MALLET'S *The Hare Lane Diaries* will be broadcast in six parts starting Friday July 17TH at 10.30 pm on BBC Radio 7.

TONY MCHALE wrote the episode of *Holby City* "*Proceed with Caution*" going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Tuesday 9th June.

JOHN MILNE wrote the episode of *Heartbeat* "*The Runaways*" going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Sunday 7th June.

JESSE O'MAHONEY wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Wednesday 10th June.

DOMINIQUE MOLONEY wrote the episode of *Doctors* "*The Real Me*" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Friday 12th June.

ALISTAIR RUTHERFORD has a new full-length play, called HOMECOMING, in the Leith Festival. It will run from Wed 10th June to Sat 13th June, at 7.30, in South Leith Church Halls, Edinburgh. The show is being produced by BigVillage Theatre Company and full details are here : <http://www.bigvillage.org.uk/CurrentShow.htm>

BILL TAYLOR wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 8th June.

NICK WARBURTON'S radio drama *On Mardle Fen* continues with the second episode *A Water Baby* going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Friday 12th June.

PETER WHALLEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 8th June.

*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.*