

THE WRITERS' GUILD AWARDS

PROGRAMME

THE ROYAL COLLEGE
OF PHYSICIANS

11 ST ANDREWS PLACE,
REGENT'S PARK, LONDON NW1 4LE

MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2017

WGGB THE
WRITERS'
UNION

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain is a trade union
registered at 134 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TU



@TheWritersGuild #wgbawards

THE WRITERS' GUILD AWARDS

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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to the Writers' Guild Awards 2017.

Congratulations to all the writers in the room and especially to this evening's nominees. You are the best. I hope you knew that already but now it's official. However once you have recovered from this evening of all too rare praise and attention please feel free to get back to circling the global car crash like the vultures you are and picking out the best bits to feed your creative guts. We need someone to make sense of it all, show us the human cost or point out the funny side. We choose you.



Photo: Robert Taylor Photography

This evening's celebration is only possible because of the wonderful support and generosity of organisations and companies, which also do great work for and with writers all year round. Our lead sponsor ALCS, eOne who also sponsored the reception you have just enjoyed, BBC Drama and BBC Worldwide, Company Pictures, Tiger Aspect and Nick Hern Books. If you meet a sponsor tonight please thank them, hug them, appreciate them as best you can.

Have a great evening.

**Olivia Hetreed
WGGB President**

HISTORY OF THE AWARDS

Since they were established in 1961, the Writers' Guild of Great Britain Awards have been honouring the cream of British writers and writing. The Awards also recognise the importance of our work in preserving freedom of speech, and championing writing as an essential part of our national and international culture.

Previous winners include:

- Danny Boyle
- Richard Curtis
- Jo Brand
- Matthew Vaughn
- Dawn French
- Jimmy McGovern
- Lynda La Plante
- Anthony Minghella
- Roddy Doyle
- Jennifer Saunders
- Alan Bennett
- James Corden
- Steve McQueen
- Kay Mellor
- Russell T. Davies

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

6.30pm Drinks reception

7.00pm Welcome by WGGB President Olivia Hetreed

THE WGGB 2017 AWARDS CEREMONY

- Best Radio Comedy
- Best Long Running TV Series
- Best Writing in a Video Game
- Best Children's TV Episode
- Best Long Form TV Drama
- Best First Screenplay
- Remembering WGGB members
- Best Radio Drama
- Best Play for Young Audiences
- Best Play
- Best Screenplay
- Best TV Situation Comedy
- Best Short Form TV Drama
- Outstanding Contribution to Writing

9.00pm Celebration drinks and canapés

11.00pm Bar close & carriages

MEERA SYAL HOST



Meera is a writer and performer best known for her work on the award-winning *Goodness Gracious Me*, the film *Bhaji on the Beach* and the musical *Bombay Dreams*.

Meera co-created the story for a new three-part drama *Mrs Roy* with Smita Bhide for BBC One. She has written *Heal Me* for Touchpaper/BBC and *Generation Next* for the National Theatre's Connections 2012 season. She contributed and performed new material for a *Goodness Gracious Me* reunion special for BBC Two's 50th anniversary. Meera co-created, wrote and acted in five series of the crossover hit for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Two.

Meera's novel *Anita and Me* is now studied as part of the National Curriculum and was adapted first as a film and, more recently, for the stage. Her third novel, *The House of Hidden Mothers*, was published by Transworld Publishers on 4 June 2015. Drama Republic have optioned the TV rights.

Meera Syal is represented by Rochelle Stevens.



ABOUT WGGB

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain (WGGB) is the TUC-affiliated trade union representing professional writers in TV, film, theatre, radio, books, poetry, animation and videogames.

Our members also include emerging and aspiring writers (known as our Candidate Members).

We have been negotiating better pay and working conditions for writers since 1959. The national agreements we have in place cover key employers, including the BBC, ITV, National Theatre, Royal Court and Royal Shakespeare Company.

We have attracted high-profile members throughout our 57-year history, and continue to do so today. Their names include, among many others: screenwriters Steven Moffat, Mike Leigh, Caitlin Moran, Emma Thompson and Paul Laverty; playwrights Tom Stoppard, April De Angelis, Laura Wade and Mike Bartlett; authors Tony Robinson, Stella Duffy, Sandi Toksvig and David Nicholls.

We lobby and campaign on behalf of writers, to ensure their voices are heard in a rapidly changing digital landscape, and we wield influence over politicians in Westminster, Brussels, Holyrood, Cardiff Bay and beyond.

We offer a range of benefits to our members, including free training, contract vetting, a pension scheme, Welfare Fund, entry to our Find A Writer directory, a weekly ebulletin, plus member-only events and discounts.



WGGB supported London Writers' Week this year with panels on writing for musicals and fact-based theatre
Photo: Em Fitzgerald

“

Perhaps the best example of reach into the new economy is the well-established Writers' Guild of Great Britain which goes some way to bringing worker representation to the expanding online world, videogames and creative content of all sorts.”

Journalist, academic, banker and former Blair speechwriter Philip Collins, writing on 'tomorrow's trade unions' in ideas magazine Prospect

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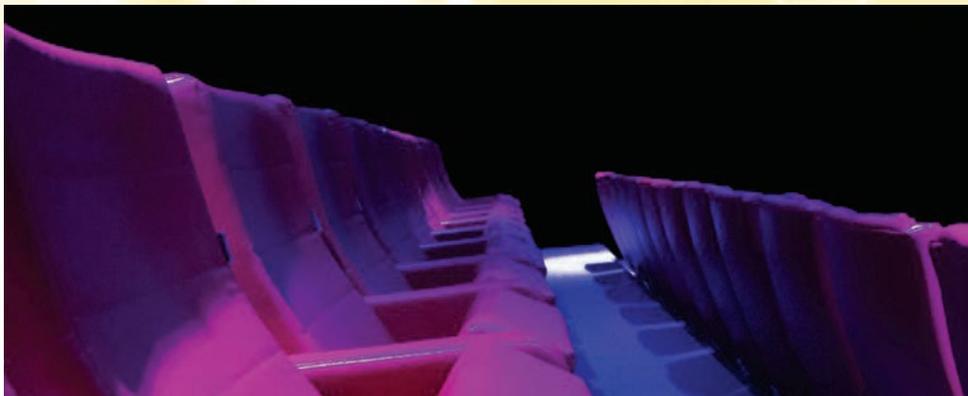
BECOME A MEMBER

We welcome all professional writers working in the fields we represent, and have a variety of membership options, including one for aspiring/emerging writers (Candidate Members) and Affiliate Members.

You can join online at www.writersguild.org.uk or by phoning our membership team on **0207 833 0777**



ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016



WGGB continues to offer its members free screenings of current and upcoming film releases
Photo: shutterstock.com/KEN226

IN TELEVISION...

- WGGB and the Personal Managers' Association have set up Writers Digital Payments, a not-for-profit company that ensures writers get paid whenever their work is shown online. Since the scheme was established in 2015, Writers Digital Payments has paid out over £1.3 million to writers whose work has been shown on BBC iPlayer and ITV Player.
- We have negotiated fee increases of 75% for writers working under our Pact agreement; 2% for BBC TV writers and 1.75% for ITV writers. We are also negotiating a new television agreement with the Personal Managers' Association and Pact.
- Our Free is NOT an Option campaign, against unpaid development work, has gained support in international writers' meetings, amongst high-profile figures in the arts, and in Parliament.
- We continue to tackle the issue of writers not being paid properly, for example on BBC 'soaps' shadow schemes.

- We were involved in the BBC Love It Or Lose It campaign, as part of the Federation of Entertainment Unions (FEU) – calling for a strong, independent and publicly-funded corporation as it faced charter renewal.
- We work collectively with other unions to combat bullying, harassment by managers and colleagues as part of the Creating Without Conflict campaign, and held a conference for employers on anti-bullying best practice.

IN THEATRE...

- We negotiated above-inflation minimum rates increases for playwrights working under our Independent Theatre Council and TNC (Royal Court, Royal Shakespeare Company and National Theatre) agreements. We negotiated a 2% minimum fee increase for writers working under our UK Theatre agreement.

- We produced a Rights Card for playwrights working under our TNC and UK Theatre agreements.
- We organise the annual Olwen Wymark Theatre Encouragement Awards.
- We organise an annual Literary Managers' Forum to discuss issues directly with theatres and touring companies.
- We held two panel events at London Writers' Week 2016 – on musical theatre, and fact-based theatre – and hosted a reception for playwrights afterwards.

IN FILM...

- We teamed up with Film London and Directors UK for a Creative Partnerships Day connecting writers, directors and producers, and featuring leading figures in the industry.
- We have run a series of free, exclusive WGGB member film screenings, and offered members the chance to attend film premieres, including Q&As with writers, directors and leading cast members.
- We hosted a screenwriters' summer party with Euroscript and The Black List.
- We hosted a Screenwriting for Sustainability event with the albert Consortium at BAFTA.
- We have started work on revising our film agreement with Pact.
- Our 'locked box' deal with the British Film Institute (BFI) ensures that writers now get a share (alongside producers and directors) of recouped income from feature films supported with Lottery Funding through the BFI Film Fund (and held in a 'locked box' for reinvestment in the British film industry).

IN RADIO...

- We have negotiated special fees for the *Home Front* Radio 4 drama serial until 2018.
- We meet regularly with the BBC to raise issues on pay and conditions for radio writers, which are enshrined in our national agreements.
- We held a special Meet the Radio Drama Producers panel event.
- We organise the annual Tinniswood audio drama script award, alongside the Society of Authors, which is presented at the BBC Audio Drama Awards.

IN BOOKS...

- Our Books Committee represents poets as well as writers of prose and deals with various issues of relevance to them.
- We hosted a Meet the World of Graphic Fiction event.
- We supported a national libraries, museums and galleries demonstration against cuts and closures.

IN ANIMATION...

- We have revised our *Guidelines for Animation Writers*.
- We have also produced a best-practice guide for industry professionals in collaboration with the Personal Managers' Association.

IN VIDEOGAMES...

- We are revising our guidelines for games writers and those who work with them.
- We hold events, including an annual panel event with the International Game Developers Association.

BEST RADIO COMEDY

GUILT TRIP

Katherine Jakeways,
Felicity Montagu,
Olivia Nixon



JOHN FINNEMORE'S DOUBLE ACTS – 'ENGLISH FOR PONY-LOVERS' (SERIES 1, EPISODE 5)

John Finnemore



THE PIN

Ben Ashenden,
Alex Owen



BEST LONG RUNNING TV SERIES

CORONATION STREET (EPISODE 8946)

Chris Fewtrell



DOCTORS – 'THERE IS NO PLACE' (SEASON 18, EPISODE 29)

Claire Bennett



EMMERDALE – 'HOLLY'S DEATH' (SEASON 1, EPISODE 7628)

Karin Young



BEST WRITING IN A VIDEO GAME

FIFA 17 'THE JOURNEY'

Martin Korda,
Matthew Turner,
Tom Watt



FRAGMENTS OF HIM

Mata Haggis



VIRGINIA

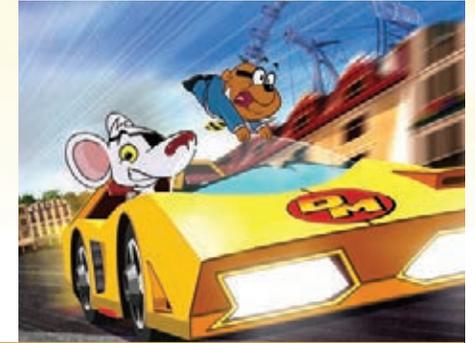
Jonathan Burroughs,
Lyndon Holland,
Terry Kenny



BEST CHILDREN'S TV EPISODE

DANGER MOUSE – 'GREENFINGER' (SEASON 1, EPISODE 3)

James Griffiths,
Mark Oswin



HETTY FEATHER – 'THE REUNION' (SERIES 2, EPISODE 10)

Helen Blakeman



THE DUMPING GROUND – 'REFUGE' (SEASON 3, EPISODE 20)

Emma Reeves



BEST LONG FORM TV DRAMA

SPOTLESS (PILOT EPISODE)

Ed McCardie



VICTORIA – ‘THE CLOCKWORK PRINCE’ (SERIES I, EPISODE 4)

Daisy Goodwin



TRAPPED

Clive Bradley



BEST FIRST SCREENPLAY

ADULT LIFE SKILLS

Rachel Tunnard



FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS

Nicholas Martin



RADIATOR

Tom Browne,
Daniel Cerqueira



REMEMBERING WGGB MEMBERS

WGGB Chair Gail Renard pays tribute to Jimmy Perry and Victoria Wood. During the ceremony we will also remember other WGGB members we have lost during the last year



Jimmy Perry (1923-2016)

Jimmy Perry was a dynamic showman and was probably born wearing either a Redcoat or a Garrick tie. He loved show business and revelled in every aspect of it. While still at school, Jimmy decided to be a stand-up comic but the Second World War soon put paid to that.

At the beginning Jimmy was too young to be called up, but he was drafted into the Home Guard instead. When Jimmy finally did serve, it was in Burma where he was part of the Royal Artillery Concert Party and entertained the troops. Upon demob, Jimmy went to RADA to study acting, paying his way by being a Redcoat at Butlins.

And so, in the fullness of time, *Dad's Army*, *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* and *Hi-de-Hi!* were born.

Like many of his generation, Jimmy's career only started after the peace. He played a series of small parts in BBC comedy shows, while working on his own ideas. Mike Sharland, writer, agent and former WGGB Chair, worked with Jimmy in 1967. Mike was writing the sitcom, *Beggar My Neighbour*, which was produced by David Croft, and recalls: "Jimmy played Reg Varney's brother. That's when he first met David and showed him drafts of *Dad's Army*, which wasn't called that then."

The show was originally called *The Fighting Tigers*, but Croft renamed it and took it to the then Head of BBC Comedy, Michael Mills. The 25-year partnership of Croft and Perry began. Croft brought his producing and directing skills, as well as an unerring sense of comedy, while Jimmy brought his observational genius. Together they gave us 50 years of comedy and the immortal, "Don't tell him, Pike!" *Dad's Army* repeats still run on the BBC today and have ratings other series would envy.

As well as being a prolific writer, Jimmy was a staunch WGGB member and sat on both the Television Committee and the Executive Council. Jimmy was also responsible for reviving the Writers' Guild Awards in 1991 after a long lull. Mike Sharland explains: "A tremendous thing that Jimmy did was guaranteeing the money – along with Clive Exton and Allan Scott – to make it possible to get the Awards going again."

The Writers' Guild Awards are still going strong today and in 2008 Perry and Croft won the Lifetime Achievement Award (they are pictured above, together, with Jimmy Perry on the right).

Jimmy was a one-man Battersea Power station who lit up a room every time he entered it. And I'll bet he's wearing his Redcoat in heaven."

Victoria Wood (1953-2016)

Victoria Wood was an original who did many things and all of them brilliantly. She was an incredible writer and composer, as well as a unique stand up talent who, on her own with a piano, could keep an audience laughing for two hours. In everything she did, her Lancashire voice and vision came over loud and proud. Whether writing plays, television or films, Wood understood British people; their loves, lusts, foibles... and more importantly... celebrated them all.

Wood first wrote her first play for the theatre, *Talent*, in 1978. It was spotted by then Head of Drama at Granada TV, Peter Eckersley, who asked Wood to adapt it for television. Julie Walters was cast in the lead and one of the most joyful and lasting partnerships of stage and screen began.

To list Victoria Wood's work you only have to think of your favourite shows. Wood was the master of sketch writing and performing. Her characters were as carefully developed in a two minute sketch as they were in a full length play. *Victoria Wood As Seen On TV* gave us *Acorn Antiques* and the beloved *Mrs Overall*. *Acorn Antiques* went on to become a hit West End musical.

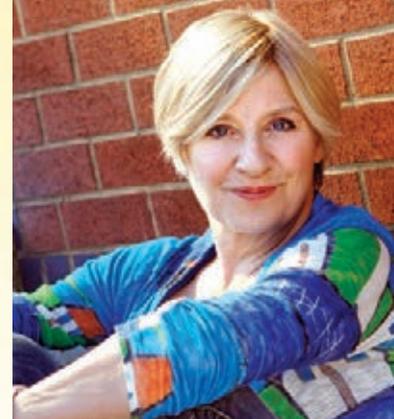


Photo: Catherine Ashmore

Wood wrote and starred in *Dinnerladies*, a funny, touching sitcom with seven... count 'em, seven... female leads. There were her films for television, *Pat And Margaret*, and her BAFTA award winning adaptation, *Housewife, 49*. Women were always at the centre of her work.

Victoria Wood had been a Guild member since 1991, and was also the recipient of the 2011 Writers' Guild of Great Britain Award for Outstanding Contribution to Writing. Presenting the award, fellow writer and WGGB member Peter Bowker said,

"...At the very heart of Victoria's writing is warmth, humanity and humour. She celebrates the comic absurdity of everyday life. She commemorates the ordinary and her comedy is emphatically the comedy of inclusion. If that makes her writing sound cosy and reassuring then it isn't. It is incisive, sharp and targets those who are blind to their own absurdities, by which, of course, I mean every one of us."

Many people are called national treasures; Victoria Wood was one. As she herself once said, "Life's not fair, is it? Some of us drink champagne in the fast lane, and some of us eat our sandwiches by the loose chippings on the A597."

It's certainly unfair Victoria isn't with us here tonight.



BEST RADIO DRAMA

CUTTIN' IT

Charlene James



FAT LITTLE THING

Lucy Gannon



LAMENT

Debbie Tucker Green



BEST PLAY FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

RISE UP

Lisa Evans



THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

Joel Horwood



WHAT THE THUNDER SAID

Ed Harris



BEST PLAY

ALL THE LITTLE LIGHTS

Jane Upton

Photo: Robert Day



BEST SCREENPLAY

EYE IN THE SKY

Guy Hibbert



CYPRUS AVENUE

David Ireland



SUFFRAGETTE

Abi Morgan

Photo: © Pathe Productions Limited, Channel Four Television Corporation and The British Film Institute 2015. All rights reserved.



ESCAPED ALONE

Caryl Churchill



THE SURVIVALIST

Stephen Fingleton



BEST TV SITUATION COMEDY

FLEABAG (EPISODE 1)

Phoebe Waller-Bridge



PEOPLE JUST DO NOTHING (SERIES 3)

Allan Mustafa,
Steve Stamp



PLEBS – ‘THE BEASTS’ (SERIES 3, EPISODE 1)

Tom Basden,
Sam Leifer



"We support writers at every stage of their career, developing and nurturing originality, creativity and craft".

Anne Edyvean
Head of Writers Room

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BEST SHORT FORM TV DRAMA

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE (SEASON 1, EPISODE 3)

Sarah Phelps



ELLEN

Sarah Quintrell



MURDER – 'THE BIG BANG'

Robert Jones



Jerusalem Jez Butterworth

Girls Like That Evan Placey

Angels in America Tony Kushner

CHIMERICA LUCY KIRKWOOD

FLEABAG Phoebe Waller-Bridge

ROYAL COURT

ESCAPED ALONE Caryl Churchill

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING BY JOEL HORWOOD

IRNE

THE JAMES PLAYS

EAST IS EAST AYUB KHAN DIN

KING CHARLES III MIKE

random

THE DEEP BLUE SEA Terence Rattigan

VOYZECK

Nick Hern Books congratulates the nominees and winners of the Writers' Guild Awards 2017

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VEIR

MAKING NOISE QUIETLY THREE SHORT PLAYS

Kindertransport Diane Samuels

tribes Nina Raine

GEORG BÜCHNER IN A NEW VERSION BY JACK THORNE

Misterman Enda Walsh

Boys

The Encounter Complicite/Simon McBurney

Neil Gwynn

The Kitchener Sink

'Publishing plays gives permanent form to an evanescent art, and allows many more people to have some kind of experience of a play than could ever see it in the theatre'
Nick Hern, publisher



Wishing the Writers' Guild of Great Britain
a very successful evening

THANKS

The Writers' Guild Awards could not happen without the work and dedication of a large number of volunteers, most of them not only very busy writers but also active Guild members. Reading, listening to and viewing many, many hours of wonderful (and not so wonderful) work to select shortlists; organising juries and voting; planning, scripting and preparing for this evening.

Our grateful thanks go to: Nick Ahad, Perry Balthazar, Laura Beaumont, Peter Bowker, Edel Brosnan, Karin Brown, Abigail Burdess, James Cary, Dave Cohen, Richard Deakin, Samantha Doland de Vaux, Andrew Emerson, Robert Farquhar, William Gallagher, Hannah George, Kirsty Halton, Henrietta Hardy, Lisa Holdsworth, James Hughes, Alison Hume, Shai Hussain, Martin Jameson, Darren Jones, Line Langebek, Anji Loman-Field, James Mason, Debbie McAndrew, David McDermott, Myles McLeod, Caroline Mitchell, Joel Morris, Lesley-Clare O'Neill, Luke Openshaw, Moya O'Shea, Phil O'Shea, Julie Parsons, Richard Pinner, Carrie Quinlan, Gail Renard, Ali Rutherford, Rebecca Stevens, Kay Stonham, Katharine Way, Lindsay Williams, Tom Williams

Also to the hard-working and endlessly resourceful Guild Staff: Ellie Peers, Bernie Corbett, Anne Hogben, Kate Glasspool, Rose Cooney.

To our superb publicity team: Communications Manager Sarah Woodley, Ming Ho, Premier PR and photographer Matt Whittle.

And finally, thanks to Ali Welsh, team captain, cheerleader, headmistress and superwoman.

Event team: Ali Welsh, Lisa York.
Production by Andy Miller.
Design by Savage and Gray

Olivia Hetreed
President, WGGB

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Tiger Aspect Drama would like
to congratulate all the winners
and nominees of the year's
WGGB Awards

We are proud to be supporting
such a wonderful, diverse year
of writing talent

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WGGB THE WRITERS' UNION

WGGB (Writers' Guild of Great Britain) represents writers for TV, film, theatre, radio, books, poetry, animation and videogames.

We win better pay and conditions for writers.

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- Free contract vetting, support and advice
- Member events and discounts
- Free and discounted training
- Weekly ebulletin
- Pension scheme*
- Entry in our Find A Writer online directory*

“

Photo: Simon Armand



“We writers tend to be rather solitary people, and it can be easy to rip us off. It makes sense that we have a unified voice and agreements that can protect our interests, particularly at this time of dizzyingly complex new technologies.”

Writer, presenter, actor and WGGB member Tony Robinson

Join online at www.writersguild.org.uk

Or phone: **0207 833 0777**



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