



THE WRITERS' GUILD AWARDS

MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 2016

**ROYAL INSTITUTE OF
BRITISH ARCHITECTS (RIBA)**

66 PORTLAND PLACE
LONDON W1B 1AD

WGGB THE
WRITERS'
UNION

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



@TheWritersGuild #wggbawards

THE WRITERS' GUILD AWARDS

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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain (WGGB) has been going for over 50 years, in one form or another, a union started by writers who, alone, felt vulnerable and exploited. Writers today often feel both, with new pressures from piracy and the internet as well as new opportunities, but we are not alone. The Writers' Guild is there to support, advise and defend us, to fight for better pay and conditions and, tonight especially, to admire your brilliance.

Thank you to all the non-writers in the room for your support and encouragement, financial, professional, emotional – and for not competing with us! It's an honour to have you here and perhaps only you will know how much part you play behind the scenes of the behind the scenes.

A huge thank you to our wonderful sponsors: ALCS, BBC, Company Pictures, Big Talk and Curtis Brown Ltd. Your generosity makes tonight possible. Your commitment to supporting great writing throughout the year is the reason for having these awards at all.



Thanks also to our host Susan Calman, all our presenters, jury chairs, WGGB staff and members, events team and all those who have worked tirelessly to make this year's awards happen – there are too many to name.

Writers: the Guild can't do any of its work without you – not only the reason for our existence but the everyday fact of it – from all the writer-volunteers who give so generously of their time, patience and expertise in negotiations, committee meetings, on panels and acting as juries for these awards, to the newest candidate member, looking for company on the often rocky but always interesting path of freelance drama writing. The Guild is your union and this is your celebration.

Welcome to the Writers' Guild Awards 2016.

Olivia Hetreed, WGGB President

HISTORY OF THE AWARDS

Our Awards ceremony has been a high point of our annual calendar since it was first established in 1961, and allows us to honour, award and celebrate prestigious writers from across Great Britain. 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 | ■ Jimmy McGovern | ■ Alan Bennett |
| ■ Richard Curtis | ■ Lynda La Plante | ■ James Corden |
| ■ Jo Brand | ■ Anthony Minghella | ■ Steve McQueen |
| ■ Matthew Vaughn | ■ Roddy Doyle | ■ Kay Mellor |
| ■ Dawn French | ■ Jennifer Saunders | |



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- 6.30pm** Canapé reception in the Jarvis Foyer
- 7.00pm** Welcome by WGGB President Olivia Hetreed
-

THE WGGB 2016 AWARDS CEREMONY

- Best Radio Comedy
 - Best Radio Drama
 - 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 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

SUSAN CALMAN HOST

Susan Calman used to be a corporate lawyer but in 2006 she decided to give it all up to be a comedian. She reached the semi-finals of the BBC New Comedy Awards and *So You Think You're Funny* and was a finalist in the prestigious *Funny Women* competition in 2006. She hasn't stopped since.

In 2007 Susan was cast in *Ugly Kid*, a sketch show which was a sell-out at the Edinburgh Festival and, following critical acclaim, was commissioned as a pilot for Channel 4. The show was renamed *Blowout* and the cast went on to be awarded a Scottish BAFTA that same year.

On Radio 4 Susan has appeared on *The News Quiz*, *The Unbelievable Truth*, *The Now Show*, *Dilemma*, *So Wrong It's Right* and presented *Woman's Hour*. She regularly presents *MacAulay and Co* on Radio Scotland and has appeared on *And the Winner Is* with Matt Lucas on Radio 2. She has even been given permission to write her own show for BBC Radio 4, *Susan Calman Is Convicted*, which ran for a second series in 2014. Most recently, she has presented *Listomania* and has been nominated for the 2015 Chortle Radio Award.



Sometimes Susan is allowed on television and has so far acted in *How Not to Live Your Life*, *Rab C Nesbitt*, *Dead Boss* and *Fresh Meat*. She's also appeared on *Have I Got News for You*, *QI* (which she won), *Don't Sit In The Front Row*, *Comedy Rocks*, *Show & Tell*, *The Matt Lucas Awards*, *Dara O'Briain: School of Hard Sums*, *8 Out of 10 Cats* and *Would I Lie To You?*

Susan continues to gig around the country and has always been a massive hit at the Edinburgh Fringe. Selling out every night, *This Lady's Not For Turning Either* ran for two weeks at the prestigious Soho Theatre in London.

Find out more about Susan on her website:
www.susancalman.com



ABOUT WGGB

Our members' creative energy is leading the way, our job is to protect and support them.

What do acclaimed writers such as Stella Duffy, Russell T Davies, Steven Moffat, Mike Leigh, Jane Goldman, Andrew Davies, Emma Thompson, Paul Abbott, Victoria Wood and Mike Bartlett have in common?

They are all members of The Writers' Guild of Great Britain, the trade union representing writers in TV, film, theatre, radio, books, poetry and videogames.

These are just a handful of names from our experienced and successful membership base. The drama you watch on TV or at the theatre, the film you see at the cinema, the radio you listen to, the books and poetry you read, both offline and online, represent our members' voices. Their creative energy is leading the way.

Most of our members are freelance, but that does not mean they are alone. We have negotiated (and continue to negotiate) major agreements on their behalf. These include minimum payment and working practice terms and conditions with broadcasters such as the BBC and ITV; and theatres including the Royal Shakespeare Company, National Theatre and Royal Court. We also lobby and campaign on issues that affect our members, for example the growing trend of writers being asked to work for free.

Our members gain a sense of community in other ways, too. WGGB events help them to connect with other writers, while we have an active lay membership in the form of regional and craft committees. These offer opportunities for members to get involved at every level.

Other membership benefits include bespoke contract vetting and advice, financial support in the form of a pension and welfare fund, and the option to be featured in the Find A Writer directory, which connects members with industry via our website.



WGGB has organised a series of Meet the Agents events (photo:WGGB/Em Fitzgerald)

There are also member perks and discounts, including a weekly e-bulletin and free training organised by the Federation of Entertainment Unions, of which we are a member. During our 55-year history we have established other important connections, enabling us to stay ahead of a rapidly changing digital landscape, and concerns that affect writers across the world. We are affiliated to:

- Trades Union Congress
- International Affiliation of Writers Guilds
- Federation of Screenwriters in Europe
- European Writers' Council
- Union Network International – Media and Entertainment Industries
- British Copyright Council
- Creators' Rights Alliance
- Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom

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 (candidate) writers and affiliate members

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



ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2015



WGGB's Free is NOT an Option campaign is tackling writers working for free (photo: shutterstock.com/stokkete)

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 on digital services like BBC iPlayer.
- We are running a campaign, Free is NOT an Option, against unpaid development work in television and film, which has gained considerable support in writers' meetings in Brussels and Warsaw, and in Parliament.
- We are 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 faces charter renewal.
- We are tackling the issue of writers not being paid properly on BBC 'soaps' shadow schemes, including *EastEnders*, *Holby City*, *Casualty* and *Doctors* and have negotiated fee increases with the BBC.
- We have secured significant improvements for writers affected by BBC cuts on the *Doctors* and *Pobol y Cwm* TV series.
- We continue to campaign against BBC proposals to cut upfront pay for children's writers.
- We work collectively with other unions to combat bullying, harassment by managers and colleagues as part of the Creating Without Conflict campaign.
- We continue to negotiate and update our minimum terms agreements with the BBC, ITV and Pact (representing the independent producers).

IN THEATRE...

- We negotiate minimum rates increases with UK Theatre, the Independent Theatre Council and TNC (representing the Royal Court, Royal Shakespeare Company and National Theatre).
- We have won new rights for playwrights commissioned by UK Theatre organisations, including provisions to protect textual integrity and additional fees if their work is performed in English-language productions in non-English speaking countries.
- 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.

IN FILM...

- We have negotiated a 'locked box' deal with the British Film Institute (BFI), to ensure that writers 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).
- We have taken a leading role in an international campaign to have the role of screenwriters recognised at film festivals, commissioning research and a detailed report, *Written Into the Picture*.
- We host networking and screening events.

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.

IN BOOKS...

- Our Books Committee represents poets as well as writers of prose and deals with various issues of relevance to them.

IN ANIMATION...

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

IN VIDEO GAMES...

- We have revised 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

DEBORAH FRANCES- WHITE ROLLS THE DICE

Deborah Frances-White



ED REARDON'S WEEK

Andrew Nickolds &
Christopher Douglas



BOSWELL'S LIVES

Jon Canter



BEST RADIO DRAMA

FRAGMENTS

Laura Lomas



ORPHEUS & EURYDICE

Linda Marshall Griffiths



QUILL

Tony Jones



BEST LONG RUNNING TV SERIES

HOLBY CITY, SERIES 17, EPISODE 50 “AT FIRST I WAS AFRAID”

Julia Gilbert



RIVER CITY, SERIES 13, EPISODE 8

Louise Ironside



EMMERDALE, EPISODE 7188/89

Maxine Alderton



BEST WRITING IN A VIDEO GAME

EVERYBODY'S GONE TO THE RAPTURE

Dan Pinchbeck



HER STORY

Sam Barlow



SUNLESS SEA

Alexis Kennedy,
Richard Cobbett,
Amal El-Mohtar,
Chris Gardiner,
Meg Jayanth and Emily Short



BEST CHILDREN'S TV EPISODE

THE DUMPING GROUND, SERIES 3, EPISODE 10 “DRAGON SLAYER”

Julie Dixon



EVE, FINAL EPISODE “CONTROL, ALTER, DELETE”

Emma Reeves



KATIE MORAG AND THE WORST DAY EVER

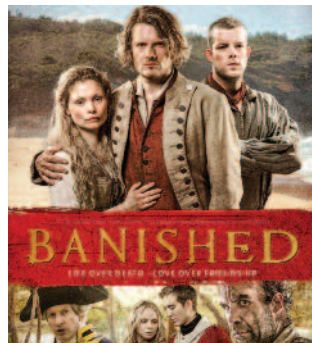
Sergio Casci



BEST LONG FORM TV DRAMA

BANISHED

Jimmy McGovern



NOT SAFE FOR WORK

DC Moore



WOLF HALL

Peter Straughan



BEST FIRST SCREENPLAY

'71

Gregory Burke



THE FALLING

Carol Morley



X + Y

James Graham





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BEST PLAY FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

BIRD

Laura Lomas



MUDDY CHOIR

Jesse Briton

Photo: Sarah London / Theatre Centre



THREE WISE MONKEYS

Mike Kenny



BEST PLAY

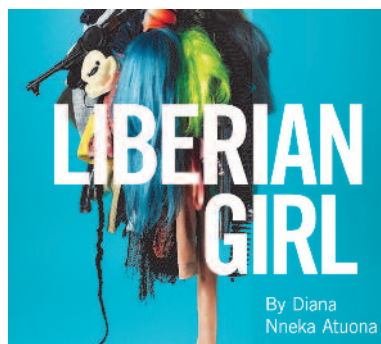
JEFFERSON'S GARDEN

Timberlake Wertenbaker



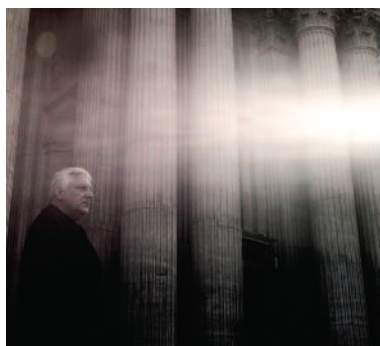
LIBERIAN GIRL

Diana Nneka Atuona



TEMPLE

Steve Waters



BEST SCREENPLAY

WILD

Nick Hornby



PADDINGTON

Paul King



EX MACHINA

Alex Garland



BEST TV SITUATION COMEDY

VEEP SEASON FOUR

Armando Iannucci, Simon Blackwell, Jon Brown, Kevin Cecil, Roger Drew, Peter Fellows, Neil Gibbons, Rob Gibbons, Sean Gray, Callie Hersheway, Sean Love, Ian Martin, Georgia Pritchett, David Quantick, Andy Riley, Tony Roche, Will Smith



CATASTROPHE

Sharon Horgan and Rob Delaney



WIA

John Morton



BEST SHORT FORM TV DRAMA

CODE OF A KILLER

Michael Crompton



THE CASUAL VACANCY

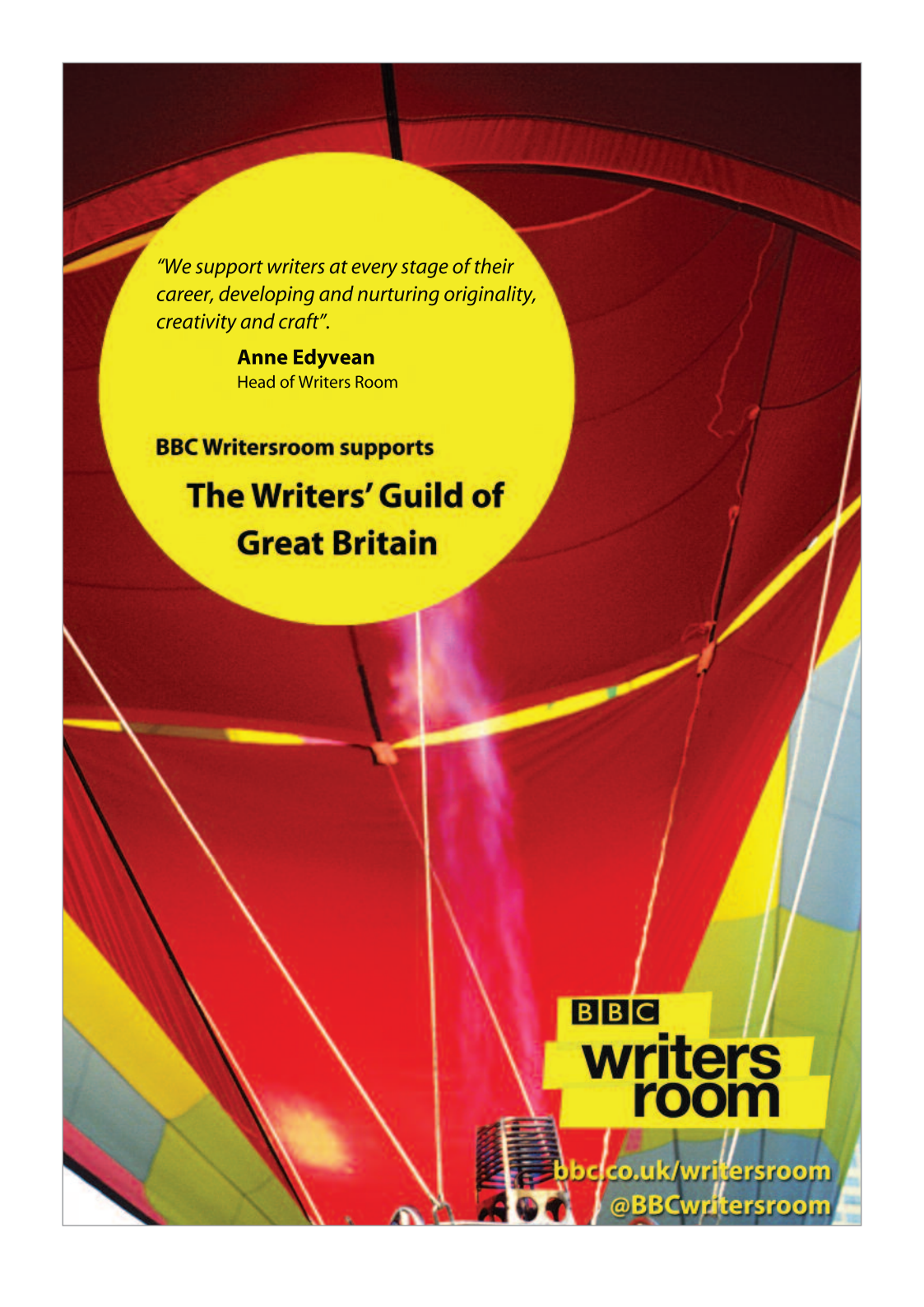
Sarah Phelps



THE GAMECHANGERS

James Wood





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

Anne Edyvean

Head of Writers Room

BBC Writersroom supports

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Great Britain**

BBC

**writers
room**

bbc.co.uk/writersroom

[@BBCwritersroom](https://twitter.com/BBCwritersroom)

REMEMBERING WGGB MEMBERS

The following obituary of David Nobbs first appeared on the WGGB website in August 2015. During the Writers' Guild Awards ceremony we will also remember other WGGB members we have lost during the past year.

David Nobbs: 1935-2015

By WGGB Chair Gail Renard

David Nobbs was a great comedy writer, former Chair and President of the WGGB, and above all a mensch.

David joined the Writers' Guild in the 1980s after getting a postcard from the Head of Drama at Granada TV congratulating him on the Swedish repeat of his series, *A Bit of a Do*. Not unreasonably wanting to be paid, he contacted the Guild. He was asked to come in to discuss it and from that moment a Guild activist was born.

David understood people in life as well as in his writing. A Guild AGM once got heated when it was proposed that all future candidates submit a photo when standing for election. It was argued that could prove sexist or ageist. David's good nature won the day when he pointed out that nowhere did the rule specify it had to be a photo of yourself.

At one time or another David held just about every Guild post, yet he still found time to write his classic comedies, including the very British *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin* and *A Bit of a Do*. David's view on society was bull's-eye accurate yet still benevolent. He would always discuss his next project enthusiastically and without fail he delivered the goods.



I once asked what his favourite Guild position was and David said negotiator. It made sense, as through his writing and work at the Guild he was always trying to make the world a better place. David taught us all by example what it means to be both a professional writer and trade unionist.

Our thoughts are with his wife, Susan. He leaves a huge, David Nobbs-shaped hole behind, but we were so lucky to call him friend.

Former WGGB President David Edgar writes:

"I met David through the Writers' Guild, of which he was a committed and active President. He brought the same political commitment, good humour and understanding of human beings to that task as he did to his writing. In *Reginald Perrin*, David created one of the most brilliantly-observed and emblematic figures of British post-War life (up there with Alf Garnett, Basil Fawlty, Victor Meldrew and David Brent). In *A Bit of a Do*, he told the story of a whole town through a series of events at its local hotel. He wrote for many of the great comedians – and great programmes – of British television. And it's worth remembering that both Perrin and *A Bit of a Do* started life as novels.

"David was kind enough to recruit me to succeed him as President. Along with his strong humanist beliefs, he was a committed trade unionist who believed that – however individual and quirky their talent may be – writers needed to be in and contribute to their union. He will be sorely missed."





TAKING THE LEAD IN INDEPENDENT DRAMA

company pictures

an **all3**media company

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

THANK YOU

The Writers' Guild Awards would not and could not happen without the tremendous work and dedication of the WGGB staff and a large number of volunteers, full-time writers themselves who also make time to campaign, negotiate and lobby as active WGGB members on craft committees and the Executive Council.

Special thanks to our hard-working jury chairs:

Samantha Doland de Vaux, Lisa Holdsworth, Steve Ince, Darren Jones, Phil O'Shea, Richard Pinner, Damon Rochefort, Katharine Way, Karin Young.

A big hurrah for the WGGB staff, who work all year round for our benefit: Bernie Corbett, Anne Hogben, Ellie Peers, Kate Glasspool. Please do say hello to them this evening and if you are not a member already, they will be very happy to help you join.

To our superb publicity team: Communications Manager Sarah Woodley, Tim Savage of Savage and Gray Design, Tweeter-in-chief Tom Green and photographer Jo Gennard, in alliance with the Premier PR team.

And last but not most, to the wonderful Ali Welsh, who came back in spite of knowing what it would be like – thank you.

Event team: Ali Welsh, Kerry Riley.
Production by Andy Miller.

Olivia Hetreed
President, WGGB



Supporting creativity and originality

The Authors' Licensing & Collecting Society is delighted to sponsor the UK Writers' Guild Awards, recognising the best of UK writing.

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www.alcs.co.uk

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