



THE 29TH WRITERS' GUILD
AWARDS
PROGRAMME

MONDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2022

THE ROYAL COLLEGE
OF PHYSICIANS

11 St Andrews Place,
Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE

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

 @TheWritersGuild

www.writersguild.org.uk

#wggbawards



WGGB THE WRITERS' UNION

THE 29TH WRITERS' GUILD
AWARDS

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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to the 29th Writers' Guild Awards. How fabulous to be back, following two fallow years because of wretched Covid.

We have a bumper crop as a result – celebrating the fantastically talented writers who have kept us entertained and soothed our souls through such a difficult period; across TV, film, theatre, radio, books, comedy and videogames. We salute them.

It is also a comfort that through dark times come unexpected slivers of light. I am delighted that the 2022 awards ceremony, will – for the first time – be live streamed to WGGB members. Of course, this technology was all in place before the pandemic, but Covid has accelerated its widespread use, so an extra special welcome to all those members out there who will be tuning in this evening.

As President of the Writers' Guild I find it heartening that a record number of you have



joined us in the past two years – there is certainly strength in numbers and you can see what great strides your union has been making in the following pages.

I especially like the fact that we are gathering on Valentine's Day. Our creative industries play such an important role, as do all those who work within them, and I would like to formally declare this ceremony as a gesture of deep appreciation to writers, as well as all those who support them.

Thank you to every writer who practises their craft. Thank you for your words, which have lifted us up through lockdown and beyond.

Sandi Toksvig OBE
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 | ■ Jimmy McGovern | ■ Caryl Churchill |
| ■ Richard Curtis | ■ Lynda La Plante | ■ Tom Stoppard |
| ■ Jo Brand | ■ Anthony Minghella | ■ Kay Mellor |
| ■ John Finnemore | ■ Roddy Doyle | ■ Russell T. Davies |
| ■ Dawn French | ■ Jennifer Saunders | ■ Heidi Thomas |



@TheWritersGuild #wggbawards

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

6.30pm Welcome reception

7.00pm Welcome by WGGB Chair Lisa Holdsworth

THE 29TH WRITERS' GUILD AWARDS CEREMONY HOSTED BY SANDI TOKSVIG OBE

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

Speech by WGGB President Sandi Toksvig OBE

9.00pm Celebration drinks

11.00pm Bar close & carriages



**Authors'
Licensing and
Collecting
Society**

**We are really proud to sponsor the
29th Writers' Guild Awards, and
congratulate all the shortlisted writers.**


The Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) is dedicated to protecting authors' rights and ensuring they are paid for secondary uses of their works. Set up by writers for writers in 1977, we have since paid our members over £570m.

We believe that the contribution writers make to society should be valued. That's why we campaign to protect copyright, authors' rights and vital revenue streams for creators. No one else in the world does exactly what we do.

WGGB members can join for free! Find out more >>
alcs.co.uk



ABOUT WGGGB



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

Our members also include emerging, aspiring and student writers.

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 60-year history and continue to do so today.

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 organises many events around the craft of writing – these have been online under Covid restrictions
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*

”

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), Student Members and Affiliate Members.

You can join online at **www.writersguild.org.uk** or by phoning our membership team on **020 7833 0777**



@TheWritersGuild #wgbawards

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS



WGGB members have taken part in various demonstrations since the union declared a climate emergency in 2019

Photo: Kate Glasspool

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.
- Children's animation scriptwriters are now eligible for the WGGB pension.

In Audio

- We negotiated special fees for BBC podcasts.
- We meet regularly with the BBC to raise issues on pay and conditions for radio writers, which are enshrined in our national agreement with the corporation.
- We organise the annual Tinniswood audio drama script award, alongside the Society of Authors, which is presented at the BBC Audio Drama Awards.
- We have run events, including How can writers survive in a podcasting universe?

In Books

- We surveyed writers on the practices of contributory publishers who charge authors to publish their books – the results will form the basis of a joint campaign with the Society of Authors to tackle bad practice.
- We have supported libraries, museums and galleries against devastating cuts.
- Our Books Committee represents poets and non-fiction writers as well as writers of prose and deals with various issues of relevance to them.

In Comedy

- We run special events, including Where are all the women comedy writers?
- We supported Comedy 50:50, an initiative with ITV, RTS, ERA 50:50, Funny Women and BAFTA to implement measures to address gender imbalance in comedy, starting with writers.

In Film

- We have a presence on the industry-wide Covid-19 Screen Sector Taskforce, a BFI-organised group coordinating feedback to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.
- 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). There is around £100,000 earmarked for writers.
- We have launched joint guidelines with Directors UK on creating positive collaborations
- 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 are working on revising our film agreement with Pact.
- Writers Digital Payments, set up and run by WGGB and the Personal Managers' Association, ensures writers get paid whenever their work is shown on digital services like BBC iPlayer, and has paid out over £6 million to writers to date.
- We continue to engage with major SVOD players in an attempt to improve the terms of employment for writers.
- We have negotiated pay increases for *Emmerdale* writers to bring them into line with ITV's other flagship soap *Coronation Street*.

In Theatre

- We launched new digital principles for theatre to protect playwrights' rights following the explosion in streaming and online delivery of stage plays during Covid-19.
- Playwrights commissioned by the National Theatre will enjoy new protections for digital use of their work, following terms agreed by WGGB under its umbrella TNC Agreement.
- We have produced best-practice guidelines to protect playwrights and the health of the theatre sector during the Covid-19 lockdown.
- We regularly negotiate significant minimum rates increases with UK Theatre, the Independent Theatre Council and TNC (representing the Royal Court, Royal Shakespeare Company and National Theatre).
- We hold annual Olwen Wymark Theatre Encouragement Awards.
- We organise the annual Literary Managers' Forum to discuss issues directly with the theatres and the production companies.

In Television

- We launched a new guide to the 'created by' credit, joint guidelines with Directors UK and a guide to showrunning in the UK.
- We have run a campaign, Free is NOT an Option, against unpaid work in television.
- We continue to negotiate and update our minimum terms agreements with the BBC, ITV and Pact (representing the independent producers).



RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS



WGGB continues to offer free film screenings to members, virtually under Covid restrictions

Photo: shutterstock.com/KEN226

In Videogames

- We have launched new guidelines for games writers and those who work with them.
- We hold events, including an annual panel event with the International Game Developers Association and week-long online festivals of games writing.

Across several of our craft areas

- We heard the call of young activists in the Youth For Climate / School Strike movement, and declared a climate emergency, pledging to put the climate crisis at the heart of all we do and supporting Film Strike for Climate at COP26.
- We lobbied Government during the Brexit negotiations and beyond to ensure writers' voices were on the agenda.
- We are campaigning against plans to privatise Channel 4.
- Our Equality Writes campaign continues as part of our core union work to support and advocate for all under-represented writing groups.
- We have run special events to mark Black History Month and Disability History Month and also celebrated LGBTQ+ History Month.
- We have submitted evidence to Parliament, including Breaking the Class Ceiling, an inquiry launched by the Performers' Alliance All-Party Parliamentary Group, which is tackling the lack of working-class writers, performers and musicians.
- We work collectively with other unions and organisations to combat bullying, harassment and discrimination in the creative industries.
- We have launched a new guide to writing competitions.



THE BBC WOULD LIKE TO WISH
ALL THE NOMINEES THE BEST OF LUCK.



THE TOURIST

Watch on **iPLAYER**

BEST ONLINE COMEDY

HOW TO BE MAGGIE: WITH MAGGIE P

Kate-Lois Elliott



REMEMBER GETTING THE PERIOD TALK AT SCHOOL #MENOPAUSE

Hannah George,
Taylor Glenn and
Catie Wilkins



WHERE DID IT COME FROM? SERIES 1, EPISODE 2, 'THE HAT'

Ralph Jones and
Vyvyan Almond



BEST LONG RUNNING TV SERIES

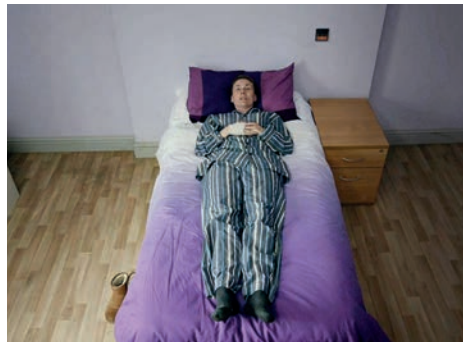
DOCTORS, SERIES 21, EPISODE 81, 'THE JOE PASQUALE PROBLEM'

Stephen Keyworth



HOLBY CITY, SERIES 21, EPISODE 50, 'KINTSUGI'

Martin Jameson



RIVER CITY, SERIES 21, EPISODE 28

Jillian Mannion



BEST WRITING IN A VIDEO GAME

AMNESIA: REBIRTH

Ian Thomas



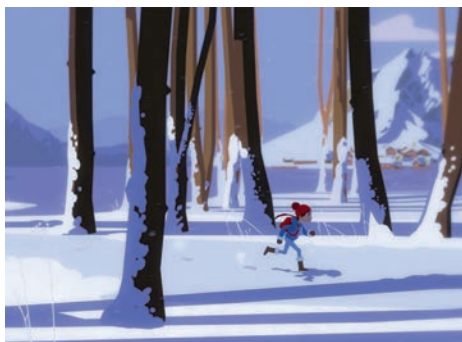
OVERBOARD!

Jon Ingold



RÖKI

Emma Beeby,
Sam Dickinson, Tom Jones,
Alex Kanaris-Sotiriou and
Danny Salfeld Wadeson



BEST CHILDREN'S TV EPISODE

AARDMAN'S THE EPIC ADVENTURES OF MORPH: CHAS AIR

Tim Bain



MY MUM TRACY BEAKER: I WANT MY MUM BACK

Emma Reeves



PADDINGTON & THE LOVE DAY CARDS

Hannah George



BEST RADIO COMEDY

FROM THE OASTHOUSE: THE ALAN PARTRIDGE PODCAST

Steve Coogan,
Neil Gibbons and
Rob Gibbons



OLGA KOCH: FIGHT

Olga Koch and
Charlie Dinkin



THE KURUPT FM PODKAST, SERIES 2

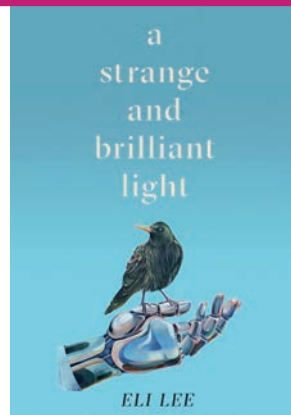
Asim Chaudhry,
Hugo Chegwin,
Allan Mustafa and
Steve Stamp



BEST FIRST NOVEL

A STRANGE AND BRILLIANT LIGHT

Eli Lee



THE LIP

Charlie Carroll



THE MANNINGTREE WITCHES

A K Blakemore



BEST MUSICAL THEATRE BOOKWRITING

BLACK LOVE

Chinonyerem Odimba



THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER

Chinonyerem Odimba



RIDE

Freya Catrin Smith
and Jack Williams



BEST FIRST SCREENPLAY

HIS HOUSE

Remi Weekes, from a story by Felicity Evans and Toby Venables



PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN

Emerald Fennell



ROCKS

Theresa Ikoko and Claire Wilson



REMEMBERING WGGB MEMBERS

Photo: David Thorpe/ANL/Shutterstock



Adele Rose 1933-2020

By WGGB Treasurer Gail Renard

Adele Rose was *Coronation Street*'s first female and longest serving writer, having written 457 episodes between 1961 and 1998.

Rose was born in Salford and started as a secretary at the Granada Studios. She realised the series had no women writers and suggested to the producers that the show needed some. Jack Rosenthal, then writing regularly for the series, suggested that Rose submit a script. Rosenthal mentored her and they co-wrote some episodes together. Rose was hired.

Susan Pleat joined *Coronation Street* in 1966 as a storyline writer and remembers Rose didn't have an easy time amongst all the men, "Adele was the only woman writer in the writers' room. She stood out in an immaculate white dress, carried herself with dignity and held her own."

ITV's John Whiston also acknowledged Rose's contribution. "Not only was Adele a trailblazer, being the very first in what is now a long line of brilliant female *Coronation Street* writers, she was also particularly adept at giving voice to some of Corrie's classic fearless female characters, from Ena to Elsie, from Bet to Liz."

In 1989 Rose was asked to write a one-off drama about a youth club. She created *Byker Grove* which ran until 2006. It was where teenage Ant and Dec met and the rest is television history.

Rose's writing credits include series as varied as *Z-Cars*, *Angels* and *The Dustbinmen*. She also created *Girls About Town*, a comedy about feminism, and *Second Chance*, a drama about divorce partly based on her own experiences. She wrote for *Crossroads* under a pseudonym.

In 1993 Rose received a BAFTA Award for her screenwriting on *Coronation Street*, as well as several Writers' Guild Awards. When asked why she joined the WGGB, Rose replied, "Because I strongly believe we need our own trade union to protect our rights."

Ena Sharples would have been proud.

During the ceremony we will also pay tribute to other members we have lost during the past two years. Obituaries can be found at www.writersguild.org.uk/news



Ronald Harwood: 1934-2020

By WGGB Treasurer Gail Renard

Ronald Harwood was a screenwriter, author and playwright, best known for *The Dresser* and his Oscar-winning script for *The Pianist*. He was also a former WGGB Chair during a particularly volatile time in the Guild's history.

Harwood was born in South Africa and, like his cousin Antony Sher, came to Britain to act. From 1953 to 1958, Harwood became the dresser of the larger-than-life actor/manager Sir Donald Wolfit. Harwood took great pride in his work, "I loved the job, was very good at it, and didn't feel demeaned at all."

By 1959 he was an out-of-work actor; about to take a labouring job on the Hammersmith Flyover when his father-in-law gave him a typewriter. His writing career was launched.

Harwood wrote various television plays, including *Private Potter*, starring Tom Courtenay, about a soldier being accused of cowardice during the Cyprus emergency. Harwood also went on to write screenplays, including

One Day In The Life Of Ivan Denisovich, based on the book by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

Theatre remained Harwood's main love. His most famous play, *The Dresser*, premiered at the Royal Exchange in Manchester in 1980, based on his experience of working with Wolfit. The play transferred to the Queen's Theatre in London and went on to become a film with Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay. *The Dresser* had a West End revival in 2005.

Harwood became Chair of the WGGB in 1969, when the Guild was riven with internecine debates (largely regarding South Africa and Czechoslovakia) and whether the Guild should have a political opinion. As described in Nick Yapp's book about WGGB history, *The Write Stuff*, Harwood was a man of strong principles with a strong dislike of "politics of gesture."

Harwood was one of many to oppose a decision to send delegates to the International Writers' Conference in Moscow at a time when Soviet writers were being imprisoned for not toeing the Communist Party line.

Geoffrey McGivern, who was in the original cast of *The Dresser*, recalls Harwood's "endless, affable energy. Oh, and his glee when he got flown to the USA and back on Concorde! He was a lover of life."

Co-Chair of the WGGB Books Committee and *Write Stuff* author Nick Yapp said: "I interviewed Ronald for *The Write Stuff* in 2009. He was a lovely man to interview – quick and detailed in his memories, and phrasing his answers to questions in a way that made them ready to go to press without any contribution from the interviewer. He was Chair of the Writers' Guild at a very tricky time, so tricky that the 1969 AGM never started – the floor refused to accept Standing Orders."



BEST RADIO DRAMA

BODY HORROR

Lucy Catherine



THE HALF WIDOW

Avin Shah



THE TENDERNESS OF BOYS

Oliver Emanuel



BEST PLAY FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

GERM FREE ADOLESCENT

Natalie Mitchell



HEAVY WEATHER

Lizzie Nunnery



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE JAGGY NETTLES?

Martin Travers



BEST PLAY

ONCE UPON A BRIDGE

Sonya Kelly



SHOOK

Samuel Bailey



THE SYRIAN BAKER

Kevin Dyer



BEST LONG FORM TV DRAMA

ADULT MATERIAL

Lucy Kirkwood



I HATE SUZIE

Lucy Prebble



IT'S A SIN

Russell T Davies



BEST TV SITUATION COMEDY

FEEL GOOD

Mae Martin and
Joe Hampson



FRAYED

Sarah Kendall



THIS WAY UP, SERIES 2, EPISODE 4

Aisling Bea



BEST SCREENPLAY

I CARE A LOT

J Blakeson



SORRY WE MISSED YOU

Paul Laverty



THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD

Simon Blackwell and
Armando Iannucci



BEST SHORT FORM TV DRAMA

BBW

Yolanda Mercy



ELIZABETH IS MISSING

Andrea Gibb



TIME

Jimmy McGovern





Script Development & Screenwriter Coaching



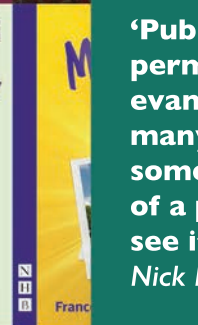
Developing the project and the writer

Email us to find out how we can help you

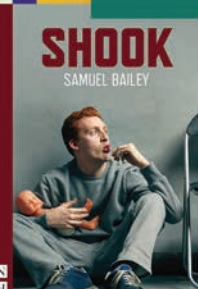
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www.scriptangel.com



‘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 a theatre’
Nick Hern, publisher

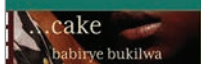


Nick Hern Books congratulates the nominees and winners of the 29th Writers' Guild Awards

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The 29th Writers' Guild **AWARDS**

Wishing every
success to
all nominees
this evening



Proud sponsors of the Writers'
Guild of Great Britain Awards 2022

THANKS

Every year we rely on so much from so many to make our Awards event a success. Big thanks to our superb 2022 host Sandi Toksvig OBE, loyal sponsors, all the presenters, and to the event production team led by Ali Welsh, who pull and push levers and turn all the wheels and cogs.

Thank you to all the hardworking jurors who read and watch and decide who is the best of the best. You are the best!

Thanks also to Premier PR and our live Tweeter Ming Ho, photographer Matt Writtle, our clips team Lexy Howe and James Kelly, and the Guild staff: Ellie Peers, Lesley Gannon, Kate Glasspool, John Sailing, Nadine Edwards, Eleanor Dawson and Sarah Woodley.

Our grateful thanks go to:

Gemma Arrowsmith, Nancy Boulicault, Edel Brosnan, Michael Bryher, Amelia Bullmore, Javi Cadenas, Harry Carr, Mark Catley, David Church, Poppy Corbett, Richard Deacon, Jack Docherty, Dean Drinkel, Lisa Evans, Robert Farquhar, Thom Fell, Sukey Fisher, Neil Forsyth, William Gallagher, Andrea Gibb, Tracey Goddard, Jupiter Hadley, Maryham Hamidi, Henrietta Hardy, Rob Hartmann, Kazuma Hashimoto, Olivia Hetreed, Pippa Hinchley, Lisa Holdsworth, Sam Horley, Shai Hussain, Vicky Ireland, David James, Martin Jameson, Darren Jones, Gary Kings, Sanjeev Kohli, Nina Kristofferson, Jane Lamacraft, Line Langebek, Philip Lawrence, George Lockett, Alex Lynch, Ferran M Clar, Izzy Mant, Arantza Marichalar Carrasco, Nemo Martin, Carme Martín Baena, Debbie McAndrew, Brian McAvera,

Kim McCusker, Dominique Moloney, Debbie Moon, James Moran, Dam Muirden, Jay Mullings, Annabelle Mutale Reed, Terry Newman, Zodwa Nyoni, Phil O'Shea, Victor Ojuel, Tosin Otudeko, Richard Pinner, Lucy Porter, Christie Robertson, Alex Ruiz, Fay Rusling, Thomas Ryalis, Robin Simões da Silva, Laura Solon, Alan Spence, Athena Stevens, Kay Stonham, Dann Sullivan, Corinne Sweet, Soulla Tantouri Eriksen, Kim Taylor, Gary Thomas, Jude Tindall, Jen Toksvig, Kate Traill Price, Vassilis Tsagaropoulos, Peter Vilberg, Katharine Way, Samantha Webb, Marcel Weyers, Tom Williams, Olivia Wood, Nick Wood, Jan Woolf, Michael Wynne, Nick Yapp

And a final big thank you to our Awards Working Party this year:

William Gallagher, Lisa Holdsworth and Gail Renard

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