

Note: back issues of the weekly e-bulletin can be found on our website.

# The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 313, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008

This week on the Guild's blog, at [writersguild.blogspot.com](http://writersguild.blogspot.com):

- [Tom Stoppard interview](#)
- [Channel 4 plans new teen drama](#)
- [AOL buys Bebo](#)
- [The end of The Wire](#)
- [Top writers back BBC Comedy College](#)
- [Lisa Bowerman - photographer](#)
- [Commissioning online drama](#)
- [Mark Freeland interview](#)
- [Galton and Simpson on Hancock, Howerd and Steptoe](#)
- [Back in the old East End](#)
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## What Members Are Getting Up To

## **Guild Events**

### **1. It's My Baby! - Screenwriters who direct**

The second in a series of discussions on screenwriters' working lives will be held on Monday 7th April 2008 from 7pm - 9pm at the Writers' Guild Centre in King's Cross and will focus on screenwriters who direct.

The panel includes Tom Hunsinger and Neil Hunter writer-directors of *Lawless Heart*, *Sparkle*, and *Boyfriends*.

Learn about the pitfalls and benefits of being the only one who's answerable from some of the UK's most successful writer - directors. There will be a Q & A session afterwards. Refreshments will also be served.

Tickets for this event will be £5 for Guild members and £7.50 for non-members. If you would like to attend this exciting event please send a cheque payable to the 'Writers' Guild' to 'It's My Baby!', Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 15-17 Britannia Street, London, WC1X 9JN. Or please email: [moe@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:moe@writersguild.org.uk) or call 0207 833 0777.

### **2. So You Want To Be A Playwright?**

Are you interested in writing for theatre? Would you like to find out more about how to get started? If so then this event on Monday 17th March at The Writers' Guild Centre, 17 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9JN from 7 until 9pm is for you.

The session will focus on getting your first commission, building relationships with theatres and the initiatives and opportunities available to new playwrights.

Panellists will include Writers' Guild President and playwright David Edgar (*Nicholas Nickleby* and *Destiny*); playwright Kwame Kwei Armah (*Statement of Regret* and *Elmina's Kitchen*) and Sebastian Born (Associate Director at the National Theatre)

Sudha Bhuchar (writer, joint founder and Artistic Director of Tamasha) will now also be a speaker at this event.

Tickets are still available and cost £5 for Guild members and New Writing South members and £7.50 for non-members. If you would like to attend, please send a cheque payable to The Writers' Guild to 'So you want to be a Playwright?', Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 15-17 Britannia Street, London, WC1X 9JN.

For more information please email: [moe@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:moe@writersguild.org.uk) or call 0207 833 0777.

## **Industry News**

### **3. Two more producers join the board of the UK Film Council**

Elisabeth Murdoch, (daughter of Rupert Murdoch, and Chairman and CEO of the Shine Group), and Gail Egan, (producer and founder of Potboiler Productions), have joined the UK Film Council's Board of Directors. The appointments were made by Margaret Hodge MP, Minister for Culture and will run for four years.

For more information see [www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/news](http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/news)

### **4. Re-launch of the Screenplay Review Service**

The Screenplay Review Service – for professional reader reports of your work. Thanks to WGGB member feedback we have re-launched **The SRS!** Now you can obtain a review of your TV, Radio and Theatre work as well as screenplays from an industry professional - an invaluable way of finding out what is and isn't working in your script, plus honest feedback to help build towards a new draft.

All you need to do is email us with your contact details and screenplay title and we'll reply with all the info you need along with details of our most appropriate reader. If you choose to go ahead, your full report will be back with you in as little as four weeks.

Visit at [www.screenplayreview.co.uk](http://www.screenplayreview.co.uk) for a full introduction to the service

## **Industry Events**

### **5. BAFTA - ROCLIFFE New Writing Forum**

BAFTA & ROCLIFFE proudly announce that John Madden the highly acclaimed, BAFTA Winning and Oscar Nominated director of

Shakespeare in Love  
Mrs Brown  
Captain Corelli's Mandolin  
Proof  
And forthcoming feature, Killshot

will co-chair the next Roccliffe New Writing Forum on Wednesday 2 April 2008 in the David Lean Room at BAFTA, 195 Piccadilly, London.

7.30pm for a 7.45pm start.

To book your ticket, please email [events@bafta.org](mailto:events@bafta.org)

## **Courses and Workshops**

### **6. Writing Workshops on Hadrian's Wall in Cumbria**

Award-winning scriptwriter and million-selling author, and WG member, Jim Eldridge, is holding the next round of his affordable one-day Writing Workshops from April in Cumbria.

The Workshops include:

Screenwriting for Film & TV  
Writing Comedy & Drama for Radio  
Developing Characters & Stories  
Team writing  
Writing Books and Getting Published

The cost is £30 per Workshop. The Workshops are held in the beautiful setting of Bowness on Solway, in a cottage in the centre of what was the second largest fort on Hadrian's Wall.

Each Workshop is limited to 9 participants to give everyone time for individual attention. For full details of dates and timetables, and a list of Jim's credits, go to [www.jimeldridge.com](http://www.jimeldridge.com).

### **7. How To Make & Sell Low Budget Features in 10 "Easy" Steps**

Central London, Sat 19 April, 10am - 5pm

Award-winning writer / producer / director team of Toni Harman & Alex Wakeford have just made CREDO, a low budget horror film ([www.credothemovie.com](http://www.credothemovie.com)) that recently secured worldwide international distribution.

At this event the film-makers will explain exactly what they did, revealing what it cost, what went right, what went wrong, who they sold to and for how much.

This is a must-go-to workshop for writers, directors, producers and anyone desperate to make their first feature.

Cost: £110 + VAT (with 10% discount for Writers' Guild members)

To book visit: [www.altofilms.com/training](http://www.altofilms.com/training) or email [info@altofilms.com](mailto:info@altofilms.com)

## **8. Events for Writers in Cardiff**

S4C and CYFLE have organized a two day event specifically targeted at new and experienced writers.

With 8 sessions spread over the weekend including advice from contributors such as Sita Williams/Alice Nutter (producer/writer THE STREET) Lucy Gannon, Rob Gittins (Eastenders writer) Mervyn Watson, Niall Mathews (RTE), Kate McCall (BBC RADIO), Felicity Carpenter (Emmy Young Writer Winner 2007)...and more (tbc)

DATE: Weekend of the 19th / 20th April 2008

TIME: 09:30-17:30 (Sat) 09:30-16:30 (Sun)

LOCATION: Chapter Arts Centre, Canton, Cardiff

COST: £25 approx

For further information and booking please contact [shan@cyfle.co.uk](mailto:shan@cyfle.co.uk)

## **Opportunities**

### **9. Short Films Wanted for Queerupnorth 2008 – Deadline 18 April 2008**

Queerupnorth are looking for short films to be screened at various venues throughout Manchester for the duration of this year's festival from 9-25 May 2008.

The film programme, just like the rest of the festival, is open to anyone regardless of sexuality – but all submitted films should have some gay relevance or content.

They are interested in all sorts of work – documentary or fiction; narrative or experimental; any genre; any budget; and anything from 30 seconds to 30 minutes long.

Films will be selected by a panel from Queerupnorth & Girls On Film and the deadline for submissions is Friday 18 April 2008.

Unfortunately as they are a small team, they are unable to contact everyone who submits work. Successful applicants will hear by Thursday 1 May 2008.

Go to [http://www.queerupnorth.com/submission\\_guide.php](http://www.queerupnorth.com/submission_guide.php) for submission guidelines & to download a Film Entry Form.

Then send your submission to:

SHORT FILMS SUBMISSION  
Jonathan Best, Artistic Director  
Queerupnorth  
Greenfish Resource Centre  
46-50 Oldham Street  
Manchester  
M4 1LE

Alternatively please email [info@queerupnorth.com](mailto:info@queerupnorth.com) or call 0161 234 2942 for more information.

## **10. Writers Wanted by Peer Productions**

Peer Productions are looking to commission one forty-five minute play jointly written by 2 playwrights (one experienced writer aged 50+ and one new writer aged under 25) as a part of a unique collaboration.

The project will start from 21 April - 20 May with a number of drama and filmmaking workshops in an Elderly Care home in Woking. The two playwrights will be able to use these sessions as research, interviewing participants of all ages, contributing to the workshops and trying out ideas.

The final play will be delivered by 7 September 2008, with a schedule for drafts to be agreed by the writers, New Writing South and Peer Productions. Both writers should be both excited and committed to working with a writer from a different generation and have a good understanding or experience of working within the community sector.

The 50+ writer will receive an ITC/Writers' Guild contract. The younger writer will be awarded a comparable fee however a percentage of this will be in the form of an ongoing career development package.

You can learn more about Peer Productions and this project at:  
[www.peerproductions.co.uk](http://www.peerproductions.co.uk)

To apply: in the first instance, please inform New Writing South of your interest. Both single applications and joint applications from older/younger playwright teams are welcome. If we do not know your work please enclose a suitable example together with a writing CV. Please register your interest by 20 March by email to: [chris@newwritingsouth.com](mailto:chris@newwritingsouth.com)

Postal address: New Writing South, 9 Jew Street, Brighton BN1 1UT

For further info, see [www.newwritingsouth.com](http://www.newwritingsouth.com)

## **11. Paid Work Placements in the Film Industry**

Now in its second year the SkillSet Graduate Fellowship Programme provides up to 11 film professionals from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities with work placements lasting up to one year in some of the leading film businesses.

This year, Host Companies include: Film Four, Focus Features, Material Entertainment, Ruby Films, Recorded Picture Company, and Revolution Films to name five. Placements cover a variety of disciplines from Script Development, Accountancy through to Sales, PR and Distribution.

In addition to fantastic work experience successful applicants also receive a full time training allowance of £17,000 per annum.

If you are passionate about film, are focused and determined to develop a career in the film industry then visit the website for details on how to apply: [www.divafilms.co.uk](http://www.divafilms.co.uk)

Deadline for applications is 25th March 2008. Late applications will automatically be rejected.

## **12. Freelance Scriptwriter required**

A documentary film director/producer is looking to collaborate with a freelance scriptwriter. For more information, please call: 07745871121 (after 6pm) or email queries to [swapnadas@btinternet.com](mailto:swapnadas@btinternet.com).

## **13. Creative Coach Services**

Lacking ideas? Feeling stale?

Working with a creative coach, you'll be –

Winning work  
Working regularly  
Choosing the work you want to do

Sarah Lowes is a Creative Coach who has helped writers for the BBC, ITV and Channel 4.

Contact her on 0151 475 6337 or at [senlowes@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:senlowes@blueyonder.co.uk)

## **14. Film London's audience development fund**

The deadline for applications to Film London's Audience Development Fund which is designed to support film education and exhibition projects with a particular emphasis on issues of cultural diversity and equal opportunities, is 31 March.

There will be a second round of applications for small grants (up to £3,000) later in the year. The fund has supported film festivals including Africa at the Pictures, The Rainbow Film Festival and The Latin American Film Festival as well as projects that give greater access to film for children and minority groups including Refuge in Film, Primary Schools Programme and the after school Cineclub.

For more information see [www.filmlondon.org.uk](http://www.filmlondon.org.uk)

## What Members Are Getting Up To

MARTIN ALLEN wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

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SIMON ASHDOWN wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

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MARTIN BAUM's new book is called '*To Be or Not To Be, Innit - A Yoof-Speak Guide to Shakespeare*'. It is now available from Amazon and all good bookshops alike for just £4.99

Please take a moment to check out the website: [www.yoofspeak.net](http://www.yoofspeak.net)

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JANYS CHAMBERS' stage play, 'Cross Your Heart', was commissioned by the Cheshire Rural Touring Network and toured venues in Cheshire from 14<sup>th</sup> Feb till early March. The cast included Stephanie Greer, Claire Barron, and Duncan Stuart and contained original songs and music performed live by Aidan Jolly.

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LIN COGHLAN wrote the afternoon play: *The City Speaks* going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

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SIMON CROWTHER wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

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FRANK DEASY wrote the first episode of the new BBC1 drama *The Passion* going out at 8:00pm on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

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LOL FLETCHER wrote the episodes of *Doctors* “*Attack of the Centorts*” going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

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JEREMY FRONT’S dramatisation of Simon Brett’s novel *A Charles Paris Mystery: Sicken and So Die* will be going out on Radio 4 at 11:00pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

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HENRIETTA HARDY wrote the episode of *Doctors* “*Foreign Affairs*” going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

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VICKY IRELAND has adapted and directed Jacqueline Wilson’s book, *Secrets*, for the stage. It runs at the Polka Theatre until 19 April and then goes on nationwide tour including the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury and the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton. Suitable for children over the age of 9.

Treasure’s family is a bit mixed up so she is starting a new life with her Nan and she loves it, but will it last? It seems that India has got it all but her parents are so busy worrying about themselves they’ve forgotten all about her. When these two girls, from very different backgrounds, find themselves making friends they discover they are not so different after all. They both escape from their problems by writing diaries, inspired by their heroine, Anne Frank. But when secrets start jumping out of the page and into real life Treasure and India find themselves in deep trouble...

Polka Theatre, 240 The Broadway, London, SW19 1SB.  
Box office: 020 8543 4888

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TONY JORDAN wrote the episode of *Holby Blue* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March. He has also written the episodes of *Moving Wallpaper* and *Echo Beach* going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm and 9:30pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

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MATT LEYS has co-written (with Martin Trenaman) *39 And A Half*, one of this season’s Comedy Project readings, at the Soho Theatre on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

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SARAH LOWES has written *The Art Of Writing Great Characters* for the March edition of *Scriptwriter* magazine.

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JANE MARLOW wrote the episodes of *Hollyoaks* going out on Channel 4 at 6:30pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

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TONY McHALE wrote the episode of *Holby City* "Twelve Hour Nightmare" going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

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ANDREW PAYNE wrote the episode of *Midsomer Murders* "Murder on St Malley's Day" going out on ITV1 at 3:30pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

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ALAN PLATER's award winning show *Blonde Bombshells of 1943* visits the Theatre Royal, Nottingham from Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Performance Times: Evenings 7.30pm, Wednesday and Thursday matinee 2pm, Saturday matinee 2.30pm.

Ticket Prices: £8- £23.50 with concessions available  
Box Office: 0115 989 5555.

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DAVID RENWICK wrote the episode of *Love Soup* "Dream Twister" going out on BBC1 at 9:30pm on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Alice's attempts to find true love dissolve into a farcial nightmare hybrid in this episode. Let's just say it involves vomit, stalking and a ventiloquist's dummy

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CHRISTOPHER RUSSELL wrote the episode of *Midsomer Murders* "Garden of Death" going out on ITV1 at 3:30pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

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MARGARET SIMPSON wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

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DAN TETSELL co-wrote the episode of *Rudy's Rare Records "The Heart of Saturday Night"* going out on Radio 4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

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JOE TURNER wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

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NICK WARBURTON wrote *Make Your Way* going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

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DOUGLAS WATKINSON wrote the episodes of *Midsomer Murders "Death in Disguise", "Blood Will Out" and "Faithful Unto Death"* going out on ITV1 at 3:30pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of March.

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PETER WHALLEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

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