

# The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 296

## Friday 16 November 2007

You can find news and information every day on the Guild's blog at <http://writersguild.blogspot.com/>.

Items on the Guild's website blog this week include:

- [International Guilds support US strike](#)
- [Ira Levin 1929-2007](#)
- [Norman Mailer 1923-2007](#)
- [Hytner calls for right-wing plays](#)
- [Soap shake-up at ITV](#)
- [Muddled thinking on the strike](#)
- [Theatre's civil war?](#)
- [Bringing Gaskell to BBC One](#)
- [High Tide Theatre Festival](#)
- [Notes From The Underground](#)

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## Guild News

### **1. Writers' Guild of America Strike Update – International Day of Solidarity -- 28 November.**

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain will be taking part in an International Day of Solidarity to support the US screenwriters' strike.

We will organise a special activity on Wednesday 28 November 2007 to coincide with pickets and demonstrations in Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and other countries. Full details will be announced later.

WGGB Chair Katharine Way and General Secretary Bernie Corbett have spent the past week in Montreal, Canada, at the annual conference of the International Affiliation of Writers Guilds -- at which the main topic for discussion was the WGA strike.

Apart from announcing the International Day of Solidarity, the IAWG gave strong statements of support for the strikers. A unanimous motion stated:

"The IAWG wholeheartedly supports the Writers Guild of America (East and West) in their strike against the giant multinational media conglomerates. Screenwriters are entitled to a fair share of the revenues generated by their work regardless of the medium of distribution. The WGA has fought for these rights in the past. New media is the future of our business and we stand beside our colleagues as they fight again for future generations of screenwriters."

Katharine Way said: "The future of our industry is shifting toward new media. Writers have always had to fight for a small share of the revenues generated from their work and this case is no different."

Audrey O'Reilly, Chair of the Irish Playwrights and Screenwriters Guild, added: "Our solidarity means that no self-respecting screenwriter in any country will undermine the US strike. The overwhelming majority of our members will never take work from striking American colleagues because the fight now taking place in the US is a fight for screenwriters across the globe."

For all the strike news you could possibly want, see the website <http://unitedhollywood.blogspot.com/>

Or for an explanation of the strike in less than four minutes look at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJ55Ir2jCzk>

### **2. Guild to Meet BBC over Drama Cuts**

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain is to have a high-level meeting with the BBC to discuss possible cuts in TV and radio drama and comedy budgets as part of £2bn cuts following the lower-than-expected licence-fee settlement.

The Guild sought the meeting because of statements that the BBC intends to make "fewer, bigger, better" programmes. General Secretary Bernie Corbett said: "Fewer dramas and comedies would mean more writers out of work. If there have to be cuts in programming, they should fall on unwanted managers, filler 'reality' shows and overpaid 'personalities' -- not on the great shows that are at the heart of the BBC public service."

The meeting is expected to take place within the next two weeks.

The National Union of Journalists and the staff and technicians' union BECTU have said they will strike if cuts lead to compulsory redundancies.

### **3. Christine Paris has Baby!**

We are delighted to announce that Christine Paris, the former Assistant General Secretary at the Guild office, recently gave birth to a baby boy.

## **Guild Events**

### **4. Writer's Guild Open- Mic Night**

If you're a poet, a comic, a novelist with a desire to share your latest chapter or a playwright with a favourite scene, then don't miss this chance to showcase your talent!

The Writers' Guild will be hosting an Open-Mic Night on Monday 3rd December from 7pm until 9pm at the Writers' Guild Centre in King's Cross.

Performance slots are limited to five minutes, to reserve a place please email: [moe@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:moe@writersguild.org.uk)

Tickets cost: £5 for Guild members and £7.50 for non members. There will be an opportunity to have a complimentary glass of wine and network after the performances.

To book, please send a cheque to Open Mic Night, Writers' Guild, 15 - 17 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9JN. Cheques should be made payable to the Writers' Guild of Great Britain.

### **5. Event for Writers of BBC Long-Running Drama Series**

Do you write for a long-running drama series? Would you like to write Holby City, Casualty, EastEnders or Doctors? Do you have experience of working on any of those shows? If so, this is a unique opportunity to hear about how the BBC have been adapting their shows - and the working conditions on them - to make them more writer-friendly shows.

John Yorke, Controller Drama Production Studios for the BBC will be talking about changes he's made to the BBC's working practices and ways in which he is working to put writers back at the heart of the creative process. He will also be taking questions on this subject.

Other senior BBC drama executives will also be attending this event and will be available for questions.

This event is intended primarily for professional writers working in the TV industry and not as an opportunity to learn about ways in. Speakers will focus on current working practices in the BBC and ways in which the role and profile of writers on long-running drama series are changing.

The session will be chaired by Gail Renard, Chair of the Writers' Guild TV Committee on Wednesday 12 December 2007, 7pm until 9pm at the Writers' Guild Centre, 15 - 17 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9JN.

If you would like to submit questions anonymously in advance of the event, please send them to [naomi@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:naomi@writersguild.org.uk) Tickets cost £5 for Guild members and £7.50 for non-members. There will be an opportunity to have a complimentary glass of wine and socialise after the event.

To book, please send a cheque to 'BBC Long-running Series Event', Writers' Guild, 15 - 17 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9JN. Cheques should be made out to the Writers' Guild of Great Britain or email: [moe@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:moe@writersguild.org.uk)

## Events

### **6. Theatre Methods 2008 - International Festival**

Theatre Methods is the annual professional festival-fair bringing up the question of the Bridge between Tradition and Contemporaneity in performing arts. The festival will be held from the 7<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in Malpils Latvia. Applications are now being accepted for artists who are interested in giving presentations in 2008.

For more information please go to: <http://www.iugte.com/projects/TMO8.php>  
To register , please go to: <http://www.iugte.com/projects/register.php>

### **7. BAFTA/ Rocliffe New writing forum**

BAFTA and Rocliffe are delighted to announce that Duncan Kenworthy , the Highly Acclaimed and Award-Winning Producer of Four Weddings and A Funeral, Notting Hill and Love Actually will co-chair the next BAFTA / Rocliffe New Writing Forum.

The event will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at BAFTA, 195 Piccadilly, David Lean Room open at 19.30 - the event commences at 19.45. To book your ticket please e-mail [events@bafta.org](mailto:events@bafta.org)

### **8. PAWS Event : Beyond the Red Button**

Interactive is the in word. How many writers and producers have seen anything interactive beyond the red button to vote for a dancer or a celebrity big brother?

This seminar will provide an opportunity to find out how writers and creators of interactive programmes work together, and to see some of the latest work. The techniques may be complex, but where drama is concerned good stories and good drama writers are still in demand, so all writers are welcome, to sample and discover new avenues of work.

If you are a skilled practitioner already, exchange ideas with your peers and discuss the future for interactive writing of all kinds. The seminar will be held on Tuesday 4th December at 2p.m at the IET, Savoy Place London, WC2.

To register for this free Seminar please email: [events@pawsawards.co.uk](mailto:events@pawsawards.co.uk) or call: +44 (0)20 7483 4545.

## **9. The PAWS/EuroPAWS awards evening 2007**

PAWS would also like to extend a warm invitation to members of the Writers' Guild to attend the PAWS/EuroPAWS Awards Evening which will be held at the IET, Savoy Place, London WC2 at 7pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

The event will feature presentation of the 2007 MIDAS Awards for the best science or technology in: TV drama, general TV programming, and new media in Europe. John Simpson, BBC World Affairs Editor will give the Keynote Address which will be followed by a panel-led discussion on *Technology and Society: the challenges we face*.

The evening will close with a cheese and wine reception hosted by the IET. Attendance at the PAWS/EuroPAWS Awards and reception is free but please register before the event.

To register, please email: [events@pawsawards.co.uk](mailto:events@pawsawards.co.uk) or call: +44 (0)20 7483 4545

For further information, including details of panel members please go to : [www.pawsawards.co.uk](http://www.pawsawards.co.uk)

## **10. CTBF Christmas Family Film: Magorium's Wonder Emporium**

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium family will be screened on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at the Empire theatre in Leicester Square.

10am: Winter Wonderland

11am: film begins

Please note: This is a charity screening for the Cinema and Television Benevolent fund.

To book please email: [events@ctbP.co.uk](mailto:events@ctbP.co.uk) or call: 020 7439 2966. Tickets are: £10 for adults and £5 for children.

## **Courses/ Workshops**

### **11. Raintance: Blake Snyder's screenwriting weekend**

Whether you're a screenwriter, producer, director, executive or movie fan, Blake Snyder will show you - from concept to structure to execution of specific scenes - how the magic of story comes alive through tried and true techniques storytellers have known for centuries.

The sessions will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2007 in central London. Tickets cost £250 + VAT (Writers' Guild members get 10% discount)

For more information on the venue and to book please go to: [www.raintance.co.uk](http://www.raintance.co.uk)

## **12. Centerprise Literature Workshop- Making it as a freelance writer**

Centerprise Literature Workshop is a beginner-level workshop for anyone who is considering working as a freelance writer, or who has already started to work in this field. This practical workshop will examine some of the issues you will face as a freelance writer.

Tutor, Rachel Thackray Jones will use discussion, exercises and worksheets to identify issues and to find strategies for progress and success. Areas covered include: setting up as a freelancer, finding work and other issues. The event will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November from 7-9p.m. at Centreprise (top-floor), 136 Kingland High Street, London.

## **13. LFS Workshop: Sales, marketing and distribution**

Sales, Marketing and Distribution is a two day workshop by Mia Bays at The London Film School on 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

Do you know how your project fits into the marketplace, and what practical things you can do to ensure a greater chance of success?

Do you know how to make films, but have no idea of how to get them to be seen by an audience? In this two day intensive workshop, industry expert Mia Bays presents an A-Z guide to the current distribution landscape, including:

- Expert industry guests – including leading independent distributors, sales agents, publicists, media planners, and cinema bookers
- Case studies of recent and forthcoming films
- Extensive handouts on the facts, figures and tricks of the trade

This event is ideal for producers, writers, directors and other film professionals. For more information visit: [www.lfs.org.uk](http://www.lfs.org.uk) . To book a place, please email Saskia van Roomen at: [s.vanroomen@lfs.org.uk](mailto:s.vanroomen@lfs.org.uk)

The course costs £220.00. Skillset Screen Bursaries allow freelancers and employees in the UK's film and TV industries to train for less.

Visit :[www.skillset.org/film/funding/bursaries](http://www.skillset.org/film/funding/bursaries) for details.

## **14. Euroscript development workshops 2007**

Put theory into practice, and work with experienced industry professionals to take your individual project to treatment, first draft or further. You can start with an initial idea, or with work in progress. Whatever stage you are at, the Euroscript script consultant will work with you to help you create a strong, marketable script. You may book further weeks as your work develops. Your script editor will work with you individually and in small groups giving you support and detailed personal feedback. You may take as many or as few of the workshops in the series as you like, and if you complete six sessions you will receive a free bullet-point assessment and marketing appraisal on your draft.

Future sessions - places currently available: Monday November 26<sup>th</sup> and Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

The sessions will be held at :The Diorama Arts Centre ;3-7 Euston Centre, NW1 3JG on Monday November 26th 2007 from 6.15 - 9.30pm (registration 6.00pm) Prices per session: Participants with projects: £40 (concessions £36) Observers: £25 (concessions £22)

Booking is essential as workshop sizes are kept deliberately small. You will need to send any written material for discussion no less than four full days in advance.

To book and for further information please email: [charles.harris@euroscript.co.uk](mailto:charles.harris@euroscript.co.uk) or call: 020 7435 1330

## Opportunities

**PLEASE NOTE: The Guild does its best to check everything and make corrections when necessary but we will not accept responsibility for mistakes and omissions. The Guild is in no way associated with any of the advertisements placed in this section unless it is specified within the item. Members who choose to take up the opportunities do so of their own accord. You are advised to check terms and conditions before entering any commitments.**

### 15. Writing Histories: A radio drama competition

Crystal Clear Creators is accepting entries to a new radio drama competition. The competition is open to all and will result in the production of three winning radio dramas though a web broadcast. Entrants are invited to write a one-page proposal for a possible radio drama of up to 45 minutes in length on a historical theme. From the entries, the best three proposals will be chosen by a panel of judges. The writers of these winning proposals will be given the opportunity to develop the full scripts, whilst receiving mentoring from experienced writers. The three radio dramas will then be recorded and produced by Crystal Clear Creators. They will broadcast them via the organisation's website, and they will promote them to local and regional radio stations.

The deadline for submissions is Friday 23 November 2007. Entry costs £2 for members, £3 for non-members. Cheques should be made payable to 'Crystal Clear Creators' and included with entries. This competition represents the culmination of a series of creative writing day schools run by Crystal Clear Creators and is part of a project called 'Writing Histories,' funded by Awards for All (National Lottery). [www.crystalclearcreators.org.uk](http://www.crystalclearcreators.org.uk)

### 16. West Midlands Screenwriters Forum

Calling professional screenwriters in the West Midlands area: a forum of screenwriters has been set up, with the aim of bringing exciting screenwriting speakers to the region, to provide networking opportunities and to inspire new creative partnerships. If you are interested, please contact: [andy@shootingpeople.org](mailto:andy@shootingpeople.org) with a biog of credits and contact details.

Professionals only, please. The first meeting is planned for Tuesday November 27th 7.30pm, venue tba.

## What Members Are Getting Up To

Martin Allen wrote two episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

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Mark Burt wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

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Paul Coates wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on Channel 4 at 6:30pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

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Richard Davidson wrote the episodes of *East Enders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and at 7:30pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

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Jeff Dodds co-wrote the episode of *Holby City* “*Unfinished Symphony*” going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

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Steven Fay wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on Channel 4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

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Lol Fletcher wrote the episode of *Doctors* “*The Seeds We Sow*” going out on BBC1 at 2:05pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

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Jayne Hollinson wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

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Mark Illis wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

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Peter Kerry wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

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Jimmy McGovern wrote the episode of *The Street* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

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Tony McHale co-wrote the episode of *Holby City* “*Unfinished Symphony*” going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

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Lyn Papadopoulos wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on Channel 4 at 6:30pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

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Christopher Reason wrote the episode of *East Enders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

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David Renwick wrote the episode of *One Foot in the Grave* going out on BBC1 at 10:40am on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

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Michael Russell wrote the episodes of *Midsomer Murders* “*The Green Man*” Parts One and Two going out on ITV1 at 4:00pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

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Stephen Russell wrote the episode of *Shameless* going out on Channel 4 at 11:00pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

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Pete Sinclair co-wrote the episode of *Lead Balloon* going out on BBC2 at 9:30pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

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Heidi Thomas’s new five part series *Cranford* (based on three novels by Elizabeth Gaskell) begins on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November with the episode: “*June 1842*”.

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Tina Walker wrote the episode of *Doctors* “*Out of This World*” going out on BBC1 at 2:05pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

*Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 15-17 Britannia St, London WC1X 9JN; [admin@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:admin@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 [admin@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:admin@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 2007.*