

# The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 329, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2008

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## Guild News

## **1. Writers' Guild Awards 2008 – Last chance to nominate!**

Many thanks to those members who have already submitted their nominations for this year's Writers' Guild Awards.

All members of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain are entitled (and urged) to nominate in all categories - so don't miss this opportunity to put forward those plays, programmes, productions, prose and game scripts that have really grabbed you over the past year.

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July** is the deadline for receipt of nominations so this is your last chance to have your say.

For more information about categories and eligibility, please visit the Guild website [www.writersguild.org.uk](http://www.writersguild.org.uk).

To nominate in any or all award categories, please email [erik@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:erik@writersguild.org.uk) and quote your Guild membership number. Please make it clear which writers you are nominating in which categories.

Nominations may also be submitted via post to the Guild office. Please address nominations to 'Writers' Guild Award nominations', Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 15-17 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9JN

The shortlist will be announced on Friday 19th September 2008.

## **2. Writers' Guild Guidelines for Film Writers**

The Writers' Guild launched 'Writing Film', its brand new guidelines for screenwriters and those working with writers in the film industry, at the Cheltenham Film Festival last week.

The Guild's Film Committee, chaired by Olivia Hetreed, has been working on the guidelines for the last year and consulting widely in the industry to produce a document, which both reflects the reality of working as a screenwriter in the UK and also aspires to a better situation.

Check out the new guidelines on the Guild's website at:  
[http://www.writersguild.org.uk/public/003\\_WritersGuil/241\\_WGGBNewsScr.html](http://www.writersguild.org.uk/public/003_WritersGuil/241_WGGBNewsScr.html)

Read Guild member Chris Lakeman Fraser's daily blog about the Cheltenham Screenwriters Festival at:

[http://blogs.guardian.co.uk/film/2008/07/british\\_screenwriters\\_could\\_ac.html](http://blogs.guardian.co.uk/film/2008/07/british_screenwriters_could_ac.html)

Also, read more about our guidelines in Screen Daily at:

<http://www.screendaily.com/ScreenDailyArticle.aspx?intStoryID=39666&strSearch=ronald%20harwood&strCallingPage=ScreenDailySearchSite.aspx>

### **3. New Writers' Guild Membership and Subscriptions Service**

Please don't forget, the new contact details for the Guild's membership and subscriptions service (provided by APT Solutions Ltd) are as follows:

**Email:** [writersguild@aptsolutions.co.uk](mailto:writersguild@aptsolutions.co.uk)

**Telephone:** 01952 214 063

**Fax:** 01952 214 001

**Address:** Writers' Guild membership,  
APT Solutions,  
Stratum House,  
Stafford Park 10,  
Telford,  
Shropshire,  
TF3 3AB

Their office is open from 9am - 5.30pm each day.

We hope the Guild's new membership service, provided by APT, will benefit existing members and also greatly improve the effectiveness of our ongoing recruitment campaign. If you have any feedback about the service, please contact Lauren Kemp, the Guild's Office Co-ordinator, on 020 7833 0777 or at [lauren@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:lauren@writersguild.org.uk).

## **Industry News**

### **4. Yorke expands role in drama reshuffle**

BBC Drama has expanded the role of drama production studios controller John Yorke to include new talent as part of a senior-level restructure.

Yorke, who will retain editorial responsibility for continuing drama series, will also spearhead an expansion in activity for writer, producer, director and script editor training.

He will also oversee an expansion of the Writers Academy to the Nations and Regions, designed to take a national approach to nurturing new writers.

Kate Harwood, who was behind series such as Cranford, Lark Rise to Candleford and The Passion, becomes Controller, Series and Serials, BBC drama production. As well as heading single films, Harwood is editorially responsible for series, serials and singles across the whole of drama production.

## Industry Events

### 5. Galton & Simpson at Sunbury & Shepperton Arts Festival

Two of the biggest names in comedy, **Galton & Simpson**, the creators of Hancock's Half Hour and Steptoe & Son, are celebrating over half a century of their comedy writing partnership and they have chosen to share their stories and memories of a lifetime in comedy, with the audience at the two-week Sunbury & Shepperton Arts Festival.

What is it like to write for Tony Hancock? What do they think of today's comedies? Join Guild member and comedy writer, **Jan Etherington**, who will be hosting the evening with Ray Galton and Alan Simpson and launching the festival on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 8 pm at the Riverside Arts Centre, Thames Street, Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex.

Numbers are strictly limited and booking in advance is essential. Tickets: £12. Box Office: 01932 787390.

### 6. Conference - Action for Children's Arts (ACA)

21 July 2008 (London)

Manifesto for Children's Arts: This ACA conference marks the beginning of a national campaign and is aimed at anyone with a professional or personal interest in the arts for children aged 0-12.

Venue: Unicorn Theatre, London. Date: 21 July 2008, 10.00am - 4.30pm. Speakers and other contributors include Camila Batmanghelidjh, Shami Chakrabarti, Beverley Hughes MP, Michelle Magorian, Jamila Gavin, Lynne Reid Banks, Malorie Blackman OBE, Terry Jones, Anna Home OBE, Lyn Gardner and Terry Jones. Tickets from [the Unicorn Theatre](#) T: 020 7645 0560. Fee: Organisations £100; Individuals £80; ACA members £55\*.

Limited number of bursaries available - please ask box office for details.

For more information, please go to [www.childrensarts.org.uk](http://www.childrensarts.org.uk)

### 7. Edinburgh previews at the Arts Theatre, London

A super line-up of familiar and not-so-familiar faces will be offering previews of their Edinburgh shows from the end of June until the beginning of the festival. Don't miss the chance to see some top, top names in the rather intimate surroundings of the Arts' cellar.

All shows £8/£6, starting at 7.15pm & 8.45pm

Featuring Reginald D Hunter, Rhod Gilbert, Phil Nichol, Mark Watson, Josie Long and many more - tickets for all shows available at [TicketWeb.co.uk](http://TicketWeb.co.uk)

## Courses and Workshops

### **8. Continuing Drama Course – APPLICATIONS CLOSING SOON**

This course is designed to kick-start your career in television. Split between theoretical work, studying an episode of *Emmerdale*, and practical work on your own ideas, the introductory workshop will give you an in depth understanding of the realities of television writing.

The course begins with an initial weekend workshop in which 25 writers will work with TAPS Industry Tutors studying the construction of a series script for television. Sessions will develop skills in areas such as Character, Story and Dialogue. These will be put to work straight away with in-class writing exercises.

Following this weekend, the writers will work on a 30-minute TV script. These will be evaluated and the 10 best will receive a one-to-one script surgery session with a script editor before rewriting their piece. These new drafts will be resubmitted and the top two from each course will progress to showcase.

The Nations Course is open for those writers living in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and will run in **Cardiff** on the proposed dates of the **29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008**.

The Regions Course is open for those writers living in England and will run in **Leeds** on the proposed dates of the **12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2008**.

**Deadline for Nations: 11<sup>th</sup> July**

**Deadline for Regions: 11<sup>th</sup> July**

**2008 Course Fee: £325 (Incl. VAT)**

For application forms, email [shamsul@tapsnet.org](mailto:shamsul@tapsnet.org) or visit [www.tapsnet.org](http://www.tapsnet.org)

### **9. Marketing & Distribution Workshop at London Film School (LFS)**

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 sell, market and distribute them?

In this two-day intensive workshop, industry expert Mia Bays presents an A-Z guide to the current distribution landscape. A must for any producer, writer, director or other film professional.

Expert industry guests will include:

**Pete Buckingham**, Head of Distribution and Exhibition UKFC (session on audience trends)

**Eve Schoukroun**, MD of West End Films, formerly head of sales for ThinkFilm and Capitol (session on international sales)

**Michael Hayden**, senior programmer at the London Film Festival (session on festivals)

**Jason Wood** of Picturehouse Cinemas, one of the UK Major cinema bookers on screens such as the Ritzy, the Gate and the Curzons (session on exhibition)

Mia Bays is an Oscar winning film producer and marketing consultant with over 16 years experience at the commercial end of the UK and European film business, in Distribution, Marketing and Sales, and latterly financing and production.

[Click here](#) for more info.

## **10. Writing for Laughs... and a TV Commission (Manchester)**

*Tell somebody you are going to make them laugh and you are guaranteed two things: a stony silence at the end of the gag and instant scorn.... It's the easiest way of not making friends. The same applies to narrative comedy. You think you've written a witty, sharply-observed piece with an important and new way of sketching the world with humour. What happens? No-one laughs and they really don't like you very much.*

This one-day workshop about TV comedy will explore how to make people laugh as well as offering a route-map to getting your work commissioned by telling you who wants what and why. The course uses a case study of a project which became a BBC TV Comedy Commission, outlining the emails, meetings, reads and road-tests that convinced a sceptical commissioner to get behind the project.

This session is presented by **Will Hanrahan**, Managing Director of Hanrahan Media, an independent which has produced one of the BBC's biggest comedy commissions of 2008 – *Trex and Flipside*.

### **Writing for Laughs... and a TV Commission**

**Thursday 17 July**

**10am–5pm**

**Manchester Cathedral Conference Centre**

**10 Cateaton St**

**Manchester**

**M3 1SQ**

Places cost £50 (incl. VAT). To book your place by credit or debit card please call The Script Factory on 020 7851 4890.

## Opportunities

### **11. Looking for Feature Length Screenplays**

The Guild has received a message from independent producers looking for feature length screenplays. They are interested in any kind of genre. If interested, please contact Faiza Zaidi on the below address and attach a synopsis and outline or treatment. They will examine your projects and will get in touch to read the full scripts.

Contact: Faiza Zaidi  
Email: [blueorchid@ymail.com](mailto:blueorchid@ymail.com)

### **12. Horror Fest 2008**

Your chance to win a holiday for 2, Avid software or an XBOX 360 as part of propellertv's search for the scariest horror short. Following the huge success of propellertv's first ever short film festival, ShortFest, they are now launching a brand new competition to find the most horrifying short.

To get involved all you've got to do is send in your horror short (no longer than 10 mins) to Horrorfest, Propeller TV, C/O Screen Yorkshire, Leeds, LS2 7EY, UK before Friday 12th September 2008, along with a propellertv submission form which you can download from;

<http://www.propellertv.co.uk/Contributiontofilmfirst.aspx>

All entries to 'HorrorFest' will be broadcast on propellertv over Halloween (subject to terms and conditions).

For more information please contact [john@propellertv.co.uk](mailto:john@propellertv.co.uk) and/or check [www.propellertv.co.uk](http://www.propellertv.co.uk)

### **13. User-Generated and User-Owned Feature Film Competition**

Calling all Film Buffs, Writers, Directors and Producers...

The Movie Mogul Fund competition (that has been set up to create a user-generated feature film) is about to enter its exciting second phase entitled "The Writer's Brief".

For more information go to: [www.moviemogulfund.com](http://www.moviemogulfund.com)

## What Members Are Getting Up To

BENNETT ARRON will be headlining the Leeds Jewish International Performing Festival with his critically acclaimed show *It Wasn't Me, It Was Bennett Arron* on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July and on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 9pm.

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SARAH BAGSHAW wrote the episode of *The Royal "Slings and Arrows"* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July. She also wrote *Emmerdale: You've Been Framed* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July.

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PERRIE BALTHAZAR wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

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IAN BROWN and JAMES HENDRIE wrote the episode of *After You've Gone "When She Came Back"* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

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PAUL COATES wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July.

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SIMON CROWTHER wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

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RICHARD CURTIS wrote the episode of *The Vicar of Dibley* going out on BBC1 at 9:30pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July.

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LOL FLETCHER wrote the episode of *Doctors "Stranger on a Bridge"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

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JULIA GILBERT wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

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TONY GREEN wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July.

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ANTHONY HOROWITZ wrote the episode of *Foyle's War* going out on ITV12 at 9:00pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

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MARK ILLIS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 sat 7:00pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July.

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TERRY JOHNSON'S TV adaptation of his stage play *Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle and Dick* renamed *Cor, Blimey!* is going out on BBC2 at 9:00pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

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ALEX JONES'S play *Minger!* is being previewed at the Arts Theatre on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July & Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July before moving on to the Latitude Festival on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July & Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July. It then goes on to the Theatre 503 on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> until Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August at 8pm with a Saturday matinee at 3pm.

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JESSICA LEA wrote the episode of *Grange Hill* going out on BBC1 at 4:35pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

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BILL LYONS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

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DOMINIC MINGHELLA co-wrote the episode of *Doc Martin* "Aromatherapy" going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July.

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JESSE O'MAHONEY wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

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BRENDAN O'NEILL'S *One Driver Escaped Uninjured* has been named as the ABCtales Poem of the Week.

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JULIE PARSONS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

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STEVE TRAFFORD wrote the episode of *The Bill* "Gun Runner: Firefight" going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

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MIKE WALKER wrote the episode of *Dickens Confidential* "Why Are We in Afghanistan?" going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

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MARTYN WADE'S adaptation of *The Ring and the Book (Part 2)* is going out on Radio 4 at 9:00pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

\*\*\*

PETER WHALLEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

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