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# The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 367, Friday 17th April 2009

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On the Guild's blog this week at [writersguild.blogspot.com](http://writersguild.blogspot.com):

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- [Quest for 'gequality' on stage](#)
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## **Guild News**

### **1. The Writers' Guild at the Cannes Film Festival**

This year's Cannes Film Festival will take place from 13th - 24th May.

As usual the Guild will hold a get-together for members who will be attending the Festival. This is always a great opportunity to meet up and get to know a few fellow Guild members, as well as sharing information and contact details before heading off for Cannes. It will take place on Tuesday 5th May at 6.30 pm either at the Guild office or somewhere nearby, depending on numbers. It is therefore essential to let us know if you will be attending. Please call Anne Hogben 020 3372 8402 or email [anne@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:anne@writersguild.org.uk) to let her know.

If you are not able to come along on 5th May but will be going to Cannes please send an email to Anne and she will keep you in the email loop with news, information, events etc. both before and during the Festival.

### **2. Annual General Meeting - Friday 5th June 2009**

All members of the Guild are invited to attend the AGM on Friday 5th June from 10.30 am - 5.30 pm at

**The Old Sessions House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0NA**

Nearest underground station: Farringdon

Admission to the AGM is by a current membership card. Full Members and Life Members may vote on all matters. Affiliate Members may vote on the presentation and approval of the Accounts.

A light sandwich lunch will be served (no charge). To help us estimate the numbers please contact the office to let us know if you will be staying for lunch – telephone 020 7833 0777 or email [erik@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:erik@writersguild.org.uk).

Motions for debate at the AGM, including proposals to amend the Guild rules, may be tabled by any two Full Members who are in benefit, or by any Branch or National Region of the Guild. Motions must be received at the Guild office no later than

**Friday 1 May 2009.**

## Industry News

### **3. Founders of Illegal File-Sharing Website 'Pirate Bay' are Jailed**

A court in Sweden has jailed four men behind The Pirate Bay (TPB), the world's most high-profile file-sharing website, in a landmark copyright infringement case. Frederik Neij, Gottfrid Svartholm Warg, Carl Lundstrom and Peter Sunde were found guilty of breaking copyright law and were sentenced to a year in jail. They were also ordered to pay \$4.5m (£3m) in damages, which were awarded to a number of entertainment companies, including Warner Bros, Sony Music Entertainment, EMI, and Columbia Pictures.

Record companies welcomed the verdict but the men are to appeal and Peter Sunde, describing the verdict as "bizarre", said they would refuse to pay the fine.

For the full story, see <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/8003799.stm>

### **4. New Spanish Books Available for Translation**

The new issue of the New Spanish Books newsletter, gives a list of new books with available rights for translation, is now available at [www.newspanishbooks.com](http://www.newspanishbooks.com). If you want to receive future newsletters you can subscribe online.

## 5. New Doctor Who Production Team

Ashes to Ashes producer Beth Willis has been appointed executive producer of Doctor Who, as part of a number of new appointments made by the BBC.

Willis, who will work alongside the show's lead writer Steven Moffat in her role, will be joined by Tracie Simpson and Peter Bennett as producers on the series, which is made through BBC Wales.

The BBC said the new team marked "the start of a new chapter in the life of the series", which will see Matt Smith become the new Doctor.

For the full story, see The Stage website:

<http://www.thestage.co.uk/news/newsstory.php/24125/bbc-announces-new-production-team-for-doctor>

## Guild Events

### 6. Northern Openings? Production Opportunities for Writers in the North East of England

**The Writers' Guild and New Writing North invite you to a panel discussion, to be held in the Sponsors' Room at Northern Stage, from 5pm-7pm on Thursday 14th May 2009.**

The North East has a notable writing tradition and provides many great training opportunities for writers. However, are there the outlets for their work to be produced or published in the region? Could institutions do more? Could writers themselves create new openings for their work?

Discussing these issues will be Stefan Escreet, radio drama producer and associate director of Keswick's Theatre by the Lake; Claire Malcolm of New Writing North; Mark Mulqueen, head of performing arts and literature, Arts Council England North East; writer and Northern Film and Media board member Michael Chaplin; and Max Roberts, artistic director of Live Theatre. The panel will be chaired by playwright David Edgar, president of the Writers' Guild.

Wine and snacks will be provided after the panel discussion.

This event is free and open to all but RSVP to [naomi@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:naomi@writersguild.org.uk)

The performance of the North East Theatre Consortium production of Margaret Wilkinson's new play *Queen Bee* begins at 7.30pm that night and there is a discussion with cast and writer after the show. Writers attending Northern Openings can apply for reduced price tickets for the show that evening once they have booked for this event (up to 20 tickets are available). For more information, see [queenbeetheplay.wordpress.com](http://queenbeetheplay.wordpress.com).

The venue for this Guild event will be:

Sponsors Room, Northern Stage  
Barras Bridge,  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 7RH

Box office for *Queen Bee*: 0191 230 5151

## **7. Vamps, Vixens and Feminists - A Conference Hosted by Sphinx Theatre Company**

### **16th June 2009 at the National Theatre, London**

Sphinx has been commissioned by Arts Council England to convene a professional forum on the issues around women's employment and representation in theatre, film and TV. The Writers' Guild, along with Equity and the Director's Guild of Great Britain are collaborating with Sphinx in presenting this forum and will have free tickets to distribute to interested members.

The Government's Gender Equality Duty has mandated all public institutions to consider the representation of women within their fields and organisations. Further than that, it is part of the Gender Equality Duty to 'promote' such equality. This raises complex cultural questions not only in the employment of women but also in the portrayal of women in the media. ACE wishes to take soundings from the theatre/film/TV professions to form their own strategy, and the conference will provide an opportunity to examine these issues in some depth with contributions from a range of professionals on the platform and from the professional audience.

The central significance of the Writer in all media is paramount, and we therefore warmly invite all members of the Writers' Guild to attend and participate in the debate. The Royal National Theatre has agreed to host and collaborate on the conference which will be held in the Olivier Theatre.

Tickets are free. Please register your interest with Naomi MacDonald in the Guild office at [naomi@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:naomi@writersguild.org.uk). Further information will follow, so watch this space!

## Events

### **8. Orange Readers Day at the Birmingham Book Festival**

"EIGHT WRITERS. ONE AFTERNOON" at the Birmingham Book Festival

Saturday 9th May, 1 - 5pm at the BCU CONSERVATOIRE (ADRIAN BOULT HALL)

Kate Mosse, Honorary Director of the Orange Prize for Fiction and bestselling author, will head a panel of winners, judges and previously shortlisted authors for an afternoon of readings and discussion. Tea, coffee, soft drinks and cakes will be in plentiful supply, and all attendees will take home a special books goody bag.

Tickets are priced at just £5 or £4 for concessions, or £20 for a group package (six tickets), and are available from: Birmingham Box Office: 0121 303 2323 ([www.birminghamboxoffice.com](http://www.birminghamboxoffice.com))

### **9. People in Media Club : Annual Pre Cannes Party**

[www.pim-club.co.uk](http://www.pim-club.co.uk)

Wednesday 29th April, Slug & Lettuce Bar, London

£5 entry - to cover costs

If you are going to Cannes come along & meet fellow members who you can network with & exchange contacts with so you can meet up with them when your in Cannes, even if you are not attending come along & experience the buzz & magic of what Cannes is all about.

This event is filled out to maximum capacity every year & is always an amazing evening- be part of it !!

Please sign up for membership before you book your place.

Membership is free on [www.pim-club.co.uk](http://www.pim-club.co.uk)

## Courses and Workshops

### **10. Jan Etherington's Comedy Writing Course**

June 20th/21st 2009

Special Guests – Galton & Simpson.

Lucky students, at award winning comedy writer, Jan Etherington's next comedy writing course, on June 20/21<sup>st</sup> 2009 will be meeting the greatest comedy writing partnership Britain has ever produced.

Ray Galton, CBE & Alan Simpson, CBE, creators of Hancock and Steptoe & Son, will be sharing their thoughts about 'a kind of marriage' – a lifetime of writing comedy together.

The weekend course is held at the Riverside Arts Centre, in Sunbury on Thames, Middx.

£160 for the two days, includes delicious lunches. Places are very limited, so book early.

More details.....

[www.comedycourse.biz](http://www.comedycourse.biz)

Tel: 020 8133 0110/ 0788 790713

Or email: [comedycourse@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:comedycourse@hotmail.co.uk)

### **11. BAFTA Rocliffe New Writing Forum**

Wednesday 29th April 2009 at 7:30pm

Princess Anne Theatre, BAFTA, 195 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LN

BAFTA and Rocliffe are delighted to announce that Mike Newell, the highly acclaimed, BAFTA-winning director of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Donnie Brasco*, *Pushing Tin*, *High Fidelity*, *Love in the Time of Cholera*, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* and forthcoming feature *Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time* with Jake Gyllenhaal will be this event's industry guest.

For tickets (£5) please log on to [www.bafta.org/whats-on](http://www.bafta.org/whats-on).

## **12. BBC College of Comedy - Open for Applications**

The college is the Comedy equivalent of the BBC drama writers academy, and is now inviting applications for its second year. The scheme will run for 12 months, and six successful applicants (writing pairs will be treated as a single applicant) will be attached to an existing production, and will also be mentored in the creation of original work.

The scheme is open to writers of half-hour narrative comedy, and to sketch writers from the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland.

Applicants will have had their work broadcast; had work commissioned for development by a broadcaster or production company; or had their work performed professionally, either as a writer or a writer/performer. Applications which do not meet these criteria will not be considered.

The deadline for submissions is noon on 24 April 2009. Full details can be found at [www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom](http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom)

## **Opportunities**

### **13. Volunteer Writing Mentor Wanted for Refugee Writing Group**

**‘Write to Life’ is the therapeutic writing programme of the Medical Foundation, which helps torture survivors from round the world.**

Based in a lovely building in Finsbury Park , we work with people of many nationalities and many levels of literary fluency, but all our writers are passionate survivors with extraordinary stories to tell. The job of the writing mentor is to work, both one-to-one and in bi-weekly group workshops, to bring those stories onto the page.

To find out more please contact Sheila Hayman at [Sheila@sheilahayman.com](mailto:Sheila@sheilahayman.com)

## 14. Templar Poetry Competition

The Templar Poetry Pamphlet & Collection Competition closes on 30th April and they will be accepting work posted up until that date. The judge in this fourth year of the competition is Tim Liardet.

The pamphlets, anthology and new collections are published at the annual Derwent Poetry Festival in October.

Further information is available from [www.templarpoetry.co.uk](http://www.templarpoetry.co.uk)

## 15. Mastering Hollywood

**WGGB members are entitled to the best offer on Doug Chamberlin's 'Mastering Hollywood' seminar: you pay just £120+VAT (normally £200) if you book before April 15th**

Whilst no one is claiming a Hollywood career is easy, most buy into the horrifying statistics and mythology that surrounds it. It's no wonder that it remains just a dream for the majority of writers.

Writer Doug Chamberlin (TOY STORY 2) worked in Hollywood for almost 20 years, alongside the likes of Steven Spielberg. He happens to know a lot about its myths and legends.

What's more, his **Mastering Hollywood** seminar not only uncovers the *real* statistics but offers practical, tried and tested means to operate in the Hollywood market, and even advice on how to make the move to LA. Ideal for anyone who has serious LA aspirations, but has never known where to start.

Click here to book:

[http://www.thescreenwritersstore.net/product\\_info.php/cPath/30/products\\_id/282](http://www.thescreenwritersstore.net/product_info.php/cPath/30/products_id/282)

## What Members Are Getting Up To

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ROY APPS wrote the episode of *Penelope's People* "Divorcing Grandpa" going out on Radio 4 at 3:30pm on Tuesday 21st April.

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PAUL CAMPBELL wrote the episode of *Holby City* "No Legacy So Rich" going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Tuesday 21st April.

\*\*\*

JOHN CHAMBERS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 22nd April.

\*\*\*

MARK CLOMPUS wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 20th April.

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RICHARD DAVIDSON wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 23rd and at 8:00pm on Friday 24th April.

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BBC Radio 2 are re-running the entire first series of KRIS DYER'S *On the Blog* on Thursday nights at 10.30pm. It began on Thursday 16th April

More info here:

<http://www.myspace.com/ontheblog>

\*\*\*

LISA EVANS' adaptation of Melvyn Bragg's best-selling story of romance and betrayal in 19<sup>th</sup> century Cumbria *The Maid of Buttermere*, has its last night at the Theatre by the Lake in Keswick, Cumbria, on Saturday 18th April.

*The Maid of Buttermere* is the story of the passionate love affair between Mary Robinson, daughter of the landlord of the Fish Inn in Buttermere, and Colonel Augustus Hope, a bigamous rogue and chancer. The play, adapted by Lisa Evans and forming part of Theatre by the Lake's 10th anniversary celebrations, tells of the couple's fateful meeting, consuming passion and tragic parting.

Tickets are now sold out, but to find out more about the play or read reviews, see [www.theatrebythelake.com](http://www.theatrebythelake.com).

\*\*\*

STEVEN FAY wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Wednesday 22nd April.

\*\*\*

MICHAEL FRAYN's play *Alphabetical Order* is now back at the Hampstead Theatre where it was first produced in March 1975. It transferred to the West End and won the Evening Standard

Award for Best Comedy.

A provincial newspaper office in the 1970s – and another day of chaos in the the cuttings library. Files all over the floor, phones left ringing. And where is Lucy, the librarian...? Her life (when she finally arrives), and the lives of the journalists who take refuge in her muddled retreat, turn out to be as confused as the library itself. Into this comfortable little world steps Lesley, Lucy's new assistant. She's young, bright, and she wants system and order. She wants things to change.

Until 16 May

[www.hampsteadtheatre.com](http://www.hampsteadtheatre.com)

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PETER GIBBS wrote the episode of *Heartbeat "Return Crossing"* going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Sunday 19th April.

\*\*\*

DAVID GOODERSON'S play *The Killing of Mr Toad* which tells the extraordinary story behind *The Wind in the Willows* will be at the Finborough Theatre on April 19th,20th,26th,27th, and May 3rd,and 4th.Information and tickets-[www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

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LUCY GOUGH wrote the episode of *Doctors "Innocence"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Tuesday 21st April.

\*\*\*

DIANA GRIFFITHS'S dramatization of *Theres Raquin* is going out on Radio 4 in two parts at 9:00pm on Saturday 18th and at 3:00pm on Sunday 19th April.

\*\*\*

JONATHAN HARVEY wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Friday 24th April.

\*\*\*

DEBBIE HORSFIELD wrote the episode of *All the Small Things* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Tuesday 21st April.

\*\*\*

ALEX JONES' play about global flooding finishes its tour with Oxfordshire Touring Theatre 24th April. Originally commissioned for Alan Ayckbourn's Theatre In Scarborough 2001, it has since been produced by the Swan Theatre, Worcester, had a critically acclaimed BBC Radio production and two sell-out productions in Rome, where it is called *Effetto Serra*. Visit the OTTC website for tour details:

[http://www.ottc.org.uk/current\\_season\\_03\\_about.html](http://www.ottc.org.uk/current_season_03_about.html)

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ROBERT JONES wrote the episode of *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency "A Real Botswana Diamond"* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Sunday 19th April.

\*\*\*

JESSICA LEA wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Thursday 23rd April.

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MIKE LEIGH's televised interview about his life and career with Mark Lawson will go out on Sunday 19 April at 10.30 pm on BBC Four

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DOUGLAS LIVINGSTONE'S radio play *Road to Durham* starring Timothy West is going out on Radio 4 at 2:30pm on Saturday 18th April.

\*\*\*

DAVID MCDERMOTT wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th April.

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JIMMY MCGOVERN wrote the episode of *The Street "Twin"* going out on BBC1 at 10:50pm on Wednesday 22nd April.

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ROLAND MOORE'S one-act play *Lonely Hearts* has been selected as a finalist in the Congleton One Act Play Competition

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PAUL MOUSLEY wrote the episode of *Primeval* going out on ITV1 at 6:55pm on Saturday 18th April.

\*\*\*

MAEVE MURPHY'S new feature *Beyond The Fire*, which she has written and directed, will be showing at the London Independent Film Festival at the Curzon Mayfair on Wednesday 22nd April at 6.30pm.

It has been nominated for Best UK Feature and Best Director and will be released around the UK by Met Film in June, kicking off at the ICA (date to be confirmed).

\*\*\*

DAVID NOBBS' much-loved character Reginald Perrin returns to our screens next week and will star Martin Clunes and Fay Ripley. David co-wrote the first episode of the new series which will be going out on BBC1 at 9:30pm on Friday 24th April.

\*\*\*

DEBBIE OATES wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Monday 20th April.

\*\*\*

JULIE PARSONS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 20th April.

\*\*\*

ASHLEY PHAROAH wrote the first episode of the new series of *Ashes to Ashes* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Monday 20th April.

\*\*\*

ALAN PLATER'S radio play *The Gallery* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Wednesday 22nd April.

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PAUL ROUNDELL wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 21st April.

\*\*\*

DAVID STAFFORD co-wrote the episode of *Hazelbeach* going out on 11:30pm on Monday 20th April.

\*\*\*

TIM STIMPSON wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Monday 20th till Friday 24th April.

\*\*\*

SANDY TOKSVIG is giving an exclusive, after-dinner performance of her witty new show *England, Shakespeare & St. George* at the Holland House Hotel, Redcliffe Hill, Bristol, BS1 6SQ at 7:30pm for 8:00pm on Wednesday 22nd April.

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NICK WARBURTON'S radio play *Available Means* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Tuesday 21st April.

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TOBY YOUNG will be the guest speaker at the Last Tuesday Society's lecture on Tuesday 28th April in the Romanesque splendour of the Tabernacle, Powis Square, Notting Hill. 6.30 for 7.00 pm. Tickets £10. Complimentary cocktails delightfully concocted by Hendrick's will be served afterwards

Toby Young has achieved admirable success through failure. His memoir *How to Lose Friends and Alienate People* recounted his experience trying make it big in New York as a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair*. His efforts at the magazine were a disaster; the book was a best-selling hit. A film of the same title starring Simon Pegg and Kirsten Dunst was released last year. Since returning to London, Young has written *The Sound of No Hands Clapping*, and has contributed regularly to the *Evening Standard*, the *Independent on Sunday* and the *Spectator* magazine, of which is his a contributing editor. As the economy appears to have lost the will to live, Young thinks that now is an instructive time to share his particular talent for failing upwards. Since returning to London, Young was written *The Sound of No Hands Clapping* and currently writes columns for the *Independent on Sunday*, the *Evening Standard* and the *Spectator*, where he serves as an associate editor.

<http://www.thelasttuesdaysociety.org>

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*Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 40 Rosebery Avenue, EC1R 4RX; [erik@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:erik@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 [erik@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:erik@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 2009.*

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