

# The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 297 Friday 23 November 2007

You can find news and information every day on the Guild's blog:

<http://writersguild.blogspot.com/>

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

- [US strike videos](#)
- [DCMS overstated Arts Council funding](#)
- [Liverpool's culture vultures](#)
- [Chilis sue over 'Californication'](#)
- [Beowulf - movies and games converge](#)
- [Salmon outlines his Vision](#)
- [British success at International Emmy Awards](#)
- [Guild Awards photos](#)
- [Guild Award winners](#)

## Guild News

1. **Call for Action - UK Guild to demonstrate in support of Screenwriters' Strike**
2. **Glittering Event Re-launches Writers' Guild Awards**

## Guild Events

3. **Writers' Guild Open-Mic Night**
4. **Event for Writers of BBC Long-Running Drama Series**

## Events

5. **The Comedy school funny festival 2007**
6. **PMA Film seminar**
7. **William Blake event**

## Courses and Workshops

8. **Blake Snyder's Screenwriting Weekend**
9. **Purple Seven E-marketing seminars**

## Opportunities

10. **Videotel - looking for writers**
11. **White Room theatre company- scripts wanted**
12. **Volunteers needed for exiled writers ink**
13. **Experienced Scriptwriters sought for corporate work**

## What Members Are Getting Up To

### Guild News

## **1. Call for Action - UK Guild to demonstrate in support of Screenwriters' Strike**

British writers and trade unionists will hold a public demonstration on Wednesday 28 November 2007 in support of the American screenwriters' strike.

The demo, which is part of an International Day of Solidarity, will take place at 12 noon outside the Trades Union Congress HQ in central London.

The event will be headed by the President of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain, David Edgar, and we hope that as many members as possible will join us to show their support.

Official Writers Guild of America T-shirts and placards will be distributed to participants in the demo. The event will be filmed and we hope that a video compilation covering demos in Britain, Ireland, Australia, Canada and other countries will be added to the many strike-related clips on YouTube.

Supporters from other British trade unions will also be taking part. A top-level TUC meeting will be discussing the US screenwriters' strike earlier the same day.

WGGB General Secretary Bernie Corbett said: "Guild members and other supporters are urged to come to the TUC in Great Russell Street (near Tottenham Court Road tube station and the British Museum) at 12 noon sharp on Wednesday to make this a convincing demonstration of support.

"This demo coincides with reopened negotiations aimed at settling the strike by achieving fair payments for the use of writers' work on new media platforms such as the internet and mobile phones."

WGA supporters have posted a number of informative and entertaining videos on the internet. For these and other strike information please visit [www.unitedhollywood.com](http://www.unitedhollywood.com) or [www.wga.org](http://www.wga.org).

## **2. Glittering Event Re-launches Writers' Guild Awards**

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain took over BAFTA on Sunday 18 November for its first awards night for 10 years.

It was a glamorous and lavish event attended by 200 leading writers and other entertainment industry notables. The awards were sponsored by ITV, BBC Talent Rights Group, BBC Writersroom, Working Title, the Fisher Organisation and Groupe Taittinger.

One of the highlights was the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award to former Guild President Alan Plater, CBE, whose stunning list of works ranges from *Z Cars*, *The Beiderbecke Tapes* and *Land of Green Ginger* to *Keep The Aspidistra Flying*, *A Very British Coup* and *Last of the Blonde Bombshells*.

Other winners included Alan Brownjohn and J.K. Rowling. The main presenter was Jeremy Hardy and individual award presenters included Joan Collins and Pauline McLynn.

For a full list of award winners and an account of the evening, please see the Guild's website:

([http://www.writersguild.org.uk/public/003\\_WritersGuil/173\\_WGGBNewsGui.htm](http://www.writersguild.org.uk/public/003_WritersGuil/173_WGGBNewsGui.htm)) and blog (<http://writersguild.blogspot.com/2007/11/guild-awards-photos.html>).

## **Guild Events**

### **3. Writers' 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.

### **4. 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, 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

### 5. The Comedy school funny festival 2007

The Comedy School presents a day of workshops and discussions for performers, writers and comedy enthusiasts from a selection of Britain's top comedy talent. The festival will be held on Sunday 25th Nov. This is the eighth Funny Festival and every year it grows from strength to strength. Contributors include many of our popular and stalwart supporters, as well as some new faces, representing a wealth of experience in all aspects of the comedy world.

Contributors who will be leading sessions include:

Arnold Brown  
Roland Muldoon  
Suki Webster  
Junior Simpson  
Felix Dexter  
Neil Mullarkey  
Louise Grainger and Mike Day - Equity  
Adam Bloom  
Anya Noakes - publicist,  
Sarah Hughes - BBC Comedy Casting

Workshops on offer include:

Stand-Up Comedy  
How to Get Started in Comedy  
Comedy Casting  
Improvisation  
Clowning  
Producing New Comedy Initiatives  
The History of Alternative Comedy  
Audition Technique

The day will end with a guest speaker in discussion with Neil Mullarkey. Full details and registration at <http://www.thecomedschool.com> or <http://www.funnyfestival.com>

### 6. PMA Film Seminar

The PMA will be holding a film Seminar on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November at Savoy Place, 2 Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL (see map below).

They are keen to work collaboratively across the industry and hope that the seminar (and its tea breaks!) will provide a good and strong basis for discussion and an opportunity to meet industry colleagues.

They are delighted to confirm the participation of key industry professionals including:

**Tanya Seghatchian**, highly regarded producer and Head of Development at the **UK Film Council**, with some of the members of her new team. Tanya will talk about some of the Fund's new plans and there'll be ample opportunity to ask questions.

**Xavier Marchand**, Managing Director of UK Distributor **Momentum Pictures** will focus on what happens to a box office pound and on film finance models from a distributor's perspective.

**Charles Moore** and **Miles Ketley**, partners in law firm **Wiggin LLP** (and who have both been US Studio Executives) are going to talk about profit participation and different ways of rewarding talent. All of us already do, or will in the future, deal with films of widely varying budgets, financed in infinitely variable ways. What might be the benefits to the industry and to our clients of more flexible models of profit participation and how can we best grapple with the choices?

Please see below for a running order for the day.

9.00 - 9.30      Tea/Coffee and Registration

9.30 - 10.30     Tanya Seghatchian, Head of Development at UKFC, and members of her Development Team. Followed by Q and A.

10.30 - 11.00    Tea/Coffee break

11.00 -11.45     Xavier Marchand, MD, Momentum Pictures. Followed by Q and A.

11.45 -13.00     Charles Moore and Miles Ketley, Wiggin LLP. Followed by Q and A.

There are a number of free places available to Guild members, if you are interested in attending please email: [anne@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:anne@writersguild.org.uk)

There is a fee of £5 per non-PMA attendee, payable on the door. This is to satisfy reasonable Skillset requirements, though please let them know if you have any problems. Please also let them know if you have anyone who might want to come from outside London and may need financial assistance.

To RSVP please email: [angela@thepma.com](mailto:angela@thepma.com)

## **7. William Blake Event**

An event will be held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November to celebrate the life and achievements of William Blake, a protean poet, artist and thinker.

The event will mark the 250th anniversary of his birth and will feature distinguished guests including Tracy Chevalier, one of the UK's most acclaimed writers, Aidan Andrew Dun, the Poet of Kings Cross, David J, the talented performance poet, and Minnie Weisz, the gifted art photographer.

There will also be readings of Blake's poems by the distinguished actor Peter Forbes.

Wine and refreshments will be served.

The event will commence at 6.30pm in Room 220, Mechanical Engineering Building, Imperial College London, South Kensington Campus, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AZ (nearest tube stations South Kensington and Gloucester Road, on the District, Circle and Piccadilly lines). The reading starts at 7.00pm.

For more information please email: [graham@adventco.co.uk](mailto:graham@adventco.co.uk)

For directions and a map please see t:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/newmap.srf?x=526812&y=179315&z=1&sv=526812,179315&st=4&ar=Y&mapp=newmap.srf&searchp=newsearch.srf>

\*\*\*

### **Poet in the City - online Bookshop**

The event will also see the launch of the new *Poet in the City* online book shop, hosted by Langton's.

You will shortly be able to buy all the poetry you want, whether by exciting contemporary poets or by great poets of the past, via the *Poet in the City* website. Friendly staff will be available to deal directly with your enquiries, whether by telephone or by email.

With a wide-ranging stock of poetry books, including books produced by all the UK's leading poetry publishers, the book shop will be able to find, order, and deliver to you by post the poetry books that you want.

Langton's, a real book shop in a 15th Century building in Church Street, Twickenham, is also a great place to visit. See the electronic map at

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/newmap.srf?x=516398&y=173302&z=1&sv=516398,173302&st=4&ar=Y&mapp=newmap.srf&searchp=newsearch.srf>

## **Courses/Workshops**

### **8. Blake Snyder's Screenwriting Weekend**

Blake Snyder, successful screenwriter and bestselling author of *Save The Cat*, is being brought to London by Raindance for the first time.

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 event will be held from the 24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> November. Price of the event is £250+ VAT. **(Writers' Guild members get 10% discount)**

For more information go to:

<http://www.raindance.co.uk/site/index.php?id=17,21,0,0,1,0>

## **9. Purple Seven E-marketing seminars**

Purple Seven are the sponsors of Arts Professional's popular news and jobs email, AP e-mail. Over the next few months they will be running a new series of one-day seminars demonstrating how arts organisations can benefit from improving their e-marketing communications. The session will be held from 30 November - 7th December. Price of session is £45 + VAT.

The sessions will cover a range of practical tips and techniques of e-list building, proven tips and techniques for achieving the best results, latest trends, design techniques, and e-mail strategies that work. The seminars will be of value to all arts professionals who use email for marketing, whether just starting out or wanting to improve the impact of their email campaigns.

There are 3 dates/venues:

The Old Market, Brighton

Fri 30th Nov

\*\*\*

Armada House Conference Centre, Bristol

Thurs 6th Dec

\*\*\*

Hall for Cornwall, Truro

Fri 7th Dec

For more information see:

<http://www.purpleseven.co.uk/P7SeminarMiniSiteAbout.htm>

## **Opportunities**

### **10. Videotel - looking for writers**

Videotel are producers of training materials for the international maritime industry. Their products include videos, workbooks and computer based training on CDR and the Internet. They are looking for authors for our booklets and Multimedia/ web courses.

\*\*No stated deadline \*\*

If you require any further information please contact Kathrein Guenther Head of Production, Videotel Productions, 84 Newman Street, London W1T 3EU or go to [www.videotelmail.com](http://www.videotelmail.com)

### **11. White Room theatre company- scripts wanted**

White Room Theatre Company is a new professional company, producing new work in the city of Leicester. White Room are actively seeking scripts, work in progress and proposals for production in 2008, which may cover physical, text based, or collaborative work. No stated deadline - contact for details. White Room can only accept scripts submitted by post.

Please post scripts or ideas to:  
White Room Theatre Company  
93 Harris Road  
Leicester  
LE4 0QW

For more information, please visit: <http://www.whiteroomtheatre.co.uk/>

## **12. Volunteers needed for exiled writers ink**

Exiled Writers Ink requires an imaginative person to assist in marketing its monthly Exiled Lit Cafe evenings. A second marketing position is also available to market the magazine 'Exiled Ink' which is published 3 times a year.

\*\*No deadline stated \*\*

These are both volunteer positions - but a funding application will be made to include marketing. See <http://www.exiledwriters.co.uk> - Poetry Cafe & Publications pages. One person may be interested in doing both. Support will be provided by the committee and editorial team. For more information email: [jennifer@exiledwriters.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:jennifer@exiledwriters.fsnet.co.uk)

## **13. Experienced Scriptwriters sought for corporate work**

Take the Mike Events are seeking experienced scriptwriters to write theatrical sketches for corporate events of our clients. This staff development company uses drama based workshops to tackle issues of the workplace.

This is a freelance assignment and contractors are paid/ contract. The assignment may also involve scripting business plays to be performed by professional actors at events.

You must be a scriptwriter with experience of scripting business theatre, television or film. It is essential that you can write to deadlines.

Applicants must have a minimum of 5 years scriptwriting experience of drama or comedy for theatre, television, or film.

Closing deadline for applicants is December 15th 2007.

Please send sample scripts, sae, CV and rates to:

Take the Mike Events  
Suite 404  
Albany House  
324-326 Regent Street  
London W1B 3HH

## What Members Are Getting Up To

TONY BAGLEY wrote the episode of *Rubbish* going out on Radio 4 at 11:00pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

ROY BOULTER co-wrote the episode of *The Street* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

DAVID CROFT wrote the episode of *Allo' Allo!* going out on BBC1 at 1:00pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

KEVIN DYER has been chosen to take his play 'The Monster Under The Bed' to the Kennedy Centre, Washington USA as part of the 'New Vision/New Voices' project. He's also dramaturge on 5 new plays for young people as part of 'The Croak'. (All being performed next week. See <http://www.actiontransporttheatre.co.uk/croak.php> And he will be leading a week long course on 'Collective Writing' in February 08. For details of how to take part, see <http://www.actiontransporttheatre.co.uk/news.php>

\*\*\*

MATTHEW EVANS wrote the episode of *East Enders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

MARCUS GOODWIN wrote the episode of *Doctors* "Good Naked, Bad Naked" going out on BBC1 at 1:40pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

TONY GREEN wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on Channel 4 at 6:30pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

JONATHAN HARVEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

CATHERINE HAYES wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

LISA HOLDSWORTH co-wrote the episode of *Waterloo Road* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

IAN KERSHAW wrote the episode of *Doctors* “*How Soon Is Now?*” going out on BBC1 at 8:50pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

JANE MARLOW wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on Channel 4 at 6:30pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

JIMMY MCGOVERN co-wrote the episode of *The Street* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Congratulations to Jimmy on being awarded an International Emmy for best drama series for *The Street*!

\*\*\*

PHILIP MEEKS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

GRAHAM MITCHELL wrote the episode of *Holby City* “*Someone To Watch Over Me*” going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

JONATHAN MYERSON’S dramatisation of *Dr. Zhivago Part Two* is going out on BBC Radio 4 at 9:00pm on Saturday with *Part Three* going out at 3:00pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

IAN PIKE co-wrote the episode of *Waterloo Road* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

MARC PYE wrote the episode of *River City* going out on BBC1 Scotland at 8:30pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

\*\*\*

PAUL ROUNDELL wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November and at 7:00pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

PETE SINCLAIR co-wrote the episode of *Lead Balloon* going out on BBC2 at 9:30pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

DAVID STAFFORD co-wrote the episode of *Hazelbeach* going out on BBC Radio 4 at 11:30am on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

RICHARD STONEMAN wrote the episode of *Robin Hood "Get Carter!"* going out on BBC1 at 7:15pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

HEIDI THOMAS'S *Cranford Part Two "August 1842"* is going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

CHRIS THOMPSON wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

SUSAN WILKINS wrote the episode of *Heartbeat* going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*

KARIN YOUNG wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 30<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.*