

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 394, Friday 23rd October 2009

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Guild News

1. DON'T PUT YOUR CHEQUE IN THE POST

The Writers' Guild is already used to postal delays because our office is directly opposite London's Mount Pleasant sorting office, where one-day strikes have been taking place for the past couple of months. But now the strikes have gone nationwide, it is likely that mail will be much more seriously delayed.

This affects the Guild because many members renew their subscriptions by posting us a cheque – this is virtually our only source of income. Until the dispute is settled, please will members try to find a different way of paying Guild subs?

You can:

- Call our membership service on 01952 214 063 – you can pay by debit card or credit card over the phone;
- Use internet banking to make an electronic transfer into our account. You will need to quote our account number (34042241) and sort code (08-60-01). There will also be a “reference” or “notes” box in which you should give your membership number (with or without preceding zeroes) and the first few letters of your surname.

In addition we are testing new pages for our website that will allow you to make payments online – we will notify you through the Friday email bulletin when this service becomes operational.

When should you pay? On your Guild membership card you will see an expiry date – this is the date your renewal is due, so please pay on or before that date. You should receive a reminder by email two weeks before the due date.

How much to pay? For Candidate Members the annual subscription is £100. For Full Members the minimum is £180 and the maximum is £1,800. You should calculate 1.2 per cent of your last full year’s income from writing (see our ready reckoner at <http://www.writersguild.org.uk/public/userimages/File/Membership%20forms/Reckoner.pdf> to work out the exact amount you need to pay).

You can also pay by monthly, quarterly or half-yearly installments using direct debit. If you already use this system, please remember to call the subscriptions helpline on the number above to update your declaration of income. Also call this number to set up a new direct debit – usually this can be done over the phone without using the postal service.

SPECIAL NOTE ON ROYALTY PAYMENTS: At this time of year the Guild distributes royalty payments to writers of *The Avengers* and some other classic TV shows, and to members whose work has been used by the British Forces Broadcasting Service. If you are due to receive one of these payments, this will also be made by electronic transfer and we will contact members individually by email over the next few days to check your bank account details.

For subscriptions inquiries please telephone the Guild membership helpline on 01952 214 063. For queries about royalties please contact the Guild London office on admin@writersguild.org.uk.

The Trades Union Congress (to which the Writers’ Guild is affiliated) has issued an appeal for donations to a Hardship Fund from the postal workers’ union London Region. The CWU says the situation in London is urgent – workers have already taken at least 14 days of strike action and therefore incurred heavy losses of pay, and the Royal Mail does not provide highly paid employment.

Should you wish to make a donation you can transfer funds to CWU LONDON DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE – HARDSHIP FUND: Unity Trust Account No. 20232065;

Sort Code: 086001, or send donations to: Hardship Fund, c/o London Divisional Committee, 2nd Floor, 33-41 Dallington Street, London EC1V 0BB.

2. Guild's screenwriting guide to be launched at Cheltenham screenwriters festival

A [new good practice guide for screenwriters](#) (pdf) produced by the Writers' Guild, to be officially launched at this year's [Screenwriters' Festival](#), calls for writers and producers to be partners not enemies.

The comprehensive "how-to" document aims to bridge the gap between the art and the business of screenwriting. It stresses that to be a success in the industry you need more than just a great script. Careful collaboration with other key players is imperative to ensure a script's successful completion and financial viability.

Bernie Corbett, General Secretary of the Guild, said: "The launch of the film guidelines is a big moment for the Writers' Guild. Now more than ever writers need to understand the deals they are making and the contracts they are signing. Terminology, fees, credits, rights . . . our new booklet sweeps away the mysteries and gives screenwriters a clear and realistic route map through the jungle of the film industry."

To read this article in its entirety, please visit the Guild website.

Download the Writers' Guild publication [Writing Film - a good practice guide](#) (pdf)

3. Screened out - an event for LGBT members

Friday 30th October

Equity is holding an event for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender people in the mainstream media. How can we make a difference as viewers, users, consumers and workers in the entertainment industry? Peter Tatchell, will be the guest speaker and joined by Olivette Cole-Wilson (founder member of Stonewall).

Equity has kindly extended an invitation to a few Writers' Guild members to attend this event. Numbers are strictly limited however so if you are a LGBT writer and you would like to attend please contact Anne Hogben asap anne@writersguild.org.uk.

Events

4. Screenwriters' Festival 2009

The fourth [Screenwriters' Festival](#) will be running from Monday 26th October to Thursday 29th October this year. The [full programme](#) has now been announced, and here's a list of just a few of the [confirmed guest speakers](#):

- Ollie Madden - Vice President of Production, Warner Bros.
- Steven Moffat - Lead Writer, Doctor Who
- James Schamus - CEO Focus Features
- Christine Langan - Creative Director of BBC Films
- Simon Beaufoy - Writer of The Full Monty and Slumdog Millionaire
- Phil Collinson - Head of Drama, BBC North
- Kenton Allen - CEO, Big Talk Productions
- Tessa Ross - Controller of Film and Drama, Channel 4/Film4
- Ben Stephenson - Controller of BBC Drama Commissioning
- Kate Harwood - Controller of Series and Serials, BBC Drama
- Armando Iannucci - Writer/Director of The Thick of It and I'm Alan Partridge
- Ashley Pharoah - Writer of Life on Mars and Ashes to Ashes
- Tony Grisoni - Writer of Channel 4's recent Red Riding adaptations

Tickets are still available for [either two or all four days](#).

If you aren't able to make it, you can follow reports by Piers Beckley on [the Writers' Guild blog](#).

5. BOOK NOW for CPBF Friday night film, speakers and reception - The Miners' Strike & Politics Today

Friday 30th October 7.00 - 10.45 pm. £5

School of Pharmacy, 29-39 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AX

book online http://www.cpbf.org.uk/index_conf.html Pay online or at the door.

or by post: CPBF, 23 Orford Road, London E17 9NL 0208 521 5932

Frances O'Grady, Deputy General Secretary of the TUC will be chairing. Tony Benn will introduce Ken Loach's anthology of miners' poems and songs 'Which side are you on?' Lee Hall, John Nichols, Marc Vallee and Paul Lewis will be contributing.

Defeat of the epic miners' strike meant a political agenda of privatisation, deregulation and attacks on the trade union movement could move ahead virtually unimpeded. Now the consequences are plain to see. Twenty-five years on we re-assess what the strike was about and the role of the media in it. More importantly, we need alternatives to the discredited policies that got us into this mess.

They welcome all those in the wider cultural sector and in organisations fighting for democracy, equality and sustainability to join media colleagues for this debate.

BOOK NOW for CPBF's Media for All? Conference - Saturday 31 October 2009

School of Pharmacy, 29-39 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AX

Registration and networking from 9 am. Conference 10 am - 5 pm

book online http://www.cpbf.org.uk/index_conf.html . Pay online or at the door.

or by post: CPBF, 23 Orford Road, London E17 9NL 0208 521 5932

Corporations £150, Not for profit and Trade Union organisations £25, Individuals £20, Concessions: students, unwaged, retired £10.

The conference will forge a radical alternative media policy to deal with the impact of technological convergence and the linked consolidation of ownership and control in a small number of globalised corporations. Our vision is one of media access and plurality essential to democratic, self-governing societies at local, national and international levels.

Eminent speakers include John Nichols, Alexander Stille, Katharine Sarikakis, Ray Fitzwalter, Tom O'Malley, Natalie Fenton, Nick Jones, Arun Kundnani, Tony Lennon, Carol Tongue, Bob Franklin, Alison Harcourt, Christine Payne, Jeremy Dear, Aidan White, Granville Williams and many more.

Courses and Workshops

6. Tearing down the walls

Bypass the Gatekeepers and Turn Your Web Series Viral

From the producers of this year's most-talked about web series, **LIVING WITH THE INFIDELS**, here's the insiders' guide to creating, producing and marketing a web series.

From 10-6pm on the 12th December at the Jerwood Space, London

Sessions include:

Developing the Concept (what works and what doesn't)

All About the Money (budgets, funding, distribution and monetizing)

Production (case studies, do's and don'ts, cameras, workflows and formats)

Encoding for the Web

Turning it Viral (developing the strategy; creating a disturb; hitting the headlines)

Cost: £120 & VAT

Email aasaf@thesystempredicts.com to book, or call 0797 661 3150

7. 3G-3D Storytelling: New narrative structures and writing opportunities in the digital age

Saturday 7th November 2009 (10am-5pm)

Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Centenary Suite

£50 (£40 concessions*)

TV/film producer: Claire Ingham

Online Drama writer: Neil Mossey

Screen & Games writer: Graham Joyce

From the traditionally structured TV and film stories that attempt to appeal to wide audiences (which ITV controller Peter Fincham termed ‘3G’ – three generations watching together), to the 3D structures of games and online drama, this day-long course looks at new opportunities offered to writers by the rise of digital technologies. Suitable for writers, film-makers and drama practitioners interested in looking at new ways of telling stories across screens of all sizes.

*Concessionary rate also available to early bird bookings received BEFORE Friday 30th October.

For booking and further information, please visit www.scriptonline.net/screen.html

Or email catherine.edwards@scriptonline.net

8. Screenwriting and book courses by Brendan Foley

Guild member Brendan Foley is bringing his popular training courses on screenwriting and Writing your First Book to London and Wales. WG Members are entitled to the same lower price as NUJ members.

The **Screenwriting** course comes in one-day and two-day versions, the first focusing on the craft and writing aspects, the second also covering how to develop and sell scripts.

His other course, **Writing Your First Book** has proven very popular with writers and journalists moving into the world of books and authorship. It is a practical and upbeat one-day course.

Brendan Foley has written and directed feature films, including **The Riddle** with Derek Jacobi and Vanessa Redgrave, and **Johnny Was** with Vinnie Jones and Roger Daltrey. He is also an author, including WWII bestseller **Under the Wire**.

Dates Nov-Jan are available from Tracy at NUJ Training on 0207 843 3717 or online at <http://www.nujtraining.org.uk>

Be sure to mention you are a WG member to get the NUJ rate.

9. WRITERSEARCH UK – Cornwall workshop confirmed

TAPS in association with the BBC are running this entry level workshop. We would like to hear from experienced, aspiring or potential writers **from the age of 16 upwards from Cornwall or Devon** who believe they have what it takes.

The workshop will be held on:

20th, 21st and 22nd of November 2009 at the University College, Falmouth.

The price of this workshop is £150 for the three days. Initially we would like you to submit an idea for a story of your own choice which you think would work as a 10 minute film. The story should be no more than one side of A4 (we do not need the story to be in script format at this stage).

Submissions should be sent to gareth@tapsnet.org where you can also request an application form. Alternatively call the TAPS office on 01932 592 151 for more information.

*Please note this workshop is only available to those who live in Cornwall and Devon.

Opportunities

10. Watson's Wind Up

Watson's Wind Up, a topical sketch show for BBC Radio Scotland, has just started its 15th series. The show is recorded every week in front of a live studio audience and a new series of 13 episodes began on Friday 9th Oct at 6.10pm.

Though the show has a core of established writers who have worked on it for many years it does have an open submission policy, as radio has always been a great way to blood new writing talent. Writers who started penning quickies for Watson's Wind Up have gone on to develop fuller scripts with the show's producers, The Comedy Unit.

The show plays out on Radio Scotland, but you can listen to it anywhere in the UK using the BBC iPlayer - so do have a listen to get a feel for the show and the type of material that works before submitting. Always keep in mind when writing material that it is a cast of three (two men, one woman).

As Jonathan is an impressionist he can tackle most voices, but have a listen to hear the regular characters and most popular voices that he performs. Your sketches don't need to have someone that Jonathan can mimic, the material could be two people talking in a pub, or simply a two line joke that can be used as a newsliner.

Your material must have a topical focus, satirising people and stories that have been in the news. National news stories regularly feature in the show, but you'll have more of a chance if it has a Scottish angle. The BBC news site has [a page dedicated to Scottish stories](#) so visit that for research if you want to know what is making the headlines North of the Border. Scottish papers like [The Daily Record](#), [The Scotsman](#), and [The Herald](#) also have regularly updated websites.

So the main points again:

Cast of three: two men, one woman

Topical, topical, topical

Listen to the show and get a feel for material that works

If you've never written topical material before then have a go as it's a different skill and discipline but if you have designs on a comedy writing career the ability to write topical gags will help you develop as a writer.

Deadline: Thursday at noon.

Email your sketches to philipdiffer@comedyunit.co.uk. Sketches should be attached on .doc files only and your name stated clearly on each sketch.

11. Wales: inside and out

Competition for Animation, Documentary, Film (short), Experimental, Music Video

Deadline: 27/11/2009 (*call started 05/10/2009*)

Fee: £3.00

Organisation: Globaleyes

<http://www.global-eyes.co.uk/#/film-comp-09/4535923054>

Entries must be:

- less than 10 minutes
- on a welsh theme, shot in wales, or connected to wales
- in Welsh or English or subtitled in one of those languages

- no racist or offensive material
- any genre
- submitted on DVD in one of the following formats: .avi / .mov / .wmp / .flv

See website for submission details and entry form.

What Members Are Getting Up To

PAUL ALEXANDER wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 28th October.

JADEN CLARK wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Tuesday 27th October.

PAUL COATES wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Wednesday 28th October.

TIM DYNEVOR wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Thursday 29th October.

CAROLINE HARRINGTON wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Sunday 25th till Friday 30th October with each episode being repeated at 2:00pm the day following it's original broadcast.

VICKY IRELAND has won a place as one of five international playwright observers to be invited to The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts 11th **New Visions/New Voices** festival to be held in Washington DC in May 2010. This is a biennial workshop and

festival dedicated to developing new plays and musicals written for young people and their families.

ROB JOHNSTON has written and produced the play *Human Habitation* which is on at Studio Salford (Salford, Manchester) from 4th-7th Nov at 8PM.
www.studiosalford.com

JOHN KERR wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Thursday 29th October.

IAN KERSHAW wrote the episode of *Pick-Ups "Stags and Bucks"* going out on Radio 4 at 11:00pm on Thursday 29th October.

DARAN LITTLE wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Wednesday 28th October.

P.G. MORGAN'S radio play *Lifeline* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Monday 26th October.

JESSE O'MAHONEY wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 27th October.

JULIAN PERKINS wrote the episode of *The Bill "Show of Force"* going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Thursday 29th October.

MARK RAVENHILL's new play, *Nation*, an adaptation of Terry Pratchett's coming-of-age novel about two teenage castaways in 1860 who must forge a new nation will be played at the National Theatre's Olivier Theatre from 11 November - 21 February 2010. Now booking: 0844 847 2270 www.nationaltheatre.org

CHRISTOPHER REASON wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 29th and at 8:00pm on Friday 30th October.

HEATHER ROBSON wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Monday 26th October.

STEPHEN RUSSELL wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Monday 26th October.

PATREA SMALLACOMBE wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 26th October.

CHRIS THOMPSON wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Thursday 29th October.

JOE TURNER wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Friday 30th October.

NICK WARBURTON wrote the episode of *Holby City* "*Myself, Coming Back*" going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Tuesday 27th October.

PETER WHALLEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 26th October.

JOY WILKINSON wrote the episode of *Doctors* "*Slice of Life*" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Tuesday 27th October.

KARIN YOUNG wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 26th October.

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