

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 360, Friday 27th February 2009

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Guild News

1. The Guild's Anti-Censorship Committee Needs You!

Just a reminder to members that the Guild has an Anti-Censorship Committee, poised to act as a rapid reaction force if any writers are subject to censorship of their work. We are ready to write letters, blog furiously and join the picket line in support of oppressed writers living and/or working in the UK. Therefore, we would urge members to get in touch if any issues of this kind arise so that we can contact the committee and react accordingly.

If you are a Guild member and you'd like to be considered for membership of the Anti-Censorship Committee, please contact the office on 020 7833 0777 or email erik@writersguild.org.uk.

2. Writers' Guild Awards 2009

The eligibility period for the Writers' Guild Awards 2009 will be **1 June 2008 - 31 May 2009**, so we would urge members to start thinking about those plays, programmes, films, books and videogames that they'd like to nominate this summer.

It is particularly difficult for our judging panels for Best Play and Best Play for Children and Young People to spot new plays performed in the regions, so we would ask our members across the country to keep their ears to the ground for noteworthy premieres. We don't want to miss any pieces of fantastic new writing, or be too London-centric, so please let us know if you see anything worthy of a Writers' Guild Award in your locality.

A call for nominations will be released in the e-bulletin in June 2009. Be ready!

Many thanks, from the Guild Awards Team.

Industry News

3. Equal Roles Survey

Research by the International Federation of Actors revealed that female performers earn less and have shorter careers than their male counterparts, and do not feel that TV or theatre represents them in a realistic way.

The Stage want to know what writers think and are now conducting their own questionnaire into how well women are represented in dramas, both on television and in the theatre.

Please follow the link below to complete the short survey, which will only take a minute or two:

<http://www.thestage.co.uk/equalroles/>

4. Save Kids' TV

The first month of 2009 has seen a number of reports affecting SKTV's campaign: Ofcom's Final Statement of Recommendations on Public Service Broadcasting; Lord Carter's Digital Britain interim report; the Children's Society's Good Childhood report; and the BBC Trust's Review of the BBC's children's services.

The Save Kids' TV Group, which the Writers' Guild supports, has contributed to each of these reports and in the coming weeks will keep up the pressure, meeting with Culture Secretary Andy Burnham, and Communications Minister Lord Carter, as well as Digital Britain members Robin Foster, Andrew Chitty and Tanya Byron. The group will also be meeting with the BBC Trust, and the Lib Dem spokesman for Culture, Media and Sport, Don Foster MP.

For further information about the group and what they do, see:

<http://www.savekidstv.org.uk/news>

5. A Night Less Ordinary: free theatre scheme launches

Arts Council England (ACE) last week announced the launch of its proposal to offer more than 600,000 free theatre tickets to young people across the country. The Donmar Warehouse was the scene for the high profile ceremony which saw the £2.5 million scheme launched under the title 'A Night Less Ordinary'.

Culture Secretary Andy Burnham described the initiative as “sowing the seeds of something equally significant in the performing arts” as free entry has been for museums and galleries. However, despite its backing by some of the UK’s leading creative professionals, the giveaway has been met with hesitation from some industry experts who fear that it may only succeed in generating a culture of free attendance, rather than a habit of theatre-going.

The Arts Council press release can be read [here](#)

For a list of participating venues, click [here](#)

For more information on A Night Less Ordinary, visit the website [here](#)

Events

6. Devika Rani and Himansu Rai : Globalisation of Early Indian Cinema

The lecture is profusely illustrated with various clips from early Indian movies-- starting from the 1926 "Light Of Asia"--a brilliant silent movie made by Himansu Rai made with Indo-British-German collaboration. It was even nominated by The Times (of London) as one of the ten best films made in 1926!

The talk traces the interesting, volatile relationship between Devika and Himansu and also the setting up of Bombay Talkies, perhaps India's first and most professional studio in the mid 1930s. There will be some clips of the films made by Bombay Talkies in post independence India --to demonstrate the difference between the early films --made for an international audience (during the British Raj) and the later films, made for an Indian audience.

The talk also contains besides film clips, photographs, and other material. most of the material is particularly relevant today--when Indian cinema and literature is once again in the international --(but controversial) spotlight.

The lecture takes place on 3rd March at 6:45 p.m. at the Nehru Centre, 8, South Audley Street, London W1K 1HF.

For more information, please visit www.nehrucentre.org.uk

7. Meet the Agents

In association with the Writers' Guild, join three top literary agents working with playwrights, screenwriters and authors in conversation with Chris Taylor, Director, New Writing South.

Find out if and when you need an agent, exactly what agents do and how they can help your career. Find out how to approach agents, when to send unsolicited scripts and learn what agents really look for when they take on new writers.

Full details, dates and booking visit:

<http://www.newwritingsouth.com/development/meet-the-agents.php>

Courses and Workshops

8. Recession-Proof Writing

Write-off the Credit Crunch and discover how to prosper from your writing skills.

Join Writer Kay Sexton where she explains how to boost your income in troubled financial times. Gain top tips and sure-fire ways to make money from your writing skills in the short term.

Whether you're a developing or developed writer, this practical one-day workshop will also look at how to prepare for recovery including: winning friends within the industry, gaining stability for your writing career and how to achieve long-term goals. Can you afford to miss?

Full details, dates and booking visit:

<http://www.newwritingsouth.com/development/recession-proof.php>

9. Jan Etherington's Comedy Writing Course

MORE LAUGHS PROMISED, AS SIMON BRETT GUESTS ON COURSE

Jan Etherington's next weekend comedy writing course, on March 7/8th, at the Riverside Arts Centre, in Sunbury on Thames, Middx, will get double the laughs and

twice the advice – as **SIMON BRETT** – comedy and crime writer, radio producer and novelist, is Jan’s guest, for a special session.

The weekend’s theme will be **MAKE COMEDY COUNT**. The best comedies can tackle edgy, controversial subjects often more successfully than drama. We look at the characters, dialogue and the story which will push your comedy from the mundane to the memorable.

‘Simon’s experience as a producer and writer – and thoroughly nice bloke - will be a huge asset to everyone attending the course,’ says Jan, who co-created the prime-time hit television comedy series, *Second Thoughts*, *Faith In The Future*, *Next of Kin* and *Duck Patrol* plus many radio comedies, is also a successful journalist and broadcaster.

Bring your great idea, scene/sketch/ full script or just your sense of humour and lift your spirits – and your writing skills.

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

More details.....

www.comedycourse.biz

Tel: 020 8133 0110/ 0788 790713

Or email: comedycourse@hotmail.co.uk

10. Writing for Radio: Movies in the Mind

Saturday 28th March 2009

10.30am to 5pm (registration 10.15am)

This course covers nearly every aspect of writing for radio: comedy gags, sketches and shows; radio sitcoms and series; short drama; full-length drama; radio ads - and beyond, to explore all the possibilities of work in the medium.

The Red Room
Walkabout
136 Shaftesbury Avenue
London W1D 5EZ
(on Cambridge Circus, two minutes walk from Leicester Square tube)

For more details, please contact Paul Bassett on 07884 027171 or by email at paul.bassettdavies@euroscript.co.uk

Opportunities

11. 11th Annual Scriptapalooza Screenplay Competition

<http://www.scriptapalooza.com>

With Write Brothers, Robert McKee and The Writers Guild of America, west Registry all supporting Scriptapalooza, this is the competition to enter.

First place prize is \$10,000

regular deadline March 5

Visit <http://www.scriptapalooza.com>
or email them at info@scriptapalooza.com

12. Entry call for Bluecat Screenplay Competition

- *Every writer who enters receives a written analysis of their screenplay.
- *Winner receives \$10,000 and four Finalists \$1500 each.
- *Regular deadline is March 2. (\$50)
- *Final deadline April 1. (\$60)

Since 1998, BlueCat has discovered more writers than any screenplay contest in the world. Their alumni sell scripts, secure representation, direct award-winning films, and build careers. In addition, every entry receives a 600-word critique by the contest judges, something unheard of in screenwriting competitions.

Founder of BlueCat Gordy Hoffman's own film, 'Love Liza', won the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award at the Sundance Film Festival. His next film, 2005's 'A Coat of Snow', screened at the Locarno International Film Festival, Milan Film Festival, Arclight Hollywood, and won the Domani Vision Award at VisionFest, Tribeca, New York.

BlueCats 2005 winner, 'Balls Out: The Gary Houseman Story', starred Sean William Scott and was released by Sony in early 2008. The 2007 Winner, Ana Lily Amirpours 'The Stones', is in pre-production. 2004 BlueCat Finalist Lance Hammer is currently nominated for the 2009 Independent Spirit Award for Screenplay.

For free articles on the craft of screenwriting, visit their website and join their community of over 10,000 writers.

<http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http://www.bluecatscreenplay.com%2Fnews%2Fadvice.php>

13. Cottage In Ireland Available for Short or Long Let

Situated in Leenane, in Connemara, County Galway, the cottage is cosy and full of character, perfect as a base for holidaying or a quiet spot to finally finish that novel!

The cottage sits on two acres, less than 2 kilometres from the nearest village, Leenane (shops, pubs, restaurants) near Killary Fjord, the only fjord in Ireland. This area is renowned for its beauty and has strong literary associations with the Yeats family and Oliver St John Gogarty (the model for Buck Mulligan in Ulysses). It has also served as a location for several films, including John B Keane's *The Field* and was immortalised in Martin McDonagh's play, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*.

The cottage has oil fired central heating and an open fire (with a generous supply of turf in the adjoining shed). There is a double bed in each of the two bedrooms and an additional child's bed/cot can be arranged. The bathroom has a roll top bath and shower attachment (not the kind of pressure American visitors may be used to!). The living room, with a raised roof and wooden floors opens straight onto beautiful views in front of the cottage.

The kitchen is well equipped with a long table for cooking, eating or writing on! The kitchen has a gas cooker and a washer/dryer (no freezer). All the water comes directly from the stream at the back of the house.

The neighbours are friendly and welcoming (with the odd eccentric thrown in).

The nearby river Erriff offers some of the best salmon fishing in Europe, there are many local 'spots' for shore angling and boat hire is available from the village of Letterfrack. The towns of Westport (a 30-minute drive away) and Clifden (45 minutes) are convenient for shops, restaurants and other amenities such as swimming and the cinema.

Rates start at €400 to €600 per week. Reduced rates for longer stays can be negotiated.

Please contact Nicola Byrne at 00 353 87 23 66 340 or email nicola6@indigo.ie

14. The George Devine Award 2009

Recognised as one of the most prestigious for new writing, the George Devine Award was set up in 1966 as a memorial to the life and talent of George Devine, Artistic Director of the Royal Court 1956 - 65.

The award of £10,000 is open to any promising playwright for an original new stage play, which need not have been produced. (Television and radio plays will not be considered)

Applicants should submit two copies of the play to be considered (plus stamped S.A.E. for return of scripts) and an outline of their work to date.to:

Harriet Devine, 9 Lower Mall, Hammersmith, LONDON, W6 9DL

The closing date for applications is 1st March 2009.

15. BAFTA Rocliffe NEW WRITING FORUM

Call For Scripts, Deadline 20 March 2009

Rocliffe are accepting scripts submissions for the next BAFTA ROCLIFFE NEW WRITING FORUM taking place at BAFTA in April.

The closing date for submissions is 20 March 2009 @ 17.00 GMT.

See the link below to find out more about the event.

If you would like your script to be considered, please send a HARD COPY of the following to

ALEX – ROCLIFFE SUBMISSIONS
BAFTA
195 Piccadilly
London W1J 9LN:

1. 10 minute Script extract (12 pages maximum) - each page must list your name, script title and page number. The script can be short film, feature, theatre or television – please note we are not accepting theatre or radio scripts on this occasion.

2. Long synopsis - min 350 to a max of 500 words.
3. Short synopsis - max 50 words.
4. Cast break down and outline of each character that appears in extract.
5. Introduction to provide context, outlining where the extract fits into the overall story and must clearly state whether the script is a feature, short, or television drama.
6. A short writing and industry relevant biography - 150 words max – please be specific with titles etc.
7. Only standard script formats will be accepted.
8. Please include your full contact details i.e. name, email and a contact telephone number on your biog page.
9. You should only submit work if you are able to attend on 29 April 2009.
10. There is a maximum of two submissions per writer.
11. All writers will be notified within three weeks of the closing date.
12. No email submissions will be accepted.
13. Please include a stamped addressed envelope if you wish to have your submission materials returned.

Recent industry guests and Patrons now include John Madden, Richard Eyre, David Parfitt, Alan Plater, Cameron McCracken, David Yates, Finola Dwyer, Michael Kuhn, Nik Powell, Duncan Kenworthy, Rebecca O'Brien, Simon Relph & Shirley Rubinstein. Media Patrons are Screen International.

16. Meyer-Whitworth Award

18th Meyer Whitworth Nominations Now Being Accepted Deadline for Entries: 31 March 2009

With a prize fund of £10,000, the Meyer-Whitworth Award is one of the largest annual monetary prizes for playwriting in the UK. It is intended to help further the careers of UK playwrights who are not yet established.

For information visit <http://www.playwrightsstudio.co.uk/Meyer-Whitworth.html>

To nominate a play please contact the Playwrights' Studio, Scotland at info@playwrightsstudio.co.uk or call +44 141 3324403 to request an application

form. **Please note: Nominations must be made by directors of professional theatre companies.**

17. Writers wanted for new BBC Radio 7 sketch show called 7 on 7

7 on 7 is a new topical sketch show to be transmitted on [BBC Radio 7](#) in May 2009.

The show gets comic mileage from the news on each of the last seven days – political, cultural, sports, and trivia. They'll take one day at a time and examine what happened on that day. Or they might use the events on a particular day to talk about a related topic. If a story develops over the week then we can revisit it in the show.

They will have a regular host and a cast of performers who can recreate the names who've made the news in the last week and play the ones that we invent.

The tone will be lively, satirical, and distinctly irreverent.

The show will be thirty minutes long and initially have a run of ten weeks. We want an array of writers who can extract the maximum comic potential out of what's happened in the news and put some satirical spin on events. They will use some established writers but we are particularly interested in introducing new writers to radio comedy.

If you'd like to send sketches in then email three sample sketches (at least two of them topical) to writersroom@bbc.co.uk with the subject marked 7 on 7.

Deadline: 10am, Friday 27 February 2009

Successful applicants will be invited to a masterclass with [David Mitchell](#) on Monday 9th March 2009.

If you want some hints and tips about writing comedy sketches for radio, read our interview with [writer Sanjeev Kohli and 7 on 7 producer Gareth Edwards](#).

18. Satyajit Ray Foundation's Short Film

Competition

This Competition is open to all film-makers either resident or studying in the UK.

The closing date, after which no entries can be considered, is **1 March 2009**.

Film Content: The film, of no more than 30 minutes running time, should express and inform aspects of the experiences of South Asians (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) either within their own countries or the Diaspora.

All submissions must have been completed within two years prior to the closing date. Previous entries are ineligible.

Format: Whilst the films may be shot on any standard format (film, digital or video), entries for consideration should be submitted in VHS or DVD formats.

These entries, for consideration by the jury, should be forwarded to:

Julian Pye, British Council
10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN
email: julian.pye@britishcouncil.org

Award: The Satyajit Ray Foundation is pleased to announce that it will be presenting a cash prize for Best Film of £1,000. Please see www.satyajitray.org.uk for more information.

Presentation of Award: Extracts from a representative selection of entries will be screened at the Award Ceremony to be held in the David Lean Room of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA), Piccadilly, London, W1, on the afternoon of Sunday 26 April 2009, after which the winner will be announced and the winning film shown in its entirety. Selected entrants plus one guest will be invited. Film director Mike Leigh is Patron of the short film award.

What Members Are Getting Up To

JESSE ARMSTRONG and SAM BAIN wrote the episode of *The Old Guys* "The Croft" going out on BBC1 at 9:40pm on Saturday 28th February.

PERRIE BALTHAZAR wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on 6:30pm on Monday 2nd March.

RAY BROOKING wrote the episode of *Doctors "Dem Bones"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Monday 2nd March.

JOHN CHAMBERS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 3rd March.

SIMON CROWTHER wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Friday 6th March.

TIM DYNEVOR wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 6th March.

Casanova Undone by DIC EDWARDS will begin a month-long run at That Theatre in Copenhagen from Thursday 26th February.

JOHN FINNEMORE'S sitcom *Cabin Pressure* continues on Radio 4 with the episode "*Boston*" going out at 6:30pm on Tuesday 3rd March.

ADRIAN FLYNN wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Sunday 1st till Friday 6th March with each episode being repeated at 2:00pm the day following its original broadcast.

JEREMY FRONT'S dramatization of *Scoop* going out on Radio 4 at 9:00pm on Saturday 28th February.

JONATHAN HARVEY's BBC2 comedy *Beautiful People* has been sold to US gay and lesbian network Logo.

LISA HOLDSWORTH wrote the episode of *New Tricks "Nine Lives"* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Thursday 5th March.

MICHAEL JENNER wrote the episode of *Waterloo Road* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Wednesday 4th March.

JULIE JONES wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 6th March.

DAVID MCDERMOTT wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 2nd March.

PAUL MYATT wrote the episode of *Doctors "Bad Blood"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Thursday 5th March.

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

ASHLEY PHARAOH wrote the episode of *Wild at Heart* going out on ITV1 at 8:15pm on Sunday 1st March.

MARTIN RILEY wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Thursday 5th March.

HEATHER ROBSON wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 3rd March.

BILL TAYLOR wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 4th March.

STEVE TRAFFORD wrote the episode of *The Bill "Bail Me Out"* going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Thursday 5th March.

PETER WHALLEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Wednesday 4th March.

STEPHEN WYATT'S dramatization of *The Talented Mr. Ripley* goes out on Radio 4 at 2:30pm on Saturday 28th February. His dramatization of *The Yellowplush Papers* also continues with *"My Novel"* going out on Radio 4 at 11:30am on Monday 2nd March.

*Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 40 Rosebery Avenue, EC1R 4RX; erik@writersguild.org.uk;
www.writersguild.org.uk; tel +44 (0) 20 7833 0777; fax +44 (0) 20 7833 4777. This email bulletin is a
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