

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 386, Friday 28th August 2009

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- [UK animation industry under threat](#)
- [Cheryl Taylor is BBC's new Controller, Comedy Commissioning](#)
- [Written By - Aug-Sept issue online](#)
- [Canadian animator wins \\$5.2m plagiarism case](#)
- [Channel 4 to invest extra £20m in drama](#)
- [Film company insolvencies rise](#)
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Copyright Code revised

The Alliance for the Protection of Copyright (APC), of which the Writers' Guild is a member, has published a newly updated Code of Practice (pdf) to protect those involved in both the submission and receipt of proposals for film, television and radio.

To read the new Code of Practise please go to:

http://writersguild.org.uk/userimages/File/Agreements%20and%20rates/APC_Cod

[e of Practice 2009.pdf](#)

The revised Code aims to encourage the free flow of ideas and ensure that written proposals (including formats, treatments, scripts, outlines, development documents, tender submissions, storylines, artwork and synopses) are treated in a fair and transparent manner. It also outlines dispute procedures for those who feel their copyright may have been infringed.

The latest edition has been updated to include online and interactive content. The APC Code of Practice was first launched in April 1999 and has become recognised by all parties as a way of establishing best industry practice.

The updated 2009 Code aims to protect and give confidence to those submitting proposals, provide practical guidelines and sets out the obligations of those both submitting and receiving them.

The current members of the APC (BECTU, Directors UK, Musicians' Union, The Society of Authors, National Union of Journalists, Women in Film and Television and Writers' Guild of Great Britain) with the support of the BBC, ITV, C4, Five, AETN UK (History, Bio and Crime & Investigation Network, Military History), the Radio Independents Group, S4C and Pact are seeking to encourage the use of the Code throughout the industry.

It is anticipated that more digital broadcasters will join in supporting the Code in the future.

In a joint statement Directors UK and WGGB said: "Creative ideas are the lifeblood of our Members' work. In a competitive marketplace the APC Code offers protection to the vital raw material on which our industry depends: new ideas. We encourage our Members and all creatives and commissioners to study and follow the guidelines in the new Code".

A booklet containing full details of the new code will be mailed to all Writers' Guild members with the next edition of UK Writer.

WRITERS' GUILD AWARDS NOMINATION DEADLINE TODAY

Nominations for the Writers' Guild awards 2009 close today (Friday) at midnight. If you wish to put forward your favourite TV, Film, Theatre, Radio, Book or Video Game please send your nominations to anne@writersguild.org.uk.

For the full list of the categories please go to <http://writersguild.org.uk/templates/article.php?pageid=358>

Industry News

Durham Book Festival tickets on sale

The line-up for the nineteenth annual Durham Book Festival, produced by Durham City Arts, will be officially announced to the public on Tuesday 8th September when tickets go on general sale. However, as New Writing North has programmed the festival this year, as New Writing North newsletter subscribers, we're going to give you a sneak peek at some of the highlights of this year's programme. Tickets for the headlining author events have sold well already, despite having only been on sale for five days to Gala subscribers, so if you're interested in any of the below, you're going to have to be quick off the mark!

The festival runs from 23 October to 1 November, and highlights include:

- **Nick Hornby** in conversation with **Lynn Barber** about adapting her memoir to film, and Nick presenting his new novel, *Juliet, Naked*.
- Comedian **Jack Dee** telling us how he went from being a cheery young fellow to the grumpy middle-aged man we know today, thanks to a series of truly awful jobs he had to endure.
- Poet Laureate **Carol Ann Duffy** presenting an evening of poetry from her and new North East women poets.
- Book group favourite **Kate Mosse** introducing her new novel, *The Winter Ghosts*. Kate's novel *Labyrinth* was read and loved by book groups up and down the country.
- Writer of the hilarious *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* **Marina Lewycka** will be talking to novelist and journalist Amanda Craig about forming unlikely friendships across cultural divides.

You can join the mailing list to get all the latest information about the festival at www.bookfestival.org.uk and you can book tickets for events from the Gala Theatre in Durham on www.galadurham.co.uk or on 0191 332 4041.

Events

David Edgar at the National

The founder of Britain's first university playwriting course 20 years ago, playwright and Writers' Guild president David Edgar analyses how plays function. In his book *How Plays Work*, he argues that the same basic mechanisms and techniques have been employed by dramatists throughout the ages from Aeschylus to Ayckbourn.

Chaired by Simon Callow.

This Platform is followed by a booksigning

Tickets £3.50 / £2.50 (concessions)

To book tickets go to: <http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/50216/platforms/david-edgar.html>

Writing For Games

Tuesday 8th September, 6pm
3 Albion Place, Leeds LS1 6JL

Writing For Games is a free networking event and panel discussion about writing narrative for games, featuring some of the industry's top developers, producers and writers including **Charles Cecil**, founder of Revolution (Broken Sword, Beneath a Steel Sky), **John Dennis**, Design Manager at Team 17 (Worms, Alien Breed Evolution), **Andy Walsh**, Writer (Prince of Persia, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix) and **Marek Walton** from The Mustard Corporation (Driver, Virtua Tennis 3).

<http://www.screenyorkshire.co.uk/gamerepublic/news/events-archive/writing-for-games>

Courses and Workshops

BAFTA Rocliffe New Writing Forum - Call for Scripts

BAFTA Rocliffe New Writing Forum is currently accepting submissions with the deadline of 25 September 2009. Scripts submissions are being accepted for the next two BAFTA ROCLIFFE NEW WRITING FORUMS: 2009 International Screenwriters Festival in Cheltenham on 28 October **2009** and London event on 28 November 2009. Past chairs have included Mike Newell, Richard Eyre, John Madden, David Parfitt, Duncan Kenworthy and David Morrissey. For an APPLICATION FORM log onto <http://static.bafta.org/files/rocliffesubmissionsaug09-345.pdf> or refer any queries to scripts@rocliffe.com

The closing date for submissions is 25th September 2009 at 5:00pm

Havant Literary Festival - Writers' Workshop with Stella Duffy

Havant Literary Festival brings you an outstanding opportunity to attend a one day workshop with the celebrated writer Stella Duffy at the specially discounted price of £25.

Writing is a physical activity; Stella uses practical exercises and improvisation/ theatre techniques to help kick-start writing - whether to overcome a block, make a new leap, or just get on with it! Stella Duffy has written eleven novels, over thirty short stories, and eight plays. She won the Stonewall Writer of the Year 2008 for her latest novel *The Room of Lost Things* which was long-listed for the Orange Prize. She is also a performer and theatre director.

The workshop takes place on Saturday, 26 September between 10.30 and 4pm at The Havant Meeting Place, URC, North Street, Havant, PO9 1PP. Numbers are strictly limited, first come, first served. Apply direct to The Secretary, Havant Literary Festival, 11 The Pallant, Havant, PO9 1BE and enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Cheques should be made payable to Havant Literary Festival.

Other Festival highlights include Fay Weldon, Maggie Gee, Simon Brett, Literary Editor of The Guardian Claire Armitstead, Environment Editor of The Independent Michael McCarthy, The Milton Consort and Louis de Bernières & The Antonius Players. Visit the website at <http://www.havantlitfest.org.uk>

for full details and join the mailing list at hlfnnewsletter@googlemail.com for regular updates.

Last Call: Euroscript Development Workshops 2009

Monday 7th September, 6.15-9.30pm

Only two places left...

Their Monday workshops will help you develop your script at whatever stage you're at - from initial idea to final draft - ensuring you make your work the best it can possibly be - whether feature-film, short, sitcom, TV drama or series.

Suitable for writers at all levels of experience. Book now for constructive support and advice.

[Click here now to find out more and to book](#)

Playing with Convention: Devising Theatre

5th September at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry.

Playing with Convention will explore the relationship between the audience (spectator/participant) and the actor (character/interpreter). It is an opportunity to consider how theatre can be developed and created through a non-scripted process. Participants will have the opportunity to look at possibilities within their own work to explore myths, rituals and historical interpretations. Specifically the workshop will explore the devising concept and how a script can be developed using the actor's skills and processes.

Using Triangle Theatre's production of *The Last Women* as an example, the workshop will examine the creation of a performance that is neither scripted nor non-scripted. *The Last Women* interweaves historical reality with the mythical, ritual and imagination. The play is a powerful interpretation of the stories of six condemned women.

Carran Waterfield, the founder and Artistic Director of Triangle Theatre Company will be running this workshop. Carran is based in the West Midlands and has devised, written and directed over forty productions. Her production and education work have been represented internationally. She regularly presents at conferences as well as leading training courses with Co-Artistic Director Richard Talbot.

Full details on this workshop and Script are available at: www.scriptonline.net

If you would like to book a place, please contact script on 0121 224 7415 or Catherine.edwards@scriptonline.net. The cost of each workshop is £50 with concessions at £45.

Script offers writers mentoring, training and support via industry-led partnerships.

Opportunities

Scriptapalooza Television Writing Competition OPENS

Scriptapalooza TV has seen major success in their 10 years...2 writers won Emmys, numerous writers have gotten agents, managers and meetings.

The four categories include existing 1 hour shows like True Blood and Merlin. Existing half hour sitcoms like The Office and Two and a Half Men. Original pilots and reality shows. (for reality shows they would like a 1-5 page synopsis only)

Supported by the Writers Guild of America west and the Writers Guild of Canada.

www.scriptapaloozaTV.com

323.654.5809 office

info@scriptapalooza.com

FINAL DEADLINE October 15th.

The London Comedy Unit

The London Comedy Unit is looking for experienced London-based writers to join a professional team to engage in developing scripts for television.

Based on a US-style large-group writing team model, the writers will meet weekly in Soho from 16th September from 0900-11:30am. Founded by Writers' Guild members with established track records in the industry, LCU will develop a range of scripts largely in the sitcom genre.

Interested writers are encouraged to apply by submitting a CV to info@londoncomedyunit.com

What Members Are Getting Up To

ANNA CLEMENTS wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Friday 4th September.

KISHWAR DESAI'S novel *Witness the Night* is on the Man Asian Literary Prize 2009 longlist. The novel is scheduled for publication in January 2010.

SIMON FRITH wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Sunday 30th August till Friday 4th September with each episode being repeated at 2:00pm the day following its original broadcast.

ROB GITTINS wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 3rd and at 8:00pm on Friday 4th September.

JONATHAN R. HALL wrote the episode of *Doctors* "*All That Glitters*" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Tuesday 1st September.

MARK ILLIS and CAROLINE MITCHELL co-wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 1st September.

PETER KERRY wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 31st August.

JANE MARLOW wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Monday 31st August.

NATALIE MCGRATH has been shortlisted for this years Meyer Whitworth Award for playwrights early on in their careers for her play *Metal Remains*.

GRAHAM MITCHELL wrote the episode of *Holby City Faithful* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Tuesday 1st September.

ROY MITCHELL wrote the episode of *New Tricks* "*Meat is Murder*" going out on

BBC1 at 9:00pm on Thursday 3rd September.

DOMINIQUE MOLONEY wrote the episode of *Doctors* "Shadow" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Friday 4th September.

DAVID NOBBS'S radio comedy *The Malty Collection* continues on Radio 4 at 11:30pm on Monday 31st August.

DEBBIE OATES wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 4th September.

PAUL ROUNDELL wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm and 8:00pm on Thursday 3rd September.

CHRIS THOMPSON wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 4th September.

PETER WHALLEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Thursday 3rd September.

COLIN WYATT wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 31st August and at 7:30pm on Tuesday 1st September.