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# The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 319, Friday 2nd May 2008

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Note: back issues of the weekly e-bulletin can be found on our website.

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## What Members Are Getting Up To

## Guild News

### 1. Nominations for Theatre Committee "Encouragement" Awards

The Theatre Committee is currently accepting nominations for its fourth annual "New Writing Encouragement Awards". Any member can nominate any individual, theatre or other organisation that has given you an exceptional experience in encouraging you as a theatre writer during the

past year. Please include a paragraph explaining why you are making the nomination.

Please email nominations to Theatre Committee chair David James at [david.sassafras@btinternet.com](mailto:david.sassafras@btinternet.com).

The deadline for applications is 15 June, 2008

## **2. AGM Lunch Bookings**

Please don't forget to let the Guild staff know if you are planning to attend this year's AGM so that we can provide enough lunch. Don't assume we know you're coming! RSVP to Erik Pohl at [erik@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:erik@writersguild.org.uk)

We would be grateful if you could also let us know of any special requirements you might have.

The Guild's AGM will take place on Wednesday 4th June at the Writers' Guild Centre, 17 Britannia Street, London, WC1 (nearest tube: King's Cross).

## **3. Anthony Minghella: *Cigarettes and Chocolate***

There is another chance to hear Anthony Minghella's radio play *Cigarettes and Chocolate* on Radio 4 on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 2:30pm. The cast includes Bill Nighy and Juliet Stevenson.

## **Guild Events**

### **4. Private View for Guild members of the Romance exhibition at DACS**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30pm

Get in the mood for love with the Writers' Guild and DACS.

Writers' Guild members are invited to a private view of the Romance exhibition at the Kowalsky Gallery, run by the Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACs), on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

Celebrating the season of spring in leap year, the Romance exhibition brings together sculptures, ceramics, paintings, prints and photography by over 30 artists including Sir Peter Blake, Rose Hilton, Tom Phillips RA, Shani Rhys James, Stuart Semple and many more.

At the private view, there will also be chance to hear readings by six selected writers on the theme of Romance. The writers have each chosen an artwork in the exhibition to inspire or accompany their reading. The writers and their chosen works are as follows:

Gabriel Bisset-Smith - "Pamela Anderson and Paul Robeson Unification Cake" by Magnus Irvin  
Paul Boakye - "Inner Room with Tapping Hand" by Shani Rhys James  
Guy Ducker - "Interior Eight" by Catherine Barnes  
Lauren Kemp - "My Ex-Boyfriends Girlfriends" by Jo Broughton  
Claire Wilson - "Keira and Luke, Age 13: together two months, one week and four days" by Muna Zuberi  
Jake Yapp - "Skye" by Rob Bibby

Biogs of the writers will follow on the Guild website and in next week's e-bulletin.

This event is a perfect date opportunity! Bring lovers, loved-ones, the mates you love or anyone who might have romance potential. If there's no potential when you arrive, there might be by the

time you get your coat at the end of the night!

The schedule for the evening will be as follows:

6.30pm	Arrivals
6.45 - 7.30pm	Readings and performances
7.30 - 9.00pm	Drinks, nibbles and a chance to view the exhibition

Tickets are £5 each and include refreshments. If you'd like to book for this event, please send a cheque made out to 'Writers' Guild of Great Britain' to Naomi MacDonald, Writers' Guild, 15 Britannia Street, London WC1. Tickets are limited, so get in quick!

For more information about DACS and the Kowalsky Gallery, which is located on Great Sutton Street in East London (nearest tubes: Barbican, Farringdon or Old Street), please see <http://www.kowalskygallery.co.uk>

## Industry Events

### 5. Visions of the City Series

All tickets: £7, concs £5

Advance booking required; call the ticket line on 020 7392 9220 or visit [www.bishopsgate.org.uk](http://www.bishopsgate.org.uk) and download a booking form.

This series, curated by Bishopsgate Institute's Poet in Residence Tom Chivers, will introduce some of London's most exciting poets - writers whose work explores the complex, fluid and multivocal character of the City. Alongside their readings Tom will also premiere his own new work produced during the Residency.

#### Visions of the City I

Thursday 5 June 2008, 7.00pm

Writers include: Tim Wells, Simon Barraclough and Jay Bernard

Introduced and curated by Tom Chivers

#### Visions of the City II

Thursday 3 July 2008, 7.00pm

Writers include: Iain Sinclair, Hannah Silva and Chris McCabe

Introduced and curated by Tom Chivers

For more information, please go to [www.bishopsgate.org.uk](http://www.bishopsgate.org.uk) or email [lucy.kerr@bishopsgate.org.uk](mailto:lucy.kerr@bishopsgate.org.uk)

### 6. Media Literacy in Practice

This presentation will argue that we need to revise our ideas of what it means to be literate in the 21st century. "Media Literacy should be an integral part of 'new' literacy: not a separate set of skills, or just a specialist subject for older students. Rather than seeing media literacy as all about new technologies, I will demonstrate continuity between 'new' and 'old' literacy's, and will describe what education for media literacy looks like in practice, with a particular emphasis on moving image media".

Speaker - CARY BAZALGETTE, Media Literacy Consultant

DATE: Wednesday 14 May

TIME: 7.00pm

VENUE: The London Television Centre, Upper Ground, South Bank, London SE1 9LT Nearest Underground and Train Station - Waterloo.

This is a free event but advance booking is required. Refreshments, tea and coffee will be available at the event.

Please e-mail your intention to attend to [LondonCentreEvents@rts.org.uk](mailto:LondonCentreEvents@rts.org.uk)

## **7. Script Yorkshire AGM with Guest Speaker Ian McMillan**

Monday 9 June, 1 - 4.30pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre, Leeds City Art Gallery

The next annual general meeting of Script Yorkshire Ltd will take place this June, with a special talk from SY member, world-famous Barnsley FC supporter and poet Ian McMillan. This event is for Script Yorkshire members only.

They are hoping as many members as possible will turn up on the day to exercise their democratic rights and make their views known to paid workers and trustees about where SY needs to go next. If you would like to attend please email Joanna at: [members@scriptyorkshire.co.uk](mailto:members@scriptyorkshire.co.uk) to help them in ordering the right amount of teas and coffees!

## **Courses and Workshops**

### **8. The Absolute Beginner's Guide to How to Write a Screenplay**

Saturday 17th May 2008, 10.30am to 4.30pm (registration: 10.15am)

Venue: The Drill Hall, 16 Chenies Street, London WC1E 7EX

Ever dreamt of writing a feature-film script? Or wondered how a film script is written? Come along and have some fun writing your first-ever screenplay; and meet some other aspiring writers in the process.

For complete beginners who've always dreamed of writing a screenplay, by the end of this workshop you'll have completed your first one-minute script. There's only one way to start writing a screenplay - and that's to start writing. But before you launch into a two-hour film it's best to start with a short.

In this intensive, hands-on workshop, you will be given an introduction to screenplay writing while completing your first one-minute film script. And you'll be given some advice and help on how to get it filmed.

Details about the Workshop:

- \* The screenplay: what does it look like? How is it formatted?
- \* The idea: how to generate many - then select the best
- \* Writing cinematically: how to think epic and tell stories using images
- \* Dialogue: how to write spoken words like poetry

\* Plot: how to think up great twists

\* Further reading: now I've completed my first film script, what next?

Designed for people who write for other media; who've never written anything before; or who work in the film business and would like to understand how the film script is written.

For those attendees who complete their one-minute film script, a written script report is included in the cost.

PRICE: £85 (£75 for concessions and WGGB members)

Further details from: [fenella.greenfield@euroscript.co.uk](mailto:fenella.greenfield@euroscript.co.uk) Telephone: 07515 38 1586

## **9. Pitching, Selling & Marketing Workshop**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 10am – 5pm, Central London, WC1

A good pitch is the most important step in getting your film made and sold. With Cannes fast approaching, there's never been a better time to learn how to pitch.

7 years ago they stood in front of Hollywood studio executives and delivered what they described as the worst pitch they had ever heard.

7 years later, having honed their skills pitching to financiers and executives in London, Cannes, Berlin and in Hollywood, they pitched in Cannes last year and were told it was the best pitch they had ever heard.

A good pitch helped them make and sell their first feature CREDO, ([www.credothemovie.com](http://www.credothemovie.com)), a low budget horror that has just secured international distribution including a release by a major distributor in the US.

Now they give you the benefit of their experience and explain the essentials of pitching including how to find out who to pitch to, setting up pitch meetings, the rules of pitching and give you the chance to write, practice and perfect your pitch.

They will also give you the low-down on producing the best possible one-sheets, posters, trailers and websites to help your film get made and sold.

COST: £110 (10% discount to Writers' Guild members)

Visit: [www.altofilms.com/training2.html](http://www.altofilms.com/training2.html) or email: [info@altofilms.com](mailto:info@altofilms.com)

## **10. New Producers' Alliance (NPA) Screenwriting Courses**

NPA 1st Draft: TV Drama | 10th May | 7th June | 5th July | 6th Sept Oct & Dec TBC | 10.00 - 16.00

Tutor: Writers' Guild Chair, Katharine Way

Writers arrive with an idea and leave with an industry ready first draft of a pilot.

One day a month over six months of supervision by an industry professional, and peer critique. Starting on 10th May 2008

Suitable participants should have a premise for a TV drama - series, serial, sitcom, one-off or two-partner. As participants will be developing a long-form script some screenwriting experience is

desirable. Places are limited.

Katharine Way, Chair of the Writers' Guild, has been a commissioned writer of TV drama since 1994 and has written for many of the top-rating UK programmes: The Bill, Casualty, Doctors and five different soaps including Eastenders and Emmerdale. One of her Bill episodes was turned into a children's novel for Puffin books and one of her Casualty episodes attracted a bomb threat (luckily, not carried out). She is now developing a number of original drama projects for TV and radio.

She ran Feedback, the first script reading service in the country for ten years, and teaches screenwriting at de Montfort, Sheffield Hallam, Bournemouth and the City Universities, the London Film School and for the NPA.

Venue: NPA | Unit 7.03 | The TEA Building 56 Shoreditch High St | E1 6JJ

NPA Members Price: £400.00 | Full Price: £600.00

Book online at: <http://www.npa.org.uk/content.asp?pageid=shop>

Join NPA when booking and get the members' rate - 33% off!

You may be eligible to apply for a Skillset bursary for this course. For more information please go to [www.skillset.org.uk/funding](http://www.skillset.org.uk/funding)

## Opportunities

### 11. The Rod Hall Memorial Award

This biennial award is given in memory of Rod Hall, literary agent and founder of [The Rod Hall Agency](#). It is intended to launch a writing career – the winner will receive a £5,000 commission to write a play for renowned new writing company [Paines Plough](#), and representation from the Rod Hall Agency.

Applicants must be playwrights between the ages of 18 and 30, and must not have ever been produced before. Writers must be UK residents and qualifying plays must be over 60 minutes in length. All entries must be submitted unbound with a covering letter detailing experience to:

The Rod Hall Memorial Award,  
c/o Paines Plough,  
4th Floor,  
43 Aldwych,  
London  
WC2B 4DN

The deadline for entries is 1 June 2008.

### 12. Dominion Theatre Rehearsal Space

The Dominion Theatre now has a new rehearsal space. The space itself is 196m<sup>2</sup> and bookings are now being taken for rehearsals, auditions, filming and photo shoots.

Facilities include a sprung floor, full length mirrored wall, air handling system, piano and washrooms with showers.

Rates are by the hour, daily or weekly. The space is also in a prime location, just outside Tottenham Court Road Tube. For further information, please call: 0207 927 0900 or you can

email: [david.pearson@livenation.co.uk](mailto:david.pearson@livenation.co.uk).

### 13. [Script-consultant.co.uk](http://www.script-consultant.co.uk)

[www.script-consultant.co.uk](http://www.script-consultant.co.uk) is a new website set up by producer/script editor PHILIP SHELLEY to offer advice and guidance to screenwriters whether new or experienced. Philip has worked in TV drama for many years, working on shows such as *Inspector Morse* and *Waking The Dead*. He will give detailed, constructive feedback on both treatments and scripts. As well as rapid feedback on scripts, this is also a service designed for the longer term – so that he can guide writers through several drafts of a script and also give career advice and share the contacts with literary agents and production companies that he has built up over many years, both in TV drama and feature films. For more information including rates and contact details please visit the website.

### 14. The Manchester Poetry Prize 2008

The Writing School at Manchester Metropolitan University is launching *The Manchester Poetry Prize* – a new literary competition celebrating excellence in creative writing. The deadline for entries is 1<sup>st</sup> August and the prize for first place is £10,000. For more information and to apply, please go to: [www.manchesterwritingcompetition.co.uk](http://www.manchesterwritingcompetition.co.uk).

## Requests

### 15. Rodney Our Interprid Hero

David Forster Green is looking for information about the play *Rodney Our Interprid Hero*, written by Brian Finch written in 1966. If anyone knows the play or the original production please contact David c/o the Guild office.

## What Members Are Getting Up To

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JESSE ARMSTRONG and SAM BAIN'S BAFTA winning series *Peep Show* begins tonight at 10:30pm on Channel 4. The Show is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> series.

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JUSTIN BODIE and MATTHEW COPE'S *Flood* will be going out on ITV1 at 8:05pm on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>, with the second part going out at 9:00pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May. An immense and terrifying surge of water and a bid to save London from certain destruction are at the heart of this gripping two-part drama based on a book by Robert Doyle. The two-part drama features an all-star cast, including Robert Carlyle, Tom Courtenay, Joanne Whalley and David Suchet.

\*\*\*

IAN BROWN and JAMES HENDRIE wrote the first episode of the second series of *After You've Gone* "Web of Deceit" going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

\*\*\*

DAVID CROFT co-wrote the episode of *Dad's Army* "Gorilla Warfar" going out on BBC2 at 6:30pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. He also co-wrote the episode of 'Allo 'Allo! "The Poloceman Cometh"

going out on BBC1 at 4:20pm on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

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DECLAN CROGAN co-wrote the episode of *Waking the Dead* "Skin" going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

\*\*\*

JEFF DODDS wrote the episode of *Midsomer Murders* "The Straw Woman" going out on ITV1 in two parts. The first is at 4:00pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May and the second is on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at the same time.

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TIM DYNEVOR wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

\*\*\*

ROB GITTINS wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

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JONATHAN R. HALL wrote the episode of *Doctors* "Hearts Will Go On" going out on BBC1 at 1:40pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

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STEPHEN HUNT'S debut play *Mad Tigers And Bears* receives a rehearsed reading to an invited audience of theatre professionals at The Brockley Jack Theatre on Saturday 31st May 2008 at 7:00pm

Visit [www.madtigersandbears.webeden.co.uk](http://www.madtigersandbears.webeden.co.uk) for further details and information about cast and director. If you would like to attend, please advise whether you would like one or two seats reserved.

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MARK ILLIS wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

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JULIE JONES wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

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DAVID LANE wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

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JANE MARLOW wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on Channel 4 at 6:30pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

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LYN PAPADOPOULOS wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on Channel 4 at 6:30pm on

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

\*\*\*

ANDREW PAYNE wrote the episode of *Midsomer Murders* "The Maid in Splendour" going out in two parts on ITV1 at 4:00pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

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DAVID RENWICK wrote the episode of *Love Soup* "Whose God Is It Anyway?" going out on BBC1 at 9:45pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. He also wrote the episode of *Agatha Christie's Poirot* "Wasp's Nest" going out on ITV1 at 2:00pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

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DANNY STACK wrote next week's installment of *Sofia's Diary* (week 8), which you can watch at [www.bebo.com/sofiadiary](http://www.bebo.com/sofiadiary). Daily webisodes are shown at 5.30pm or watch the series on channel Five, weekdays at 4.55pm.

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JOE TURNER wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

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