

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 315, Friday 4th April 2008

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What Members Are Getting Up To

Guild News

1. ITC Rates increase for Playwrights

Following annual negotiations with the Writers' Guild, rates for the Agreement between the Writers' Guild of Great Britain and the Independent Theatre Council (ITC) have been increased by 4.1% (the Retail Price Index) as of 1 April 2008.

We are pleased to announce that the new minimums are as follows:

£6,861.25 for a play over 70 minutes

£4,574.50 for a play between 30 and 70 minutes

£2,287.30 for a play under 30 minutes

The full list of rates is available for download on the Rates and Agreements section of the Guild website.

Guild Events

2. It's My Baby! - Screenwriters who direct

The second in a series of discussions on screenwriters' working lives will be held on Monday 7th April 2008 from 7pm - 9pm at the Writers' Guild Centre in King's Cross and will focus on screenwriters who direct.

The panel includes **Tom Hunsinger** and **Neil Hunter** writer-directors of *Lawless Heart*, *Sparkle*, and *Boyfriends*, and **Debbie Isitt** writer-director of the highly acclaimed *Confetti*.

Learn about the pitfalls and benefits of being the only one who's answerable from some of the UK's most successful writer-directors.

There will be a Q & A session afterwards.
Refreshments will also be served.

Tickets for this event will be £5 for Guild members and £7.50 for non-members. If you would like to attend this exciting event please send a cheque payable to the 'Writers' Guild' to 'It's My Baby!', Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 15-17 Britannia Street, London, WC1X 9JN.

Or please email: moe@writersguild.org.uk or call 0207 833 0777.

3. Moving From Long Running Series to Taking the Next Step

Television Event: April 24th, 2008

Following the success of the Guild event on long running BBC series last year, we're delighted to announce a sequel from John Yorke: "Moving from Long Running Series to Taking The Next Step."

John Yorke is Controller of Drama Production Studios for the BBC and over the last three years, has been committed to putting writers back at the heart of EastEnders, Holby City and Casualty. He has also been responsible for introducing and implementing the new BBC Code of Conduct, in response to our members' complaints and suggestions about long running series.

John was Executive Producer / Commissioning Editor of The Street (Series 1), Life on Mars (Series 1 & 2), Shameless (Series 1 & 2), Robin Hood (Series 1), Waterloo Road (Series 1) and New Tricks (Series 3) amongst many others. He's well placed to give a talk on a subject important to all: how to progress from scripting long running series to the great television writing world beyond.

The event will once again be chaired by Gail Renard, Chair of the WGGGB TV Committee. Early booking is advised for this sure-to-be popular event.

Tickets for this event will be £5 for Guild members and £7.50 for non-members. If you would like to attend this event please send a cheque payable to the 'Writers' Guild' to, Television Event, Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 15-17 Britannia Street, London, WC1X 9JN.

Or please email: moe@writersguild.org.uk or call 0207 833 0777

Industry News

4. Japanese bookshop chain offers royalties on second-hand books

Japan's largest chain of second-hand bookshops has offered to pay the Japan Writer's Association, the Copyright Network for Comic Authors in the 21st Century and other groups 100 million yen. The offered payment is in response to authors who have complained the sales cut into their new book sales and undercut their royalty income.

Bookoff resells second-hand books in like-new condition, manga, CDs, DVDs and video games. Wikipedia cites as one of its success innovations is its practice of 'shaving the edges off the pages of books using a special machine in order to make them appear newer'.

For the full story, see the Bookseller Association's blog at: <http://bookseller-association.blogspot.com/2008/04/used-book-royalties.html>

5. Scottish Arts Council's New E-Bulletin

From the beginning of April, the Scottish Art's Council's IB magazine will be distributed electronically only.

To sign up to receive your copy, go to: www.scottisharts.org.uk.

Industry Events

6. Q&A with Matthew Graham and Ashley Pharoah

5pm - 6.15pm Monday 14 April
Soho Theatre, Dean Street, London W1.

Please see here for directions: <http://www.sohotheatre.com/p13.html>

Matthew and Ashley will talk about their work including [Life on Mars](#), [Ashes to Ashes](#), and upcoming series [Bonekickers](#) in a Q&A session with Kate Rowland, BBC Creative Director of New Writing. You'll also have a chance to ask them your own questions.

To add your name to the guest list email writersroom@bbc.co.uk

7. The Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize Shortlist

The Royal Society of Literature is delighted to announce the shortlist for the 2008 Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize

The £10,000 prize is awarded annually to a book of the highest literary merit -fiction, non-fiction or poetry - best evoking the spirit of a place.

The 2008 judges, Russell Celyn Jones, Elaine Feinstein and Romesh Gunesequera, commented:

'We read books that were brave, that had heart, that were written with some passion and published because they should be. The best of them, where the spirit of a place was significant whether expressed through character or setting, quickly reached our shortlist. Paraguay, London's East End, Wales, Kent, Russia and France are represented...naturally, no book, however enjoyable, could find a place on this list without considerable literary merit.'

The Shortlist is as follows:

Nicola Barker – Darkmans (Fourth Estate)
Robert Carver - Paradise with Serpents (*Harper Perennial*)
Orlando Figes - The Whisperers (*Allen Lane*)
Rachel Lichtenstein - On Brick Lane (*Hamish Hamilton*)
Robert Minhinnick - Sea Holly (*Seren*)

Graham Robb - The Discovery of France (*Picador*)

The winner will be announced at a celebratory dinner at The Travellers Club in London on Monday 28th April 2008.

8. Spotlight On... Don Black

Don Black in conversation with Elaine Paige, followed by a Q&A with the audience.

Don Black OBE is an Oscar winning lyricist who has worked with Jule Styne, Henry Mancini, Quincy Jones, Elmer Bernstein, Michel Legrand, Marvin Hamlisch, Charles Aznavour, Andrew Lloyd Webber (including Sunset Boulevard, Aspects of Love and Song & Dance) and John Barry (Born Free, Thunderball, Diamonds Are Forever and musical Billy) amongst many others.

Thursday 17th April, 1 - 2.15pm @ The Shaw Theatre

Tickets are £15 but £12 to Writers Guild Members who quote '£12 Writers' Guild offer'.

Box Office: 0870 0332600

Courses and Workshops

9. How To Make & Sell Low Budget Features in 10 "Easy" Steps

Central London, Saturday 19 April, 10am - 5pm

Award-winning writer / producer / director team of Toni Harman & Alex Wakeford have just made CREDO, a low budget horror film (www.credothemovie.com) that recently secured worldwide international distribution.

The film-makers tell you exactly what they did, revealing what it cost, what went right, what went wrong, who they sold to and for how much.

This is a must-go-to workshop for writers, directors, producers and anyone desperate to make their first feature.

Cost: £110 + VAT (with 10% discount for Writers Guild members)

To book visit: www.altofilms.com/training.html or email info@altofilms.com

10. Straight Curve One day event

Straight Curve is holding a one day event for filmmakers in all areas on Saturday 24th May. The day will include speakers, presentations and workshops and networking and is open to all.

Speakers confirmed so far are:

- Johannes Roberts director of When Evil Calls
- Paul Andrew Williams Director of London To Brighton
- Ben Blaine of the Blaine Brothers

Workshops include:

- Comedy writing with Brad Ashton
- Special effects make up with Cicely
- Sound recording with Jules
- Insuring your short film project
- Equipment hire

Entry is just £10 and workshops just £2

All bookings must be made in advance and we anticipate this selling out very quickly. The event will take place at Bromley Central Library halls, which is five minutes from Bromley south train station. The station is just 15mins from London.

Call 0845 021 4000 for booking details or see www.straightcurve.co.uk

11. Guiding Lights

Are you an up-and-coming filmmaker with at least two years' experience in your field?

Have you got the talent and passion to succeed but need high-level contacts to get ahead in the industry?

Would you benefit from the support of an established film industry pro?

If so, Guiding Lights is for you.

Following the success of the first Guiding Lights mentoring programme, they are again looking for 25 emerging film professionals to match with top industry talent.

Successful applicants will benefit from 12 months of one-to-one mentor support from the best in the business. Filmmakers and industry professionals who have agreed to act as Guiding Lights mentors include Paul Greengrass (The Bourne Ultimatum), Kevin Macdonald (The Last King of Scotland), Nira Park (Shaun of the Dead), Mark Herbert (This is England), David Yates (Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince), Julia Short (Verve Pictures), Patrick Marber (Notes on a Scandal) and Cameron McCracken (Pathé).

Application Deadline: 5pm, Tuesday 29th April 2008

Further information: www.guiding-lights.org.uk

12. Radio Scriptwriting Courses in East Anglia

Writers' Guild member Sue Teddern is teaching a six-week course at Norwich Arts Centre, St Benedicts Street, Norwich, every Tuesday from April 15th to May 20th, 10.30am to 1pm. Cost: £42. For more information, call 01603 660352 or go to www.norwichartscentre.co.uk

She is also following up her successful workshop at the Fisher Theatre, Broad Street, Bungay, Suffolk with two more sessions on Sundays April 20 and 27, 1pm to 5pm, £7.50 per session. The sessions are linked so it's best to book both. For more information, call 01986 897130.

13. Intensive Creative Writing Retreat

Want to write for theatre? Want to adapt? Or just want to explore your writing potential?

Andrew Taylor will be running a 6 day Intensive Creative Writing Retreat at the Coach House Theatre in Malvern from 11th – 16th August 2008.

(Andrew Taylor is the author of the stage versions of *BRIEF ENCOUNTER*, *THE LADY VANISHES*, *ROOM AT THE TOP*, *KIND HEARTS & CORONETS*, and many more)

Course Fee - £675 (includes all workshops and supporting materials)
Writers' Guild members will receive a 10% discount

For further information or to book, please email neilandrewtaylor@googlemail.com or visit www.mtp.org.uk

Opportunities

14. Accommodation for writer in Spain

Beautiful, peaceful house in Spain available to writer or artist at the very special rate of £600 per month. Three bed house, with 2 large bathrooms and two terraces with panoramic views to valleys and the coast. Set mid way between two traditional villages with full amenities. Available from July onwards, preferably for a 6 month+ rental.

Contact: jacquelinecrooks@hotmail.co.uk. For pictures of the house visit www.writersretreat.gbr.cc

15. Benjamin Franklin House Literary Prize

For nearly sixteen years between 1757 and 1775, Benjamin Franklin lived at 36 Craven Street in the heart of London, England. In 2006 his Georgian home opened to the public for the first time as a dynamic museum and educational facility.

The Benjamin Franklin House Literary Prize is endowed by John Studzinski, Benjamin Franklin House Chairman. Each year a question exploring Franklin's relevance in our time will be open for interpretation in 1000-1500 words by two groups: young people and professional writers. The winner of the Young Writers' Prize will receive £500 while the winner of the Professional Writers' Prize will receive £1000. Entries for 2008 must be received before 1 September. Winning submissions will be posted at www.BenjaminFranklinHouse.org

2008 Theme:

What is ethical journalism? Benjamin Franklin said the effects of the written word (delivered by press in his day – in ours by a variety of media) “are more extensive, more lasting.” What are journalists' responsibilities and why?

Submissions:

* Benjamin Franklin House Literary Prize – Young Writers Award: Entrants must be between 18-21

* Benjamin Franklin House Literary Prize – Professional Writers Award: Entrants must be professional writers

Entries of 1000-1500 words must be sent by 1 September to info@benjaminfranklinhouseorg. Each entrant should state their name, address, and telephone number. In addition, entrants for the Young Writers Award must provide their age and place of study, if applicable, while entrants for the Professional Writers Award must provide a CV. For more information, contact Alice Kershaw at Benjamin Franklin House on 020 7839 2006.

What Members Are Getting Up To

CAREY ANDREWS wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm and at 7:30pm on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th April.

GREGORY BURKE'S radio play *Shell Shocked* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:30pm on Saturday 5th April.

ANNA CLEMENTS wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on Channel 4 at 6:30pm on Monday 7th April.

DAVID CROFT co-wrote the episode of 'Allo 'Allo! "The Wedding of Widow Artois" going out on BBC1 at 12:50pm on Sunday 6th April.

RICHARD CURTIS wrote the episode of *The Vicar of Dibley* going out on BBC1 at 9:30pm on Friday 11th April.

MARY CUTLER has written the scripts for *The Archers* to be broadcast on Radio Four at 7pm from Sunday April 6th to Friday April 11 repeat next day at 2pm and the Omnibus edition on Sunday April 13 at 10 am.

She wrote the previous weeks' scripts - March 30th to April 4th- too. Omnibus edition: Sunday April 6th.

DAVID EDGAR's citizenship/Britishness/identity play 'Testing the Echo' (in a splendid Out of Joint production), is running at the Tricycle (0207 328 1000) at 8.00pm nightly until 3rd May 2008.

ISABELLE GREY wrote the episode of *Midsomer Murders* "The Fisher King" going out on ITV1 at 4:00pm on Tuesday 8th April.

JONATHAN HARVEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Monday 7th April.

JAYNE HOLLINSON wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Friday 11th April.

MARK ILLIS wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 7th and Thursday 10th April.

TONY JORDAN has been approached by Sony Pictures TV to rework a drama pilot called *Kingdom* that was developed for US network CBS last year. *Kingdom* is set in a time of knights and castles and the story centers on a young man who learns he is the heir to the throne.

ROY MITCHELL wrote the episode of *New Tricks* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Monday 7th April.

RICHARD MONKS'S radio play *Blood, Sweat & Tea* will be going out on Radio 4 at 9:00pm on Friday 4th April. The play shows a glimpse into the often dangerous life of an inner-city paramedic and is inspired by Tom Reynolds' blog.

ROLAND MOORE wrote the episode of *Doctors* "And the Winner is" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Thursday 10th April.

PAUL MOUSLEY co-wrote the episode of *Rock Rivals* going out on IVT1 at 9:00pm on Wednesday 9th April.

DEBBIE O'MALLEY wrote the episode of *Holby City* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Thursday 10th April.

DAVID RENWICK wrote the episode of *Love Soup* "Sophisticated Lady" going out on BBC1 at 9:20pm on Saturday 5th April.

MARGARET SIMPSON wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 8th April.

CHRIS THOMPSON wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 11th April.

BILL TAYLOR wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 9th April.

NICK WARBURTON'S radio play *On Mardle Fen* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Friday 11th April.

PETER WHALLEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Wednesday 9th April.

ED WHITMORE wrote the episode of *He Kills Coppers* going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Sunday 6th April.

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