

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 407, Friday 5th February 2010

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Guild News

1. Save scripted television content

Last week the WGGB once again lobbied at Westminster, along with our Performers' Alliance colleagues, Equity and the Musicians' Union. The Guild met with MP's, Lords and Baronesses to talk about the problems facing writers in Britain today. Amongst other topics, the Guild talked about maintaining the output of quality scripted television programmes, so vital to our culture. To read the paper, written by Ming Ho and Gail Renard, please visit the Guilds' website www.writersguild.org.uk.

2. The Write Stuff - A History of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain OUT NOW

Guild member Nick Yapp has researched and written an illustrated 50-year history of the Guild, from 10th October 1956 when a small group of writers met in the basement of a doctor's surgery through to the present day. The book is now available at £12 plus £2.50 postage & packing - but for a limited period Guild members can order a copy at the special discount price of £10 (postage paid).

If you would like to purchase a copy, please send a cheque for £10 to the Guild office at:

40 Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1R 4RX

Events

3. FEU LGBT history month event

Equity and the Federation of Entertainment Unions presents **The Dramatic Lives of Edith Craig, actor, director, costumier and theatre pioneer**, with Dr Katherine Cockin, biographer of Edith Craig (1869 - 1947), as part of LGBT History Month 2010. At the Phoenix Artists Club in London, February 12th, 6.00-8.00pm.

The Phoenix Artist Club is located in the heart of Theatreland in central London underneath the Phoenix Theatre. The entrance is on the corner of Charing Cross Road and Phoenix Street. There are two local tube stations: Leicester Square (Northern and Piccadilly Line) and Tottenham Court Road (Northern and Central Line).

Booking

The event is free but places are strictly limited and need to be reserved

To get your place please email mbeckmann@equity.org.uk

4. The Arts Hustings

Clore Auditorium, Tate Britain

9th March 2010

6:00pm - 8:30pm

Booking has now opened for the NCA's Arts Hustings event. Tickets are available online at www.artshustings.eventbrite.com. We envisage a high demand for tickets, so we urge you to book now to avoid disappointment.

The Arts Hustings puts the politicians in the hot seat and gives you the opportunity to quiz them on what they have in store for the arts and cultural sector after the 2010 General Election.

Following the success of the Future Britain conference in June 2009, the National Campaign for the Arts returns to Tate Britain to host a hustings style debate between the Arts Minister (Labour's Margaret Hodge MP), the Shadow Arts Minister

(Conservative, Ed Vaizey MP) and the Liberal Democrat Shadow Culture Secretary (Don Foster MP).

Each panellist will set out their party's offer for the arts and culture and answer questions on a range of arts related topics posed by, you, the audience.

If you would like to submit a question for the panel, please email: artshustings@artscampaign.org.uk. If your question is selected, they will contact you prior to the event. There will be an opportunity for the audience to ask un-prepared, supplementary questions during the event.

A small charge will be made to cover the cost of refreshments and staffing.

Ticket prices: £12.50 +VAT - £20.00 +VAT. Book now for the Early Bird Offer.

It may be necessary, for reasons beyond the control of the NCA, to change the content and timing of the programme, the speakers or the venue. Programme updates will be available at regular intervals on their website: www.artscampaign.org.uk

Courses and Workshops

5. Talk the talk

New book shows you how to write dialogue like Mamet, O'Neill, Stoppard, and other greats.

Penniston has taught playwriting at Northwestern University. Her play, *The Roaring Girl*, garnered a Joseph Jefferson nomination for "Best Adaptation;" and her screenplay *Love Is Brilliant* won the Sloan Award at the 2005 Tribeca Film Festival. Her newest play, *Spin*, makes its world premiere at Chicago's Theater Wit in April 2010.

Penny Penniston is a Chicago-area playwright and screenwriter. Her newest play, *Spin*, will have its world premiere with Chicago's Theater Wit during the 2009-2010 season.

Previous stage plays include *now then again* and *The Roaring Girl*. *now then again* had its world premiere in Chicago at the Bailiwick Repertory Theater on February 17, 2000. The show ran for seventeen weeks, received wide critical acclaim, and was awarded Chicago's Joseph Jefferson Citation for "Best New Work." In 2002 *now then again* was published by Broadway Play Publishing.

Penniston coauthored *The Roaring Girl* with her husband, director Jeremy Wechsler.

This adaptation of the 1611 comedy by Thomas Middleton and Thomas Dekker had its world premiere in Chicago with Shakespeare's Motley Crew. It received a Joseph Jefferson nomination for "Best Adaptation."

Penniston's screenplays include *Love Is Brilliant* (an adaptation of her stage play, now then again), *Going Out of the Box*, and *Gay Pride & Prejudice*. *Love Is Brilliant* received the Sloan Award at the 2005 Tribeca Film Festival.

Penniston has written short plays for Chicago's Collaboracion Theater Company and Shakespeare's Motley Crew. From 2002-2007, she taught playwriting as an adjunct professor in the Theater Department of Northwestern University. She has also guest lectured at DePaul University. Visit Penniston at: www.penninkent.com

6. Jan Etherington's comedy writing course

Saturday February 27th and Sunday 28th

How long has that idea been floating around in your head, or that script languishing in your bottom drawer?

Join Jan, on February 27th/28th and learn how to turn your comedy writing dreams to reality.

The weekend includes a back to basics guide to great comedy writing and a brilliant opportunity to ask the experts how it's done, as Jan and her guest speaker, comedy writing legend, **RICHARD HARRIS**, creator of the award-winning Broadway musical and film, *Stepping Out*, join forces to help you fast track your work/ideas from the page to the next stage.

For details, visit the website, www.comedycourse.biz and e-mail, or simply call on 0788 7907713, and they'll do the rest.

7. MA Writing for the Media

This 12-month Masters degree, the first of its kind in the UK, aims to develop your individual creative voice as a writer and the range of your authorial skills, enabling you to write for a variety of media – including film, television, radio and new media.

On this course you don't simply write. Your work will get made. You will see your scripts go into production while you are on the course.

Please visit www.bournemouth.ac.uk/courses/mawm to find out more about Bournemouth University and to download an application form. Applicants are invited to submit samples of their writing work in any genre or genres which best reflect their creative voice.

If you have any queries you can talk with the Programme Leader, John Foster, by emailing jfoster@bournemouth.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0)1202 965249.

Opportunities

8. Scotland: Write Here, Write Now

As part of the Scotland Writes initiative, the BBC Scotland Comedy department is launching a brand new competition to seek out the country's most exciting new comic writers.

The competition is open only to Scottish and Scotland-based writers.

They want you to write the opening 10-15 pages (no more than 2000 words) of a contemporary comedy drama or a sitcom. All they ask is that you:

The three entries judged to be the best by the BBC Scotland Comedy department (see the [Terms & Conditions](#) for more detailed information on the judging process) will be individually mentored by a significant figure in comedy production who will help them develop their script into a 30 minute piece. Scenes from each script will then be performed at a rehearsed reading by a group of professional actors during the Edinburgh Comedy Festival in August 2010 in front of an audience of industry professionals.

How to Enter

Email your script sample to bbcscotlandcomedy@bbc.co.uk accompanied by a completed [application form](#). If submitting an entry as a writing team, every member of the team must complete an application form and satisfy the entry requirements as stipulated in the [Terms & Conditions](#).

Alternatively, post your script sample and completed application form to

Scotland: Write Here, Write Now
BBC Scotland
Comedy Department

Zone 2.12
40 Pacific Quay
Glasgow
G51 1DA

Deadline: Friday 26th March 2010

You can also find more information on the [Scotland: Write Here, Write Now Facebook page](#).

9. New Welsh Writers

BBC Writersroom, [BBC Wales Drama](#), and [National Theatre Wales](#) are looking for the next generation of writers born or resident in Wales who have had at least one professional production or commission (in theatre, radio, television or film), but no more than one hour of network television broadcast.

Writers will be asked to submit a pitch for their own original idea for theatre, radio, television, or film (two pages maximum), along with a full-length sample script (again, for any media/formats) which will say who they are and what they have to say. Submissions will be assessed on the originality of the idea, the accomplishment of the writing, and the potential in the writer.

From these submissions up to ten writers will be invited to a four day residential workshop where they will develop ideas and spend time with people from across the industry. The final selection panel will include Kate Rowland (BBC Creative Director, New Writing), Bethan Jones (Executive Producer, BBC Wales Drama) and John McGrath (Artistic Director, National Theatre Wales).

This competition is open only to writers born or resident in Wales.

The residential workshop will be conducted in English. However, you are welcome to submit a script written in Welsh.

How to Enter

Post your script and idea accompanied by a completed [application form](#) stating clearly your professional credit to

New Welsh Writers
BBC writersroom
379 Euston Road
London
NW1 3AU

Deadline for submissions: Wednesday 10th February 2010

Selected writers informed: By Thursday 1st April 2010

Residential workshop: Week commencing 19th April 2010

[Rules of Entry](#)

10. Scripts wanted

Attention Scriptwriters & Directors, Actors & Actresses.

The Application process for this years One Act Festival is open.

This year will be this annual event's 26th edition and promises to be the biggest and best to date

2010 sees the LOST Theatre Company's premier event return to its own stage stage for the first time since 1999. Their new purpose built home is a fantastic state of the art venue just a 7min walk from Stockwell tube station. The 181 seat auditorium promises to be the ideal host for the 30 plays selected for this years festival.

Mr Jeremy Kingston (one of **The Times**' drama critics) will once again be the Festival Adjudicator.

So go to their website (www.losttheatre.co.uk) where you'll find all the information you need.

What Members Are Getting Up To

CAREY ANDREWS wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 8th February.

DAVE COHEN performs the final preview of his new one-man stand-up poem *My Life As A Footnote* at the Dogstar, Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, Tuesday 8th February 8:00pm Tickets £5.

JULIE DIXON wrote the episode of *The Bill "Keeping Her Talking"* going out on ITV1 at 9:00pm on Thursday 11th February.

TIM DYNEVOR wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 12th February.

RACHEL FLOWERDAY wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 11th and at 8:00pm on Friday 12th February.

JEREMY FRONT'S dramatisation of Simon Brett's *A Charles Paris Mystery: Cast in Order of Disappearance* continues on Radio 4 at 11:30am on Friday 12th February.

BILL GALLAGHER wrote the episode of *Lark Rise to Candleford* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Sunday 7th February.

JIMMY GARDNER wrote the episode of *Survivors* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Tuesday 9th February.

TOM GREEN'S new play *Fighting* will be on at the Brockley Jack in south London as part of their Write Now season. To find out more and to book tickets please go to http://www.gadzoox.co.uk/0068_write-now/write-now.htm.

TONY JORDAN wrote the episode of *Hustle* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Monday 8th February.

IAN KERSHAW'S radio play *Raft to Bondi* goes out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Monday 8th February.

DAVID LANE wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Monday 8th February.

GARRY LYONS'S radio play *Amazonia* is going out on Radio 3 at 8:00pm on Sunday 7th February.

DAVID MCDERMOTT wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 10th February.

JAN MCVERRY wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and 8:30pm on Friday 12th February.

PAUL MYATT wrote the episode of *Doctors* "*The Bigger Man*" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Tuesday 9th February.

RICHARD STEVENS'S radio play *The Small Back Room* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:30pm on Saturday 6th February.

CHRIS THOMPSON wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 8th February.

KATHARINE WAY wrote the episode of *Doctors* "*Love Lies Bleeding*" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Thursday 11th February.

KARIN YOUNG wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm and 8:00pm on Thursday 11th February.

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