

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 361, Friday 6th March 2009

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Guild News

1. Creative Partnerships

As reported by the Writers' Guild in recent e-bulletins, Creative Partnerships is no longer part of Arts Council England but has established itself as an independent organisation. It receives regular funding from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport via Arts Council England and uses this money to instigate creative projects in schools, using creative professionals such as writers, visual artists, web designers, architects, actors and musicians.

Creative professionals can now work with Creative Partnerships either as Creative Agents or as practitioners employed to undertake projects in chosen schools. The role of a Creative Agent is to broker and support partnerships between schools and creative practitioners to enable high quality creative learning programmes to take place.

According to a recent Creative Partnerships report about the role of Creative Agents, called 'The Art of Looking Sideways', it is:

"to work with the school leadership team in order to support the development of creative learning and to contribute to school improvement. This is done by establishing a creative learning vision for the school that is closely linked to the school development plan. The Creative Agent fosters an enquiry based approach and supporting partnerships.

The role involves four phases (not necessarily sequential as they often happen simultaneously).

Diagnostic

Analysing where a school is and how a Creative Partnerships might support development.

Planning and Brokering

Establishing a focus question, enquiry framework and action plan.

Change Management

Supporting the school and creative practitioners in introducing and implementing change.

Evaluation and Sustainability

Encouraging reflective practice and embedding learning and change."

We'd like to know how Creative Partnerships and the Creative Agents in particular are working for the artists employed to undertake projects in schools.

Are you a Creative Agent? If so, how do you think it works? Do you feel the system works well? How much support do you receive from Creative Partnerships staff and what form does it take?

Are you a practitioner? If so, how were you contracted for the project you undertook? How much help did you receive from your Creative Agent and what form did it take? Have you noticed any difference in the way Creative Partnerships works since it was devolved from Arts Council England?

We'd also be keen to hear what sort of projects our members have been involved in recently and what they were paid.

If you have an experience to contribute, please email Naomi MacDonald in the Guild office at naomi@writersguild.org.uk.

2. Are Your Plays Produced in Germany?

Many British plays are translated and produced in Germany and the Guild now has an up-to-date list of German agents who are active in this area. We occasionally get enquiries from members whose work has been used in this way and the information may be helpful in keeping track of performances, payments, etc. Inclusion on the list should not be taken as a recommendation.

Most of the agents listed have "verlag" in their titles, which literally means "publishing house". However, it doesn't mean that these agencies will necessarily publish the texts in the sense that we would think of publishers in the UK. The modus operandi in Germany is that the agencies acquire rights in the English plays, arrange the translations, market the plays within their territory, and monitor and collect royalties. There can be several productions of the same play in different cities.

The list is available by email from the Guild office. Our thanks to the UK agents who have compiled it.

Industry News

3. ITV Cuts Its Programming Budget By £65m

ITV will begin cutting 600 jobs from across the business this week and will remove £135m from its previously untouchable £1bn programming budget over the next three years.

Executive chairman Michael Grade said in this Wednesday's annual results that the unprecedented conditions meant "tough action" had to be taken.

The results reveal that adjusted pre-tax profits took a 41% dive last year, from £281m to £167m.

This year and next the programming budget will be cut by £65m and in 2011, a further £70m will be shredded from the budget. Grade said that the majority of savings would be made in off-peak daytime and weekend programming to protect ITV's peak time schedule.

Approximately one hour a week of drama programming will be cut, and a mid-week entertainment strand is being considered.

Source: Broadcast Now - <http://www.broadcastnow.co.uk>

4. 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/>

Events

5. London to Brighton

Saturday 7th March 17.00-21.00

4.30pm Registrations

5.15pm - 7pm Introduced screening of London to Brighton

7pm - 9pm Networking drinks with the cast, director and members of the SSAW Industry Panel

Sunday 8th March 9.00-17.30 download the full programme [here](#)

Some of the areas that will be covered...

- The Characters: What is a Director looking for?
- What is an actor looking for?
- Re-writes: Work-shopping the Script
- The Photographic Style: Cameras, lenses and lighting
- Sound: How does it enhance the cinematic experience?
- Filming on Location: The dos and don'ts
- The Budget: Who's Paying for the Sandwiches?
- The Motley Crew: Who are you looking for?
- Choosing your Medium: Film vs Video
- The Schedule: Keeping it tight
- Constraints: No money, little time, what suffered on production?
- The Editing Process: What was left on the cutting room floor and what made the grade.
- Completion and Distribution Money: How did you find it?
- The Finished Article: Was it worth all the heartache?

FREE event, including drinks reception, breakfast and lunch

To attend this event you need to book, so please RSVP to sharon@screenacademywales.org

Download the PDF for information on the series [here](#)

6. PAWS Event

PAWS (Public Awareness of Science and Engineering) is holding an Evening Event on **Monday 23rd March** at the Institute of Physics, Portland Place, and I think it should appeal to a good number of writers and producers.

The panel of scientists are all women, professors and lecturers in medical sciences, working on everything from osteo-porosis to proton therapy for cancer to the causes and possible cures for obesity. But there is a man on the platform- Tony McHale originator and now Executive Producer of Holby City.

Coffee at 6.30 pm, presentations at [7.pm](#) and buffet reception at [8.45.pm](#). and a chance to network with scientists and producers.

Admission free, but please apply to PAWS at pawsomni@btconnect.com

or PAWS OFFICE, OMNI Communications

First Floor, 155 Regents Park Road London NW1 8BB

tel: 0207483 4545

7. Meet the Agents - Brighton and Oxford

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 relay look for when they take on new writers. The evening also offers an informal opportunity to network and ask your own questions.

These events are very well attended, so be sure to book your place early!

Details and booking:

Oxford

with **Meg Davis** - [MBA Literary Agents](#), **Sarah Ballard** - [United Agents](#), **Kerry Glencourse** - [Susanna Lea Associates](#), **Becky Ayebia Clarke** - [Ayebia Clarke Literary Agency & Publishing](#)

Date: Thursday 9th April

Time: 6.30pm - 9pm

Venue: Said Business School, Oxford

Brighton

with **Broo Doherty** - [Wade Doherty Literary Agency](#), **Simon Trewin** - [United Agents](#), **Rupert Heath** - [Rupert Heath Literary Agency](#)

Date: Tuesday 2nd June

Times: 6.30pm – 9pm

Venue: Nightingale Theatre, Brighton

For more information and to book a ticket go to:

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

8. How the BBC's "Diary of Anne Frank" Was Made

In January this year BBC One showed The Diary of Anne Frank - a unique account of life hiding under the Nazi terror in World War II from the perspective of a teenage Jewish girl. Full of tension but at times funny and ultimately tragic, Anne Frank's diary never lets us forget the extraordinary threat that awaits Anne and her family if they are discovered. The BBC and Darlow Smithson Productions worked closely with the Anne Frank foundation to ensure complete authenticity for the drama, and the sets are almost exact replicas of the real Anne Frank house in Amsterdam.

Speakers: Elinor Day - Producer

Deborah Moggach - Writer

VENUE:

The London Television Centre, Upper Ground, South Bank, London SE1 9LT

Nearest Underground and Train Station - Waterloo

Refreshments, tea and coffee will be available

Please Register for a place to attend:

DATE: 11 MARCH - WEDNESDAY

TIME: 19.00pm

COST: FREE

Please e-mail your intention to attend to LondonCentreEvents@rts.org.uk

9. The Big Write Children's Literature Festival Event - Writing for Children

East London's children's venue devoted to story-based play, Discover, is hosting a children's literature festival which will include a session on Thursday evening for adults contemplating writing for this demanding audience. Over the following three days there's a programme of workshops and book launches, featuring Jill Lewis, Jan Fearnley, Chris Redmond and others.

Discover, 1 Bridge Terrace, E15 4BG (8536 5555/www.discover.org.uk). Thur Mar 5-Sun Mar 8, various times and prices. Sat Mar 7, Sun Mar 8 £5 per day, family (four tickets) £17. Booking advised.

10. The Northern Writers' Centre - Festival of African Writing

A Festival of African Writing on the 13th and 14th March 2009 with Ben Okri, Femi Osofisan, Helon Habila, Helen Oyeyemi, Zoe Wicomb, Brian Chikwava, Nuruddin Farah, Jack Mapanje, Laura Fish and Jackie Kay.

For more information please visit: www.northernwriterscentre.com

Courses and Workshops

11. Introduction to Script Development

Saturday 4th April, Saturday 18th April 09 // 10am - 5pm

Venue: Lighthouse, 28 Kensington Street, Brighton BN1 4AJ

Tutor: Julie Everton

Cost: £130 (full) £100 (concessions)

This course is designed for people who are interested in starting or building their careers as script readers or script developers. It is also suitable for writers, producers or directors interested in learning how to best work with a script to maximise its inherent potential.

http://www.lighthouse.org.uk/opportunity/script_development.htm

12. Further Steps in Screenwriting

Dates: 21st April, 28th April, 5th May, 12th May, 26th May, 2nd June, 9th June, 16th June 09 // 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Venue: Lighthouse, 28 Kensington Street, Brighton BN1 4AJ

Tutor: Julie Everton

Cost: £130.00 (full) £100 (concessions)

This course is for writers wanting to build on existing screenwriting skills who are interested in learning how to develop a feature idea.

The course is suitable for those who have completed the Introduction to Screenwriting curriculum.

http://www.lighthouse.org.uk/opportunity/further_steps.htm

13. 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 it?

Full details, dates and booking visit:

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

Opportunities

14. Lecturer in Television Fiction Writing at Glasgow Caledonian University

Glasgow Caledonian University is redefining how a modern university works: through innovation in learning, areas of world-leading research and a ground-breaking commercial and social enterprise agenda. As one of the UK's most dynamic and responsive universities, they have a worldwide reputation for leading edge, career-driven programmes of the highest quality.

They are looking for an experienced television fiction scriptwriter to play a key role on their new postgraduate course in television fiction writing, which has won widespread industry support and involvement.

With an interest in and some experience of education and training, you will lead practical scriptwriting delivery on their MA in Television Fiction Writing, which launches in September 2009. You may also contribute to undergraduate programmes and help develop their successful research, professional training and industry consultancy projects.

You should have an honours degree and, ideally, a postgraduate or equivalent professional qualification and/or equivalent professional experience and must have substantial recent experience of television fiction writing. Your track record will include network screen credits and you should be able and willing to maintain your professional profile.

The MA in Television Fiction Writing was developed jointly by Glasgow Caledonian University Division of Cultural Business and Shed Media, producers of popular shows such as Waterloo Road, New Tricks, Footballers' Wives and Bad Girls.

For comprehensive details of this exciting opportunity and how to apply, please visit the website www.gcal.ac.uk/jobs/vacancies/index.html

15. The UK Film Council's Short Film Completion Fund 2008/9

Providing finance and support for short films that show outstanding potential but lack the funds to finish, individual producers or production companies are invited to submit a rough cut of their unfinished short film (up to 15 minutes in length) with a completed application. The closing date for applications is 5pm, 17 April.

For more information please click on the below link:

[The UK Film Council's Short Film Completion Fund 2008/9](#)

16. Call for Submissions

BRAND Literary Magazine, edited by Guild Member Nina Rapi, is now accepting submissions for Issue 5, to be launched at South Bank in July. They publish short stories, plays, poems, creative non-fiction. Deadline is end of March. Please read the magazine first to make sure they are the right space for your writing and vice versa, saving time and energy all around!

Visit the website for more details: www.brandliterarymagazine.co.uk

17. Northern Student Scriptwriters Conference

WHERE: Senate House, University of Bolton and Milton Building, University of Huddersfield

WHEN: Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th March 2009

TIME: 9:15 am (Registration) - 4:30 pm

On Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th March, the Universities of Bolton and Huddersfield are collaborating to host the first Northern Student Scriptwriters Conference across two locations.

To read more about the conference and download a booking form, visit:

www.bolton.ac.uk/conferences/scriptwriters

Places are limited and must be booked in advance. Reservations will be taken upon receipt of payment - please send a cheque made payable to 'The University of Bolton' to Jane Stuart, Creative Industries Liaison, School of Arts, Media and Education, University of Bolton, Deane Rd, BL3 5AB. Initial Enquiries can be made via jks1@bolton.ac.uk / 01204 903331.

18. Scriptmarket in Cheltenham, October 2009

Get it Noticed - Get a Meeting - Get it Made

2009's Scriptmarket opens for submissions on Friday 27th February and will be held as part of the Fourth International Screenwriters' Festival which takes place at The Cheltenham Ladies' College from Monday 26th to Thursday 29th October 2009.

This year's scheme will allow 30 delegates with completed un-commissioned scripts, known as 'spec scripts', industry access to help advance their project. As well as an interview with an established industry enabler at the Festival in October they will receive an invaluable five page report on their script composed by a qualified script reader and access to a one day "Market Ready" training workshop in June in London to prep them for their meeting. In addition there will be related articles published on the SWF website advising on best practice in the writing of outlines and summaries for a Scriptmarket submission.

Even if you have written or optioned a great spec script, getting it noticed, getting feedback and getting meetings to progress it - can be an uphill battle.

Script reports can be expensive and while writers may resent some of the advice they give, feedback and script meetings are essential to the development of spec scripts in their journey to the screen.

The Festival, which attracts writers, producers, directors, agents and financiers from all over the world, benefits anyone involved in the process of screen storytelling for film, television, radio, digital media and gaming. Past and present Festival sponsors include Cheltenham Council, South West Screen, BBC, UK Film Council, Sky One, Skillset, Channel 4, Wiggin LLP and Arturi Films etc.

Tickets for October's Festival are on sale now at a limited Early Bird rate at www.screenwritersfestival.com

19. Submit your short to Cannes Short Film Corner

The Short Film Corner

The short must have been produced after January 1st, 2008
The film must be under 35 minutes long
Only one film per director/writer/filmmaker
The short must not have been registered at the Short Film Corner in a past edition

Registration Deadline: 18th April, 2009

The short films must be sent in a French or English version or with French or English subtitles, on

DigiBeta, Beta SP, DV, DVcam or video DVD.

Call for entries - http://www.shortfilmcorner.com/inscire_us.html

Deadline for submission is April 18, 2009.

Contact Information:

Paris offices until May 1 2009

Short Film Corner - Festival de Cannes

3 rue Amélie

75007 Paris - France

33 (0)1 53 59 61 30

33 (0)1 53 59 61 53

sfc2009@festival-cannes.fr

20. 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>

21. 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.

What Members Are Getting Up To

CAREY ANDREWS wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 12th March.

JESSE ARMSTRONG and SAM BAIN wrote the episode of *The Old Guys "The Courtesan"* going out on BBC1 at 9:20pm on Saturday 7th March.

SARAH BAGSHAW wrote the episodes of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 11th and Friday 13th March.

TRACEY BLACK wrote the episode of *Doctors "Road to Recovery"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Tuesday 10th March.

MARK BURT wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Wednesday 11th March.

GABY CHIAPPE wrote the episode of *Lark Rise to Candleford* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Sunday 8th March.

ARNOLD EVANS wrote the episode of *Doctors "The Thirteenth"* going out on BC1 at 1:45pm on Friday 13th March.

STEVEN FAY wrote the episodes of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th March.

CHRIS FEWTRELL wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Friday 13th March.

JOHN FINNEMORE wrote the episode of *Cabin Pressure "Cremonia"* going out on Radio 4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 10th March.

ADRIAN FLYNN wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Monday 9th till Friday 13th March with each episode being repeated at 2:00pm the day after its original broadcast.

JONATHAN HARVEY wrote the episode of *Coronation Steet* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Monday 9th March.

RICHARD HOLMES'S radio play *Anaesthesia* is going out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Tuesday 10th March.

MARTIN JAMESON wrote the episode of *Casualty "Before a Fall"* going out on BBC1 at 8:30pm on Saturday 7th March.

IAN KERSHAW wrote the episode of *Shameless* going out on C4 at 10:00pm on Tuesday 10th March.

ALAN MCDONALD'S radio play *Ripley Under Ground* is going out on Radio 4 as part of *The Complete Ripley* series at 2:30pm on Saturday 7th March.

DEBBIE OATES wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Friday 13th March.

LYN PAPADOPOULOS wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 10th March.

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

PAUL ROUNDELL wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 9th March.

SI SPENCER wrote the episode of *The Bill "Matters of the Mind"* going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Wednesday 11th March.

JOE TURNER wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 9th March.

ANDREW S. WALSH wrote *Prince of Persia : Epilogue*, which is now available for download on X-Box 360 and PS3. 'Epilogue' continues the story from the end of *Prince of Persia* taking the Prince and Erika into an underground palace as they race to escape Ahriman's spreading influence.

KATHERINE WAY wrote the episode of *Doctors "A Life in Pictures"* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Wednesday 11th March.

STEPHEN WYATT wrote the episode of *The Yellowpush Papers "My Debut in Society"* going out on Radio 4 at 11:30am on Monday 9th March.

KARIN YOUNG wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on 10th March.

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