

# The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 320, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008

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## **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).

## **Guild Events**

### **3. Writers' Guild Social Event - Thursday 15th May 2008**

Guild members and industry friends are invited to a private view of the Romance exhibition at the Kowalsky Gallery, London EC1, hosted by the Writers' Guild of Great Britain and the Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACS).

Thursday 15th May, from 6.30 – 9pm  
Readings will begin at 6.45pm

Advance booking recommended. Tickets: £5 in advance or on the door. To book, please email [naomi@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:naomi@writersguild.org.uk)

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:

GABRIEL BISSET-SMITH is one of the core writers at the Soho theatre. He is a member of the BBC writer's room and the SPARKS radio scheme. He has been on attachment at the Royal Court and had plays produced at the Hampstead Theatre. He took part in this years 24 hour plays and he is currently writing new projects for Teatro Vivo.

PAUL BOAKYE is an experienced professional writer, broadcaster, and creative project manager. He is the recipient of myriad business and writing awards and prestigious accolades including advising the Power Inquiry and a recent invitation to meet The Queen. While currently writing his first novel, Paul will also start a Creative Writing MA at Goldsmiths College in September, and is on the lookout for a new agent to help him market his work. See the author's blog at [www.paulboakye.net](http://www.paulboakye.net)

GUY DUCKER worked as assistant editor on hit movies like "Calendar Girls", BAFTA winners like "The Warrior" and many more. Between these jobs Guy started writing feature film scripts and making short films. So far he has written five full-length scripts, one of which is in development and another of which recently earned him a place on the prestigious TAPS course. Guy's short film "Telling Mark" has played international film festivals and has been shown by the BBC, HBO and Sky. He has directed a section of a film called "Nineliveslondon" – a multiple director feature about the July 7th bombings.

LAUREN KEMP is an editor at KnockBack magazine and a leading mouthpiece of British feminism. She has featured in the Guardian and Observer magazines and also runs a very successful sideline editing texts, emails and wall posts for hapless friends in romantic quandries.

CLAIRE WILSON currently has a Teen Thriller called 'Back to Jack' under option with Element Films, a drama short called 'Birthday Girl' in development with Orange Wasp Productions and a dark comedy series under option with the BBC. Her family drama script 'Re-Possession' was awarded Runner-Up 2008 for the Tony Doyle Scholarship and she was also short-listed for the UK Film Council's 25 Words or Less competition. She's a bright young thing, uber-talented and we love her. And Naomi wrote this biog, by the way, she didn't write it herself...

JAKE YAPP has written for Never Mind the Buzzcocks on BBC2, and his series "Pleased to Meet You" on BBC7 last year was nominated for the Sony Award for Best Comedy. He's currently preparing a one-man show for Edinburgh. You can watch him mucking about at [www.youtube.com/jakeyapp](http://www.youtube.com/jakeyapp)

More information about the Kowalsky Gallery and the current exhibition can be found at: <http://www.kowalskygallery.co.uk/>

#### **4. Scripting the Future? - West Midlands Branch Meeting**

Wednesday 18 June, 7.30pm

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain invites you to a meeting to discuss the future of new writing in the West Midlands following the Arts Council's decision to cut funding to Script, the agency for developing writers in the region.

The meeting will be opened by a panel discussion between Nicholas McInerny, chair of Script, Caroline Jester, Literary Manager of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Jonathan Davidson, Director of Midland Creative Projects Ltd and the

Birmingham Book Festival, chaired by David Edgar, president of the Writers' Guild. Representatives of West Midlands theatres, television, radio and film producers and arts agencies will be at the meeting.

All writers are welcome to this FREE event. Following the success of our first meeting in March, the West Midlands branch of the Writers' Guild will be officially launched, and celebrated with a glass of wine.

Venue: The Birmingham Rep (St Paul's suite)

The last meeting was oversubscribed, so please RSVP as soon as possible to [WMidWritersGuild@aol.com](mailto:WMidWritersGuild@aol.com).

## Industry Events

### **5. Amused Moose Comedy Club Laugh off**

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May, Amused Moose West End's Friday comedy club presents the exciting first heat of AmusedMoose LaughOff 08 in association with 4DVD, with special guest the excellent Canadian headline comedian Mike Wilmot, the top twelve contenders handpicked from last Saturday's qualifying rounds - George Ryegold, Moonfish Rumba, Jude Faltsness, Ian Smith, John Dorney, Josh Widdicombe, Helen Arney, Caty Williams, Chris Boyde, Scott Calonico, Tom Rosenthal, Nat Luurtsema - all charmingly compered by Rob Tarbuck.

Venue: Arts Theatre Comedy Cellar, Great Newport St, WC2H 7JB. (Leicester Square tube - turn right out of exit 3).

7.30pm for 7.45pm: showtime 8pm.

Please email [comedy@amusedmoose.com](mailto:comedy@amusedmoose.com) ASAP to book your guest ticket, which are limited so don't delay! (Further heats are on 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May... and in Dublin on 27<sup>th</sup> May, so if you can't make it this Friday maybe you can on a future night)

### **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)

## Courses and Workshops

### **7. Improvisation for Directors and Screenwriters with Sean McCann at LFS**

10th & 11th May 2008

Improvisation is often seen as a comedic, sketch-based performance style. However, it is also used successfully to enable writers to write “on their feet” and as a powerful tool for improving many elements from dialogue within scenes to overall story structure.

This weekend course is designed to give screenwriters and directors simple and effective tools with which to create new work and fix problems in existing work through improvisation.

More Info: <http://www.lfs.org.uk/courses/short/improvisation/introduction.php>

Profile Tutor: [http://www.lfs.org.uk/courses/short/improvisation/ct\\_profile.php](http://www.lfs.org.uk/courses/short/improvisation/ct_profile.php)

Fee: £150.00 (plus 10% discount for Writer's Guild members)

For more information visit our website: <http://www.lfs.org.uk> or email: [s.vanroomen@lfs.org.uk](mailto:s.vanroomen@lfs.org.uk)

To book a place please email Saskia van Roomen at the London Film School: [s.vanroomen@lfs.org.uk](mailto:s.vanroomen@lfs.org.uk)

### **8. Jan Etherington's Comedy Writing Course**

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Writers' Guild member and award winning comedy writer, Jan Etherington has more dates for her comedy writing course, after the success of the first workshops. May 17th & 18th is a full weekend, covering structure, character and dialogue with the help of actor Keith Barron.

Then, Sunday 8th June is a one day workshop where Jan will be joined by writer/director Bill Clark.

Jan co-created the prime-time hit television comedy series, Second Thoughts, Faith In The Future, Next of Kin and Duck Patrol plus many radio comedies and is also a successful journalist and broadcaster.

The course at the Riverside Arts Centre, in Sunbury on Thames, Middx includes lunch and places are very limited, so book early.

More details on: [www.comedycourse.biz](http://www.comedycourse.biz)

Tel: 020 8133 0110/mob: 0788 7907713

Or email: [comedycourse@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:comedycourse@hotmail.co.uk)

## **9. 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-parter. 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

### 10. 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.

### 11. 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).

## What Members Are Getting Up To

JESSE ARMSTRONG and SAM BAIN'S comedy *Peep Show* continues tonight on Channel 4 at 10:30pm, with the next episode going out at the same time next week.

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SARAH BAGSHAW wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

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TRACEY BLACK wrote the episode of *Doctors* "Heart Will Go On" going out on BBC1 at 1:40pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

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MARTIN BROCKLEBANK'S new short play *The Black Water* is being performed at the CCA, Glasgow. It's on from Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 1.15pm (doors open 1.00pm) until 1.45pm.

Tickets £5 from CCA box office 0141 352 4900.

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RAY BROOKING wrote the episode of *Doctors* "What the World Needs Now" going out on BBC1 at 1:40pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

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JADEN CLARK wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

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SIMON CROWTHER wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 8:30pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

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PAUL FARRELL wrote the episode of *Waking the Dead* "Wounds" the second part of which is going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

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ALISON FISHER wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

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KATE GLOVER'S play *An African's Blood*, which she wrote and directed, is being going on tour with The Historia Theatre Company. For more information, including dates and locations please email [erik@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:erik@writersguild.org.uk).

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STEVE HUGHES wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

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PETER KERRY wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

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ANDREW MARSHALL wrote the episode of *Agatha Christie's Poirot* "The Affair at the Victory Ball" going out on ITV1 at 4:00pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

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TOM NEEDHAM wrote the episode of *The Bill* "Frontline: Endgame" going out on ITV1 at 8:00pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

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DEBBIE OATES wrote the episode of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

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DAVID RENWICK wrote the episode of *Love Soup* "Human Error" going out on BBC1 at 10:00pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May. He also wrote the episode of *Agatha Christie's Poirot* "The Tragedy at Marsdon Manor" going out on ITV1 at 4:00pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

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HEATHER ROBSON wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on Channel 4 at 6:30pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

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CAROLE SIMPSON-SOLAZZO wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> until Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May, with each episode being repeated at 2:00pm the day after its original broadcast.

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NICK WOOD'S play *Warrior Square* has been produced by the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield and is currently on tour until the end of June.

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*Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 15-17 Britannia St, London WC1X 9JN; [erik@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:erik@writersguild.org.uk); [www.writersguild.org.uk](http://www.writersguild.org.uk); tel +44 (0) 20 7833 0777; fax +44 (0) 20 7833 4777. This email bulletin is a service to members and associates of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain. Comments, suggestions and requests to be removed from the distribution list should be sent to [erik@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:erik@writersguild.org.uk). Items are included from a variety of sources. The Guild does its best to check everything and make corrections when necessary but we will not accept responsibility for mistakes and omissions. You are advised to check terms and conditions before entering any commitments. Copyright Writers' Guild of Great Britain and suppliers of items 2008.*