

The Writers' Guild Weekly e-bulletin No. 353, Friday 9th January 2009

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Guild News

1. The Writers' Guild's New Home

The Writers' Guild office has moved from Britannia Street to **40 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RX** (nearest tubes: Farringdon and King's Cross). The office was closed this week so that the staff could unpack, but we will be open for business as usual from Monday 12th January onwards.

We have only had limited access to our phones and emails this week, so please bear with us. If you are waiting to hear from us, please contact us again by email or **call the switchboard on 020 7833 0777**. Our main phone number and email addresses remain the same, but the old extension numbers no longer work. If you

want to get through to a specific member of staff, please call the switchboard and ask to be transferred.

Thank you for your patience this week and we look forward to speaking you, or perhaps seeing you at a meeting in our new home, in 2009.

Happy New Year!

2. Harold Pinter 1930-2008

Harold Pinter, who has died at the age of 78, has been widely acclaimed as one of the most important writers since the war. He was a longstanding member of the Guild - indeed, it was the Guild that nominated him for the Nobel Prize that he won in 2005.

Analysing the political nature of his work, [Guild President David Edgar](#) argues that Pinter's early plays have often been misunderstood.

Before Pinter, what was said between the words of English plays tended to be suppressed emotion, what individuals denied about themselves. From Pinter onwards, the pauses were about cruelty and menace - what self-satisfied 1950s Britain denied about itself. When I directed *The Caretaker* at school, the only explanatory quotation in the programme was: "What are my plays about? The weasel under the cocktail cabinet."

Pinter's early plays - some set around the cocktail cabinet, but mostly among the weasels - now look less like British absurdism and more like a portrait of a corroding social structure.

To read on please go to:

<http://writersguild.org.uk/templates/article.php?pageid=293>.

3. The Coming of the Guild

As part of the Guild's 50th Birthday celebrations this year, Guild member Nick Yapp is in the process of writing the history of the Guild. To read an extraction from it, please go to: <http://writersguild.org.uk/templates/article-pic.php?pageid=292>.

4. The Writers' Guild of Great Britain Cricket Club

After the very positive response from the last ad for the first ever W.G.G.B.C.C. (Any suggestions for a snappier title are most welcome) we would like to remind those keen to play that we will be organising several net sessions throughout the winter months and to come forward with dates when they would be available to come along.

As an incentive, we will be organising the sessions at the indoor nets at Lord's cricket ground for those who have ever dreamed of uttering the eternal phrase "When I played at Lord's". If you would like to come along for the practise sessions and more importantly for the actual games please email the Guild's admin assistant Erik Pohl at erik@writersguild.org.uk.

Events

5. CINEVILLE With Julian Fellowes

Wednesday 14th January 2009

Lighthouse, 28 Kensington Street, Brighton

6.00pm - Doors

7.00pm - Start of Event

Entry - £5/£4 concs

Spaces are limited. To book in advance please contact Emma 01273 647197

Monday–Friday 10am–6pm or emma@lighthouse.org.uk

6. Local Films Night at the Dylan Thomas Centre

The **Dylan Thomas Centre** in association with **Strima Productions** presents a **Local Films Night** on **Wednesday, 14 January** at **7.00pm**.

Come along for the first event of 2009 when they showcase 4 short films made in the area. The programme includes the following: *Under Pressure* (13 min): a short, amusing tale of a visit to the Doctors, which carries a serious message. *My Little Philly* (15 min): a delightful romantic love story set in a care home. *Dealing with the Divine* (28 min): the age of the hippy is not dead! An amusing story of new age purveyors of spiritual guidance. *The Last One* (40 min): a group of patients in a psychiatrist's waiting room find themselves locked in as tensions rise and emotions play out.

Strima Productions is a group of Swansea-based film makers who have been involved in the Wednesday Theatre Play Offs and Act Swansea, and were inspired to 'make a movie' by Phil Scarpaci, president of Los Angeles-based Kelly Scarpaci Productions, at the first Swansea Bay Film Festival. Please contact drivrisk@globalnet.co.uk for more information.

Tickets will be available from the Dylan Thomas Centre from early January: £4 full price and £3 concessions.

7. The State of the Art with Charles Simic

The Poetry Society's Annual Lecture
Thursday 5 February • 7.00pm

*'For me a poem is a place where one invites someone in. You build a little house, fix it up real nice. Inside you've got a painting on the wall, a new couch, some knick-knacks and souvenirs, a swell meal all laid out on the table, and you open the door and hope somebody comes in...'*Charles Simic, *Poetry Review*.

To mark the celebration of its centenary in 2009, The Poetry Society invites Charles Simic to give The Poetry Society's Annual Lecture.

Drawing on his experience as Poet Laureate of the United States, Charles will deliver a playful and provocative lecture about the shifts in today's poetic landscape from Belgrade to Boston.

This event will be hosted by Anne-Marie Fyfe, Chair of the Poetry Society.

Tickets: £12, concs and Poetry Society members £8; advance booking required

Booking: call the ticket line on 020 7392 9220, Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 5.30pm

Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4QH

Tube: Liverpool Street

www.bishopsgate.org.uk/events.

Courses and Workshops

8. TAPS – Series Masterclass

Two places have become available on the TAPS Series Masterclass course.

The course aimed at writers hoping to make the jump from 30 to 60 minute work has gone from strength to strength. Last year two TAPS writers were commissioned to write an episode of The Bill from the strength of their work, demonstrating that TAPS scripts are seen by the right people.

The course (2 x 2 day workshops) will take place at the Talkback Thames Studios and will be a key writer on The Bill, Stuart Morris. Working in groups, practical exercises will allow you to master the 4-act structure as well as the complexities of balancing production requirements against serial elements and original story-telling. You'll even get a guided tour of The Bill set.

The fee for the courses is £425 + VAT and is open to all writers with at least one 30 minute transmission credit.

This is a good opportunity for any writer to stand out from the rest of the crowd as your work will be assessed by actual series Script Editors. For application forms please email shamsul@tapsnet.org or for more information visit our site <http://www.tapsnet.org>

Opportunities

9. Archie Markham MA Writing Short Story Scholarship

The English department is launching a short story competition. This is linked to the prestigious MA Writing course which is taught at the university.

Applicants to the MA Writing (Short Story Prize) have the opportunity to apply for this scholarship, which waives the fee for full-time study on the degree. The scholarship is awarded to the best short story portfolio submitted with the application for a place on the course.

The award is in honour of Professor Emeritus E A Markham (1939-2008), who was a tutor at Sheffield Hallam University and a guiding spirit for the MA Writing.

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10. Brian Moore Short Story Awards

The Brian Moore Short Story Awards is open!

Don't miss your opportunity to win Northern Ireland's most prestigious writing contest. **Entry deadline: March 1, 2009.**

This year's judge is renowned American short-story writer and novelist, Richard Bausch. Richard will be in Belfast in May 2009 to announce the winner of this year's prize.

Full contest entry details at:

<http://www.creativewritersnetwork.org/competition%20page.html>

1st Prize: £750

2nd Prize: £300

3rd Prize: £200

This year's winning story will be published in **Verbal**, which is distributed to 100,000 homes across N.I., with second and third prize winners to be published in **Ulla's Nib**.

11. 25th Annual One Act Festival

The LOST Theatre Company are inviting submissions for their **25th Annual One Act Festival** to take place at the New End Theatre, London from 5th – 16th May.

The Festival will once again be adjudicated by Mr Jeremy Kingston (one of The Times theatre critics). This annual event offers the chance to air new productions on the London Fringe.

So whether you are a **writer, director** or **choreographer**; they provide the venue, publicity and technical support, you provide the production.

For full information and application forms visit the website at www.losttheatre.co.uk or call 07963 083 133.

12. Bath Literature Festival 2009: General Booking Now Open

General booking for the **Bath Literature Festival 2009** is now open! You can book online at www.bathlitfest.org.uk or at www.bathfestivals.org.uk: just click on the event of your choosing and follow the booking links. Alternatively, you can ring the Box Office on 01225 463362 or visit at:

2 Church Street, Abbey Green, Bath, BA1 1NL.

13. The Script_1 Competition is back!

Each year the Cheltenham Screenwriters' Festival launches it's 'Script_1' writing competition for South West based writers and this year is no different, but instead of giving you free rein, the competition entries are to be based on one of three themes...

'The Olympics 2012'

'A West Country Love Story'

'Reality Television'

The title can be yours but it must be about or contain elements of these three themes.

If you'd like to enter, just send in your idea for a 10-minute film and, if it is accepted, you will be invited to attend a FREE workshop in Cheltenham where you will be shown how to turn it into a TV or film script. Following the workshop the best three scripts will win cash prizes of £300, £100 and £50 each. The prizes will be presented at the International Screenwriters' Festival in October 2009.

Deadline for entries: 5pm on 27th February 2009. Workshops will be in March and April.

Send entries either by email to cathi@screenwritersfestival.com, or by post

to Screenwriters' Festival, Unit 24c, Daniels Ind. Estate, Bath Road, Stroud, GL5 3TJ.

For further information on how to apply and competition rules please go to the Festival website, www.screenwritersfestival.com or contact Cathi Beloe on 07831 733 612.

What Members Are Getting Up To

BOB ADAMS. Playwright Bob Adams has now had his first novel published. *Spybus* is a humorous spy thriller.

There will be a book launch at Blackwells in Edinburgh on Thursday 29th January at [6.30.p.m.](#)

CAREY ANDREWS wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Friday 16th January.

RORY BREMNER gives a barbed farewell to outgoing American President George W Bush on BBC Radio 4 at 8.00 pm on Saturday 10 January. With the aid of the archive of his speeches, he looks at the evolution of Bush's rhetoric over the last eight years. With contributions from Bush's speech writers and political commentators, the programme explores whether Bush grew to become an effective orator and asks: did we "misunderestimate" him after all?

PAUL CAMPBELL wrote the episode of *Doctors* "Widow-to-Be" going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Wednesday 14th January.

DAVID COOK'S radio play *Walter Now* - starring Sir Ian McKellen - goes out on Radio 4 at 2:30pm on Saturday 10th January.

DAVID CROFT and JIMMY PERRY wrote the episode of *Dad's Army* "If the Cap Fits" going out on BBC2 at 8:30pm on Saturday 10th January.

RICHARD CURTIS co-wrote the episode of *The Vicar of Dibley* "Love and Marriage" going out on BBC1 at 9:30pm on Friday 16th January.

MARTIN DAY was the lead writer on the new CBBC series *Crisis Control*, which began last Friday. The second episode of which goes out on Saturday 10th January.

ANNE DEVLIN'S new radio play, *The Forgotten*, will be the Friday Play on BBC Radio 4 on 16th January at 9.00pm. Alarming lapses of memory lead to Bee losing her home and career. She returns home to her family and ageing mother, increasingly isolated and frustrated with herself. Then she meets a strange creature in the park who calls himself The Forgotten. Can he help her?

SIMON FRITH wrote the episodes of *The Archers* going out on Radio 4 at 7:00pm from Sunday 11th till Friday 16th January with each episode being repeated at 2:15pm the day following its original broadcast.

BILL GALLAGHER'S *Lark Rise to Candleford* continues on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Sunday 11th January.

JULIA GILBERT wrote the episode of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Thursday 15th January.

JONATHAN HARVEY wrote the episodes of *Coronation Street* going out on ITV1 at 7:30pm and at 8:30pm on Monday 12th January.

MARTHA HILLIER wrote the episode of *Holby City* "A Clean Slate" going out on BBC1 at 7:30pm on Tuesday 13th January.

STEVE HUGHES wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Tuesday 13th January.

TONY JORDAN wrote the episode of *Hustle* going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Thursday 15th January.

PETER KERRY wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Wednesday 14th January.

ROB KINSMAN wrote the episode of *Doctors* going out on BBC1 at 1:45pm on Monday 12th January.

JESSICA LEA wrote the episode of *Hollyoaks* going out on C4 at 6:30pm on Tuesday 13th January.

DAVID LEMON debut feature *Faintheart* will be showing at selected cinemas nationwide on February as well as streaming online via myspace. It stars Eddie Marsan, Jessica Hynes and Ewen Bremner and will be released on DVD from Feb 2nd.

ROY MITCHELL wrote the episode of *New Tricks* "Congratulations" going out on BBC1 at 9:00pm on Tuesday 13th January.

CHRISTOPHER REASON wrote the episodes of *EastEnders* going out on BBC1 at 8:00pm on Monday 12th and at 7:30pm on Tuesday 13th January.

PAUL ROUNDELL wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Friday 16th January.

JOHN SULLIVAN wrote the episode of *The Green Green Grass* going out on BBC1 at Thursday 15th January.

BILL TAYLOR wrote the episode of *Emmerdale* going out on ITV1 at 7:00pm on Monday 12th January.

MARTYN WADE'S dramatisation of *Orley Farm* goes out on Radio 4 at 2:30pm Saturday 10th January. The last installment goes out at 3:00pm on Sunday 11th January.

NICK WARBURTON'S radio play *Lawn Wars* goes out on Radio 4 at 2:15pm on Monday 12th January.

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