

VANESSA ROSENTHAL – WRITER

SNAPSHOTS ACROSS A CAREER

Modelling Spitfires ~ a Yellow Leaf Theatre production for
the New End Theatre, Hampstead ~ 2010

“A fascinating study in exploitation that climaxes in a truly sinister last line.”
Jeremy Kingston, *The Times*, February 2010 in a 3 ★★ ★ Review

Writing The Century ~ BBC Radio 4, Woman’s Hour, 2007-2011

Originated, conceived and wrote almost half of this entire series ~ a dramatisation
of the history of the 20th Century told through unpublished letters, diaries and
memoirs.

Exchanges in Bialystok ~ BBC Radio 4, Afternoon Theatre, 2003
Chosen to represent the BBC for the European Broadcasting Union’s
Conference in Helsinki 2003

Nominated ~ BAFTA Mental Health Radio Drama Award, Oct. 2001

26 commissions ~ 66 Scripts ~ BBC Radio 4, 1998-2011 ~ plus stage plays & novels

Seasons Greetings ~ An adaptation of Ayckbourn’s play, BBC Radio Dec. 2000
~ a special Boxing Day Commission. Repeated for BBC World Service 2011

Jubile ~ The Constable Trophy Fiction Prize ~ Runner Up, 1986

VANESSA ROSENTHAL ~ A HISTORY OF WRITING

- 2011 June** *Shall I Say A Kiss* ~ BBC Radio 4, Afternoon Theatre
with Miram Margolyes
Producer, Polly Thomas
- 2011 January** *Writing The Century* ~ Week 17
Two Women Across the Century ~ BBC Radio 4, Woman's Hour
A 5 episode, 1 week series with Eleanor Bron and Suzanne Bertish
Producer, Gary Brown
- 2009 August** *Writing The Century* ~ Week 11
Suez and After ~ BBC R4 Woman's Hour
A 5 episode, 1 week series
Producer, Pauline Harris
- 2009 June** *Writing The Century* ~ Week 9
Suez and After ~ BBC R4 Woman's Hour
A 5 episode, 1 week series
Producer, Garry Brown
- 2008 January
to August** *Writing The Century*
Weeks 1 to 4 ~ BBC R4 Woman's Hour
*1900 ~ The New Millenium, The Start of It All,
A Land Fit for Heroes, Mrs. Simpson Says*
20 episodes, across 4 weeks with Toby Jones in Weeks 1 & 2
Producer, Polly Thomas
- 2007 May** *The Alibi* ~ BBC Radio 4, Afternoon Theatre
A dramatisation of a Daphne Du Maurier novella with Michael Maloney
Producer, Chris Wallis ~ Watershed Productions
- 2006 June** *The Paston Letters* ~ BBC Radio 4, Woman's Hour
A dramatisation of the oldest letters in medieval England
A 10 episode, 2 week series with Geraldine James and Rosemary Leach
Producer, Polly Thomas
- 2005 January** *The Drover's Path* ~ BBC Radio 4, Saturday Afternoon Theatre
Pick of the day ~ *The Daily Mail, Independent and Radio Times*
with Malcolm Hebden
Producer, Polly Thomas
- 2004 September** *Dr Glas* ~ BBC Radio 4, Afternoon Theatre
adaptation of the classic Swedish novel with Jim Carter and Lisa Harrow
Producer, Chris Wallis ~ Watershed Productions
- 2004 March** *Letters From My Mother* ~ BBC Radio 4, Woman's Hour
Producer, Polly Thomas

- 2003 September *The Spring Sonata* ~ BBC Radio 4, Saturday Afternoon Theatre.
Gillian Reynold's Choice, *The Telegraph*
Producer, Chris Wallis ~ Watershed Productions
- 2003 January *Exchanges in Bialystok* ~ original play for BBC Radio 4
Chosen by the BBC to represent the UK for the European Broadcasting Union's Conference in Helsinki 2003
Pick of the week ~ *Time Out* and *The Times* Pick of the day ~
The Guardian, Independent and Financial Times
with David Horovitch
Producer, David Ian Neville ~ BBC Scotland
- 2002 April *Bottle Blonde And Beautiful* ~ original play for BBC Radio 4
Pick of the day *The Times, Telegraph* and *Independent*
Producer Polly Thomas
- 2001 April *Bye Bye Miss America High* ~ original play for BBC Radio 4,
a Fast Track commission
Short-listed for the Bafta Mental Health Drama Award October 2001
Pick of the week and pick of the day
Producer Melanie Harris ~ BBC Manchester.
- 2000 December *No Ice in Weymouth* ~ BBC Radio 4, Woman's Hour.
A recreation of the world of Jane Austen ~
based on her letters and on other sources
A 5 episode, 1 week series with Suzannah Harker
Pick of the week ~ *The Times*
Producer, Peter Leslie Wilde ~ BBC Birmingham
- 2000 November *Founders Day* ~ original play for BBC Radio 4
Pick of the week and pick of the day
with Brigit Forsyth
Producer, Polly Thomas ~ BBC Manchester.
- 2000 July *A Confirmed Bachelor* ~ BBC Radio 4, Classic Serial
An adaptation of Schnitzler's novella
Producer, Peter Leslie Wild ~ BBC Birmingham
- 1999 December *Seasons Greetings* ~ BBC Radio 4, Christmas Special
A radio adaptation of Alan Ayckbourn's play with Frances Barber,
Bill Nighy, Geoffrey Palmer and John Sessions.
Producer, Polly Thomas ~ BBC Manchester
- 1999 November *Germes Apart* ~ original play for BBC Radio 4
Pick of the week
Producer, Polly Thomas ~ BBC Manchester
- 1999 July *Out in The Dark* ~ BBC Radio 4
Pick of the week
Producer, Peter Leslie Wild ~ BBC Birmingham

- 1998 June** *Divided Harvest* ~ original play for BBC Radio 4,
a Fast Track commission
Producer, Nandita Ghose ~ BBC Manchester
- 1998 May** *Jerusalem North West* ~ original play for BBC Radio 4
Pick of the week and pick of the day
Producer, Nandita Ghose ~ BBC Manchester
- 1996 August** *Out in the Dark* ~ Edinburgh Festival Fringe
Adelstrop Productions
- 1994 June** *Out in the Dark* ~ West Yorkshire Playhouse
an original play with music on the life of the poet Edward Thomas
Adelstrop Productions
- 1986** JUBILEE ~ The Constable Trophy Fiction Prize ~ Runner Up
Development Grant from Yorkshire Arts
Screenplay option developed with the late Mai Zetterling.
- 1980 - 1990** Wrote four novels ~ commended by Constables, Collins and Heinemann
Pat Barker, judge for the Constable Trophy, makes introduction to her
publishers, Virago The novels seen as emerging voice of serious new writer

Background

Vanessa Rosenthal is a successful professional actor with many years experience. Born and brought up in Manchester, she trained at The Central School of Drama and has worked in theatres up and down the country as well as in radio drama, film and television.

Things said of her writing

‘... funny, angry and very recognisable. Watch out for Vanessa Rosenthal, she’s a rising star.’

Gillian Reynolds, *The Telegraph*

‘Beautifully told with dialogue so carefully crafted it carries with it a sense of being overheard.’ Peter Barnard, *The Times*

‘The characters cover a larger range than one would expect.’ Pascal Wyse, *The Guardian*

‘Vanessa Rosenthal has selected some of the finest moments of Austen’s correspondence, along with some choice extracts from the novels to paint a vivid picture.’

Peter Barnard, *The Times* (of Jane Austen’s letters for BBC Radio 4, Woman’s Hour)

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