



WRITER'S TALK

Dr Clive Coleman

Thursday 11 March 2021 at 5pm

The Duke



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Our traditional Writers' Lunches have always ended with the opportunity to purchase the book of the day and have it signed by the author. The manifestation of Covid-19 has changed all that and on 11 February the virtual Writers' Talk presents Dr Clive Coleman, not a writer of books, but of plays and films.

He also happens to be a former barrister turned journalist. Since 2010 he has been BBC News Legal Correspondent covering major domestic and international legal stories across the BBC news output on television, radio and online. His reporting has earned him a host of awards. For 6 years before that he presented the BBC Radio 4 legal analysis programme *Law in Action*.

His creative writing career began with regular contributions to radio series *Weekending* and *The News Huddlines*. He wrote sitcoms and contributed to the television comedy series *Spitting Image* and *Deadringers*. His legal sitcom *Chambers* ran for three seasons on BBC Radio 4 set in what was described as "perhaps the country's least spectacular law chambers" transferring to BBC1 for two television seasons starring John Bird, James Fleet and Sarah Lancashire. His plays include *Young Marx* which he co-wrote with Richard Bean and which was the opening production at London's new Bridge Theatre in 2017.

Again working with Bean, Clive's latest film screenplay offering is *The Duke* which is the focus of his talk. It is based on the true story of Kempton Bunton, a Newcastle cab driver prosecuted for the 1961 theft of Francisco Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery. It stars Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren and when premiered at the 2020 Venice Film Festival received 5-star reviews from The Guardian and The Telegraph in which Robbie Collin writes: "Oscars surely beckon". The film is due to be released this year.

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