Hugh Stoddart

Non-fiction writer, Radio/tv/screenwriter
Hugh Stoddart has had a long career as a screenwriter. His first feature-length original screenplay Remembrance was shortlisted for an Evening Standard award and won grand prize at the Taormina Film Festival. This was followed by his adaptation of To the Lighthouse for the BBC. Other films from the 1980s include We Think the World of You starring Alan Bates and Gary Oldman. His play Gibraltar Strait about the shooting of three members of the IRA in 1990 was followed soon after by his six-part drama serial The Big Battalions for Channel 4. Concerned with religious faith and conflict, and set partly in the Middle East, it was a prescient piece in view of 9/11 and all that followed. His adaptation of The Mill on the Floss, starring Emily Watson, was screened by BBC1 in 1997.

Hugh worked in the visual arts in the 1970s, finally as director of the Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, and his involvement with art continued as an art critic and writer of catalogue essays, including contributory chapters to books about the Irish artist Tony O’Malley and choreographer Rosemary Butcher. More recently, alongside feature films in development, two short films mark a new departure as a director. His commitment to writing remains, however, and his support and encouragement of writing in all its forms by people in prison is well known. A co-founder of Not Shut Up, he was editor for many years of this magazine for art and writing, now established throughout the British penal system.