



FSE Newsletter

September 2010

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Change film industry culture

Quote of the month

◀◀ European writing talent should be trusted, encouraged and supported. The European film industries need to find ways to attract and keep its screenwriters in the cinema and in their craft.

Introduction to the *European Screenwriters Manifesto*
Full text : <http://www.scenaristes.org/manifesto.htm>

Raising the screenwriter's profile

◀◀ Broadly speaking, the public face of the American movie world is the movie star; in Europe, it is the director. What Europe and America have in common, though, is the invisibility of the screenwriter.

Guy Hibbert

The FSE and the IAWG are jointly campaigning to improve the understanding of the vital role of screenwriters, both within the film industry and throughout the media. One crucial area of concern is the representation and treatment of screenwriters by film festivals. Guy Hibbert, with Olivier Lorelle, Howard A. Rodman, James Schamus and Sveinbjörn Baldvinsson, has co-signed the letter that the FSE and the IAWG are sending to festivals in order to prepare the World Screenwriters' Film Festival List of Excellence. "Film festivals are where films are premiered, where film business is carried out, where film people meet socially, where the director represents the film, where the actor provides the glamour - and where the writer is never seen", writes Guy Hibbert in a recent article published in the autumn issue of *UK Writer*, the WGGB's magazine...

He knows what he is talking about : the 11th edition of the European Film Festival of Lecce, Italy (13th to 18th April 2010; directed by Alberto La Monica and Cristina Soldano), awarded the Best Screenplay to the

film *Five Minutes Of Heaven* by director Oliver Hirschbiegel. However, nowhere is mentioned the name of the screenwriter, Guy Hibbert himself, who had not been told that his script was in contention for an award; was not invited to the festival; and most extraordinary of all, had not been informed directly by the festival that the script had won an award. FSE, WGGB and SACT immediately wrote to the director of the festival in solidarity with Guy Hibbert. The festival apologized and altered its press release. "A small thing, maybe. A minor victory", wrote Guy Hibbert, "but I believe this could be the beginning of a campaign to change film industry culture".

More info

UK Writer, the Writers' Guild Magazine, Autumn 2010 , www.writersguild.org.uk

And <http://www.thestage.co.uk/news/newsstory.php/29348/guy-hibbert-challenges-festivals-to-include>

European Policy

Gallo report on copyright enforcement approved in plenary session

This report "on enforcement of intellectual property rights in the internal market", written by Marielle Gallo, a French member of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) for the Committee on Legal Affairs of the European Parliament, has been adopted by the European Parliament, by 328 to 245 votes on 22nd September.

The report suggests that the Commission "introduces a set of measures to combat intellectual property infringements" and calls for voluntary agreements between ISPs and rights holders to enforce copyright online. An alternative proposal came from the Greens and Socialists to raise the prospect of the "flat rate for culture", which is not acceptable to the creators' groups as a result.

The FSE, along with other creators' organisations representing musicians, actors, technicians, journalists, screenwriters, writers, directors, etc. at European level, issued a joint statement giving their full support to MEP Gallo's report. "We believe that this report represents a good compromise between the different political groups. We equally appreciate the fact that it advocates a balanced and fair approach to illegal file sharing, with an emphasis on educational and awareness raising measures rather than repressive provisions, as it has been often inaccurately reported. We fully acknowledge the need to create a favourable environment enabling consumers to access creative and in-copyright works of high quality. We look forward to further initiatives promoting employment, better remuneration for creators in the sector and the value of intellectual property as a tool to sustain cultural diversity in Europe".

Read full statement :

<http://www.scenaristes.org/pdfs/gallostatement.pdf>

Online distribution of Audiovisual works

The European Commission (DG Internal Market, copyright unit) is planning to organise a public hearing in December in Brussels, in order to gather information and opinions from as many sources as possible in the framework of its preparation of a Green Paper on the above subject, as announced in the Digital Agenda. FSE will actively follow the issue.

Net Neutrality

FSE has responded to a public consultation launched by the European commission on the issue of net neutrality. In its brief document FSE supported the concept of net neutrality and argued that multinational conglomerates should not be able to buy any kind of preferential treatment on the internet

that would disadvantage small innovative production companies or creative individuals trying to reach new audiences through distribution on the internet.

Full FSE statement:

http://www.scenaristes.org/pdfs/netneutrality_web.pdf

European Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomm/library/public_consult/net_neutrality/index_en.htm

European support to the audiovisual sector

The European Union MEDIA Programme launches a public consultation to gather input on the next round of the MEDIA programme after 2013. The consultation is open to individual citizens, public and private bodies, local/regional authorities, ministries and relevant stakeholders in the audiovisual sector both inside and outside the EU and in the European institutions and associations. It will remain open until 30th November 2010. The FSE is drafting a contribution and will invite comments from member guilds to inform that comment.

More info :

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/media/programme/overview/2007/consultation/index_en.htm

By the way, Switzerland officially rejoins MEDIA Programme.

Which Culture Programme after 2013?

The European Commission will very soon launch an online public consultation to gather the opinions of cultural stakeholders on the next generation of the Culture programme. The consultation will stay open until mid-December 2010. In January 2011 the European Commission will hold a public hearing and consult Member States representatives.

More info :

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news2624_en.htm

News from the members

Sharing good practices

ALMA, Spain, has published a guide of tips for Spanish writers, available in the members' area of its website. The contents of this guide are partly based on the book "Working with Writers, A good practice guide for TV programme makers" written by Anthony Read in 2002, updated and published in 2009 by the TV Committee of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain, which has allowed ALMA to translate and adapt the contents to the situation and needs of the Spanish screenwriters. An encouraging example of bilateral cooperation among the members of the FSE.

English original version available at

http://www.writersguild.org.uk/userimages/File/Agreements%20and%20rates/WG_TV_Oct09_LR.pdf

1st Meeting of Spanish Scriptwriters

Escriptors de l'Audiovisual Valencià (EDAV), in collaboration with the Foro de Asociaciones de Guionistas del Audiovisual (FAGA), Autores Literarios de Medios Audiovisuales (ALMA), and the support of the FSE,

has organized the First Meeting of Writers held in Spain, which will take place from 1st to 3rd October in Valencia.

The meeting will gather a group of renowned national and international experts and professionals who will, through specific presentations and round tables, discuss about the most pressing issues currently affecting the professional practice of the cinema, television and new media writers.

The program of the 1st Meeting of Spanish Scriptwriters will focus on this three main areas:

1. Challenges and options for regulation and management of copyright in the Internet age.
2. New profiles of the profession of writer: from the executive production to the audio-visual collaborative one.
3. Current trends in demand for content and its impact on the practice of the screenwriter.

Around 200 scriptwriters and other professionals concerned will attend Valencia, as for example Ignasi Guardans, director of the ICAA (Instituto de la Cinematografía y de las Artes Audiovisuales) – Ministry of Culture; Juan Nebreda and Pablo Hernández, two of the heads of Spanish collecting society SGAE; Cécile Desprings, executive director of SAA – Society of Audiovisual Authors, or renowned scriptwriters such as Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón, Agustín Díaz Yanes or Sergio Gutiérrez Sánchez.

The blog of the event:

<http://encuentroguionistas.wordpress.com>

SENDER elects New Board

The 4th General Congress of SENDER (The Turkish Screenwriters Association) took place on the 29th of May, 2010. The former board, which has executed the administration with great responsibility during the previous years, did not stand for the elections this time, contributing to democracy within the guild. “We take pride in declaring that we have a female chairman, Nilgun Ones, a respected screenwriter in Turkey”. The rest of the new board consists of Sinan Bici (General Secretary), Gulden Cakir, Burak Zeybek and Mujdan Kayserli. The new Board is determined to progress the attempts of the former board and launch new projects providing the best conditions for their colleagues.

Film Festivals in Europe

New Film Academy in Belgium

In order to promote Belgian cinema, the French community of Belgium, in accordance with the professional organizations of the sector, has decided to launch the Magritte Awards. Taking for example the French Césars, a new film academy has been created, called the Académie André Delvaux. The first ceremony of the Magritte Awards will be patronized by Jaco Van Dormael on 5th February 2011 in Brussels.

More in French:

<http://www.academieandredelvaux.be/home.php?lang=fr>

Screenwriting Awards

San Sebastian Film Festival (17-25 September 2010)

The Jury Prize for Best Screenplay went to writer/director Bent Hamer for *Home for Christmas* (Norway-Sweden-Germany).

67th Venice Film Festival Official Awards (31 August – 10 September 2010)

The Osella for Best Screenplay was awarded to writer/director Álex de la Iglesia for the film *Balada Triste de Trompeta* (A Sad Trumpet Ballad) (Spain, France).

The winners of the 23rd European Film Awards will be presented during the ceremony which will take place in Tallinn/Estonia on 4th December 2010. Among the numerous categories of awards, let's mention the "European Screenwriter" award. More to come in the December issue of the FSE newsletter.

Next film festivals

23 September – 3 October

Happening right now, the Reykjavík International Film Festival (RIFF)

<http://en.riff.is>

1-8 October

The International Francophone Film Festival, set up in Namur in 1986, is getting ready to mark its 25th anniversary.

<http://www.fiff.be>

12 – 23 October

Internationaal Filmfestival van Vlaanderen – Gent

<http://www.filmfestival.be/about2.cgi?&lang=en>

13 – 28 October

Times/British Film Institute London Film Festival (BFI)

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/lff>

21 October – 3 November

Vienna International Film Festival

<http://www.viennale.at/en/viennale>

29 - 31 October

New London Screenwriters' Festival

"We decided to create the London Screenwriting Festival to provide the invaluable support that writers need to turn their project into a reality. The London Screenwriters Festival will be a vibrant, illuminating and forward thinking gathering of creative professionals", commented Creative director of the festival and Oscar shortlisted film director, Chris Jones. The festival will feature dozens of seminars, workshops and case studies delivered by the people who have shaped the film and broadcast industry and those who are now creating its future.

<http://www.londonscreenwritersfestival.com>

5-14 November

The 4th Estoril Film Festival

<http://www.estoril-filmfestival.com/en>

FSE monthly newsletter

If your organization would like to have news published in the October issue of the FSE monthly newsletter, or if you have suggestions to improve it, please contact us at the latest on 20th October.

www.scenaristes.org

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