

drehbuchVERBAND Austria **Austrian screenwriters association**

Currently we have 112 members

26 of these are Rookie (junior) members and receive special rates

Our events including seminars and discussions were attended by 1103 visitors (2016).

drehbuchVERBAND Austria

Draft Copyright Directive „Copyright in the Digital Single Market“

In a meeting on September 13th 2017 the Austrian Ministry of Justice commented on the ongoing discussions about the draft „Regulation on Broadcasting and Retransmission“ and the "Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market“ within the government and the official position of Austria in these matters.

Given that Austria will hold the EU-presidency in the second term of 2018 the Austrian ministry of Justice argues that it is expected to find a neutral position in a lagging discussion. Except for some clarifications the drafts will neither be opposed by Austria nor is the Ministry willing to declare new positions or amendments. Nevertheless, the Copyright Directive in its wording today would bring a substantial improvement for Austrian Authors with mechanism of the contract adjustment. It will force the Austrian legislation to amend the regulation on copyright contract law.

Amazon storage media court ruling

In Spring 2017, the Austrian Supreme Court ruled a decision according to which Amazon was to reimburse for private copies. Thus Amazon owes all Austrian owners of rights payments on the basis of that claim. This was a new development, overruling decisions of lower Austrian courts. Specifically the ruling stated that for storage media that have been acquired for private use, this reimbursements have to be paid, unconditionally, furthermore, there would be no redress possible even when the storage media should be used for other purposes than private copying.

Also the distribution of the sums of monies received by these reimbursements toward the social and cultural institutions was considered in keeping with European Law by the Supreme Court and ist o be continued. With this ruling the current system of storage reimbursments has been finally established.

Negotiations with Literar Mechana / collecting society

The Drehbuchverband has a regular seat on the board of the Collecting Society, Literar Mechana and thus can access directly all information and decisions. The newly founded work group, dealing with reimbursement for content on the internet, also has a member of the Drehbuchverband among them. The cooperation between the Collecting Society and the Drehbuchverband is considered very constructive.

ORF - Austrian Broadcasting Association

The negotiations between the Drehbuchverband and the management of ORF are being continued. We finally seem to be able to reach an agreement. In several, intense meetings we could successfully arrive at an adjustment of our fees to the current industry levels. For the last 17 years those fees had not been altered. The unacceptable low fees for a treatment were almost doubled and the payment conditions for authors have been improved.

Contracts for screenwriters

Our model contracts for scriptwriters for cinema feature film, television and film treatment, as well as the contracts for co-authors and script editors find a ready market. The aim to establish standards and practices in the domestic film industry and to strengthen the independence of the authors in contract negotiations seems to be more and more successfully achieved.

The model contracts are used as a template in whole but also in parts, they are broken down into individual components for better usability and adaptation. Each element of the contract contains a commentary to add clarity and in some cases examples to ensure better adaptability.

The contracts were created after intensive work especially in ongoing communication with our members. We see the current template as work-in-progress, where we continue to welcome suggestions and ideas.

Thomas Pluch Prize 2017

The Drehbuchverband Austria is awarding the best national filmed screenplays every year at the Diagonale, Festival of the Austrian Film in Graz. In 2017, the prize was awarded for the 25th time. The award is named after Thomas Pluch, one of the founders of the Drehbuchverband Austria. Endowed with 22.000.- Euro it is one of the biggest film awards in Austrians' film industry. This year's winners were:

The International Jury has selected the winner from 5 submitted scripts and awarded the main prize to **Händl Klaus** für *Kater*

The Thomas Pluch special prize of the Jury goes ex equo to:

- **Monja Art** für *Seventeen*
- **Tizza Covi** für *Mister Universo*

The Thomas Pluch prize for short and middle-length films goes to:

- **Nora Friedel** für *Mimikri*

Members of the International Jury were: Stienette Bosklopper (Producer, Scriptwriter, Producer of Nanouk Leopold, NL), Angelina Maccarone (Scriptwriter, director, Lola-Award for the best unfiled script 2017, DE), Peter Stephan Jungk (Author, Scriptwriter und documentary filmmaker, his Film *Tracking Edith* was shown on the Diagonale 2017, USA/AT)

Members of the National Jury were: Johanna Moder (Scriptwriter, director, AT), Goran Rebic (Scriptwriter, director, AT), Ulrike Schweiger (Scriptwriter, director, dramaturgue, AT),

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Screenwriting award

If she can see it, she can be it - Female* Characters beyond clichés

The two-stage competition for screenplays took place for the first time in 2016. The aim of the competition was to promote the creation of differentiated, complex female characters beyond the clichés for Austrian cinema. The response was surprising: The enormous number of submissions (85 exposés) was unexpected and has shown that there are a vast number of ideas to portrait women away from traditional prototypes.

This year the two-step competition took place again, with comparable feedback and even more public and industry interest.

Prizes are being awarded for a total amount of 40.000 Euro in two stages, the prize money will benefit the screenwriters. In addition the screenwriters are given script consultancy support to the equivalent of 10.500.- Euro for developing the story.

In the first step 5 scripts have been selected by an international jury to develop the submitted exposés to treatments. In the second step one of these five treatments will be developed into a feature length screenplay. In addition 20 selected authors were invited to a special pitching event with female producers. Due to the big success and influence on the Austrian film industry *If she can see it, she can be it* will be continued in 2018.

This screenwriters award was developed in cooperation with FC GLORIA Women's Film Network and financed by The Austrian Film Institute. For more information see: www.drehbuchforum.at

Let's talk about scripts

Panel - Discussions

Let's talk about scripts is our main program to call attention to the work of the screenwriters. In several discussions with screenwriters about the latest Austrian films we on the one hand reach the movie audience, on the other hand writers can share their experiences with the panellists. The popularity among the audience is increasing every year, in 2016 almost 320 participants joined the 5 discussions.

scriptLab fiction / scriptLAB docu script-development program

Script LAB helps authors to optimise the script in the early phase of writing, it is available to professionally established as well as young writers. The authors are working in close cooperation with a script consultant and are financially supported by the Austrian Screenwriters Forum. With this efficient, low cost program we contribute to the diversity of projects, the innovative character and to the increase in quality of the scripts. The writers/filmmakers can benefit directly from the growing acceptance on the producers' side.

scriptLAB fiction has continued as the years before. Since 2006 more than 1000 projects have been submitted of which more than 100 have been promoted.

Since 2013 when we introduced our script development program scriptLAB also for documentaries. Our selective funding have helped to further the efforts of the filmmakers/script writers to attain attention and support from the film funds.

United Writers

A Weekend-Feedback-Workshop for professional screenwriters and filmmakers

In our program *United Writers* 4 professional scriptwriters or auteur-filmmakers have the opportunity to get feed back for their scripts. The workshop is moderated by Sandra Bohle, an experienced writer and script-consultant, but the main interchange is between the writers themselves, every script gets feed back for half a day.

The projects can be in varying stages between an elaborated treatment and various versions of the script. In order to achieve the best possible results of these focused workshops they take place outside of Vienna, somewhere secluded to guarantee concentrated uninterrupted exchange. Due to the great success and because of the high demand in 2016 and 2017 United Writers took place twice a year.

Focus: Literary adaptation, Sabine Scholl

12.11.2016

In the regular programme of the Drehbuchforum "Literature meets Script", the Austrian author Ms. Scholl was developing roles of mythical female characters in a special workshop, designed for screenwriters.

Goal of the class was to heighten the sensitivity for female characters that seem to have been hidden in narrative boxes over the storytelling centuries, and they now are being unearthed.

Masterclass with Christian Petzold

11. April 2016

Mr. Petzold gave a masterclass , within a screening of several of his works in the Austrian Filmmuseum.

Plus a carte blanche for the programming of 21 separate works. In intense discussions with the director Alexander Horwath several of his films were subjected to lively discourse and scrutiny.

We could provide participation for our members for these events. Another topic, jointly presented with Media researcher and scientist Ralph Eue, among other, was the in Petzold's works so frequently encountered invisibles, ghosts that so unexpectedly shroud his stories.

Systemic constellation for writers with Claudia Gladziejewski

3. – 5. June 2016

Due to the tremendous interest in Claudia Gladziejewski's workshop last year, another repetition was met with great public interest and participation.

Systemic constellation offers writers a quick, effective way of finding solutions for the issues in the storyline. The simple method reveals the underlying dynamics in the script and the relationship between figures. It brings clarity about the strengths and weaknesses of the screenplay and creative impulses for the further development of the substance.

The special quality of the script constellations of Claudia Gladziejewski consists of its systemic and dramatic experience and profound knowledge of the industry from 20 years in the film and television business. She has worked as an editor of numerous award-winning films, including the Oscar-winning "The Lives of Others".

Aktuelle Impulse – current impulses

Talk

In 2016 we continue our new series of events: Aktuelle Impulse - writers of non-fiction literature report about their field of studies.

Current impulses: Ingrid Brodnig

Hate postings in the internet

19.12.2016

Ms. Brodnig is a reknown science journalist, specialized on social media. A recent book of hers deals with rise of hate postings, political, against women and asyllum seekers. The anonymity creates a special facet to the seemingly lawless cyber space. But there are laws, and there are measures and there is a way to protect oneself against attacks, that may befall any of us at any time.

Arbeit Alltag Welt –Everyday's Work, Unknown places

Excursions for screenwriters

To inspire writers creativity, we offer excursions to places, where one could not go so easily as a private person.

Urban Archeology - Roman Excavations in Vienna

10.10.2017

Vienna is located upon an old Roman settlement, thus excavations surface at many building sites. A trip to a special site was organized and scriptwriters who might need information on a vintage urban background joined in the daylong excursion to visit Roman excavations and findings well within the city limits of today.

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