

ASSOCIATION OF ICELANDIC PLAYWRIGHTS AND SCREENWRITERS

(FÉLAG LEIKSKÁLDA OG HANDRITSHÖFUNDA)

A short report to the FSE 2008 GA, held in Brussels March 27th, 2009

The five person board of the Association meets once a month and publishes the minutes on our website. We have no staff, so boardmembers try to share the tasks at hand, although, clearly, the chairman, Havar Sigurjonsson, carries the heaviest workload. We held our GA last December and the following points are garnered from his report on that occasion.

We have between 60 and 70 members and the trend in the last several years has been that more screenwriters have been joining our ranks. This is in tune with the policy and efforts of the board.

The near collapse of the Icelandic economy has effected our members and the association to some degree, directly and indirectly, and the board has decided to keep the already modest expenses at an absolute minimum in the coming years.

Film and TV production has slowed down and independent theaters face new challenges in financing their productions.

Meanwhile, the rather recent general agreement with the big, official theaters is working well and only minor incidents of differing interpretation have come up.

For a long time we have been trying to reach a general agreement with the Film Producers Association on

contract terms for feature film scripts and last summer, we published our guidelines in this area, unilaterally.

A recent change on the board of the Film Producers Association gives us reason to believe that this year we will be able to reach a general agreement of contract terms with them for feature film scripts on the basis of the Danish agreement. However, it is clear that we will also need to address the same issue for TV production.

In that area the only existing agreement is an out of date one with the public TV station, which no longer produces TV drama itself, buying it instead from independent producers. However, it has proved quite valuable as a point of reference, both in terms of actual amounts and in terms of rights sold.

The AIPS is a member of the Nordic Dramatists Union which continues to be a useful source of information and support for us, since our nordic sister-organizations have the means and manpower to do a lot of things we can only dream about.

March 2009,

On behalf of the board of the AIPS(FLH),

Sveinbjörn Baldvinsson,
secretary