

## The Norwegian Writers' Guild in 2008

- Members

The guild has currently 275 members/23 candidate members. Membership is granted to writers who has had at least one original full-length dramatic work professionally produced in film/TV, on stage or as a radio play. The membership fee is currently ca. € 100.

- Finances

The guild's main source of income is a general compensation for public use of the works of Norwegian writers (aka "collective library remuneration"), which is paid out by the state and divided between the associations of translators, novelists, dramatists and other writers. The writers' guild's share is approximately € 1 mill.

One third of the budget is spent on day-to-day expenses (wages, office, various projects, legal assistance etc.), one third is paid out in individual remunerations (i. e. members are remunerated according to their body of work), and one third is spent on travel grants and working grants for future projects, awarded by application.

- Organization

The guild employs 2 ½ staff, and compensates its elected leadership financially, including the board (8 persons) and members of various subcommittees. The association's highest authority is the general assembly.

- Collective agreements

The guild has established collective agreements with the theatres' organization, with the public broadcasting corporation (NRK), and with the film and TV producers' association (two separate agreements film/TV). Our general agreements and contracts are available in English translation on our website: [www.dramatiker.no](http://www.dramatiker.no).

- Television

The two dominating TV corporations are the privately owned TV2 (outsourcing all drama production to independent TV producers) and the public broadcasting corporation NRK (producing *and* outsourcing productions). TV2 maintains that they will have to drop new Norwegian TV drama altogether unless the laws are changed in favour of commercial breaks interrupting the episodes, and the same goes for broadcasting Norwegian feature films. This will be one of next year's big issues.

- Film

The Norwegian Film Institute contributes financially to the production of Norwegian documentaries, short films and feature films. There is also support for screenwriters' development projects (no attached producer necessary), up to € 30 000/project.

Upcoming issues are the struggle to put DVDs of domestically produced films in public libraries (triggering remuneration), and to establish a slate funding system for production. Slate funding will be a "third road" to production; the individually commissioned (art) films and support determined by market potential being the two others.

The explicit goal of the Ministry of Culture is 25 domestic movies a year by 2010, with a total of 3 mill. sold tickets (= 25% market share).

The Ministry also wants to close the gender gap by 2010, so that either sex has at least 40% of key positions in produced films. (Women/men is roughly 25/75% now.)

- Other major projects for the guild in 2009

The guild has succeeded in establishing writers' development subsidies for theatre plays, modelled on the screenplay development subsidies for film/TV. The subsidy system will become operational with the establishment of "*The House of Drama*" in 2009.

The guild will review possible models for a digital library of scripts, accessible for film-, TV- and theatre producers. (The other Nordic countries are far ahead of us here.) Also, we intend to be a part of the new Nordic internet portal spearheaded by the Swedish Guild.

Ongoing: Introducing playwrights/screenwriters more strongly into the political initiative to strengthen culture in elementary school and secondary school (aka "*Den kulturelle skolesekken*").

Ongoing: Monitoring the development of new technologies and new platforms.

Ongoing: ...and quite a few other things...

- Contact information

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