

MAIN POINTS from THE 2009 BOARD REPORT of
THE ICELANDIC ASSOCIATION OF PLAYWRIGTHS AND SCREENWRITERS
(FÉLAG LEIKSKÁLDA OG HANDRITSHÖFUNDA - FLH)

Presented at the FSE GA, Feb. 2010

SOME BAD NEWS

The past year was of course marked to a great degree by the financial crisis which hit Iceland in late 2008. Iceland was hit much harder by the crisis than most other countries, due to the fact that Icelandic banks had been allowed to grow to reach an annual economy of their own which was ten times larger than the national economy of Iceland. With their collapse, the Icelandic general public was left with the check for the feast they had not even been invited to attend.

The work of the **FLH** focused as always on trying to guard and improve the conditions in which our members work, in the theater as well as in the field of film and television production. This is done on the local level by keeping track of contracts and agreements as well as organizing and taking part in several events and actions. Internationally the **FLH** endeavours to stay alert and up to date through membership in the **Nordic Dramatists Guild(NDU)** and the **Federations of Screenwriters in Europe(FSE)**.

Late in the year it became clear that the government intended to make drastic cuts in the state budget for film and TV production and development, cuts of a much larger percentage than in any other field. The **FLH** joined the ranks of other filmmaker and artists associations in protesting this plan, and also got help from the **FSE** in the form of a formal statement of support. The cuts were still made, unfortunately, but not quite as drastic as originally planned.

The latest chapter in the tragic saga of declining funds available for film and TV production in Iceland came very recently when the **National Public Broadcasting Service(RUV)** announced that due to budget cuts they would stop buying any productions from Icelandic producers. That statement has been seen as an announcement of war against this

field and the battle ensues, with the **FLH** taking part by any means possible.

SOME GOOD NEWS

A new nordic website of the **Nordic Dramatists Guilds(NDU)** was launched in april at **nordicwritersguild.com**. The site is in English and the Nordic languages and provides an important platform to discuss and further the views and interests of playwrights and screenwriters in the Nordic countries. Our chairman, Hávar Sigurjonsson accepted the task of editing the site for the first six months. From the outside, this is the perfect way of getting information about all the nordic guilds and their activity and agreements.

The **FLH** took part in the first **World Conference of Screenwriters**, organized by the **FSE** and the **IAWG** in Athens last November. In all, three representatives attended the conference, which was both highly inspiring and informative.

All current **FLH** agreements in the field of theater have worked well and occasional snags have been dealt with, swiftly. However, we are still without an agreement with film and TV producers, despite several attempts. This will be a priority in the next year, although the current situation is not exactly inspiring.

Finally, the **FLH** recently upgraded its own website, **leikskald.is**.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE FLH:

FLH has about 70 members who write drama for theater, film, television and radio.

The annual membership fee is approx. €40.

The association has no staff or office and receives no outside funding.