

Scriptwriters Association
(Association des scénaristes de l'audiovisuel) – Belgium

REPORT 2011-2012

ASA is active on 2 levels, political and cultural.

Cultural :

We organised workshops to analyse movie scripts as “Tootsie”, “The Live of Others” and “Two Lovers”.

We met scriptwriters to talk about their scripts and their own experience (e.g. : meeting with Thomas Bidegain in Brussels Films Festival about “De rouille et d’os” by Jacques Audiard and “A perdre la raison” by Joachim Lafosse, meeting with Jean-François Halin, writer of “OSS 117”)

We also organised workshop about paranoid thriller, psychology of the characters, disaster movie,...

In association with Prospere (author Federation), UPFF (Producers Union) and the ministry of Culture, we are still organising the ceremony for Belgian Cinema called Les Magrittes du Cinéma (3rd edition in 2013)

In association with Belgacom (National Belgian phone company) and International Film Festival of Mons, we organised in 2012 a treatment competition with two awards in cash. We will normally do the same in 2013.

Political :

We are part of an author federation (PROSPER). In this federation, we are in contact with the Cinema Center and the Ministry of Culture, trying to improve the recognition of the importance of scriptwriting. We fight for the importance of the development in the cinema. We want that our government put more money in scriptwriting which should allowed more scriptwriters to receive writing money.

We won a first fight in 2011 : the Ministry of Culture put 125.000 euros to help support writing of tv series. This money will be made available each year. They also organized a masterclass with Frédéric Krivine to follow the development of the tv series projects financed by the Ministry of Culture. This experience was a great success and will happen again in 2013.

With the support of SABAM (author rights company), we offered an award for the Best script in Brussels Film Festival in 2012 (third times we awarded the best script), attracting attention on the importance of scriptwriting in Cinema.

Situation in the French speaking part of Belgium :

It is still very difficult for scriptwriters to live from their works. Only a few can actually live from writing. And most of them work for television in France. The National Television (RTBF) doesn't produce enough fiction for scriptwriters to work and develop their skills.

Concerning the cinema industry, it is mainly author-director who mainly write their own scripts.

The relation with RTBF is slowly improving. They already started to co-produce short films in 2010, added to the co-production of documentaries and long features. A new management contract will soon be dealt by the government with RTBF. We tried very hard to force them to produce more tv series in that contract and we are confident that we will succeed. The management of RTBF finally understood that it is important to produce local series.

Members :

We have around 100 members but only half of them are actually paying their membership. The membership fee is 20 euros for beginners and 40 euros for professional.