

A report for the FSE General Assembly Netwerk Scenarioschrijvers (The Netherlands) October 2012

There are the main issues for the Netwerk Scenarioschrijvers (355 members).

1. serious cuts for film and tv

New Dutch drama is one of the 'selling points' of the Dutch Public Broadcaster. Nevertheless, starting in 2013, the public broadcaster has to economize € 200 million. A new cut back of €100 million has been announced. The last few years scenewriters have noticed that less dramaprojects has been initiated. More foreign drama will be bought. There is also a growing effort by the Public Broadcaster to sell Dutch drama.

The budget of the Dutch Filmfund for 2013-2016 has diminished with 1/3. The budget will be € 18 million each year. Less feature films will be developed.

Fortunelaty the budget for screenplay development will be intact (due to our lobby!!). Young screenwriters can get a grant for scriptcoaching during the whole proces of scriptwriting. Even a new subsidy for talent-development for starting writers has been created. This new scheme is been developed with the Netwerk Scenarioschrijvers and starts in 2013. The existing scheme for experienced talented screenwriters to apply directly for development funding - without being connected to a producer - will be stretched out to starting talented screenwriters. This scheme provides that a screenwriter can work for a longer period on a special project which needs an extra investment, such as experimenting with an other way of storytelling or a new proces of screenplay development. Yearly the Dutch Filmfund holds for this scheme a budget of 100.000 euros. The aim is to stimulate high-quality, non-traditional scripts.

These schemes mentioned above function beside the existing film funding for Dutch film screenplays. Initially funding for a script is 30 000 euros (experienced writers) and € 15 000 (starting writers). When the film will be realised, there is an additional fee for screenwriters.

The Mediafund, that subsidies new drama, documentary, and supports a succesfull Talent Development Program for screenwriters and directors, probably will been cut back entirely in 2017.

2. PAM - Portal Audiovisual Makers

Since 2009 the guilds Netwerk Scenarioschrijvers (Network of Screenwriters), Dutch Directors Guild (DDG) and ACT (actorsguild), and the collective management organisations in the audiovisual area work together on the subject of film-copyright. A bill of the Dutch Copyrightlaw has last june been presented to the Parliament. The goal in to improve the legal status of authors. PAM presents itself as the voice of the Dutch filmmakers and is discussion partner on copyrightissues for the Ministerie of Jusitice and Ministry of Education and Culture. Now we are preparing the lobby to the members of the Parliament
The model, that PAM aims at, regulates copyrights in a way that broadcasting companies, producers and distributors are allowed to freely make use of the work of audio-visual makers – digital and other new platforms – and simultaneously guarantees a reasonable payment to directors, screenwriters and actors. The model, PAM-model, is very similar to the cable-directive. The collective copyrights organizations LIRA, VEVAM and NORMA – joined in PAM-

deal with the various broadcasting companies, producers and distributors concerning all the copyright issues laid down in this new model.

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