

Report from Norway to the General Assembly of the FSE 2012

Writers' Guild of Norway was founded in December 1938, and is an independent writers' organization whose purpose is to protect the artistic and financial interests of writers for film, television, radio and theatre. Out frame agreements with the producers are to be found also in English versions on our web site www.dramatiker.no.

To be eligible for membership, an author must have written and had staged a public performance of at least one full-length or several shorter original works of drama for the theatre, film, television or radio. To qualify for membership, the performance must be professional and the work must be of professional quality. The applicant must have written the work in the Norwegian or Sami language him- or herself.

For the time being, the guild currently organizes 309 writers, and 33 candidate members, who is anyone who has completed publicly approved higher education as a playwright or screenwriter. There is a steady rise in the number of members.

The organization is funded as a part of the collective remuneration writers receive from public libraries. (In this respect, we are in fact a collecting society.)

Membership fee is currently around € 100, but we might have to increase this due to expanded challenges, especially on the juridical area.

Some important issues:

Digital script directory

Our digital script directory, including scripts for theater, film, radio and television is an integral part of our home-pages, and we have moved the presentation of our members till the directory. In this, the writers themselves publish what they want to be included. The directory is available to anyone, though access to the scripts is restricted to registered users only. We want as registered users, outside our own membership, primarily producers and education institutions in all levels. The directory consist now of 2308 titles, 130 available scripts and presentation of 342 writers.

Publicity-work toward the guilds 75 years anniversary 2013/2014

The guild has launched a set of activities profile the writers and their work from our founding date 19 December and through the coming year. The guild has facilitated with two grants for theatre playwrights and will publish two books: The history of Norwegian drama after Ibsen, and a myth calendar of drama. In addition, we have already started a publicity campaign where we in the main film and theatre periodicals presents writers in connection with their premiers.



Establishment of master education in film

Together with the producers-, directors- and film workers organizations, the guild work for establish a master education in film at the Norwegian Film School.

Challenges in digital distribution

Both in TV- and feature film productions, there is a heavy pressure on waiving rights regarding digital distribution. This is a central theme in the ongoing negotiations of a new framework agreement between the guild and the Norwegian Film and TV Producers' Association relating to the assignment of film, production and viewing. We experience that the current agreement, which secure the writers' rights are set aside in almost every new contract. We therefore need to clarify this situation in the framework agreement and strengthen the guild's judicial presence in the individual contracts negotiations as well.

