

Polish Screenwriters Guild/Polish Filmmakers Association<sup>1</sup>

Activity Report for 2011 and 10 months of 2012

The current number of members of the Polish Screenwriters Guild is 90 out of the Polish Filmmakers Association's over 1700 strong membership.

In November 2011 the General Assembly of the Polish Filmmakers Association took place. Mr. Jacek Bromski, film director, producer and writer, was elected for the fifth time the President of the Polish Filmmakers Association (he holds the presidency of PFA since 1996).

In January 2012 new board of the Polish Screenwriters Guild was elected. The President of the board is for the second term Joanna Kos-Krauze and Maciej Karpiński is again the Vice President of the Guild.

The principal activities of the Guild in the period 2011-2012 were as follows:

1. Lobbying for public policies concerning screenwriting profession

In spring 2011 Polish Film Institute (the public film funding body in Poland) announced the consultation among film professionals on proposed new system of evaluation of the film projects applying for funding. The Polish Screenwriters Guild took active part in this process and presented number of practical proposals for the solutions relevant for the functioning of the new system. The reform's main aim was to reduce the number of experts who evaluate applications for funding of film production, project development and script grants and to bestow them with greater personal responsibility for their decisions. The consultations with the active part of the Guild resulted in creation of smaller committees with a distinct leaders of each committee, responsible for experts decisions. The new system also provides for meetings with applicants and allows two-step decision making process.

The Polish Screenwriters Guild proposed a number of accomplished screenwriters as the candidates for positions of leaders and members of these committees and a big part of the proposals was approved (mainly for script grants and project development).

In May 2012 two days professional conference concerning the script development system in Poland took place. The Polish Screenwriters Guild has actively participated in this conference and in the discussion between producers and directors/screenwriters as well as representatives of the public

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<sup>1</sup> \*The Polish Screenwriters Guild is legally the part of The Polish Filmmakers' Association, the largest organization of film professionals in Poland. It exists since 1966 and has 1786 members, among them directors, screenwriters, cinematographers, sound engineers, film editors, animators, costume and set-designers, producers etc. The Association – apart from its numerous social activities for its members - promotes Polish film domestically and internationally, supports talented young filmmakers, and produces debut films. PFA is also the mother organization of ZAPA – the collecting society in audiovisual field.

funding bodies devoted to the issues concerning project development as the part of the system of the public film funding in Poland. The Guild suggested solutions that became the official position of the filmmaking community presented to Polish Film Institute as a result of the meeting.

In October 2012 another public consultation was held by Polish Film Institute. The main change proposed this time was the creation of the new Literary Department within the Polish Film Institute. In the face of substantial doubts concerning the very purpose of creation of such additional evaluation body and its unclear competences the Polish Screenwriters Guild took a very firm position presenting a critical opinion on the project and requesting presentation of the clear and strict regulations governing the possible functioning of such Department. After an explanatory response from the Institute the matter is still an open question requiring further discussion.

The Guild also presented a number of proposals for improvement of the system of script and project development grants allowance particularly concerned with the help for young screenwriters (graduates from film schools) to start their professional careers. The Guild again presented its candidates for the expert and leader positions.

## 2. Activities among professionals /International exchange

The Script Forum – annual professional event devoted entirely to the art of screenwriting and the position of screenwriter in the audiovisual industry - took place for the fourth time in December 2011. This year the main topics were script consultancy and script development. Once again the foreign experts were invited. Martin Daniel was the guest lecturer and he also held a week long workshop for a group of aspiring script consultants. Among other guests were Isabelle Fauvel, Marilyn Milgrom and Ulrike Schweiger. A great number of top Polish professionals took part as well.

Besides open lectures and script consultations part of the program were the “Script Market” and scripts pitchings and books presentations well received by participants and general public alike. They included: 1. the publishing houses presentations of their books they considered best suited for film adaptations, 2. the special program of book reviews by the screenwriters, who were presenting their best choices of books for film adaptations, 3. presentations of scripts which won awards at various script competitions by their writers (the case studies). This allowed the participating book writers and scriptwriters to meet and discuss their work which may result in a future collaboration.

In May 2012 – within the framework of the Polish Film Festival - we invited international script “guru” Christopher Vogler to come Gdynia and later to Warsaw. He held two public lectures, a development workshop for selected projects and some individual script consultations aimed at young screenwriters. The events were very well received, with an amazing public response.

Syd Field was an invited guest during this year edition of Polish Film Festival in Gdynia. He gave two well attended lectures for film professionals.

## 3. Plans for future:

In April 2013 Poland will host the international script development program Sources 2.

In September 2013 a special event called “Scandinavian crime film” will be organized during Gdynia Film Festival, writers and screenwriters will be our guests.

We plan to organize a series of screening of films with festival awarded scripts and invite its screenwriters to present a case study in the script development of each of them.

We hope to host the 3rd WCOS in Poland in autumn 2014.

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Our website [www.scenarzysci.org.pl](http://www.scenarzysci.org.pl) became a part of [portalfilmowy.pl](http://portalfilmowy.pl) which is the newest project of large film web service run by Polish Filmmakers Association.

Warsaw, October 26<sup>th</sup> 2012