

DREHBUCHVERBAND AUSTRIA

2013

Currently we have 98 members
30 of these are Rookie (junior) members and receive special rates

Contracts for screenwriters

After a long time of preparation we are proud to present the model contracts for scriptwriters. With these contracts for cinema feature film, television and film treatment, we offer three legal documents with the best possible conditions for scriptwriters to conclude agreements.

Our aim is to establish standards and practices in the domestic film industry and to strengthen the independence of the authors in contract negotiations.

The model contracts are used as a template in whole but also in parts, they are broken down into individual components for better usability and adaption. Each element of the contract contains a commentary to add clarity and in some cases examples ensure better adaptability.

The contracts were created after intensive work especially in the communication with our members. We understand this publication as a work-in-progress process, where we welcome suggestions and ideas.

Negotiations with Literar Mechana / collecting society

Because of criticisms and dissatisfaction on the part of our members concerning the collective society a working group created a list of suggestions to clarify the outstanding issues, to improve the collaboration and to increase transparency. The goal was and is to achieve more participation. In this context, the First Collective Bargaining Workshop in Brussels earlier this year was very informative and gave us impetus for argumentations.

In mid-October the first meeting with the directing manager of the collecting society was very constructive and amicable.

Although concrete results have yet to be reached, the talks will be pursued in the next months.

Amendment of regulations Thomas Pluch Prize 2014

The last Thomas Pluch Prize award, which was disputed in the industry, led us to adapt the awarding regulations of the largest Austrian screenplay prize. There are now three prizes - this should facilitate the decisions of the juries and help to avoid compromise decisions in the future.

Thomas Pluch prize for best screenplay

For the best full-length feature film or a feature-length TV movie (from 70 minutes). (12,000 euros).

Thomas Pluch Special Jury Award

For a screenplay dealing with particularly remarkable aspects, the jury is free to define the category. Open to full-length screenplays for feature films or feature length TV films (from 70 minutes). (7,000 euros)

Thomas Pluch prize for short or medium-length cinema feature films

For the best screenplay (15 to 70 minutes). (3,000 euros)

drehbuchFORUM Wien

Let's talk about scripts

Panel - Discussions

Let's talk about scripts is our main program to call attention to the work of the screenwriters. In several discussions with screenwriters about the latest Austrian films we on the one hand reach the movie audience and on the other hand writers can share their experiences with the panellists. Our previous guests among others were Andreas Schmied, Xaver Bayer, Tizza Covi, Rainer Frimmel, Ulrich Seidl and Veronika Franz.

The next guests will be Götz Spielmann with *Oktober November* and Gustav Deutsch with *Shirley - Visions of Reality*.

scriptLAB docu / scriptLab fiction

script-development program

After strenuous efforts we finally succeeded to extend our script development program scriptLAB also to documentaries. Script LAB helps authors to optimise the script in the early phase of writing, it is available to both professional and also young writers. The authors are working in close cooperation with a script doctor and are financially supported to a certain extent by the Austrian Screenwriters Association. As a result we hope to gradually contribute to the increase in quality of the scripts and the writer/filmmaker can take direct advantage from the growing acceptance on the producers' side.

scriptLAB fiction will continue as before. Since 2006 496 projects have been submitted of which 79 have been promoted. About 20 script development projects are now available as a screenplay and are on their way to be adapted for the screen, 3 are already being filmed. An intense and very positive evaluation has convinced us to continue the program.

United Writers

A Weekend retreat for professional screenwriters and filmmakers

In our new program United Writers 4 scriptwriters and filmmakers will have the opportunity to work focused and undisturbed on their scripts. Script doctors accompany them, give feedback and work half a day on each material.

The projects can be in varying stages between an elaborated treatment and various versions of the script. In order to achieve the best possible concentration the workshop will take place outside of Vienna, somewhere secluded. United Writers will be hosted twice a year.

Fokus FIGUREN - Writing the Heroine's Story

Lecture and workshop Helen Jacey, 22. - 24.11.2013

Helen Jacey will explore some of the critical, creative and institutional factors that result in the perennial and problematic issues of positive female character representation. Why do so many female screenwriters have trouble getting their female-led stories into production? Why are the female characters in male-protagonist driven films so frequently limited to types? What do we want from female protagonists? And who, anyway, are 'we?' – writers, directors, producers, distributors, or audiences? Depending on what hat we wear, are our agendas perpetually at odds when it comes to the 'great female character?'

This seminar shows how to develop and create powerful heroines for the screen and reveals the narrative secrets of successful stories with female protagonists.

Aktuelle Impulse – current impulses

Panel - Discussion

In 2013 we started a new series of events: Aktuelle Impulse - writers of non-fiction literature report about their field of studies.

Heidi Kastner, international well known forensic psychiatrist, talked about several cases including famous Austrian delinquents like Fritzl or “the ice lady”. The profiles of the offenders and the deep insight in their lives resulting from intensive investigations were extremely fascinating, not only for crime-writers.

The most recent guest was Hans Weiss, who wrote about the atrocious conditions in Austrians children’s homes over the last 40 years, as of recent – a much talked-about subject touching child-abuse and mistreatings in foster-homes and other institutions that held children and teenagers. Special focus the book gave to the evident lack of assuming responsibility of the federal and communal authorities for gross crimes committed by members of the educational, medical and managerial staffs.

The last event this year will address a current main topic in the media: surveillance. An Austrian ex-secret agent will report on his work that includes spying, electronic eavesdropping, monitoring and securing data, all in the name of security and the war on terror, as the Secret State Police sees it.

Arbeit Alltag Welt –Everyday’s Work, Unknown places

Excursions

To inspire writers creativity, we offer excursions to places, where someone could not go so easily as a private person. Focus of this year was on psychotherapy and psychiatry. Among others we have been to the Psychotherapy Station of the Otto Wagner Hospital in Vienna. Authors obtained an insight into the different areas of competence as found at various departments, where psychiatrists, nurses and administration work together.

Another event introduced three representatives of different schools of psychotherapy. The experts provided short lectures on their practice and working methods and answered questions of the authors.

Copy & pay

One day conference on international experiences about online diffusion and copyright law for screenwriters

In December 2012 we invited international experts to focus on the new challenges of the digital market concerning the works of scriptwriters.

How can the situation be improved by offering legal movies? How can creators get their share of advertising revenue from internet platforms? What arrangements can be found with broadcasters for catch-up TV? Specific questions such as these were illuminated by short presentations and discussed in detail.

Cooperation Diagonale – Festival of the Austrian Film – Industry Meeting 2013

The two-day Diagonale industry meeting (March 13-14, 2013) was dedicated to story and project development. Specialists from all over Europe met at Graz to explore new models of cooperation creating films.

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