

The Danish Writers Guild

The guild:

The Danish Writers Guild represents about 310 members, which are all professional screenwriters, play writers and translators. We are continuously experiencing a small increase in the number of members.

Copydan:

Copydan has submitted a new proposal to The Danish Ministry of Culture to change part of the Danish Copyright Law so it is more up-to date. We have just received the legal draft for hearing and are giving our response on November 8. The draft also contains the implementation of The Directive on Orphan Works.

Archive Agreements with DR (Danish public service channel):

In 2007, we entered into two agreements with DR about DR's use of older TV-productions made before 2007- the so called Archive Agreements. Agreement I - regarding screening on the web. Agreement II regarding reruns on DR's niche/smaller channels. DR got the opportunity to transmit the material at a cheaper price than it would cost if they had to pay full transmission fee to all the copyright holders. The reason why we entered these agreements was that the productions would otherwise not be transmitted if DR had to pay full price, because it would be too expensive. The agreements were part of a program imposed by the Danish Government to preserve and digitalize the Danish cultural heritage from our public service channel, DR.

DR has just terminated Agreement I regarding making productions available on the web. The agreement will be renegotiated and we are already in the process of the negotiations.

Society of Copyright Organization

This is an organization for all copyright organizations and unions in Denmark. We coordinate views on different copyright issues and in some cases we write coordinated answers on hearings from The Danish Ministry of Culture.

Copyright Denmark

This is another Collective Cooperation that reacts on different copyright criticisms and secures a coordinated and continuous response on different copyright issues in the media and other public relations.

The Copyright Alliance

This is an association working to secure the rights for all copyright owners. It used to be called The Antipiracy Group, but the name was changed so it would have a friendlier tone. The Alliance also represents producers. For instance they try cases at the court if necessary and are working more determined on the legal matters of the copyright and illegal downloads.

Trial on blocking illegal movie streaming sites:

The Copyrights Alliance has just led a case against a Danish telecommunications company regarding blocking four illegal movie streaming sites.

It concerned the following four internet sites, which were among the most popular illegal movie sites among "ordinary users":

- Dreamfilm.se

- Swefilmer.com
- Primewire.ag
- Movie4k.to

The Danish Writers Guild, The Danish Producer Association, The Danish Actors Guild and The Danish Film Directors were all part of the blocking-case along with The Copyright alliance. We won the case and the pages should now be blocked.

Share With Care:

Share With Care was established by The Danish Ministry of Culture in cooperation with The Copyright Alliance, The Telecom Industry and The Danish Industry and regards the internet services that support the artists behind the productions - and making these services the easy and natural choice for the users.

Share With Care focuses on sharing music, movies, TV, games and literature legally online. It can be difficult to know which services that pay artists to use their products. Because it is important to choose the right ones, the purpose of Share With Care is to help find your way between all the many possibilities.

Nordic Writers Guild:

We also work with the Nordic Writers Guild (NDU) which counts the writers guilds of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. www.NordicWritersGuild.com.

Danish Film Institute (DFI)

Film Policy Forum

The Danish Writers Guild has been invited to join a “Think Tank” about Danish film policy. The “Think Tank” was established by The Danish Film Institute and The Danish Ministry of Culture and the purpose of this is to come up with thoughts and ideas to a new and contemporary policy on film and television distribution and other subjects regarding the industry. The focus has been on how digital distribution methods now radically are changing. One of the issues discussed extensively, is how the new digital distribution methods can help fund future fiction production in both feature films and television series, now that the DVD market is about to fade out. There is a report coming out on the conclusions of the forum.

We have also been invited to discuss and evaluate The Danish Commissioner System at the institute. The meeting will take place on November 7 and representative from our board and a few other members will participate.

This evaluation is part of the preparations for the coming negotiations on the next film settlement between the institute and the industry.