

drehbuchVERBAND Austria **Austrian screenwriters association**

Currently we have 99 members.

32 of these are Rookie (junior) members and receive special rates.

Our events including seminars and discussions were attended by more than 730 visitors.

This year drehbuchVERBAND Austria celebrates its 25th anniversary and the drehbuchFORUM Wien its 20th. Many guests from the film industry and our members were joining our festive party in late spring.

Contracts for screenwriters

After last year's presentation of the model contracts for scriptwriters for cinema feature film, television and film treatment, we extended our efforts to contracts for co-authors and script editors.

With these additional two contracts we hope to cover almost any terms of formal agreement concerning scriptwriting.

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. The feedback from the authors is very positive, it strengthened their negotiating position toward the producers and have succeeded insofar as most production companies have adopted the wordings of the model contracts.

Negotiations with Literar Mechana / collecting society

In mid-October we had our first meeting with the managing director of the collecting society with the goal to improve the collaboration, to increase transparency and to achieve more participation. In the latter we have succeeded to bring screenwriters through their membership in joining an association which is a shareholder of the collecting society. Thus, we now have indirectly influence on the decisions of Literar Mechana. Although this and other improvements could be effected, final goals have yet to be reached and further negotiations will be pursued in the months to come.

Thomas Pluch Prize 2014

Every year the drehbuchVERBAND Austria is awarding the best national filmed screenplays at the Diagonale, the Festival of the Austrian Film in Graz. In 2014 the prize has been awarded for the 21st time. The award is named after Thomas Pluch, one of the founders of the Drehbuchverband Austria. Endowed with 22.000.- Euro it is one of the largest film awards in Austria's film industry. The prize is divided into 3 categories:

- Thomas Pluch prize for best screenplay

For the best full-length feature film or a feature-length TV movie

- Thomas Pluch Special Jury Award

For a screenplay that deals with particularly outstanding aspects, as so seen by a jury, that is free to define that category.

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

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. The popularity among the audience is increasing every year, at the first 3 events this year almost 170 visitors participated.

scriptLAB docu / scriptLab fiction

script-development program

In 2013 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 consultant and are financially supported by the Austrian Screenwriters Forum. With this efficient, low cost program we contribute to the diversity of projects, the innovative character and to the increase in quality of the scripts and the writer/filmmaker can take direct advantage of the growing acceptance on the producers' side.

scriptLAB fiction will continue as before. Since 2006 611 projects have been submitted of which 89 have been promoted. 22 script development projects are now available as a screenplay and are on their way to be adapted for the screen, 4 are already being filmed.

United Writers

A Weekend-Feedback-Workshop for professional screenwriters and filmmakers

In our new program **United Writers** 4 scriptwriters or auteur-filmmakers have the opportunity to get feed-back to their script. The workshop is moderated by an experienced script-consultant, but the main interchange takes place between the writers among themselves. Every script gets feed-back for half a day.

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 first workshop took place outside of Vienna, away from routine distractions. Due to the great success United Writers will take place twice a year.

Workshop Phil Parker

25.6.2014

Transmedia – new screenwriting opportunities for writers and their creative partners

With the option of developing your characters and stories for a web series, e-book, play, films, graphic novel or games where do you start? Key to meeting this new creative challenge is the concept of dramatic worlds and collaboration. Phil Parker, Director of BCre8ive.eu, looked into how you develop a dramatic world, and who you need to work with to develop your initial idea for a transmedia world.

Lecture, Workshop and Masterclass with Frank Spotnitz

6. - 8.12.2013, winter 2014/15

Strength in Collaboration - Applying Lessons from the U.S. Showrunner Model

Frank explored the U.S. Showrunner and Writers' Room system and compared it to his experience writing and producing drama series in Europe. Frank went through the process of assembling a staff for a Writers' Room, and talked about how a Showrunner organizes and manages the production of a drama series. He also discussed the importance of collaboration, and how differing visions from writers, directors, producers and broadcasters are reconciled.

Because of the very positive feedback and the great interest we have invited Frank Spotnitz for

another workshop probably in December 2014. In a 3 days seminar a small group of participants can exercise the setting of a Writers' Room and learn the new skills essential for surviving and excelling as a staff writer and beyond.

Spotnitz is an award-winning writer, producer and showrunner best known for his work on *The X-Files*. His latest series, *Hunted*, aired on BBC1 and HBO Cinemax. Currently he is shooting 3 different projects.

Aktuelle Impulse – current impulses

Talk

In 2014 we continue our new series of events: Aktuelle Impulse – published non-fiction authors talk about their field of studies, thus providing background information and a possible source of inspiration for script writers.

You have the right to remain silent – How to catch a liar

Maximilian Edelbacher, lawyer and former head of Vienna's Police force, speaks about the mechanisms, tricks and techniques of truth searching that are used during interrogations. Another research field of Edelbacher are corruption cases and it's psychological background. He shows where corruption begins, which governmental circumstances encourage trouble and why people are liable to abuse power.

My wonderful bookshop

Petra Hartlieb, bookseller and successful crime author, talks about her campaign against Amazon, her work as a businesswoman and author and her love for books.

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. 2014 we have been to the Wiener Wald (Vienna woods) to explore the diverse work of the forest rangers.

Another event will be an excursion to the biggest engine and gearbox factory in the world, the General Motors/Opel plant near Vienna.

Workshop "Dynamic Dialogues" with Pilar Alessandra, Script Consultant (Dream works etc.), author, teacher, lecturer

This workshop offers writing tools and techniques to create strong multi-dimensional characters, heightened emotional moments, memorable lines of dialogue, and engaging action lines and build relationships through dynamic dialogue. The workshop will be prepared for a date to be set within the next months to come.

Table reading for Dialogues

Every second month we invite scriptwriters to meet in small groups for reading aloud screenplay scenes to which they want to attain feedback from the others.

Focus: Literary adaptation

Within the scope of our series *Literature meets screenplay* we are planning a lot of events for this years winter: 3 Workshop Meetings with established authors, 1 juridical lecture ,1 panel with an author, a screenwriter, a producer and a lawyer.

www.drehbuchverband.at

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