

drehbuchVERBAND Austria **Austrian screenwriters association**

Currently we have 110 members

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

Our events including seminars and discussions were attended by more than 935 visitors (2015).

drehbuchVERBAND Austria

Contracts for screenwriters

Our model contracts for scriptwriters for cinema feature film, television and film treatment, as well as the contracts for co-authors and script editors find a ready market. The aim to establish standards and practices in the domestic film industry and to strengthen the independence of the authors in contract negotiations seems to be more and more successfully achieved.

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 to ensure better adaptability.

The contracts were created after intensive work especially in ongoing communication with our members. We see the current template as work-in-progress, where we continue to welcome suggestions and ideas.

Gender Equality in the Austrian film industry

Status quo and possible solution models - Information event and panel, June 2, 2016

Upon the occasion of the current discussion on the unequal gender balance in Austrian film funding and possible solution models, we invited filmmakers to a moderated discussion forum, which was addressed to the members of the screenwriters' associations and also to directors and producers.

A presentation of the statistics collected by FC GLORIA in cooperation with the Austrian Film Institute, Filmfonds Wien and BKA, and possible proposals for solutions were the basis for the ensuing discussion which was stimulated and proved to be quite productive. Further events on this topic are planned.

Copyright Update

As of Fall 2015 there is a storage media reimbursement in Austria, the total sum though has been limited by mutual agreement.

Presently the collecting societies draw no more sums from the storage media reimbursements.

AustroMechana went to court for all Austrian collecting societies against Amazon, because Amazon has refused reimbursements for private copies.

A ruling is being expected before the end of the year.

Negotiations with Literar Mechana / collecting society

After years of negotiations we succeeded in an important point of issue: As of June 2016 there are two members of the Screen Writers' Association (Eva Spreitzhofer and Agnes Pluch) on the board of the collection society Literar Mechana. Although the board is dominated by the publishers this is a

significant step of achieving more participation and to increase transparency. Although this and other improvements have been obtained final aims have yet to be reached and negotiations will be pursued.

ORF - Austrian Broadcasting Association

Our personal talks with the ORF and our attempts to make the ORF change their exploitative conditions for writers are being continued. We therefore formed a team to work out new strategies and to find allies in the Austrian film branch.

Currently there are negotiations under way regarding the following topics:

- Inflation Adjustments for Screenwriters' fees
- Changes in the payment plans, 2/3 should become payable with the signing of the contract
- Reimbursements from VoD and DVD-Sales

Thomas Pluch Prize 2016

The Drehbuchverband Austria is awarding the best national filmed screenplays every year at the Diagonale, Festival of the Austrian Film in Graz. In 2015, the prize was awarded for the 23th 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 biggest film awards in Austrians' film industry. This year's winners were:

- Thomas Pluch prize for best screenplay

For the best full-length feature film or a feature-length TV movie: Elisabeth Scharang for *Jack*

- Thomas Pluch Special Jury Award

For a screenplay for particularly outstanding aspects

The jury is free to define the category: Stefan Hafner und Thomas Weingartner for *Wenn du wüsstest, wie schön es hier ist*

- Thomas Pluch price for short or medium-length cinema feature films: Maria Luz Olivares Capelle for *Wald der Echos*

Members of the international jury: Claudia Gladziejewski (managing editor for TV, DE),

Thomas Wendrich (author, screenwriter, DE), Monika Willi (cutter, AT)

Members of the national jury: Christian Frosch (author, screenwriter), Ulrike Schweiger (author, screenwriter), Andrea Wagner (cutter)

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, 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 participants joined the discussions.

scriptLab fiction / scriptLAB docu script-development program

Script LAB helps authors to optimise the script in the early phase of writing, it is available to professionally established as well as 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. The writers/filmmakers can benefit directly from the growing acceptance on the producers' side.

scriptLAB fiction will continue as the years before. Since 2006 900 projects have been submitted of which more than 100 have been promoted. 26 script development projects are now available as a screenplay and are on their way to be adapted for the screen, 7 are already being filmed, 3 are currently made into film.

Since 2013 when we introduced our script development program scriptLAB also for documentaries. Our selective funding have helped to further the efforts of the filmmakers/script writers to attain attention and support from the film funds.

United Writers

A Weekend-Feedback-Workshop for professional screenwriters and filmmakers

In our program United Writers 4 professional scriptwriters or auteur-filmmakers have the opportunity to get feed back for their scripts. The workshop is moderated by an experienced script-consultant, but the main interchange is between the writers 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 results of these focused workshops they take place outside of Vienna, somewhere secluded to guarantee concentrated uninterrupted exchange. Due to the great success and because of the high demand in 2015, United Writers will take place twice a year.

Scriptwriting award

If she can see it, she can be it - Frauen*Figuren jenseits der Klischees (Female* Characters beyond clichés)

The two-stage competition for screenplays took place for the first time in 2016. The aim of the competition was to promote the creation of differentiated, complex female characters beyond the clichés for Austrian cinema.

The response was surprising: The enormous number of submissions was unexpected and has shown that there are a vast number of ideas to portrait women away from traditional prototypes.

Prizes are being awarded for a total amount of 40.000 Euro in two stages, the prize money will benefit the screenwriters. In addition the screenwriters are given script consultancy support to the equivalent of 10.500.- Euro for developing the story.

In the first step 5 scripts have been select by an international jury to develop the submitted exposes to treatments. In the second step one of these five treatments will be developed into a feature length

screenplay, the decision of the jury will be finalized in December 2016.

This screen writers award was developed in cooperation with FC GLORIA Women's Film Network and financed by The Austrian Film Institute.

Lecture and Workshops with Linda Seger

MAKING A GOOD SCRIPT GREAT/SHAPING THE STORY AND EXPLORING THE THEME

18. - 21. 6. 2015

Linda Seger created and defined the career of Script Consultant when she began her business in 1981, based on a method for analyzing scripts she developed for her dissertation project. Since then, she has consulted on over 2,000 scripts. Linda Seger has written 13 books, 9 of them on screenwriting, including the best-selling *Making a Good Script Great*, *Creating Unforgettable Characters*, and *Writing Subtext*.

Lecture: The creative process and the craft of collaboration

Linda Seger talked about the many ways of working as a creative screenwriter and the crafts that are needed to be successful. In addition to that she went deeper into the screenwriting process – from the initial concept to the final rewrite – providing specific methods that will help craft tighter, stronger, and more saleable scripts. Therefore she analyses the teamwork between the writers, producers and script consultants and gave guidance for improving cooperations.

2-Day Screenwriting Seminar

The seminar helped to develop the skills for telling a compelling and dramatic story and to articulate the skills you know intuitively. Seger showed how to use images as metaphors making the film more visual and expressing the theme with “showing“, not telling. Focus of the second day was the character, the motivation of the protagonist, the character goals, how to create conflict and at the transformation of the character.

Script Consulting Seminar

This Seminar explored the work of the Script Consultant, including “How to Write a Report,” and “How to Work With Writers Effectively” and how script consultants deal with the writers needs and working principles of the screenwriter.

Non Linear Storytelling - Lectures and Seminars with Linda Aronson (UK, Australia)

7. – 11.10.2016

One of the busiest screenwriting gurus on the international circuit, Linda Aronson is widely regarded as the world expert on nonlinear and complex film and TV structures. She is also a multi-award-winning writer who's spent more than thirty years as a writer all over the world. Her latest screenwriting books is *The 21st Century Screenplay* and *Screenwriting Update*.

Masterclass: New Structures in Film and TV – non-linear and parallel narrative in film and TV writing

Linda Aronson's 2 Day masterclass on advanced theories and techniques for creating original story design explodes conventional screenwriting theory for both feature film and TV.

Seminar: Script Consulting

This Seminar taught how to monitor and guide the process of script development from the flash of an idea through a patchy treatment, the rough first draft to a polished script and how to tackle the inevitable blind alleys, puzzles and crises of script development.

TV Writing Masterclass: Using Nonlinear Story Arcs for New Generation TV Serials

This masterclass explains how writers can use nonlinear forms to create powerfully original story arcs in long-form TV drama, and how they can use nonlinearity to fix problem scripts.

Seminar for Film and TV Writers and Games Creators

The aim was to bring games creators and screenwriters together. Through lectures, discussion and exercises Aronson explained how conventional linear narrative techniques can transfer from film and TV into games and how games can utilize exciting new structures like flashback, fractured narratives and multiple storylines.

Focus: Literary adaptation

15.3.2016

Within the scope of our series *Literature meets screenplay* we invited Josef Hader, Wolfgang Murnberger, Wolf Haas - 3 well known Austrian writers (and filmmakers, etc.) for a panel discussion about adapting novels for feature screenplays. They have already written 4 successful screenplays together based on novels from Wolf Haas, directed by Wolfgang Murnberger and starring Josef Hader.

At the start **Maria Teuchmann** (Thomas Sessler Verlag) spoke of all issues concerning Literary adaptation from a publisher's point of view.

Systemic constellation for writers with Claudia Gladziejewski

4. to 6.12. 2015

Systemic constellation offers writers a quick, effective way of finding solutions for the issues in the storyline. The simple method reveals the underlying dynamics in the script and the relationship between figures. It brings clarity about the strengths and weaknesses of the screenplay and creative impulses for the further development of the substance-

Script constellations work on two levels: on the story level, they reveal the material's inherent drama and offer insight into the relationships between the characters. There is also a second level, in which the future „audience“ is literally able to step into the story. The „audience“ can thus provide us with important feedback as to how a scene, character or relationship affects him/her and if the situation in which he/she finds him/herself provides enough tension and emotion to keep him/her interested. At the same time, the writer gets valuable information about which type of audience might be especially interested in the film. This level can also be used to incorporate the writer into the constellation which is particularly beneficial when there are autobiographical elements in the story or when the writer has a particularly intense emotional connection to one certain character.

The special quality of the script constellations of Claudia Gladziejewski consists of its systemic and dramatic experience and profound knowledge of the industry from 20 years in the film and television business. She has worked as an editor of numerous award-winning films, including the Oscar-winning "The Lives of Others".

Aktuelle Impulse – current impulses

Talk

In 2016 we continue our new series of events: Aktuelle Impulse - writers of non-fiction literature report about their field of studies.

Current impulses: Gudrun Harrer

Middle Eastern maze - analysis off the mainstream

16.12.2015

Gudrun Harrer is the editor-in-chief of the daily The standard, Islamic and political scientist, teaches modern history and politics of the Middle East at the University of Vienna and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.

"What does Islamism mean? Understandings and misunderstandings. "

The dramatic developments in the Arab world are not easy to understand for those affected and those who are outside. Why did the bloody religious war develop from the insurrection in Syria? What are the causes of the recent violent explosions in Iraq? What are the plans of the jihadists? On these and many other questions, Gudrun Harrer presented possible answers and explained the complex subject in more details.

Arbeit Alltag Welt –Everyday's Work, Unknown places

Excursions

To inspire writers creativity, we offer excursions to places, where one could not go so easily as a private person.

Danube Cruiser / Cruise Director

10.5.2016

Helmut Kusdat is cruise director for Avalon Waterways and previously worked for other river cruising companies for 10 years. From April to November he is on ships on the Rhine, Main, Danube, Moselle and the Rhone.

On the 10th of May, the Illumination, a 110m-long suite ship, arrived in Vienna from Amsterdam to Budapest. Helmut Kusdat did welcome us on board and report on experiences and the inconveniences of his job during a tour of the ship.

Legal adviser for foreigners and asylum seekers Karin Klaric

27.4.2016

Karin Klaric worked as a legal adviser at Caritas and Ute Bock until she founded "Purple Sheep" in 2010 together with Kurosh Allahyari and Brigitte Mayer. "Purple Sheep" helps people who have fled to Austria to apply for asylum and whose application has been rejected, thereby supporting their rights.

We met Karin Klaric at the Schützenhaus and found out for what reasons a deportation procedure already initiated can be unlawful. A prominent case of this kind are the Komani twins, who after having been deported to Kosovo, were able to return to Vienna, meanwhile 13 years old and attend a cooperative middle school in Vienna.

Excursion Federal Administrative Court - Asylum seekers (16.3.2016)

The current European refugee situation is also reflected in the national courts and asylum laws. The Austrian Federal Administrative Court decides on appeals against decisions by the Federal Office for Foreign Affairs and Asylum concerning asylum applications, the granting of residence permits for humanitarian reasons, decisions on the termination of the stay of foreigners in Austria and the organization of their departure and other complex, legal technicalities.

At the beginning of this year's focus on refugees we have visited judges who preside over such complaints.

Forensic medical Examiner (13.1.2016)

Wolfgang Denk is a specialist for forensics and a legal expert in Vienna. He told us about his professional activities by means of examples and pictures, and explained why he sometimes does not agree with the findings of some other representatives of his profession.

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