



## Press Release

### **Power & Freedom: the World Conference of Screenwriters 04 Unites International Screenwriters in Berlin on the 10th and 11<sup>th</sup> of October**

**Berlin, September 18th, 2018.** The Guild of German Screenwriters (VDD, Verband der Deutschen Drehbuchautoren) will host writer colleagues from all continents at the 2018 **World Conference of Screenwriters**, to be held at the **Academy of Arts at Pariser Platz** on the **10th and 11th of October**. The event is presented in cooperation with the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE) and the International Affiliation of Writers Guilds (IAWG), who, together, represent approximately 60,000 Screenwriters worldwide.

The World Conference is a vibrant international forum that has previously been held in Athens, Barcelona, and Warsaw. The conference is a place for creative exchange as well as the transfer of knowledge between writers and guilds. Additionally, the conference is intended as a place for the examination of the world as reflected in films and television series.

Screenwriters are important seismographs of the current age and the political reality of the countries in which they work. With the erosion of political security and societal values around the globe, **the world conference will be significantly more political than in the past.**

The first day of the conference will focus on the theme of **Power** by exploring the creative influence of screenwriters on the production process and the status of screenwriters as creators, while the second day will focus on the theme of **Freedom**. The freedom of screenwriters and the diversity of storytelling are increasingly threatened in multiple ways, including a backlash from authoritarian regimes and right-wing populist movements, due to their creative work.

Amongst the **international participants** are countless screenwriters, who have achieved worldwide success through their screenplays and format development, including James Schamus (USA/*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Brokeback Mountain*), David A. Goodman (USA/*Family Guy, Futurama, Star Trek: Enterprise*), Steven Moffat (United-Kingdom/*Sherlock, Dr. Who*), Camilla Ahlgren (Denmark/*The Bridge*), Dorothee Schön

(Germany/*Charité*), Sigurjón Kjartansson (Iceland/*Trapped*), Vasant Nath (India/*Sacred Games*), Leora Kamenetzky (Israel/*Fauda*), Elena Soarez (Brazil/*The Mechanism*) as well as many others.

The interest in the 2018 conference is overwhelming – several weeks prior to the event, it is filled to capacity with delegates from around the world.

More information about the conference and the programme can be found at:

<https://www.wcos-berlin.de/>

**World Conference of Screenwriters 04 (WCOS 04)** organized by the Screenwriter's Guild of Germany (VDD, Verband Deutscher Drehbuchautoren), the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE) and the International Affiliation of Writers Guilds (IAWG).

**Head of programming:** Carolin Otto, screenwriter, Vice President of the FSE, Advisory board member of the VDD-board and as long term member of the VDD responsible for international themes.

**Responsible for organization:** Jan Herchenröder, General Manager VDD

**With support from:**



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**Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE)**

The FSE is the umbrella organization representing the interests of European screenwriters' associations. It supports its members not only through important lobbying work in Brussels, but also by means of a central information and communication platform. Its members include associations from the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Bulgaria, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Austria, and many more. The current aim of the

FSE is to grow further by incorporating additional members from Eastern Europe. Among other things, the FSE awards the European Screenwriters Award for particularly noteworthy achievements in screenwriting. The inaugural winner in 2015 was Danish screenwriter Adam Price (Borgen) followed in 2017 by French screenwriter Anne Landois (Spirals).

<http://www.scenaristes.org/>

### **International Affiliation of Writers Guilds (IAWG)**

The International Affiliation of Writers Guilds (IAWG) was established in 1986 to address the globalization of the entertainment industry and improve the working conditions of professional film and television writers worldwide through collective action, mutual support and common representation. Its member guilds work on behalf of 50,000 writers in the areas of collective bargaining, standard contracts, credit disputes, government lobbying, and the promotion of the essential role of the writer as first creator in the filmmaking process. Through financial, professional, and collegial support, the IAWG plays a mentoring role in assisting emerging guilds in their development and helps to build professional working relationships among more established organizations.

<http://iawg.org>

### **Screenwriter's Guild of Germany (VDD)**

The VDD represents the interests of screenwriters to TV stations, the German Federal Film Board, the public, as well as policy makers, both nationally and internationally. The VDD advocates for reformed copyright laws, is actively working on the revision of film funding in Germany, promotes the development of content towards more innovative formats in discussion with TV stations, and negotiates common remuneration regulations. It also offers free legal advice and fee calculation services, as well as access to a broad industry network – advantages that benefit almost 500 members as well as TV stations, producers, and politicians.

[www.drehbuchautoren.de](http://www.drehbuchautoren.de)