FERA Activities

FERA will hold its Annual General Assembly Meeting on May 31st and June 1st in Dublin
The Screen Directors Guild of Ireland (SDGI) is the host and organizer of this year General Assembly Meeting. You will find attached an information note from SDGI. Registration should be completed by April 18.

A Fund Raising and Project Manager will start working for FERA as of April 1st
On March 6, Trish McAdam and Peter Carpentier, two members of the Executive Committee of FERA have interviewed with Cécile Despringre 5 candidates for the function of Office Manager of FERA. They agreed that Marzia Rezzin, an Italian woman living in Brussels with great experience in fund raising and project management for NGOs was the best candidate. She is starting working as Fund Raising and Project Manager on a two days a week basis as of April 1st.

Publication of the book “European Media Governance: the Brussels Dimension”
This book edited by Dr. Georgios Terzis is presenting the work of ten European organizations from a variety of media sectors, as well as the relevant work of the European Commission and the European Parliament in the field of Media governance. It contains a film chapter with an article on Film Directors and European Media Governance written by Cécile Despringre, which presents the role of FERA in Brussels, the main facts and figures of the European audiovisual sector, the EU regulation relevant to the European audiovisual sector, the FERA 2006 position papers and the other issues FERA is working on.
http://www.intellectbooks.co.uk/ppbooks.php?isbn=9781841501987

European Parliament

Review of the European Telecommunication Framework
The European Parliament has started its discussions on the 3 legislative proposals put forward by the European Commission on November 13, 2007 on the 5 directives which form the “Telecommunication package”. In spite of the technical and competition focus of the regulation dealing with the development of infrastructures and not with content, the creative community succeeded in introducing in the Commission’s proposals two provisions requesting telecommunications operators and subscribers to respect copyright. FERA is now working on securing these two provisions in the European Parliament’s discussion and is also working on some new proposals aiming at improving the cooperation of the telecommunications operators with the content sector regarding copyright protected content issues and to rebalance the fundamental rights of intellectual property protection and privacy and data protection.
European Commission website on eCommunications:
European Parliament procedure files:
Copyright

The Swedish Supreme Court reaffirms that commercial breaks in films constitute a violation of the moral rights of filmmakers
On March 18, the Supreme Court of Sweden reaffirmed the judgments of the City Court of Stockholm and the Court of Appeal in the lawsuit between film directors Vilgot Sjöman and Claes Eriksson versus the Swedish company TV4. The judgment confirms that the moral right still has a value for the individual artist and that an express permission from the film director is necessary to legitimate commercial breaks in film.
KLYS – the Swedish Joint Committee for Artistic and Literary Professionals – website: http://www.klys.se/english.htm

MEDIA Programme

Croatia first candidate country to join MEDIA 2007 Programme
Croatia’s participation in MEDIA 2007 is a result of its progress in complying with EU audiovisual rules and acquis, in particular the Television without Frontiers Directive. Croatia will, as all non-EU participating countries do, contribute to the budget of MEDIA 2007 (contribution will be of 127 333 euros in 2008 and increase to 139 546 euros in 2013). Croatia is the 32nd country to join the MEDIA programme. MEDIA 2007 will help Croatia promote Croatian films and distribute them more widely across borders and allow more audiovisual works from the rest of Europe to find an audience in Croatia.

EU Lisbon Treaty

Bulgaria ratifies EU Treaty
Bulgaria, one of the most recent Member States to join the European Union became on March 21 the sixth country to ratify the Lisbon treaty after Hungary, Slovenia, Malta, Romania and France. Slovenian Presidency website: http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Press_Releases/March/0321MZZbulgaria.html
Press Article: http://euobserver.com/18/25863

News from the Members

DPRS will become Directors UK (D-UK) in May
The new organisation will have Paul Greengrass as President and Charles Sturridge as Chairman of the board. It took 18 months to set up this new organisation as a direct offshoot of the
Directors’ and Producers’ Rights Society (DPRS). With a 3000 strong membership, the organisation will represent the directors’ voice at any negotiating table.

Press Article:

The 2008 UBFM’s Film Awards

On February 27, the Union of Bulgarian Film Makers awarded Bulgarian filmmakers for their achievements in features, documentaries and cartoons as well as in film theory and film criticism for the period 2006-2007. The Award for Life-long achievement went to Mrs Binka Zheliazkova – prominent film director. Best feature film to “Warden of the Dear” directed by Ilyian Simeonov. Best documentary to “Divorce Albanian Style” directed by Adela Peeva. Best animation to “The Rag” directed by Anry Kulev.

All awards on:

New Film Studio for Young Polish Filmmakers

The “Youth and Film” Studio created by the Polish Filmmakers Association opened on 14th of March 2008. The Minister of Culture and National Heritage (Bogdan Zdrojewski), the director of the Polish Film Institute (Agnieszka Odorowicz) and the President of the Polish Filmmakers Association (Jacek Bronski) signed a five year-long agreement. In 2008 the Studio’s film production will be co-financed by the Polish Film Institute (about 1.1m €), the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (about 0.6m €) and the Polish Filmmakers Association (about 0.3m €). An additional financial participation is expected from the public broadcaster TVP S.A. (about 1.1m €).


Forthcoming Events

Joint meeting of the working groups for sector-specific guidelines for orphan works on April 9 in Brussels

After having worked in sector-specific working groups, the organisations involved (including FERA) in drafting guidelines for duly diligent search for rightholders of orphan works will meet on April 9 to discuss a joint report to be presented to the European Digital Libraries High Level Expert Group at its next meeting on 4th June 2008.

EC Website on i2010 Digital Libraries Initiative:

Co-production of Audiovisual works in the draft protocol on Cultural Cooperation attached to the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement, April 11 in Brussels

DG Trade of the European Commission organises, in cooperation with DG Education and Culture and DG Information Society a meeting with audiovisual professional organisations to discuss the meaning and implications of the Protocol on Cultural Cooperation in EU’s negotiations of a FTA with Korea and develop criteria under which European and Korean audiovisual co-productions can benefit from reciprocal preferential market access.

Bilateral Trade Negotiations of the EU:
http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/index_en.htm

Executive Committee of FERA on April 21 in Paris
The members of the Executive Committee of FERA will meet on April 21 in Paris to prepare the Annual General Assembly Meeting to be held on May 31st-June 1st in Dublin.
The Screen Directors Guild of Ireland is delighted to be the host of this year’s General Assembly Meeting. The conference will take place in Dublin on the 31st May and 1st June at the Radisson SAS Royal Hotel.

Dublin is a multicultural and vibrant city and will provide an inspiring setting for the conference. As a young and developing guild, only established since 2000, SDGI is looking forward to meeting once again with its European counterparts to further the important work of FERA and plan for the future of directors in Europe.

SDGI have organised a number of special events to accompany the conference. An evening screening of *Faithless* followed by a ‘director in dialogue’ session with President of FERA, Liv Ullmann, will take place on Friday 30th May at the Irish Film Institute. A welcome reception before the film will give delegates an opportunity to meet with each other and catch up on events since the 2007 GAM in Dijon. A reading from James Joyce’s *Ulysses* will provide the backdrop for an authentic ‘fish and chips’ supper that will take place on Sandymount Strand on Saturday 31st May. Delegates will then be invited to attend a screening of Irish film, *Eden*, at the Lighthouse Cinema. A celebration lunch in honour of both the current and new president of FERA will be held during the conference.

The final registration date for the GAM is the 18th April. Registration forms and a photograph and short biography of each delegate can be submitted to sinead@sdgi.ie cc info@ferainfo.org.

The project manager for this event is Sinead Gillett. She is happy to answer any queries relating to the GAM or help with any personnel issues relating to traveling to Dublin. She can be contacted by phone on +353 (0)85 1216322 or by email on sinead@sdgi.ie.