
Credits, Creative Rights and Intellectual Property Rights

CREDITS ENFORCEMENT

The Credits Department determines the writing credits for theatrical and television projects produced under the Guild's jurisdiction. Production companies are required to submit a Notice of Tentative Writing Credits to the Guild and the participating writers at the end of principal photography in order for the Guild to oversee the determination of writing credits.

In 2005 the Guild determined writing credits on approximately 3,700 projects—260 in screen with the balance in television. Of these determinations, 26 percent of screen and 2 percent of television projects were subject to arbitration. In addition to determining credit, the Credits Department also expends significant time and effort investigating issues related to credits, most commonly, participating writer claims including those arising from remakes. In 2005 we conducted more than 30 investigations, 16 of which involved participating writer issues. These investigations are critical to the credits process as only participating writers, as defined in the MBA, are eligible to compete for credit.

The Guild reviewed nearly 9,000 ads last year to monitor compliance with the MBA's advertising and publicity provisions. The Credits Department also works with Baseline/Filmtracker, IMDB, TVTracker, and other major Internet databases, providing WGA-determined credits in order to improve the availability, presentation and accuracy of writing credits to the public.

The Credits Department also reviews both

the main and end title credits on-screen for all theatrical motion pictures produced under Guild jurisdiction. In 2005, we continued to maintain a high rate of compliance with the applicable title provisions of the MBA.

CREATIVE RIGHTS

The Guild monitors compliance with the MBA's creative rights provisions to ensure that writers receive, in fact, the rights we bargain for. These rights include the opportunity to view a cut of the film prior to its being locked, participating in press junkets, and being invited to the premiere or film festival at which the picture is first exhibited. For feature films and long-form television projects, the Guild uses multiple sources, including press materials, websites, studio information, and other resources to track compliance. When necessary, the Guild intervenes on a writer's behalf.

Meetings with CEOs are held each year, bringing writers and studio CEOs together to discuss topics related to the professional status of writers, including general discussion of studio compliance with writers' creative rights. The studios' overall compliance with creative rights is generally high.

WGAW REGISTRY

The Guild's 24-hour online registration service continued to expand throughout 2005, with more than 49,000 items submitted. Since the online registration service was launched in 2002, submissions overall have increased more than 67 percent, now topping 63,000 registrations. In addition, because

of the department's new renewal-notification program, our business has more than tripled to upwards of 6,800 renewals. The Registry hopes to have an online renewal feature implemented in the coming fiscal year, making the procedure even easier for our customers.

DIVERSITY

In keeping with its mission, the Employment Access Department continues to promote diversity in Hollywood, building cultural bridges between industry executives, showrunners, and writers that are demographically underrepresented, both within the membership as well as those who work in areas not yet covered by the Guild.

The staff of the department supported the member leadership of eight committees to stage 45 diversity outreach programs throughout the year, including a variety of events, ethnic film festivals, conferences and panels, all with the goals of raising the profile of the

writer throughout the entertainment community. In October, The Hollywood Reporter co-sponsored the all-committee Diversity Month Celebration called "The Write Influence: Valuing Diversity." This daylong panel event was held in conjunction with the release of the 2005 Hollywood Writers Report subtitled "Catching Up With A Changing America?," which analyzed hiring trends of writers in the motion picture and television industry.

The department continues to coordinate the Writers Training Program and monitor the freelance writers hiring provision of the Guild's MBA contract.

The department also coordinates the Writers Training Program, monitors the freelance writers hiring provision of the Guild's MBA contract, and compiles employment statistics regarding hiring trends for historically underrepresented groups.

