

GEECT CONFERENCES 2007-2014

According to the programme proposed in Madrid, conferences have been organised, on the basis of one to two per year, with a view to increase this strong co-operation among film schools, and share secrets, knowledge and experience.

Best-Kept Secrets technical conference in Amsterdam, 5-6 September 2007

Hosted by Marieke Schoenmakers at the NFTA, moderated by Nik Powell of the NFTS, and conducted by Tore Maritvold of the Norwegian Film School, this Best-Kept Secrets technical conference successfully gathered over two days participants coming from all over Europe, including Georgia, Israel, Lebanon, but also from Australia, and India, and looked at how film schools in Europe and the rest of the world tackled the new challenges brought about by the changes in technology, hence the changes in the industry regarding their models of production and post- production that the film schools themselves wanted to introduce.

Best-Kept Secrets animation conference in Lisbon, 27-29 May 2009

Hosted by Manuel José Damasio at Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias, Film, Video and Multimedia Department, in partnership with Zuzana Tatarova of VSMU – The Academy of Music and Performing Arts, this Best-Kept Secrets conference on the topic of animation gathered major European film and media schools that include animation courses in their programmes to reflect and discuss the major transformations animation training is going through, not only in the context of a profoundly changing media environment, but also in the context of the radical reforms European higher education is facing.

Film Education: traditions and innovation in Moscow, in the framework of the 90th Anniversary of VGIK, 2-4 November 2009

Organised by Tatiana Storchak, Vice Rector of the VGIK, the conference was successful in debating on important topics related to film schools such as the selection of new comers, the relationship between theoretical subjects and practical exercises, the methodology and criteria of assessment, the new horizons of film education, and the pros and cons of the Bologna System. Participants were invited to attend the conference and share their views and opinions on the topics debated in the different discussions, to join the gala celebration dedicated to the 90th anniversary of VGIK at the Kremlin Palace, and visit the State Film Archives on the last day of their stay.

Creative post-production in Beaconsfield, 8-11 April 2010

Hosted by Nik Powell at the NFTS and organised by Roger Crittenden, in cooperation with Annabelle Pangborn and Larry Sider, the event brought together European and World experts in the practice of and education for film editing, sound design and music composition. The purpose was to share and debate current and future trends to enhance shared knowledge and ideas for improving and developing this area of practical film education. It was agreed that a DVD of the symposium should be edited and provided to the member schools for informational and educational purposes.

Distribution, co-production and rights management in Ludwigsburg, 1-2 March 2011

Hosted and organised by Thomas Schadt and Guido Lukoschek at the Filmakademie of Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg, the conference discussed over two days the specificities of co-productions, distribution and rights management of student films. Among the numerous speakers who shared their practice of the various subjects of the conference, a guest speaker from North America was invited to join the event, in accordance with the policy of GEECT, which ensures that members from the other continents are always welcome to attend.

Producing creative producers in Edinburgh, 1-2 March 2012

Hosted by Robin MacPherson at the Napier University in Edinburgh and co-organised by Donald Taylor-Black of IADT Dublin, the conference discussed over two days the specificities of training creative producers in film schools. Numerous speakers from the production department of their respective schools from all over Europe shared their experience and showed films produced by their students at the different stages of their curriculum.

Assessment and evaluation in film schools in Sofia, 22-26 October 2012

The second GEECT conference of the year was hosted and organised by Lubomir Halachev and Valeriya Jivkova at the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts in Sofia, Bulgaria. It discussed over three days all the aspects of assessment and evaluation in film schools, from student admission to diploma work.

Participants appreciated the atmosphere of the conference that stimulated vivid exchange of experience, ideas and discussions of the topics provoked by the properly structured panel exposés.

Teaching cinematography – From film to digital in Paris, 23-26 February 2013

The conference on Teaching Cinematography took place at La Fémis during the exhibition organised by the Association of French Cinematographers (AFC). The first two days were dedicated to the visit of the exhibition, where recent cameras and other photo material were displayed. The conference opened officially on the 24th and focused over two days on the transition from film to digital, with four panels on the different aspects of teaching cinematography.

Writing TV series in Copenhagen, 28-29 November 2013

The conference on Writing TV Series, hosted and organised Poul Nesgaard and Janne Juul, took place at the Danish Film School in Copenhagen. Over two days, under the moderation of Rumle Hammerich, one of the writers of the BORGEN series, the participants discussed the topic “From education to business” focusing on the connection between national film schools and broadcasters. Representatives from film schools in Europe and America presented their concepts of TV series and their ways of teaching, including their views and goals for the education, their ideas and visions for the process.

Future conferences confirmed for 2014-2015

Teaching Documentary will take place at Newport in Cardiff in November 2014, followed by one on Production Design at IADT in Dublin in April 2015 and a second one on Films Schools and their Alumni at Sam Spiegel in Jerusalem in July 2015.