

GROUPEMENT EUROPEEN DES ECOLES DE CINEMA ET DE TELEVISION

Some first ideas for a possible GEECT productionworkshop

The main aim for an international workshop about producing is twofold:

- translating national projects in a way, that is - in the best sense of the word - also understood abroad;
- by developping and "selling" the projects both to colleagues from other schools and to professionals from different countries, both students and teachers may learn better ways to produce in their own situation.

Underlying thoughts are, that "production" means creating in a way that ideas are translated into a filmform and that the project can be realised with the means that can be expected. Therefore the three types of "makers" concerned should collaborate in this workshop: scriptwriter, director and producer.

Furthermore all professionals that will participate should understand that the examples they use should be taken from the level, at which students might be expected to work fairly soon after they enter the professional world. So no mammoth projects, but projects that can be produced locally, or within the contaxt of a more easy co-production set-up. I would favor the presence of also quite young producers, that have made just their first steps - as to enhance the recognition for our students.

Stage 1

Meeting of representatives of some 12 schools; say each school sends a team consisting of this triangle of scriptwriter, director and producer + one production-teacher. Meeting is headed by a teacher/producer "of excellence".

They propose a project that has thoroughly been developed at their respective schools to the group. Since we need smaller groups for discussion, work will take place in three sub-groups.

The projects will be discussed at the level of content, then at the productional level, where budget, finance and distribution possibilities are discussed.

This can lead to the situation that parts of projects need a rewrite etc. It would be ideal if - although in a rough form - this should take place right away.

- At least two, maybe three (young!?!) producers from different countries (bigger and smaller, both film and television should be represented) now form a panel that judges the projects both on their level of content and their chances and

problems when one would go professionally into production. The producers are invited to tell about experiences (on this more simple level see above) that might be comparable to (some of) the students projects.

- The third 'moment' of this workshop will be formed by the presentation of (some?) of the projects to financiers, probably tv people. They should tell why they would or would not accept specific projects, and what the various teams could possibly do, to enhance their chances. This part might be particularly interesting for the writers, to see where 'national' ways to tell stories might need 'translation' to a different working method, and in which cases these 'own ways to tell stories' is precisely the right way forward.

- Here an interesting moment can follow, when the professional independent producers discuss with the professional tv people about their views.

Stage 2.

- In their respective schools projects are further developed; maybe that some are executed, others may just reach the moment of final packaging.

Stage 3.

- Same teams from schools gather again. The head of the workshop chooses some projects to discuss broadly, others to discuss in smaller groups. (Different schools now in different groups to avoid "same discussions"). Hopefully some projects are executed and the results are shown.

- This is where especially the distribution/sales side come in:

- some people will be invited that throw light on the problems and possibilities of the films and projects presented. It can be argued that this looks like the last part of the first meeting; that it may be better to shift that whole distribution part to this second meeting. Personally I'd prefer to have them both; one should be aware at that earlier stage of the implications that later distribution/sales will have.

One could connect this stage 3 to an event, where on a higher level project development in connection to distribution is discussed (at the Rotterdam festival there is a three day event of this type right now).

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