

THE TV SERIES RENDEZ-VOUS'

The TV Screenwriters' Festival
of Aix les Bains/ France – 3rd season
October 16 -19, 2008

« Scénaristes en Séries »

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The event : screenwriters speak out

- **The TV Series Rendezvous'** is an innovative event, created by professional screenwriters, members of the French Author's club, two years ago, to draw attention to their profession by highlighting the driving force of what is often considered to be the most important contemporary product of the television industry (in terms of writing volume, broadcasting and media impact): namely, the TV series.
- This important gathering -- based on meetings and screenings, without any competition -- has the ultimate goal of uniting players from the world of television series to discuss the problems they encounter. In the spirit of exchange, positive developments and new ideas, both in method and content, it also carries over into a direct dialogue with the public and the media.
- This festival has become in two years a meeting point for the whole world of TV series. It is a convivial place where professionals can interact and share their experience.
- More than just another "festival," *Scénaristes en Séries* is primarily for communication and collaboration among French television screenwriters and their foreign counterparts to discuss their problems and their points in common.

The « Scénaristes en Séries »

- All the team members of the association “Scénaristes en Séries” have been working for many years for TV series, some as creators and others as co-writers.
- Nicole Jamet (Dolmen, Un et Un font Six, Une Fille dans l'Azur, Docteur Claire Bellac), Didier Cohen (L'Institut, Quai N°1, La cour des grands), Eric Kristy (Une femme d'honneur, Le Proc, Action Douanes), Dominique Lancelot (L'été rouge, Section de recherches), Marie-Anne Le Pezennec (Dolmen, Femmes de Loi), Pierre-Jean Rey (Un et Un font Six, Une Fille dans l'Azur, Docteur Claire Bellac), Gilles Gérardin (Terre Indigo, Marie Tempête, Dr Sylvestre), Guy-Patrick Sainderichin (Engrenages)

The goal

- To promote among professionals, the media and the general public the role of writing and the screenwriter's place in the heart of television production, with a special focus on television series and serials.
- To be a international meeting place for innovation, exchanges and critical evaluation, coupled in the long term with an international screenwriting market.
- Anchored in the professional field and its partnership with the world of distribution (broadcasters, institutions, service providers), it is already become **the** annual meeting, specific and not-to-be-missed, of the audiovisual world.
- To create a contact with the public. This is particularly important, because the television programs are crucially made for the viewers.

An international event

- The TV Series Rendezvous' has got an international dimension and set up every year with a special focus on series coming from one or several foreign countries.
- In 2006, 3 American showrunners participated to our meetings. In 2007, the event has welcomed 2 television professionals for the **USA** (the director Michael Zinberg and Janine Sherman Barrois who is one of the *ER* screenwriters). The festival also opened itself to **Europe** with the interactions of British professionals (the creator and the producers of *Jekyll*), German professionals (the producer of *Streets of Berlin*) and Finish professionals (the creator and the producer of the interactive series *Accidental Lovers*).
- Also in 2007, **Quebec** was our country of honour. For this special occasion, various Canadian series were presented during the opening ceremony of the festival with the screening of: two episodes from the drama series *Minuit le soir* (in the presence of its creator Pierre-Yves Bernard and its director Podz); the pilot of the comic series *Les Bougon* (in the presence of its creator François Avard); one episode from *La Galère* (in the presence of its creator Renée-Claude Brazéau) and a teaser of the thriller series *Temps Dur* (in the presence of its producer André Béraud).
- This year, "Scénaristes en series" wants to keep organizing those exchanges with professionals coming from all around the world. It is very important to maintain the international aspect of this meeting because as an interesting way to discover many new series, and mainly it represents a great opportunity for TV professionals to share their experiences and learn from it.

2008, Guest starring : Great Britain

- For this 3rd edition of The TV Séries Rendezvous', **Great Britain** will be our country of honour. Accordingly, a delegation of British professionals will be invited for the occasion. With an audiovisual economy rising, a prolific public broadcasting network (i.e. the BBC), a strong and competitive involvement in the international audiovisual industry, talented professionals that are held in high esteem, Great Britain is obviously one of the most interesting country to invite for the international opening of the festival. How could one not be amazed by this dynamic production that offers hundreds of brilliant series every year?
- Many British series, broadcasted (e.g. *Hotel Babylon*, *Spooks*, *The Office*, *Life on Mars*, *Skins*, *Doctor Who*) or unseen in France (e.g. *Ashes to Ashes*, *the Last Enemy*) will be presented to the Television professionals and to the public.
- The "Scénaristes en Séries" are pleased to invite creators, directors, producers and broadcasters of all the series presented so that they can participate to some conferences and panels and talk about their work, sharing their experience with French TV professionals and creating new prospects for collaboration.
- Episodes of many of the great classical series (such as *Monty Python*, *Absolutely Fabulous*, *The Avengers*, *The Prisoner*) will also be screened during a special British series night.

A professional meeting

- **Debates** that gather Audiovisual Professionals
For example, in 2006: The development of 52 minutes running time series in France; genesis of a series.
In 2007: visual and sound identity of series; Identity of European series; medical series
- **Master classes** around foreigners experiences
Examples:
In 2006, the Americans Rod Lurie (screenwriter and director of *The Contender* and creator of *Commander in Chief*), Marc Friedman (producer of *Commander in Chief*) and Carol Flint (screenwriter that worked for *ER* and *The West Wing*) gave Master Classes about the American series production system.
In 2007: Pierre-Yves Bernard and Podz gave one Master class about their series *Minuit le soir*. Janine Sherman Barrois (Screenwriter for *ER*) participated to a conference about medical series and Michael Zinberg gave a Master class about the cop character in American series.
- Master classes about general issues : Series export, which one are successful abroad; the development of new broadcasting media (Internet and mobile phones); medical series...

The public is welcome

- The TV Series Rendezvous' is not only a professional gathering. The purpose is also to give to the public the opportunity to discover audiovisual professions, and especially to understand better the role of screenwriters. People can attend various conferences and screenings (in which the entrance is free) and meet the professionals.
- **Panels opened to the public**
In 2006: Master Class about the series Plus belle la vie; from the screenplay to Actor's interpretation; Write for the cultural diversity.
In 2007: thriller series; the development of new broadcasting media (Internet and mobile phones); the relationship between screenplays and Novels.
- **Lots of special events**
In 2006: One "classical series night" with the screening of episodes from Bonne nuit les petits, Thierry la fronde, Belle & Sebastien, Les Chevaliers du ciel, Arsène Lupin and many other unforgettable French series.
In 2007: One special night of the American series pilots with screenings of the first episode of ER, CSI, 24, Prison Break and Happy Days.
- Every year, we also set up series musical blind tests and authors signature sessions.

Screenings

- **Premiere screenings** of French and foreign series unseen episodes, but also new series pilots in the presence of the shows' casts and crews.
- In 2006: Screening of French series episodes such as *Mafiosa*, *Louis la brocante*, *Plus belle la vie*, *David Nolande*, *Greco...* but also presentation of unseen foreign series (*The west Wing*, *Commander in Chief*, *Invasion*).
- In 2007: Screening of the unseen Canadian series *Temps Dur*, *Les Bougon*, *Minuit le soir* and *La Galère* during the special Quebec night. But also Premiere of the outstanding British series *Jekyll* and screenings of the German series *Streets of Berlin* and *Turkish for beginners*. The public could also watch new French series (*Les Oubliées*, *Nos enfants chéris*, *La commune* and *La cour des grands*).

For the young ones & the students

- The association “Scénaristes en Séries” contains an important **teaching dimension**. Operations with children and teenagers are being set up in order to make them discover the writing professions.
- During the festival, for example in 2007: for the youngest ones, screening of *Elliott Kid* and its making-of (the creator and the producer was there to answer the children questions about the creation process of a cartoon series). Screening of *Franky Snow* in the presence of Smâin (French voice of the main character).
- For teenagers, one session about foreign series adaptation with the participation of Michel Mella (French voice of Fonzy in *Happy Days*), François Dunoyer (artistic director for the adaptation of *CSI* in French) and Laurence Dourléns (French voice of Jorja Fox) who showed how they work and explained the different steps of an adaptation (Detection, translation, synchronisation...)
- But also upstream: intervention in schools, in coordination with teachers, are being set up all along the year, in order to make them understand better the series writing process and to get to know the writers’ professions better. The work is based on series analysis, screenplays writing and how a screenplay turns itself into a series. These interventions are made by current professionals (for example: workshop around a series bible with an 8th grade class, adaptation of a short story with a 12th grade class).

The 2007 edition

- 516 TV professionals attended the festival last year, which means 29% more than in 2006. 180 screenwriters, about a hundred producers and directors, 50 comedians and almost 40 persons representing Fiction Departments of the main French broadcasters. All the Television professionals were there for this exceptional gathering. The Press was also there to cover the event: 53 journalists were there to attend the debates, panels and screenings.
- The TV Series Rendezvous' is getting more and more famous and attracts more and more professionals and a larger public every year.

Partnerships & Sponsors

- The city of Aix les Bains - chosen by the screenwriters for its dynamism, its pleasant environment, its international reputation, its ease of access, its geographic localisation and its accommodations and logistic structure – decided to support the festival financially, logistically and humanly.

The TV Series 'Rendezvous' is also supported by the Rhone Alpes District council.

- Financial sponsors: SACD, The Author's Club, Adami, Procirep, SACEM, CNC, the TV channels /TF1, M6, France Télévisions, Canal+/ and also Digimage, Fot printers, Michel Lafon Editions.
- Promotion and technical support are provided by the radio France Bleu, the local Tv channel France 3 Rhône Alpes, the Audiovisual magazine Ecran Total, the magazine l'Hebdo des Savoie, Citroën, the Casino of Aix les Bains, the Peyrefitte institute, Aix les Bains Th

