

KEIN DREHBUCH. KEIN FILM.

Zum Start der Kampagne "Kein Drehbuch. Kein Film.", die der Verband Deutscher Drehbuchautoren e.V., VDD, auf der Berlinale am 8.2.2008 vorgestellt hat, schickten amerikanische Drehbuchautoren - fast zeitgleich mit dem erfolgreichen Ende ihres Streiks - diese Grußworte an ihre deutschen Kollegen:

"Our strike has been exhausting but well worth the effort, and I urge all my German colleagues to press forward until you win the rights and royalties all writers deserve."

PATRIC M. VERRONE - President of the WGAw (writer/executive producer "Futurama," writer/producer, "Muppets Tonight," writer/co-producer "The Simpsons")

"The two segments of the American Writers Guild (East and West) have never been more united, and united, too, must German writers be to effectively reach your worthy goals."

MICHAEL WINSHIP - President of the WGAE ("National Geographic Explorer," "Nova")

"Does this mean what I hope it does? Eine Feder, Eine Welt!"

LARRY GELBART - Former Member, WGAw Board of Directors, (writer/producer "M*A*S*H" - Emmy Award, writer, "Tootsie" - Oscar Nomination, "Oh God" - Oscar Nomination)

"Keep fighting for your rights. It's the only way you'll get them!"

RON BASS - Member, 2007-2008 WGA Negotiating Committee and Current Member, WGAw Board of Directors ("Rain Man," - Oscar Award, "My Best Friend's Wedding," "The Joy Luck Club")

"In an increasingly globalized media world, union solidarity across borders becomes not just important, but necessary."

JAMES SCHAMUS - (President, Focus Features and co-writer, "Lust, Caution," producer, "Brokeback Mountain" - Oscar nominee)

"It's tough, but at the end it's such a good feeling when you've won significant victories."

JOHN BOWMAN - Chairman 2007-2008 WGA Negotiating Committee and Current Member of the WGAw Board of Directors ("Saturday Night Live" -- Emmy Award winner, "Murphy Brown")

"Abraham Lincoln said:

The strongest bond of human sympathy outside the family relation should be one uniting working people of all nations and tongues and kindreds.

As you have stood with us, we stand with you. In solidarity forever."

CAROL MENDELSON - Member, 2007-2008 WGA Negotiating Committee (writer/executive producer "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," "CSI: Miami," "CSI: New York," writer/co-executive producer, "Melrose Place")

"It's been a long struggle for us these past three months, but heartening to know we've had the support of valiant writers overseas. We're all in this together and I look forward to your successful conclusion of a meaningful contract in Germany."

DAVID N. WEISS - Current Vice President, WGAw ("Shrek 2," "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius.")

"I have written some crazy scenes for actors like Nicolas Cage, John Travolta, Angelina Jolie, Jim Carrey and Cameron Diaz. But what's really crazy is the scene in Germany where writers do not get paid for the ancillary sales of their work. I stand with my brothers and sisters in Deutschland. Put down your pens, push back your keyboards, unionize -- then fight for your artistic and financial rights."

MIKE WERB - ("Face/Off," "The Mask," "Lara Croft Tomb Raider")

"You have so much to gain by staying firm and so much more to lose if you don't press on."

ELIAS DAVIS - Current Secretary-Treasurer of the WGAw ("Frasier," "Cheers," "M*A*S*H")

"I very much appreciate what you're attempting to do, am aware of the difficulties in doing so, but mostly am gratified that our friends and colleagues in Germany are pursuing the rights to which you're absolutely entitled. Good luck to you all."

CARL GOTTLIEB - Member, 2007-2008 WGA Negotiating Committee and former Vice President and Member of the WGAw Board of Directors ("Jaws," "The Jerk")

"Die Unionfuersschreibenvonfilmenindeutschland!"

PETER LEFCOURT - Current Member, WGAw Board of Directors, (writer/producer, "Cagney and Lacey" - Emmy Award, writer/executive producer, "Beggars and Choosers," writer "Due South." Wrote novel, "The Dreyfus Affair")

"The successful conclusion of the WGA strike shows it CAN be done. Unity is the key — stick together and you WILL prevail. You have our support, and our best wishes."

LEE ARONSOHN (writer/executive producer, "Two and a Half Men," "The Big Bang Theory," writer/co-executive producer, "Cybill")

"Only by sacrifice and taking chances will you reach your goals."

ANN MARCUS - Former Secretary-Treasurer and Board Member, WGAw, (writer/producer "Knots Landing," writer/creator of "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman" - Emmy Award)

"Never give up, fight on, the WGA is with you. Union! Union! Union!"

FRANK MILITARY (writer/co-executive producer, "The Unit," writer/supervising producer, "Jericho," writer/producer, "Navy NCIS: Naval Criminal Investigative Service")

"Gewerkschaft über Alles!"

ALLAN MANINGS - Former WGAw Vice President and Board Member (creator and executive producer "One Day At A Time," "writer/executive producer "Good Times," and writer on "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In" - Emmy Award)

"Every writer deserves to be paid fairly for their work. It all begins with the writer. In solidarity."

ROBIN SCHIFF - Member, 2007-2008 WGA Negotiating Committee, Current Member, WGAw Board of Directors (writer/producer "Lipstick Jungle," writer/consulting producer "Party of Five")

"I am rooting for you one and all!"

HOWARD MICHAEL GOULD — Member, 2007-2008 WGA Negotiating Committee (writer/executive producer "Cybill," "The Jeff Foxworthy Show," writer, "Home Improvement.")

"We are with you in total spirit."

KATHERINE FUGATE (writer/producer/creator "Army Wives" and writer, "Xena Warrior Princess")

"Members of the VDD: Thank you so much for your support these last several months. I've seen pictures of your rally at the Brandenburg Gate last November, and I can tell you solidarity like yours has helped the mood on our picket line immensely. We believe our fight is the fight for all writers, and we are grateful for your encouragement. Again, thank you and, of course... Kein Drehbuch, Kein Film."

STEPHEN McFEELY ("The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe," "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian")

"My best wishes and support to the VDD!"

AARON MENDELSON - Member, 2007-2008 WGA Negotiating Committee and Current Member, WGAw Board of Directors ("Air Bud: Spikes Back")

"We strongly support your fight to become a union and are with you in spirit."

DOROTHY (D.C.) FONTANA - Former Member, WGAw Board of Directors, ("Star Trek" - original and subsequent series, "The Waltons," "Streets of San Francisco")

“I’m confident and hopeful you’ll get the breakthrough you need for writers in Germany to finally share in the vast entertainment profits that the producing studios and networks have for such a long time kept for themselves.”

DAVID A. GOODMAN - Member, 2007-2008 WGA Negotiating Committee and Current Member, WGAw Board of Directors (writer/co-executive producer “Family Guy,” writer/consulting producer “Star Trek: Enterprise,” writer/co-executive producer “Futurama”)

“Like it’s been said over and over, it all begins on the page. Let them try to shoot one that’s blank. That’s the message to continuously drive home to them until they play fair and pay all German writers what they ought to earn.”

ROBERT KING - Member, 2007-2008 WGA Negotiating Committee and Current Member WGAw Board of Directors (writer/executive producer “In Justice,” writer, “Vertical Limit,” “Speechless”)

“You are strengthening our worldwide family of writers by standing up for your rights. Continued strength and success.”

LYNN ROTH - Former Member, WGAw Board of Directors (writer/executive Producer, “The Paper Chase,” writer/executive producer, “9 to 5,” writer, “The Portrait”)

“I am enormously grateful for your support during our long, difficult strike and I hope that German writers make great strides forward to get better earnings and working conditions.”

HOWARD A. RODMAN - Current Member, WGAw Board of Directors (“Joe Gould’s Secret,” “Savage Grace”)

"Fight on, guys. Go get 'em!"

MARK GUNN - Member, 2007-2008 WGA Negotiating Committee and Current Member WGAw Board of Directors ("2gether The Series")

“I’ve been a WGAw Member a long, long time and I can tell you it’s never been more important than now for union members to join hands together. If you do so in Germany as well, there’s no question it’s only a matter of time until you get the royalty benefits all writers should have. I’m crossing my fingers for you.”

ART EISENSON (“Gangster Chronicles,” “Kojak”)

"Dear Fellow Writers in Germany: Continue to fight the good fight. We are always stronger together than apart. As we stand on the verge of finally winning, the solidarity from other writers the world over continues to inspire us. We hope you feel it too."

KAREN HARRIS (writer/producer, "General Hospital" - Emmy Award and "The Incredible Hulk")

"I absolutely support our German brothers and sisters in their quest for a Union!"

NANCY DE LOS SANTOS - Current Member, WGAw Board of Directors
("Go Diego! Go," "Gotta Kick it Up")

"Ich bin ein amerikanischer Drehbuchautor. In der Solidarität mit Euch!"

STEVEN SCHWARTZ - Member, 2007-2008 WGA Negotiating Committee
("The Practice," "Critical Care," "100 Centre Street")

"Our hearts are with you in your struggle for writers' rights!"

JOAN MEYERSON - Current Member, WGAw Board of Directors ("Japan: Memoirs of a Secret Empire")

"Old show-business proverb: 'In Hollywood, you can't fail; you can only quit.' Fellow writers: Don't quit — and you won't fail."

RICHARD MANNING - (writer/producer, "Farscape," "Star Trek: The Next Generation," "TekWar," "Beyond Reality")

"Drehbuchautoren von Deutschland: Der Zeitpunkt ist gekommen!"

MICHAEL RUSSNOW - Former Member, WGAw Board of Directors
("Der Denver Klan," "Knots Landing," "Die Strassen von San Francisco," "Family Ties")

"If the producers get paid, we, the writers, get paid. If I am not mistaken, Germany has a long, strong tradition of unionism. Why, then, should authors and creators of literary material not enjoy the same protections? Good luck, German writers!"

GREG STRANGIS - Former Member, WGAw Board of Directors, (writer/supervising producer "Falcon Crest," writer "JAG," writer/producer "Eight Is Enough")

"As a proud WGA member and union organizer, I'm aware that nobody is better at organizing than the Germans."

HUGH FINK ("Saturday Night Live," "The Showbiz Show With David Spade," and "The Late, Late Show With Craig Ferguson")

"Stay strong, stay proud, keep writing!"

IKE BARINHOLTZ ("Mad TV")

"You will be victorious as long as you always remember, there is nothing without the writers. Stay strong and best of luck."

MARK GIBSON ("The Wild," "Snow Dogs")

"If you hang together, who are they going to get to write their shows and movies? But that's the important thing to remember. You've absolutely got to hang together, and if you do you'll get a piece of the pie. I wish all my German writer friends much, much luck."

MATT GUNN ("Real Time With Bill Maher")

“I’m a television writer with credits that might not be recognizable internationally, but I’ve been a WGA member for 12 years and have lived off residuals on more than one occasion. As the WGA leadership kept stressing, ‘We are all in this together.’ This applies not only to our union but to writers worldwide. If someone keeps making money off of our work, we should get paid, too.”

LARA RUNNELS OLSEN - ("Boy Meets World," "Reba")

“To our fellow writers in Germany and Europe: Stand strong, hold fast to your principles and beliefs. You are the creators of the intellectual property corporations market to make money. The biggest lie in the world is that they do not need you. Keep fighting the good fight.

Share in the wealth generated from your work. Stand strong.”

JOHN HUFF – ("The Nightstalker," "CHiPs," "Streethawk,"

"Hunter’s Moon," "Cyxork 7," which proudly world-debuted at Hannover’s Apollo Kino)

“The key to our success was loyalty to each other, constant communication and free debate, hard work and a good sense of humor. If we can do it, you can do it. Stay strong.”

CARLETON EASTLAKE – ("SeaQuest DSV," "The Outer Limits,"

"Farscape")

“Was viele von uns beim WGA-Streik gelernt haben ist, dass es Dinge gibt, die größer und wichtiger sind als die persönliche Karriere. Dass man nicht immer nur für seinen eigenen Vorteil kämpft, sondern dafür, dass zukünftige Generationen von Drehbuchautoren vom Filmeschreiben leben können.”

ANDREAS KOSSAK ("Cyxork 7")

“We are a global community of writers. Your fight is our fight. Writers everywhere should be concerned about any efforts to deny writers a fair and consistent wage or to limit the royalties that they receive from the commercial exploitation of their work. For too long, the German entertainment industry has taken writers for granted and elevated the status of the director. But it is the writer who creates the stories, the characters, and the memorable lines and who inspire the directors to give us the images that convey it all. It is time that German writers receive the respect, compensation and creative rights that they deserve.”

LEE GOLDBERG ("Fast Track: No Limits," "1-800-Missing,"

"Diagnosis Murder")

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