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## TOPIC #3 for TEST ONLINE Forum

### What type of program fulfils the requirements screenwriters' training aims to fulfil?

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Date: 2004-12-14 12:18:48

Posted by: christian routh ([christianrouth@teleline.es](mailto:christianrouth@teleline.es))

Subject: **general points**

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1. Concerning methodology, I do not believe it is useful to be rigid about any particular method of training, though it is certainly useful for trainers to be knowledgeable about the various different schools of thought, as long as they are not blinkered about them. In my view the only methodology one should apply to a screenwriting course is that it is market-oriented. 2. Training should work more closely with European broadcasters, as they are the only secure majors we have, and they offer the best opportunities for writers to get their work on screen. 3. There is a strong need for those involved in training to address the issue of training for decision makers, both in the commercial and governmental arenas, so that better decisions can be made about which projects are made. 4. Trainers need to find a way to collaborate with specialist fund- raisers in order to attract more corporate sponsorship and a meaningful collaboration with the industry it serves, e.g. First Look deals. As Europe expands the subsidy portions of the European cake seem to be getting increasingly smaller, and we need to look 'outside the box' for further resources. Otherwise fees will carry on rising until they are out of rich for all except the idle rich, and the quality of work coming out of courses will deteriorate.

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Date: 2004-11-25 10:01:28

Posted by: Patrick Cattrysse (Flanders Script Academy)

Subject: **longer vs. shorter courses**

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Can we decide on whether longer or shorter courses are "better" if we do not know yet what the required knowledge and skills are? If we do not know more about the learning/teaching process of the trainee? Also, will the answer to this question not depend on WHAT the course is about?

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Date: 2004-11-23 09:46:28

Posted by: TEST

Subject: **longer courses seem more likely to produce results**

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TEST seminar proposal 6:

Longer courses seem more likely to produce results, especially if the projects being developed are real projects, intended for the industry.

Date: 2004-11-23 09:51:00  
Posted by: Christian Routh  
Subject: **RE: longer courses seem more likely to produce results**

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Short courses can be very effective, especially if there is informal follow up by e-mail. Long courses will inevitably attract less experienced people.

(Comment on TEST seminar proposal 6)

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Date: 2004-11-22 13:26:09  
Posted by: TEST  
Subject: **We have a lack of terminology about emotions**

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TEST seminar proposal 7:

We have a lack of terminology about emotions, when we have a lot about structure. Writing is about observing and articulating human behaviour, and this is not taught that much in training programmes or film schools. We need a more detailed contrast between the different traditions and methods of reading and evaluating the rightness or goodness of a script from the phase of outline to the first draft.

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Date: 2004-11-22 12:44:40  
Posted by: TEST  
Subject: **Some characteristics of the ideal training program could be:**

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A working group during the TEST seminar took into consideration the design of an ideal training programme.

TEST proposal 11: Some characteristics of the ideal training programme could be: -It should last 9 months. -The participants should have some previous credits. -Participants should bring a new project. -Participants should be writers and directors. -The projects will include feature film and TV movies. -The producer should be present twice during the training programme to provide an external point of view. -The training should include writers peer review. -The training program should be national based and then travel to other countries. -There should be pan-European training for tutors.

Date: 2004-11-23 09:44:35  
Posted by: Christian Routh  
Subject: **RE: course length**

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In my view, the ideal course length is five months, with an option to repeat the course (this is what the Binger Institute does in Holland).

(Comment on TEST seminar proposal 11)

Date: 2004-11-30 17:01:07  
Posted by: Antonio Saura ([asaura@zebraprod.es](mailto:asaura@zebraprod.es))  
Subject: **RE: RE: course length**

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I don't have a particular view about this. I guess that the length would depend on the scope of the program itself. For instance, a program that I do not see exist and could be useful, about the relation between the written page and its production cost, could be a three day intensive program on production and writing. But a course about how to acquire the skills to write can take two or three years (like some very good Master Courses in USA). Maybe we should make a list in TEST of the types of courses and its objectives in the short, medium and long term. We may arrive to the conclusion that we need a variety of courses addressed to different levels of knowledge.

Date: 2004-12-14 12:02:40  
Posted by: Christian Routh ([christianrouth@teleline.es](mailto:christianrouth@teleline.es))  
Subject: **RE: RE: RE: course length**

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This is an issue in which there is a real clash between what is desirable in theory, and what is achievable in practise. In theory longer courses would be better for participants, as they would learn more, but the reality is that the longer the course is, the lower the quality of applicant is likely to be. This is because professionals working in the industry, simply cannot afford the time off work, let alone the expense, of attending long courses. New younger writers and students though, are more open to longer courses But to attract the 'best' participants, they need to be short, or at least as flexible as possible, with one or two group workshops, interspersed with on-line tuition and guidance. I sometimes wonder whether we shouldn't be considering on-line video conferencing as a way forward for future events, but my research has led me to believe that the technology is not sufficiently widely available yet, and of course, one would lose the essential networking aspect of what is always going to be a people industry.

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Date: 2004-11-22 12:31:01  
Posted by: TEST  
Subject: **Training by development is probably the best way to train writers**

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TEST seminar proposal 2:

Training by development is probably the best way to train writers. It reflects the real world that writers are working in when they are working for the industry, and it is a little further removed from purely "ivory tower" of the academic study.

In the real world development takes time, so longer training and development courses were perhaps preferable to shorter courses, although this was not always easy to apply to people who are already working in the industry.

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Date: 2004-11-17 17:27:27  
Posted by: Webmaster ([benjamin@focal.ch](mailto:benjamin@focal.ch))  
Subject: **Welcome !**

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