

WHAT WE DO

WE REGISTER YOUR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

You've spent days, weeks, months, maybe even years crafting the perfect script. Or novel. Or poem. Or lyric. Or drawing. Part of your soul is in this creative effort. Now what do you do? How do you begin to protect it?

You've come to the right place.

The WGAw Registry is the world's leading screenplay registration service, registering more than 55,000 pieces of literary material every year. Since 1927, the Registry has aided in the creation of legal evidence and is a vital instrument of the Guild's service to writers. We invite you to submit your work to be archived by the WGAw Registry as documentation of your authorship.



Why Should I Register My Material?

The main purpose of registration is to establish the completion date of an original work. Though the Registry cannot prevent plagiarism, it can produce the registered material to any legal proceeding or arbitration regardless of location or membership. The WGAw Registry, as a neutral third party, can testify to that evidence. The Registry does not make comparisons of registration deposits, nor does it give legal opinions, advice, or confer any statutory protections.

How Do I Register?

To register online: Complete instructions for registering online are available on our website at www.wga.org.

To submit material by mail or in person, please provide the following:

- One unbound loose-leaf copy of material on standard, 8½" x 11" paper.
- Cover sheet with title of material and all writers' full legal names.
- Social Security number (or other government-issued ID), return address, and phone numbers of all named authors.
- Registration fee(s) for each submitted work: \$20 (\$10, WGAw and WGAE members in good standing)

All mailed and in-person submissions are processed and effective the day they are received.

All registrations are final upon submission and cannot be changed, substituted, or voided.

Duration and Renewal

Registered material is kept on file for five years. Registrations may be renewed within three months of the expiration date (at the current registration rate) for additional five-year periods. Any material not renewed will be destroyed and purged from the Registry. To renew your registration, please provide a written request and the renewal fee.

Confidentiality

To protect the confidentiality of your registration, the Registry cannot confirm any registration information over the phone. Only the writers listed on the registration receipt, by providing photo ID, may request confirmation of registration, the registration number, date of deposit, or any other information.

The written request and copy of author's photo ID should be sent to the WGAw Registry's offices.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the Writers Guild registration take the place of copyright registration?

No. Contact the U.S. Copyright Office: (202) 707-3000, or speak to an attorney specializing in that area of law.

Copyright application forms are available at www.loc.gov.

Does registration with the Writers Guild protect titles?

No. For information about protecting titles, contact the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: (800) 786-9199 or www.uspto.gov.

For additional information regarding the Registry's service, please refer to the registration pages at our website, www.wga.org.

WHAT CAN BE REGISTERED?

The WGAw Registry accepts all types of creative work. Several items may be registered at the same time; however, each work must be registered separately.

Registrable material includes:

- Scripts
- Treatments
- Synopses
- Outlines
- Written ideas specifically intended for radio, television, and film; video-cassettes or discs; and interactive media
- Stage plays
- Novels and other books
- Short stories
- Poems
- Commercials
- Lyrics
- Music
- Drawings
- Other media work

REGISTRY HOURS

Monday–Friday,
9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. PST.
A drop box is available after hours, weekends, and holidays.

WGAw REGISTRY

7000 W. Third St.
Los Angeles, CA 90048
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Phone: (323) 782-4540
Fax: (323) 782-4803
E-mail: ipr@wga.org
www.wga.org

ORGANIZING

Not Yet Covered? Get Involved Now.

We can help you. If you're writing in one of these areas and would like to become a WGAw member and gain Guild benefits (pension & health, residuals, etc.), contact us by phone at (323) 782-4511, fax at (323) 782-4810, or e-mail (organizing@wga.org).

- animation
- reality TV and nonfiction/documentary programming
- new media/interactive writing

In addition to its other efforts, the Organizing Department works closely with four writer-member groups: the Animation Writers Caucus, the Nonfiction Writers Caucus, the New Media Writers Caucus, and the Organizing Committee.

Are You an Animation Writer?

The WGAw represents writers on most network primetime animated TV shows, including *The Simpsons* and *King of the Hill*. The Guild is actively working to expand its jurisdiction over animated feature films, providing those writers with the same benefits as the network primetime animation writers.

About the Animation Writers Caucus

The mission of the WGAw Animation Writers Caucus (AWC) is to advance and protect the rights of writers working in animation. The 600-plus-member caucus, which just celebrated its 10th anniversary, is an important voice within the Guild. The AWC holds monthly networking events, sponsors informational panels, issues its own newsletter, and hosts an annual reception at the Comic-Con convention in San Diego.

The AWC sponsors the annual Animation Writing Award for excellence in TV animation writing. The AWC Steering Committee provides direction to the WGAw Organizing Department with the goal of winning contracts for writers working in animation.

Are You a Nonfiction or Reality TV Writer?

The Guild has a new basic-cable nonfiction contract designed to help writers working on low-budget documentaries on basic cable. The WGAw has covered programs on such networks as Discovery Channel, National Geographic Channel, Animal Planet, VH-1, and the History Channel.

The Guild continues its efforts to advance the rights of network reality TV writers. If you are working in this area, call us.

About the Nonfiction Writers Caucus

In spring 2003, the WGAw Board of Directors approved the launch of the Nonfiction Writers Caucus (NWC), which was formed to enhance and protect the rights of documentary filmmakers, writers of basic cable nonfiction programs, and writers of network reality programs. Membership has grown steadily ever since. The Nonfiction Writers Caucus has been involved with many outreach events that have raised the WGAw's profile in the world of nonfiction filmmaking.

Within the caucus, there is a steering committee that aids the work of the WGAw Organizing Department with the goal of covering a greater number of nonfiction programs. The NWC sponsors the Feature Documentary Writing Award for excellence in documentary writing.

Are You a New-Media Writer?

The WGAw signs dozens of interactive program contracts each year. These contracts offer writers crafting video games and other electronic media the opportunity to continue earning the pension and health benefits they would garner writing live-action projects. As technology develops and games become more sophisticated, companies like Atari and Electronic Arts are looking to WGAw writers for their storylines. The WGAw had two of the top-selling games of 2004 under contract: *James Bond 007: Everything or Nothing* and *The Chronicles of Riddick*. The contract can be found at www.wga.org.

About the New Media Writers Caucus

The New Media Writers Caucus brings together writers of games and other new-media content to educate them on the benefits of a union contract. The caucus, which has created an online directory to give prospective employers access to WGAw members working in the field of new media, is hard at work enhancing the visibility of writers in the world of electronic media. The New Media Committee also facilitates the WGAw presence at various trade shows and industry events.

ORGANIZING DEPARTMENT

Phone: (323) 782-4511

Fax: (323) 782-4810

E-mail:

organizing@wga.org

WE REACH OUT TO THE INDIE WORLD: INDEPENDENT FILM PROGRAM

The WGAw's Independent Film Program works to increase the status and rights of independent and low-budget screenwriters. Committee members and staff spearhead the Guild's involvement in independent film research, outreach, and educational activities:

Low-Budget Agreement

If your screenplay (or the screenplay you'd like to produce) has a budget of \$1.2 million or less, you might wish to use the Guild's theatrical Low-Budget Agreement (LBA). The LBA allows partial or complete deferment of certain screenplay compensation and offers benefits, enhanced creative rights, and protections for writers in the low-budget film market.

Independent Writers Caucus

If you are a screenwriter, you might be eligible to join the Independent Writers Caucus (IWC). The IWC seeks to raise the profile of writers in the independent film community, to expand writers' coverage through the LBA and other Guild contracts, and to expand emerging writer/filmmaker membership in the WGA.

Caucus eligibility criteria include use of the Low-Budget Agreement, participation in certain film festivals and screenwriting programs, and receipt of certain screenwriting awards.

Nonmembers pay an annual \$75 fee and enjoy the same benefits as associate Guild members. You will receive Guild publications, be able to join the member Film Society, receive invitations to IWC and independent film-focused events, have access to a reduced script registration fee, and might be eligible to join the Guild's credit union and participate in the WGA alternative health plan.

For further info: call (323) 782-4731, fax (323) 782-4804, or e-mail indieprogram@wga.org. Low-Budget Agreement and IWC applications are downloadable in the Independent Film Section of www.wga.org.

WE INCLUDE EVERYONE

Employment Access

Guild members feel strongly that writers from diverse backgrounds should have a chance to succeed in film and television. To that end, the WGAw Employment Access department works with producers, studio and network heads, and writers themselves to increase employment opportunities and writing assignments for writers who are black, Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian, women, over 40, gay and lesbian, or disabled.

What the Department Does

The Employment Access department coordinates and attends annual meetings between company and Guild leadership to discuss diversity issues, statistics, and projects.

Additionally, it works with committees to develop panels on the craft of writing and with many external organizations on events designed to raise the profile of the writer.

The department also works with studios on their individual access programs, such as the Disney Studios/ABC Entertainment Writing Fellowship Program, to discover and employ culturally and ethnically diverse writers in the feature film and television areas.

Employment Access promotes a more positive image of historically underemployed writers, to increase awareness of the unique obstacles often faced by these writers, and to encourage positive change in hiring practices.

The department also administers the freelance compliance requirement of the Guild's contract, which offers new writers an opportunity to be introduced to television writing. This option makes it practical to employ new writers from diverse backgrounds.

The Writers Training Program

Production companies that participate in this voluntary program hire writer-trainees to work on episodic television series for an initial term of six weeks. The company has the option of retaining the trainee for an additional term of 14 weeks. Staff members work with potential participants and production companies to develop appropriate request letters and other materials and often assist in placing potential trainees. The department maintains records for participating trainees/production companies and processes waiver requests.

EMPLOYMENT ACCESS COMMITTEES

Employment Access staffs eight writer committees that sponsor an annual October event recognizing and celebrating National Diversity Month.

The committees include:

Asian Writers Committee

Age Awareness Committee

Committee of Black Writers

Writers With Disabilities Committee

Freelance Writers Committee

Latino Writers Committee

Gay and Lesbian Writers Committee

Committee of Women Writers

EMPLOYMENT ACCESS

Phone: (323) 782-4589

E-mail:
employmentaccess@
wga.org
www.wga.org

If you would like an informational brochure about the Writers Training Program sent to a production company, contact us at (323) 782-4548.

WE CONNECT YOU WITH WRITERS' REPS: AGENCY

If you're looking for a WGAw member, the Agency department can help you. Although the WGAw cannot disclose the addresses of Guild members, we can forward material or refer you directly to their representatives. First-class correspondence addressed to members in care of the WGAw will be promptly forwarded to them at their designated address.

For further info, call (323) 782-4502.

WE CELEBRATE WRITERS AND WRITING

Written By Magazine

Written By, the WGAw's award-winning magazine, is the premier magazine written by and for TV and film writers, providing a unique look into the art, craft, and business of writing in Hollywood. You do not have to be a member to subscribe.



To subscribe, call (888) WRITN BY (974-8629) or download a subscription form from www.wga.org.

Single Issues	\$5
Annual Subscriptions	\$40
International	\$50
Canada	\$45
Single Issues (foreign)	\$7.50

Special Events

Since 1948, the Guild has honored the outstanding achievements in film, television, and radio writing at the annual Writers Guild Awards, which are often seen as a precursor to the Oscars®.

Throughout the year, the Guild sponsors and cosponsors panels, discussions, workshops, and seminars for its members. Some events are open to the public. The Writers Guild Foundation also hosts events throughout the year, which are open to the public.

THE WRITERS GUILD FOUNDATION

Founded by prominent screen and television writers in 1966, the Writers Guild Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable corporation that concentrates on historical preservation and education.

Foundation Programs

- The Writers Guild Foundation Library houses more than 13,000 items related to writers and writing and to the history of writers in Hollywood (see page 10).
- Educational seminars and panel discussions, including Writers on Writing and Writers on Genre
- Conferences and international exchanges, including Words Into Pictures, a major forum for film and television writers
- Academic outreach with schools and colleges, including a visiting writer program and videoconferencing services available to film schools, colleges, and universities nationwide
- Literacy programs throughout Los Angeles, including an annual book drive, writing camps for at-risk teens, and K-12 school programs
- Oral history interviews, including *The Writer Speaks*, a series of video interviews with the great writers of classic film and television, plus interviews with Writers Guild members about Writers Guild and labor history in Hollywood
- Publishing projects, including the book *The First Time I Got Paid for It*, and partnerships with Tallfellow Press

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Its activities are funded by voluntary contributions from writers and industry friends. Most of its programs and events are open to the public.

WRITERS GUILD FOUNDATION MISSION

Working closely with the WGAw, the Foundation provides services and programs to working writers and the public, with the following aims:

- to promote and to encourage excellence in writing
- to educate the public concerning the role of the writer in film and television
- to preserve the work of film and television writers, thereby creating a significant historical resource for future generations
- to encourage the further education of writers
- to promote communication among writers

THE WRITERS GUILD FOUNDATION

7000 W. Third St.
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Phone: (323) 782-4692
Fax: (323) 782-4695
www.WGFoundation.org

WE PRESERVE OUR LEGACY

The Writers Guild Foundation Library

The Library contains more than 1 million script pages and is dedicated to collecting award-nominated teleplays and screenplays. Unlike other script collections, the Foundation's Library is completely writer-focused. The Library's archive of more than 10,000 scripts represents the best writing that America has produced for film and television since both media were in their infancy.

Since 1984, the library has had a mission to collect, preserve, and celebrate the works of writers in film, television, and radio. It is an ongoing program of the Writers Guild Foundation.

Our collection includes:

- Award-honored film, television, and radio scripts, including WGA, Emmy, Oscar, PEN, Humanitas, and other industry awards
- Special script collections: thousands of current television programs, feature films, box-office champions, and personal collections donated by Guild members and others
- Books and periodicals: screenwriter-oriented magazines; Hollywood history; writing instruction and manuals; biographies; published scripts (film and television); WGA members' published works; and general industry references, directories, and trade publications
- Seminars, panel discussions, interviews, and television programs on videotape and disk
- Information about writing classes, competitions, events, and other script libraries
- WGA history, including newsletters, clip files, and complete WGA awards information
- Photographs and memorabilia
- Writers' personal and professional information: biographies, profiles, credits, and obits as well as referrals to other institutions archiving writers' works and papers

A new library structure broke ground in 2005 on the first floor of the WGAw headquarters building. The library's catalog will soon be available online, as will a comprehensive and searchable writing awards database. Our goal is to become the world's foremost center of writing information and inspiration to WGA members, students, and the public.



WRITERS GUILD FOUNDATION LIBRARY

7000 W. Third St.
Los Angeles, CA 90048
USA
Phone: (323) 782-4544
Fax: (323) 782-4695
[www.wgfoundation.org
/library.htm](http://www.wgfoundation.org/library.htm)



LIBRARY HOURS

Monday–Friday
10 a.m.–5 p.m.;
Thursdays
10 a.m.–8 p.m.
The library is closed
daily 12:30–1:30 p.m.



From top: The exterior facade of the new Writers Guild Foundation Library as designed by architect John Dutton; the entrance; the reading room.

Writers Guild Theater

In the heart of Beverly Hills is our state-of-the-art screening facility—the Writers Guild Theater. The 541-seat theater is a focus of activity for special movie events, including private screenings, receptions, film festivals, seminars, and discussions. Call us for rental information and availability. For a 3-D tour of the theater, visit www.wga.org.

WRITERS GUILD THEATER

135 S. Doheny Drive
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Phone: (323) 782-4525

