

GUIDE TO THE GUILD

CONTENTS

- 1 WHO WE ARE
- 2 WHAT WE DO
 - 2 WGA WEST REGISTRY
 - 4 ORGANIZING
 - 6 INDEPENDENT FILM
 - 6 EMPLOYMENT ACCESS
 - 8 AGENCY
 - 8 WRITTEN BY MAGAZINE
 - 8 SPECIAL EVENTS
 - 9 WRITERS GUILD FOUNDATION
 - 10 LIBRARY
 - 11 WRITERS GUILD THEATER
- 12 WHERE WE CAME FROM
- 14 HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER
- 16 WHAT WE DON'T DO
- 16 HOW TO LEARN MORE
 - 16 INFORMATIONAL PUBLICATIONS
 - 17 CONTACTING THE GUILD
 - 18 WWW.WGA.ORG

WHO WE ARE: AN INTRODUCTION

We are the Writers Guild of America, west (WGAW), a labor union composed of the thousands of writers who write the television shows, movies, news programs, documentaries, animation, CD-ROMs, and content for new-media technologies that keep audiences constantly entertained and informed.

If you are interested in writing professionally for screen, television, or new media, this booklet is for you.

SERVICES FOR OUR MEMBERS

OUR PRIMARY DUTY is to represent our members in negotiations with film and television producers to ensure the rights of screen, television, and new-media writers. Once a contract is in place, we enforce it. Because of the WGAW's long-term efforts, writers receive pension and health coverage, and their financial and creative rights are protected.

CREDITS

We are responsible for determining writing credits for feature films and television programs—a responsibility with far-reaching impact, financial and artistic. Writers' livelihoods often depend on the careful and objective determination of credits.

RESIDUALS

The WGAW monitors, collects, and distributes millions of dollars in residuals (payments for the reuse of movies and television programs) for writers each year.

EDUCATION

Throughout the year, the Writers Guild sponsors seminars, panel discussions, and special events for its members as well as the public at large.

LEGISLATION & OUTREACH

The WGAW furthers the interests of writers through legislation, international agreements, and public relations efforts. The WGAW is affiliated with the Writers Guild of America East and other organizations around the world.

If you have further questions about the important work being done by the WGAW—the world's largest organization of this kind—visit the Guild's website at www.wga.org.



Writers Guild of America, west