

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

WIDENING THE FRAME WORKSHOP ON ACCESSIBLE FILMMAKING

29FILMFEST
DRESDEN
INTERNATIONAL
SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

4 – 9 APRIL 2017

FILMFEST DRESDEN International Short Film Festival is offering film professionals (directors, producers, actors, DoPs, script writers, etc.) the unique opportunity to attend a professional training programme during its 29th festival edition. A workshop led by [Michael Achtman](#), a practitioner with years of experience in inclusive practice as a writer-director, access consultant and audio describer, is at the heart of the festival's industry programme and will take place from April 5th to 7th 2017. The programme also includes further presentations and networking events with media professionals. Participants will also have the opportunity to visit film programmes and other festival events (receptions, masterclass, etc.) during their week in Dresden.



Still from "Awake" (directed by Michael Achtman, UK 2015)

THE WORKSHOP

This workshop will explore how to include Deaf and disabled filmmakers, actors and crew in the filmmaking process and in the films we create. We are aiming to create a training laboratory for a diverse group of practitioners to undertake a three-day journey in access and inclusion. Participants will have the opportunity to take on different roles (writer, actor, director, crew) within an inclusive creative process.

As a starting point, **Day One** will look at the representation of Deaf and disabled people within contemporary media culture. What kind of stories are out there? What are the stereotypes and which works break boundaries? Bringing our own experiences to the table, we will start to develop scenarios and scripts. We will then look at inclusive casting – How do you audition a non-verbal actor? Is it okay to cast disabled characters in non-disabled roles, and vice versa?

Day Two will be devoted to shooting these shorts scripts, guerrilla style. Participants will be offered to take on a variety of roles within the cast and crew and we will look at access solutions, tailored to individual requirements, as and when they are required. How do you make sets accessible? What is the role of support workers and how do they function?

Day Three will look at post-production access tools, in particular captioning and audio description. (Audio describing is the visual description of what is on screen in order to provide access to blind and partially sighted audiences.) The goal is to provide filmmakers with the knowledge and techniques to create these features within their own work. We will undertake exercises in audio description, and we will caption and audio describe edited scenes shot on the previous day.

The outcome will be an expanded knowledge of accessible filmmaking practice for all the participants, who will gain specific techniques as well as a philosophical approach to expand their outlook and influence their future work in the film industry.

The workshop will be led by **Michael Achtman**, a practitioner with years of experience in inclusive practice as a writer-director, access consultant and audio describer. Michael is the writer-director of *Awake*, a short film starring two blind actresses that has won numerous awards at disability film festivals including look&roll (Basel), Superfest (San Francisco) and Breaking Down Barriers (Moscow).

THE PARTICIPANTS

We welcome applications from film professionals who have an interest in working in an inclusive way. We especially welcome applications from Deaf and disabled filmmakers to participate in this workshop. We will be happy to discuss your access requirements with you and we undertake to provide what you need in order to fully participate.

THE FEE & WHAT IS INCLUDED

There is a fee of 200 € per participant. This fee covers the workshop sessions plus the following costs:

- accommodation & breakfast (double room shared with another workshop participant)
- Lunch (on workshop days only)
- accreditation for all screenings/events at FILMFEST DRESDEN (partially accessible)

We offer travel grants of 100€ for all non-German participants.

THE APPLICATION

To apply for the workshop, please send us the following (by email and in English only):

- your CV and filmography in PDF format (max. 1 page)
- letter of motivation (max. 1 page)

We only accept individual applications.

Please send your application until 15th January 2017 to Stefanie Forestier at forestier@filmfest-dresden.de

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