

Dear old North by Northwest partners and friends,

North by Northwest, the renowned Northern European screenwriting development program, is proud to announce North by Northwest International, its latest initiative, dedicated to bringing training to the world media industry. We have created new programmes and up-dated some of the “old” once, and we have expanded the numbers of tutors. We are now offering national and/or international training and develop activities, and we will be delighted to collaborate with you again.

North by Northwest was established in 1996, and funded by the EU Commission MEDIA Training program, along with ten different European Film institutes and organizations. Its approach is based on the pedagogical method created by the Czech/ US filmmaker Frank Daniel and developed into its current form by Director Anette Funch Thomassen and Manager Inge-Golf Schmidt in collaboration with the highly acknowledged, former CEO of the Danish Film School and the Danish Film Institute, now Head of the European ThinkTank Henning Camre.

The cornerstone of North by Northwest International’s activities is the internationally respected team of screenwriting tutors - Tom Abram, Ted Braun, Martin Daniel, David Howard, Philip LaZebnik, Beth Serlin and David Weber.

North by Northwest has trained a number of European Tutors, and we can therefore provide high quality training and development in several European language. Our European Tutors counts award winning names such as, the Icelandic writer Sveinbjörn Baldvinsson, the Norwegian writer and director Ulf Breistrand, the Swiss writer and director Pilar Anguita-MacKay, and several more.

North by Northwest International will also introduce new training activities, developed and conducted by strong international names, e.g. Vinca Wiedemann, former Head of New Danish Screen.

North by Northwest consists of six different programs, which will serve as the foundation for new programs under the North by Northwest International banner; programs which can be utilized as they exist, or tailor-made to target specific media industry needs.

North by Northwest Int.’s programs:

**Program: The Big Picture.**

The Big Picture provides overall guidance to teams of screenwriter, director and producer in feature film projects.

Focussing on communication, collaboration and understanding between the three key individuals in the development and production process, we look deep into the foundation of the screenwriter’s work, the vision of the director, and the business and financial proposals of the producer. During this process, participants are equipped with the tools and techniques necessary to analyse, clarify, develop and enrich their material, and maximise the project’s potential to be produced and reach its audience.

This program can be conducted for national participants only - OR a constellation of international participants, which would give the participants insight to the international co-production market. Additionally, it can serve international emerging talents.

Background: The Big Picture is based on our experience from one of North by Northwest's earlier programs, East of Eden, launched in 2004. The East of Eden program was targeted specifically towards emerging talents from the new EU member states. It proved to be extremely successful: out of the 11 projects which were developed in the program, 5 have been produced, 2 are currently in development. Several of the films/ projects have received national and international awards.

### **Program: Cross the Line**

This brand new and unique program is also based on our experience with the "East of Eden" programme, in this case we have decided to further develop this concept to include the possibilities to move more freely between the various platforms in the media industry.

The aim is to think innovative from identify and develop content for the integrated media from film, TV, to VoD, web streaming to pod-casting, mobile etc.

This program will encourage participants to further develop their existing skills, and to apply them to a "cross-platform" media environment. The participants will engage in innovative content development with the aim of preparing themselves and their projects to an ever changing media environment.

### **Program: Classic Forum.**

The Classic Forum provides supplementary development of vocational skills in screenwriting and screenplay development techniques; script editing for professional screenwriters and script editors. Through participation in 3 continuous intensive development workshops the writer's script will take shape effectively and constructively, while both writers and script editors acquire a valuable "writers' tool box," essential to their future careers.

Classic Forum was the original North by Northwest program when the organization was founded in 1996, and over the years it has developed to better meet participants' and the industry's needs. North by Northwest is the most successful training through development forum, and has worked with young, talented screenwriters and script editors from across Europe with excellent results. In the four year period 2002-05 139 projects were developed through the North by Northwest screenwriting programs. Out of this number, 17 films have been produced or are at the final stages of production, and options have been acquired on another 25 projects.

### **Program: The Conversation, a Development Symposium**

A two-day symposium for producers and screenwriters with focus on the development phase.

The main objective of the symposium is to introduce and establish a common language that allows the respective producers and writers to communicate with each other in a more effective and constructive way based on the methodology and terminology of Czech/ US film educator Frank Daniel. The symposium aims to encourage multi-disciplinary collaboration.

### **Program: Coaching the Creative.**

This is a brand new concept of North by Northwest Int. This program will in its innovative way address the earliest stage of an idea and coach the creative, through this very intricate phase, in which the creative is in search of an issue, a theme, a scene, a picture, a fantasy, - that something which possesses the unique power for the person who is going to work with the material.

The process finding ones way into the material and work it up narrative is a unique interplay between the un-formed chaotic material and the more calculating aesthetic grip. - How to bring order in chaos without losing the vigour, the nerve? The programme will address how to find the way into a work process which submits the needed structure and order, not from a logistic and rational perspective, but from the artist drive, without losing the personal desire and idiosyncrasy.

Additionally, the material has to be dimensioned into a financially and productive reality, preferably as early as possible and in a way which will add in reality as a source of inspiration to the process, not as a burden or an obstacle.

### **Programs: 4 different Master classes with each a duration of 3 days.**

The four master-classes can be conducted as one full package or can be conducted individually, dependent on the needs of the participants.

As a response to industry needs identified by former North by Northwest participants, partners, and the media industry in general, the four Master-classes provide top level continuous vocational training and skills development in the fields of screenwriting, screenplay and script editing techniques based on the Frank Daniel methodology and terminology.

Introduction to the Frank Daniel Methodology and Terminology.

Master-classes in scene writing for writers and directors.

Master-classes in scene writing for script editors and producers.

Producers as creative partners in the development phase.

-The Introduction to the Frank Daniel Methodology and Terminology master-classes are targeted towards professionals with the experience of working in the media industry.

-The Master-classes in scene writing for writers and directors are targeted towards professional screenwriters and directors.

-The Master-classes in scene writing for script-editors and producers are targeted towards professional script editors and producers.

-The Master-classes for Producers as creative partners in the development phase are targeted towards producers who wish to further develop their skills in the understanding of the development process and the professional language and tools of writing the script.

**Programs: 2 Labs with each a duration of 4 days.**

North by Northwest International recommends the two Labs run parallel, from both cost-efficiency and networking perspective.

**Script Development Lab for writers**

A four-day event with a selected group of max. 6 writers.

The lab process is essentially that of a Socratic forum where the writers are presented with a series of questions to ask about their work, in order to analyse, clarify and enrich their material. Regardless of the stage of the project, the writers must look deep into the foundation of their story – into the characters – and understand their drives and conflicts before concentrating on how to tell their story.

Throughout the lab the writers also discuss more general issues and themes relating to the development phase of a feature film project.

This very intensive development lab will effectively and constructively move each script forward while the writers gain access to a valuable development “tool box” which will be essential in their future careers.

**Producers as Creative Partners Lab**

A 4-day event with a selected group of 8 producers.

Through the Lab the producers gain access to a development/ script editing language and they are provided with a valuable “toolbox.” This knowledge will improve their future work and communication with writers, as well as strengthen the process of reading and evaluation of a scripts’ potential.

Throughout the Lab the producers discuss more general issues and themes relating to the development phase of a feature film project.

For further details and information please do not hesitate to contact us on

Telephone +45 2834 3056

Mail: a\_funch@post12.tele.dk

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2008.

Yours,

Anette Funch Thomassen & Inge-Golf Schmidt