



SWA CELEBRATES ITS 'DIAMOND JUBILEE' IN YEAR 2020!

SWA AWARDS, CONFERENCE, PITCH FEST, WORKSHOPS AND VARIOUS EVENTS LINED UP

Established in 1954, by stalwarts like Ramanand Sagar, Khwaja Ahmad Abbas, Shailendra, Sahir Ludhianvi, Majrooh Sultanpuri and Kamal Amrohi, the Screenwriters Association (SWA; formerly the Film Writers' Association) is the strongest and the most well known trade union of film, TV and digital media writers and lyricists working in India. While the constitution of the Association was adopted in the General Body Meeting held in 1956, Film Writers' Association, Bombay, got registered as a trade union under the Trade Union Act 1926 with Registration No. 3726 only on May 13th 1960. Thus, 2020 marks the 60th year for SWA from the day of its official functioning.

The Executive Committee of SWA has planned a series of events, like SWA Awards (launch year), screenwriting workshops in prominent cities, pitching fest, the 6th edition of the Indian Screenwriters Conference (6ISC) and other events to mark the occasion. Stay tuned to SWA's official website www.swaindia.org and official social media pages for upcoming announcements.

Screenwriters Association
is proud to announce



An Award for the Writer, By the Writers!

A LONG-CHERISHED DREAM OF INDIAN SCREENWRITERS & LYRICISTS COMES TRUE

SWA Awards 2020 are the only awards in India dedicated entirely to screenwriters and lyricists of Hindi Feature Films, Television Shows and Web series. Judged by a jury of eminent screenwriters, these awards will be the most coveted awards for cinema writers, much like the awards of other prestigious international writers' guilds and literary organisations.

SWA's goal has been to get the film and TV industries to acknowledge the central role that writers play in the creation of cinema and TV shows. While India has a plethora of award events, writing awards are generally relegated to the unimportant stages of the ceremony, with a generally dismissive attitude. Often, the jury is forced to succumb to the organizers' pressure to award the most popular choices or box-office successes.

SWA Awards, on the other hand, will celebrate the outstanding writing of the year by having knowledgeable, experienced and credible writers on the jury, following a fair and accountable process of assessing, selecting and awarding quality writing. We do believe that a writer is best equipped to appreciate the nuances of the art and craft of another writer. Being judged and awarded by one's own fraternity is indeed a writer's greatest honour.

SWA President Shri Robin Bhatt says, "Acknowledging and awarding good writing is more than overdue in an industry that has doggedly ignored writers. SWA Awards brings the writer centre-stage!"

Hon. General Secretary, Sunil Salgia says, "*Applause, praise, appreciation and awards are the only rewards a writer cherishes, and there can be no bigger award than one given by your competitors, friends and peers.*"

For the first SWA Awards, Hindi Feature Films, Television Shows & Web series released in 2019 will be eligible to compete in 16 categories including best script, screenplay, dialog, best lyrics, and so on. While all feature films released in 2019 will automatically be considered for the awards in the Feature Film categories, submissions were invited for Television Shows, Web series and Lyrics.

AWARDS NIGHT: 16TH MAY 2020

VENUE: ST. ANDREWS AUDITORIUM, Bandra West, Mumbai

Official page: awards.swaindia.org

Support SWA Awards 2020. Tweet and post on social media with #SWAawards2020 #WritingAwards #SWAturns60 #SWAindia #SWA

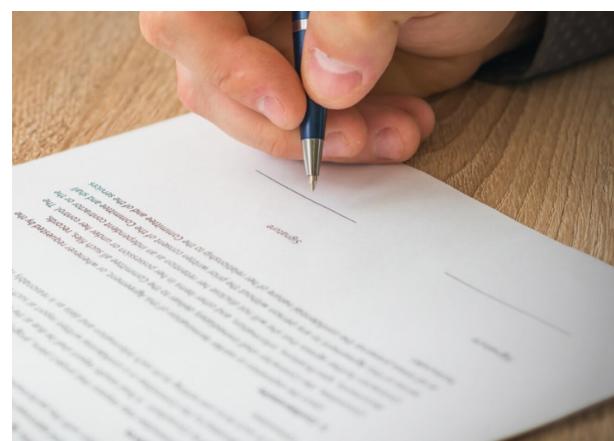
***This diamond jubilee let's
celebrate the Kohinoor of
content - the Screenwriter.***

SWA drafts 'Standard Release Form' for Screenwriters

SWA and its Dispute Settlement Committee (DSC) had come across a few Release Forms issued by some production houses, which have clauses causing concern across the fraternity of screenwriters. SWA's legal experts believe that some of them absolve producers of all legal obligations, leaving SWA members' intellectual property vulnerable.

After analyzing the Release Forms of several production companies and with the help of Copyright and legal experts, the Association has now drafted a Standard Release Form, which ensures that neither party is exposed to any unnecessary risk. The draft hopes to help writers bypass legal complications, while maintaining clear control of the copyright over production houses, in accordance with Copyright Amendment Act 2012. It simplifies the legal complications putting an end to the conflict between writers and producers over the copyright of scripts.

DOWNLOAD the Standard Release Form (proposed by SWA) at: swaindia.org/downloads.php



WE HAVE UPGRADED. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

There have been a series of changes at SWA, following the amendment of the Constitution, on September 1st 2019, and changes in the Byelaws carried out by the Executive Committee. Here're the important pointers:

- SWA's database shifts to Cloud based online server.
- Online modules for Upgradation, Re-admission, and new Admissions, in addition to Renewal, are being developed and tested.
- Offline (at office) Upgradations, Re-admissions, Renewals and new Admissions to be discontinued once online modules take over.
- SWA's Online Script Registration Systems gets enhanced.
- The rules and fees structure for SWA Membership have been amended. Read more at: swaindia.org/membership.php
- Script Registration charges and timings (at office) have been changed. Read more at: swaindia.org/blog/script-registration
- Fellow Foreigners-NRI category has been discontinued. Read more at: swaindia.org/blog/important-reminders

From the desk of the Hon. General Secretary

Friends,

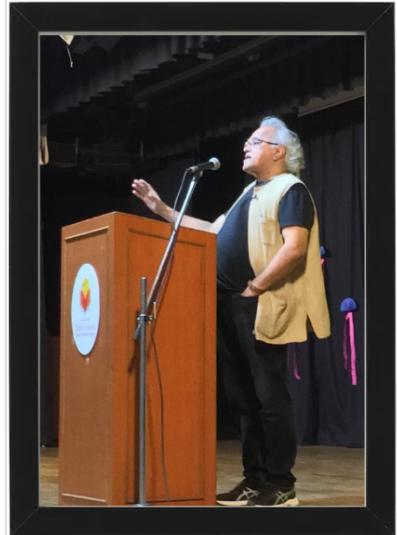
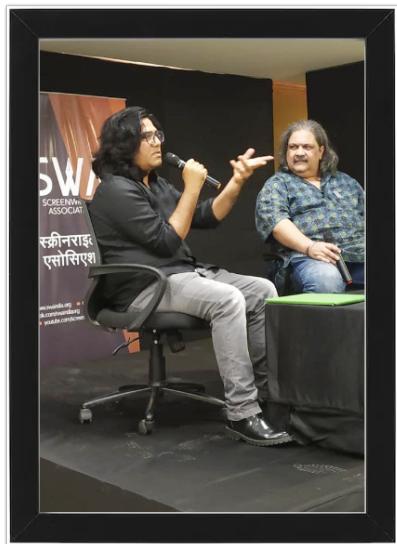
The coming months will be full of excitement and activities, as SWA celebrates it's Diamond Jubilee, like workshops, seminars, pitch fest and our mega event, the Indian Screenwriters Conference (6ISC). While we will keep you informed through mass-mailers, I also urge you to get updates through our website and social media.

To share a good news with you, we have now become a regular member of IAWG (International Affiliation of Writers Guilds), an organization of the world's renowned writers' associations. This becomes important as today, the presence of Indian films, serials and web series is being felt internationally and many foreign companies have started to operate in India.

We've entered the new year with a resolve to make 2020 a memorable year for the Association and the writers' fraternity.

With you, for you, always
On behalf of the Executive Committee of SWA,

- SUNIL SALGIA



SWA EVENTS

From August 2019 to March 2020, we organised events like SWA Vartalaap with AM Turaz, on August 18 2019, Taleem Masterclass with Kamlesh Pandey, on September 15 2019, a Mental Health Awareness Workshop, on November 29 2019, and SWA Vartalaap with Atika Chohan on February 8 2020. These sessions saw active participation from SWA members as well as non-members.

The Association also supported and collaborated with third parties for events like VIDNET Summit and VIDNET Masterclass 2019 on Oct 3 & 4 2019, Gujarat Literature Festival and Indian Screenwriters Festival from December 18 to 22 2019, in Ahmedabad, Whistling Woods International's Screenwriting Workshop by Anjum Rajabali, from February 12 to 16 2020, and IndianTelevisionDotCom's The Content Hub, from March 4 to 5 2020.



NEWS FLASH



- Actors Hrithik Roshan and Ajay Devgn and veteran writer-directors Rakesh Roshan and Mahesh Bhatt give thumbs up to SWA Awards 2020 with retweets
- SWA signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Western Indian Film Producers Association (WIFPA) to enable smooth functioning of a Joint Dispute Settlement Committee (JDSC) between the two bodies. Read more at: swaindia.org/blog/swa-and-wifpa-sign-mou
- SWA and Cine and Television Artistes Association (CINTAA) sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to address violations related to sexual harassment, copyright infringement, payment or breach of contract involving the members of both the Associations. Read more at: swaindia.org/blog/swa_cintaa_mou
- SWA takes the Green Initiative with digital uploads of annual reports and AGM mass-emailers, paper-less membership and reusable water bottles at office
- IPR Lawyer Ms. Anamika Jha replaces Ms. Heema Shirvaikar as SWA's Legal Officer and Copyright Expert
- Niren Bhatt and Mitesh Shah join the Executive Committee of SWA
- Suman Mukhopadhyay, Parakh Chauhan and Manaswini Lata Ravindra resign from the Executive Committee due to professional commitments
- Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, sets up a training school exclusively for screenwriters, FTII Vijay Tendulkar Writers' Academy, in Pune.

SWA'S SCREENWRITING WORKSHOP IN INDORE: A NEW FIRST!



The very first of SWA's 3-days workshops was held in Indore (Madhya Pradesh), on February 7th, 8th and 9th 2020.

SWA President and veteran screenwriter Shri Robin Bhatt, SWA EC member and writer-director Abhijeet Deshpande and SWA EC member and screenwriter Niren Bhatt were the mentors for this workshop, while it was moderated by SWA's Honorary General Secretary and veteran director-writer-editor Sunil Salgia and SWA Vice President and writer Rajesh Dubey.

The workshop had a structured program designed by trained professionals. About 70 screenwriting aspirants benefitted from the workshop and were awarded Certificate of Participation from SWA.

Next, SWA is set to organise screenwriting workshops in Patna (Bihar) in April and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) in May.

REST IN PEACE, DEAR FRIENDS!

We pay our heartfelt condolences to our friends belonging to various crafts of film and television, who passed away in the past few months, namely - Nusrat Badr, Madan Pal, Ashok Kumar Maurya, Kiran Nagarkar, Manoj Tyagi, Shyam Ramsay, Sarvesh Sharma, S.S. Panwar, Balkrishnan Mauj, Jyoti Singh and ex-General Secretary of SWA Shri Rajendra Singh 'Atish'. May their souls rest in peace!



YOUR KIND ATTENTION, PLEASE!

As per the resolutions taken by the General Body of SWA in previous Annual General Body meetings, we no longer send letters and reports via bulk post/courier. Therefore, we request all our members to update their emails IDs, phone numbers and other details with us. Send an email to contact@swaindia.org



SWAINDIA.ORG



/SWAINDIAORG



/SWAINDIAORG



SWAINDIA.ORG/BLOG



/SWAINDIAORG



/SCREENWRITERSASSOCIATION