

SWA&R

SCREENWRITERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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SWA SHOWS SUPPORT TO THE 'ME TOO' MOVEMENT



SWA's Internal Committee (IC) was constituted in the very first meeting held by the newly elected Executive Committee with an objective to not only address complaints of sexual harassment but also promote a safe, respectful work environment for all writers irrespective of their gender or sexual orientation. With the onset of #MeToo movement, SWA's IC received several complaints and all of them have been dealt with promptly. A statement of solidarity

was released supporting the women who were opening up about their experiences, and it was reiterated that SWA has a zero tolerance policy when it comes to sexual harassment and gender discrimination. The IC will continue to hold regular workshops for SWA members to raise awareness about gender sensitization, sexual harassment and gender discrimination.

NOTE: SWA's IC has a dedicated email ID ic@swaindia.org to accept complaints with utmost confidentiality.

FROM THE DESK OF THE HON. GENERAL SECRETARY

Friends, SWA is a strong union that was established in 1954, by stalwarts like Ramanand Sagar, Khwaja Ahmad Abbas, Shailendra, Sahir Ludhianvi, Majrooh Sultanpuri and Kamal Amrohi. It continues to gain strength as a proactive and vigilant union.

So, dismiss any silly rumours from any source that seeks to mislead you about SWA. Don't let anyone tell you that after SWA's disaffiliation from FWICE, its members cannot work in the Film and TV industry. This is patently false and mischievous because as per the law, no person or union can stop you from working in the industry.

In case of any doubts or queries, drop an email or visit our office.

With you, for you, always –

On behalf of the Executive Committee of SWA,

- SUNIL SALGIA

SWA EVENTS BECOME THE LATEST TALK OF THE TOWN

SWA's Events Committee is empowered by its EC to organise events that are beneficial to its more than twenty two thousand members. In the last three months, the committee has organised events like:

1. SWA-MPA-APSA Launch Your Script 2018 felicitation ceremony at SWA office held on October 24, 2018 (Chief Guests: Saiwyn Quadras & Swara Bhaskar)
2. SWA Vartalaap - Fifth Edition, attended by more than 240 members (November 3, 2018, Guests: Sriram Raghavan, Pooja Ladha Surti & Arijit Biswas, Moderator: Parakh Chouhan).
3. Gender Sensitisation Workshop by Paromita Vohra (November 15, 2018)



4. SWA Vartalaap - Sixth Edition, attended by over 300 members (Guest: Amitabh Bhattacharya, Moderator: Shellee)
 5. SWA & Laadli organized a day long event focusing on the Me Too movement in film industry (December 28, 2018, Speakers: Renuka Sahane, Vinta Nanda, Onir, Karan Anshuman)
- Be on a lookout for upcoming event announcements in your mailbox and on SWA's official Facebook page and website.



MEDIA TAKES NOTICE OF SWA

Since October 2018, the Media Sub-committee has successfully managed to get coverage of SWA initiatives and announcements in newspapers such as The Mumbai Mirror, The Indian Express and The Hindu. Online editions of almost every newspaper and web portals wrote about SWA while The Indian Express also did a special feature on our Anti Sexual Harassment Sub-Committee. Since December, a professional publicist has been hired to better liaison with media and ensure even better coverage.

'MINIMUM BASIC CONTRACT' COMMITTEES MARCH AHEAD

SWA had decided to approach production houses and studios individually, to get them onboard for the MBC. Finally, some progress was made on this front at the 5th Indian Screenwriters Conference, which took place in August 2018. In an open session that included Siddharth Roy-Kapur (President, Film & TV Producers Guild), Aamir Khan and Somen Mishra (Creative Head, Dharma Productions), all three unequivocally affirmed that they fully supported the idea of Minimum Basic Contracts for writers and lyricists. SWA had already started with the groundwork for finalizing the proposed draft of a revised MBC for film writers, with having met

Aamir Khan and Ritesh Sidhwani, and their lawyers. Soon, the draft will be discussed and finalized with Mr. Roy Kapur, after which he will table it at the Producers' Guild, recommending that it be adopted by all production houses who are its members. If need be, individual negotiations with different production houses will be done by SWA. Subsequently, the draft will also be taken to IFTPC, IMPPA and WIFPA. Right after, SWA shall put into process the negotiations for the TV and Lyricists MBCs.





SWA OFFICE TO GET ITS 'ONLINE AVATAR'

The SWA website www.swaindia.org is a busy one, providing members the unique facility of registering their work anytime, anywhere. A lot of members, as well as non-members, visit it regularly for insightful articles, interviews and event updates.

HUM SAATH SAATH HAIN: SWA'S WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Association's Welfare Sub-committee has always been known to reach out to its members' medical emergency and educational needs. The new committee, post elections 2018, has continued the good work.

One great news is that now the Association has increased the amount of medical help, available to a member in case of an emergency, from INR 50,000/- to INR 75,000/-.

Also, a new scheme has been introduced by the committee, named 'Adopt a Patient' in which fortunate and successful members are being invited to support a needy member's medical needs, in whichever way possible. This could be in the form of supporting regular medical expenses /treatment/ procedure or general health follow-up of a senior member.

And now, embracing the changing times, your beloved Association has decided to go the digital way. Soon, you will see features like 'Apply Online' for SWA Membership, pay online for new membership, SWA Membership e-Card, advanced Online Script Registration system, automatic email/text reminders and a very special SWA App to enable members to connect and network. SWA's already very popular official Facebook page will also broadcast events and talks, via Facebook Live.

"We not only help our needy members with medical aid and pensions, we also offer them financial support for higher education of their children. Soon, we'll be announcing scholarships to promote formal training in screenwriting."

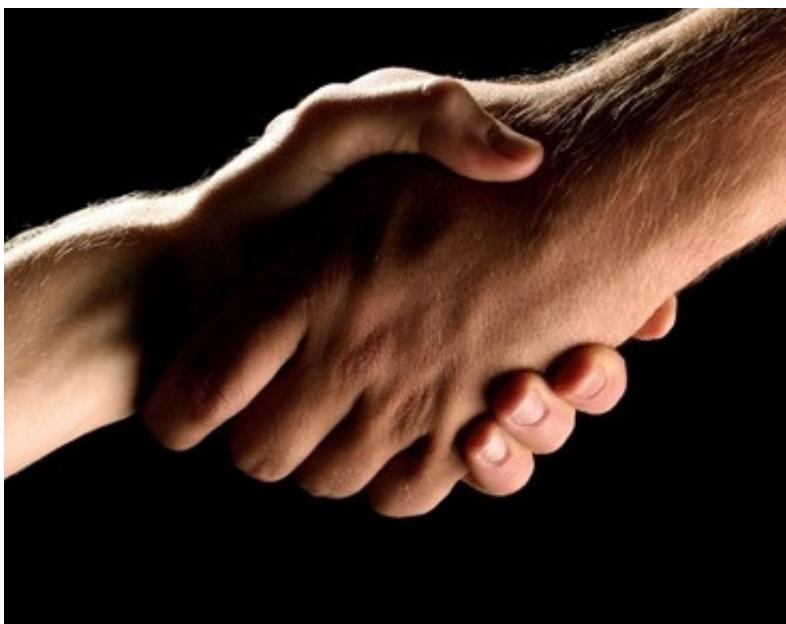
- SATYAM TRIPATHY
Chairperson, Welfare Sub-committee



THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (DSC): SWA'S BIG STRENGTH

SWA's DSC has always been steadfastly committed to the cause of justice whenever an SWA member has approached it with a dispute. The DSC's approach is objective, tenacious and fair, regardless of who is the complainant or the defendant. It has ruled against SWA's own members when they

were found guilty, and at the same time, it has unflinchingly stood up to, and given decisions against some of the biggest names in the film and TV industries. It speaks volumes for the DSC's arduous protocols that even courts have relied on it, when the case has come up before them, later.



6 STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR SCRIPT -

- Register ALL the drafts of your work, after each rewrite, BEFORE sharing professionally.
- Prefer the Online Script Registration facility at SWA website. The registered soft copies are easier to email.
- Email soft-copies to Producer/Production Houses/Channels with a note that you narrated that particular script/story to them. Attach the soft copy of the mentioned script/work.
- ALWAYS sign a contract before commencing a project. Do not work without a Contract.
- If provided by the producer/production houses, don't sign the contract before you take legal advice on it. Consult SWA's Legal Officer if you have any doubts about any clause/s.
- Do know that any clause that prevents you from approaching SWA in the instance of a dispute, is legally null and void.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

We love to hear from our members!

Share your reaction to the first edition of our Newsletter, along with other queries and suggestions, by sending an email to contact@swaindia.org

REST IN PEACE, MRINAL SEN AND KADER KHAN

We express our heartfelt grief at the demise of two icons of Indian cinema: The ace neo-realistic filmmaker and screenwriter Shri Mrinal Sen (May 14, 1923 to December 30, 2018) , and the very popular screenwriter & actor Shri Kader Khan (October 22, 1937 to January 1, 2019).

While Mrinal Sen was an important figure of Indian New Wave cinema, owing to the cinematic genius and social commentary of his Bengali and Hindi language films, the latter was known for his witty and potent dialogue in the Hindi commercial cinema circuit. The two giants, who might seem like two distant ends of the spectrum, have left us in deep pain and with a sense of void.
May their souls rest in peace!