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Written Into The Picture: **Report Highlights the Need for Heightened Visibility of Screenwriters at Film Festivals**

Research into the visibility of screenwriting at Film Festivals around the globe has highlighted the need for the screenwriter's role in filmmaking to be given a higher profile according to an authoritative [survey](#).

The report, to be launched on Sunday 10 November at the World Conference of Screenwriters in Barcelona, illustrated that **only half of the film festivals surveyed invited screenwriters to the last edition of their film festival**. Financial limitations and wider assumption of the public's belief in auteurism were found to be key factors in prohibiting Festival's from including more screenwriters.

Importantly the survey acted as an awareness-raising exercise to which festivals responded positively; with many seeking to include screenwriters and screenwriting events in further festivals.

The study has led to a greater understanding of the needs and priorities of Festival organisers and opened up a debate within the industry about how these meet these with the mission to educate audiences about filmmaking. 40% of festivals surveyed declared a mission to educate audiences about the process of filmmaking: **this report begins a campaign to ensure that the role of screenwriting in the creation of film is clearly articulated at film festivals**, impacting on both the industry and public.

The 159 screenwriters surveyed underlined the **importance of film festivals for networking, career development and understanding international audience reaction to their work**. *"Coming from a small country with a small industry, film festivals are hugely important to me,"* wrote award-winning screenwriter Jan Forsström.

The research found many Film Festivals around the world to be demonstrating **best practice in celebrating the work of screenwriters** with Festivals in North-America and the UK proving more supportive than festivals in continental Europe of screenwriting. You might want to take this comparison out.

The **top three festivals** surveyed for their commitment to exploring screenwriting were:

- Edinburgh International Film Festival, UK
- Sofia International Film Festival, Bulgaria
- Hong Kong International Film Festival, HKSAPRC

The report is based on a global survey of film festivals and screenwriters across five regions of the world, sponsored by the International Affiliation of Writers Guilds and the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe.

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Notes to Editors

For an Executive Summary and the Full Report please visit: www.scenaristes.org

For more information please call the Writers' Guild of Great Britain on +44 (0)20 7833 0777.

The commissioners of this report are the [International Affiliation of Writers Guilds \(IAWG\)](#) and the [Federation of Screenwriters in Europe \(FSE\)](#) who represent more than 20,000 writers working in film, radio and television on five continents.

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