

Scriptwriter

Description:

Scriptwriters or screenwriters are people in a film crew who write/create the screenplays from which films and television programmes are made. Scriptwriters are responsible for researching the story, developing the narrative and writing and delivering the screenplay. Scriptwriters therefore have great influence over the creative direction and emotional impact of the screenplay and the finished film. Scriptwriting is emotionally and intellectually demanding, and requires an in-depth understanding of visual storytelling and of the different ways that films affect audiences.

Personal testimony:

Many people on 'Bunny and The Bull' worked hundreds of hours for little or no money and will only get paid if people actually pay to see the film when it's out. I'm as tempted as anyone by the thought of getting something for nothing but if people don't buy legitimate cinema tickets, DVDs, Blu-ray discs and downloads, it has a serious affect on the wages and jobs of the thousands of people employed in front of and behind the camera.

Paul King, writer and director of 'The Mighty Boosh' and 'Bunny and The Bull'

Industry facts

Most scriptwriters start their careers writing an idea for a film, and in some cases developing an entire script in the hope that a production studio will actually buy their idea. That means they write without being hired or paid for their work. When such a script is sold without being commissioned it is called a 'spec script'. Copyright infringement denies scriptwriters from being properly rewarded for their intellectual property and endless hours of hard work.

