

PRESS RELEASE

LEADING WRITERS ACROSS EUROPE TAKE ON SCIENCE STORIES FOR TELEVISION DRAMA

Writers Grants Awarded by the EuroWistdom Project

The EuroWistdom project tackles the lack of female involvement in careers in science, engineering and technology in European countries by seeking to show women in leading roles in science, engineering and technology based stories on TV. The project sets out to encourage and support writers or producer-writer teams from all over Europe to develop NEW ideas for TV drama.

Support packages have now been awarded to TV writers to help develop ideas for new TV drama series or feature length TV films on a theme involving contemporary science and technology that also give prominence to women as scientists or engineers.

The awards, which were made by an expert jury selecting from a shortlist of 18 applicants, are, in alphabetical order of first author's surname;

- **Aje Brucken and Raimund Maessen for "JANINA – LEIDENSCHAFT AM LIMIT" (Passion tested to its limits) Germany**
- **Doris and Daniel Danzer for "ZOES' TAGEFILM" (Zoe's TV Diary) Germany**
- **Brigitte Drottloff for "WAS WILL AMELIE" (What does Amilie want) Germany**
- **Kerstin Hohlfeld, Thorsten Flassnocker, for "WETTLAUF MIT DER ZEIT" (Race against Time) Germany**
- **Brigitte Peskine for "L'HORLOGE SANS AIGUILLE" (Clock without Hands) France**
- **Gabriella Giacometti and Elisabetha Flumeri for "RACE AGAINST TIME" Italy**
- **Polona Sepe for "INK TIPS" Slovenia**

For further information and to see the shortlisted applicants and information about the expert jury please consult the project web site at www.eurowistdom.eu or telephone Tom Elsworth on +44 7841 590237 or +44 1865 820533

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

EuroWistdom - Project description and background

Scientific and technological innovation lie at the heart of Europe's prosperity, and determine the whole way in which we live our lives. And yet despite their importance, they still attract too little interest among the public as a whole and young people in particular. In some countries like Germany, the media regard science and technology more as a risk than an opportunity, and they feature hardly at all in popular television formats other than news programmes and documentaries. The EU-sponsored EuroWistdom (European Women in Science TV Drama On Message) aims to find new ways of using science and technology as a source of inspiration for themes and characters in popular TV formats, and to develop positive role models for young women rather than the usual clichéd stereotypes.

The views of the Jury on the selected writers' ideas

JANINA – LEIDENSCHAFT AM LIMIT

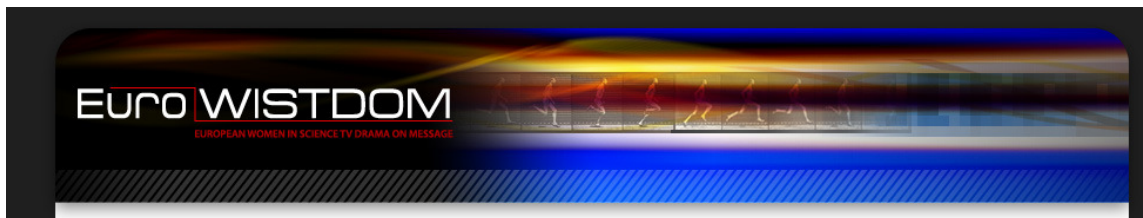
The design of a new concept sporty little car and a young women engineer at the heart of the development team set the scene for this new style serial set in the high tech world of the modern car industry. The personal lives and relationships of the team, in particular Janina, present a different image of the engineer from that commonly seen, whilst the engineering challenge retains a compelling presence throughout. Rivalries including with another company provide the conflicts which fuel good drama, with women engineers fitting naturally into what is a familiar engineering environment. The jury thought this could work well as a 6 part serial from this experienced drama writing partnership.

ZOE'S TAGEFILM

This is a weekly series targeted at a young audience (8 to 12 years), where the science is present at a basic level. The story is told through Zoe's TV diary, which shows 12 year old Zoe's passion for scientific enquiry inspired by her god-mother who is a scientist engaged in futuristic research. The jury were particularly taken by the concept and the way the series presented science as a subject which really interested the 12 year old girl. The writers have a distinguished record in children's drama.

WAS WILL AMILIE

This serial offers a fresh look at the pressures on a teenage girl interested in science. Amilie is a talented pianist who is also fascinated by science and technology. Her musician father takes a traditional view that she should focus on her musical abilities, in his image, but her mother studied science and has a new boyfriend who is an environmental scientist. The interplay between Amilie's home life, her relationships with school friends and teachers bring to life the forces



which affect the life of a young girl wanting to break into what many still see as a man's world.

WETTLAUF MIT DER ZEIT

The race for a cure for cancer has resonance with a wide public, and this story sets the challenge in an exciting research context. A woman biochemist suddenly receives an offer to set up a new cancer research group based on a new approach to cancer research with potential for dealing with a wide range of cancers. This TV drama series follows the varied characters in the group as they wrestle with the research challenge and their personal lives. The strong credentials of this writer/producer team suggest that the human dimension will create a fascination to illuminate the science and the central role of the women scientists.

L'HORLOGE SANS AIGUILLE

This drama presents a perspective on the AIDS story interweaving the human consequences and research angles with the skill of this leading French writer. With the spotlight having moved off AIDS in the western press, the feeling is that the time could be right for a fresh look at the earlier phase of the research and impact of AIDS, particularly if it helped shed light on the current problems in Africa. The leading scientist in the story is a woman.

RACE AGAINST TIME

This is a gripping story in a very modern idiom involving a race to develop a quantum computer powerful enough to solve the science behind a virus attack. It has a terrorist angle and a raft of relationships within the research environment which help ensure human interest. The central character is an Italian woman physicist, and the health, computing and general science base for the story allows for a cast of many nationalities of scientist and engineers.

INK TIPS

This is based on a true story of a project to discover a process for preserving documents in ink. It is set in the historical context of a Slovenian family, in which a young woman chemist is keen to preserve old ink documents from previous generations. The success in finding a non-aqueous stabilisation treatment was described by Dr Jana Kolar at the EuroWistdom event in Ljubljana in March 2007, and the writer was inspired by the story to create the drama INK TIPS based on the family and scientific struggle of Jana Kolar.

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