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11 May 2007



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**Impressive international line-up for writers' festival**

Screen staff in London

10 May 2007 06:30



Some of the biggest names in screenwriting will be attending the second International Screenwriters Festival in the UK town of Cheltenham.

Among this year's star speakers are Diana Osana (*Brokeback Mountain*), Michael Goldenberg (*Harry Potter And The Order Of The Phoenix*), Anthony Horowitz (*Stormbreaker*), Shawn Slovo and Robyn Slovo (*To Catch A Fire*) and Abi Morgan (*Brick Lane*).

TV is represented by, among others, the creators of award-winning BBC series *Life On Mars*, Ashley Pharoah and Tony Jordan.

The event runs from July 3rd to 6th at Cheltenham Film Studios in the attractive Georgian town in the UK Cotswolds, which already hosts a major literary festival.

The event covers every aspect of the screenwriting profession from basic skills to the broader business. It also takes in a wide range of genres, offering expertise in many areas. For details of sessions [click here](#).

Attendees include a great many professional and aspiring writers but also a wider range of industry disciplines.

The SWF prides itself on acting as a link between writers and the wider industry.

The directors and advisors include a wide range of industry specialists, including chairman of the directors, producer Simon Relph, former chairman of Bafta and founder and chairman of British Screen.

This year it will be one of the key forums to debate the new European Screenwriters Manifesto, which is acting as a call to arms for writers looking to defend their rights as authors.

"One of the core values of the festival is how we can bring the different sides of the business, particularly writers and producers together," said festival head David Pearson.

The connection is important not only for debate but for creating what can be valuable links through, for example, the pitching sessions and script market, he said.

"Bringing together writers and the rest of the industry benefits everyone."

Sponsorship partners this year included SW Screen, Cheltenham Council, BBC Films, BAFTA, Skillset, LSC, ITV, David Lean Foundation & Indigenous Finance. The media Sponsor is *Screen International*.

Last year's successful inaugural festival, also at Cheltenham, signalled a major

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new event in the film calendar.

Amongst those who are contributed to last year's Festival were Guillermo Del Toro, Nic Roeg and Alan Scott, Jimmy McGovern, Tony Marchant, Julian Fellowes and Bill Nicholson.

It attracted more than 500 delegates from 12 countries. For more, [click here](#).

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