

Happy New Year to everyone!

Our first SWG committee meeting of the new year is scheduled for 14th February, and I'll report back on it next month, but in advance of that, I thought I'd bring SWG members up to date with what we've been up to over the past few weeks.

AUDIO: PODCASTING, BBC SOUNDS AND AUDIBLE

The launch of BBC Sounds is in part the corporation's response to the fast-growing audience, particularly among younger audiences, for audio programming across all genres. Theo, Sophia and I attended a presentation at the BBC on the day of its launch, and among other things we heard about their aim to commission podcast drama (as well as factual programmes) that "give people, especially younger listeners, the best in entertaining, experimental and highly creative audio." Having recently negotiated podcast commissioning rates with the BBC (which can be viewed [here](#)) members of the committee will be meeting with the BBC throughout the year and closely monitoring the development and ambition of their podcast slate.

Later in the month, I'll also be meeting with Audible, who are working to position themselves as the audio equivalent of Netflix, going much further than buying titles for straightforward read adaptation, but commissioning dramatic adaptations as well as original audio plays. I'll be particularly interested to find out what and who they are looking for to help them fulfil their business development plan. I'll also be asking more about their \$5 million fund, launched in May 2017 to commission new audio plays from emerging playwrights. Imison Award winner, James Fritz, was one of two British playwrights to win funding early last year, so we'll be encouraging them to see SoA members and their works as a key resource (as well as being firm about writers getting fair remuneration for any work or licenses sold!).

2019 IMISON AWARD

The committee met at the end of December for the final judging of this year's award, and we are delighted to congratulate our three chosen shortlistees: Ian Billings (*Spike and the Elfin Oak*), Carl Cattermole (*Double Bubble*) and Lulu Raczka (*Of a Lifetime*). We're looking forward to attending the annual Audio Drama Awards event, hosted this year by Tracy-Ann Oberman and held at Broadcasting House on 3rd February, when our winner will finally be revealed!

TV AND FILM

Last week our chief executive, Nicola Solomon, attended a very constructive meeting of the Cross-Industry Group on Bullying and Harassment in the screen industries, and contributed to the appeal for case studies and industry examples with which to update and elaborate the guidance already published, which can be viewed [here](#): the eight Principles, to which the guidance is designed to refer, can be viewed [here](#). The Group will be providing a 'One Year

SCRIPTWRITERS GROUP

*Notes from the Committee,
January 2019*



On' summary of progress which will be printed in the BAFTA Film Awards brochure, and we will also be disseminating the summary as widely as possible among members and partners. Although awareness of this complex and deep-seated problem in our industry is growing, there is still a lot of work to be done to get these issues to the top of everyone's agenda.

Last but not least, we're delighted to announce that Neil Bushnell and Barney Norris will be joining us on the SWG committee as of next month. Neil is a writer, artist and animator with over twenty years' experience from across the film, TV, online, games, advertising and publishing industries; Barney an award-winning playwright, poet and essayist. We are very much looking forward to the experience and expertise that Neil and Barney will no doubt bring to work and to the future meetings of committee, which kick off at the Royal Court Theatre on 14th February.

Elizabeth-Anne, SWG Committee Chair

January 2019