



Association for Media Education in Scotland

NEWSLETTER

February 2019



1: AMES NEWS:

AMES website <http://ames.scot>

The AMES website has recently moved providers and the way the secure resources is accessed has changed. In order to get access, click on the resources link, choose “Sign Up” in the top right and sign up with the email address you have registered with AMES, choosing your own password. You will then be approved as soon as possible.



AMES conference 2019

In the last couple of years it has become more difficult for many members and colleagues to find time on a Saturday in late May or early June to attend the AMES conference, due to, in many schools, the start of the revised timetable, and for some members their work as markers, etc. for the SQA. We are looking at a revised date, based on the survey which you may have completed a short while ago, of the Conference being held on a Saturday in September, October or early November, but avoiding the autumn school holiday period.

AMES subscriptions

We regret that it is necessary to increase membership subscriptions when renewals become due this summer: producing your two editions of the *MEJ* is actually costing AMES more than ordinary members pay in their subscription. So from April 1 there will have to be an across-the-board increase of £5. Subscriptions for session 2019/20 will therefore be:

- Ordinary Members: £30
- Institutional Members: £45
- Retired and unwaged members: £20
- Students, and teachers for most of their first year of teaching: free



We do hope that you will still regard this as a perfectly acceptable level of subscription. Individual members who are employed as teachers, lecturers, etc., are reminded that their AMES subscription can be claimed for income tax purposes as a professional expense.

Payment by Direct Debit: Those who pay by Direct Debit should note that the payment date is being changed from 1st to 30th April each year. This fits closer to the academic year for which the subscription applies. You do not need to do anything yourself, as the Treasurer will make the necessary changes, both to the date and to the amount payable.



Banks have an agreement that, if a further direct debit is not taken within thirteen months of the previous payment, the DD instruction can be cancelled by the bank without reference to the customer or to the recipient – known as the dormancy period rule. This has determined that the revised date will be 30th April, and not 1st May – as the later date is at the start of the thirteenth month, with the possible cancellation that day of some mandates. If for any reason the Treasurer cannot collect your payment on April 30th, it will be necessary for you to complete a revised DD

mandate – but you will be contacted if this is required. However, in due course, please check your bank statement to ensure that the revised payment date and sum are correct.

Payment by cheque, bank transfer, or local authority purchase order: Notices will be issued as usual in May, showing the revised payment due. Please ensure, if your local authority is paying, that a purchase order number is given. Most local authorities are refusing to pay on invoices that do not show a purchase order number. Legally, the Treasurer cannot issue invoices without a direct authorisation to do so from the customer – so please send a purchase order form, or at least the PO number, when renewing.

Media Education Journal, issue 65

The next issue of *The Media Education Journal*, No. 65, will be published in June and posted out to members. It will have a number of articles on the horror genre (apparently the most popular genre for SQA exams), articles on the 1953 film *The Square Ring*, and on Mickey Mouse, as well as a number of articles from Glasgow University Department of Theatre, Film & Television Studies.



2: EVENTS AND COURSES:

Creative Media Network Scotland

The Creative Media Network Scotland is a collaboration of Scotland's colleges and universities which marks new beginnings in the relationship between creative media industries operating in film, broadcast and digital media and Scotland's colleges and universities. The network offers a learning and skills infrastructure and aims to ensure there is a continuing talent pipeline into Scotland's screen, broadcast and digital industry.



Forthcoming opportunities:

CMNS Student Festival

The organisation hosts an annual student festival which this year will be held on Wednesday 24th April in CCA in Glasgow. It gives students and Modern Apprentices access to workshops, industry contacts and opportunities to pitch ideas.

Short Film Competition

On Burn's Night, 25th January, a brand new film making competition was launched by the Scottish Parliament and Creative Media Network. Student and Modern Apprenticeship film-makers are invited to enter the nationwide competition to produce a short film on the impact the Scottish Parliament has had in their area.

The Parliament is looking for them to submit one-minute films on the impact that Holyrood and devolved governance has had over the last 20 years across all regions and communities in Scotland. The competition forms part of the Parliament's 20th anniversary plans and is aimed at those in colleges and universities across the country whose courses focus on the creative industries. Each institution will select a maximum of five pitches for consideration by the selection panel.

Thirty of the most promising proposals will be shortlisted. Students will then be invited to pitch their ideas to a panel of leading industry figures. The 20 winners will then be supported by their institutions to produce their final film. The films will be shown during events at the Parliament on Saturday 29th June, which is almost 20 years to the day since Holyrood assumed its legal powers. This event will see the Parliament open its doors to the public.

More details can be found at <http://www.creativemedianetwork.org>

Videogames: Design/Disrupt/Display Exhibition

This exciting exhibition will open at Dundee V&A on April 20. It aims to give a unique insight into the design process behind a selection of ground-breaking contemporary videogames.

Design work, including concept art and prototypes, will feature alongside large-scale immersive installations and interactives. Alongside the exhibition, enjoy a varied programme of events, talks, commissions and learning workshops inspired by videogame design that will reflect the local expertise of Scottish designers, companies and academics in the field.

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/dundee/exhibitions/videogames>

Glasgow Short Film Festival

GSFF 19 will take place this year at various locations in Glasgow between 13th–17th March. Lots of highlights, including a session on *Unrealities: VR Cinema*.

<https://glasgowfilm.org/glasgow-short-film-festival>



3: RESOURCES:

Posters on the key aspects: still available!



Last summer AMES produced two colourful A1 classroom posters for the revised National 5 Media course. One (shown here) covers the 4 media content key aspects; the other covers the 3 contextual key aspects.

Cost for the set of two is £20 (including postage & packing). Cheques (payable to AMES) or official orders (with purchase order number included) should be sent to: Robert Preece, AMES Treasurer, 10 Heatherley Crescent, Inverness, IV2 4AW, or the form can be e-mailed to rpreece@onetel.com

There is also a free A1 poster for Higher Media which unpacks the key aspects and shows their integration. It prints at A4 from Microsoft Edge – or you can take the file to your local printer and have an A1 version printed. Go to the AMES website (ames.scot) to download it – FREE!.

4: JOBS, WORK EXPERIENCE, VOLUNTEERING: BBC Get Me In

BBC regularly posts its work experience and volunteering opportunities on social media.

<https://www.instagram.com/bbcgetin/>



5: THOUGHTS & REFLECTIONS:

The Awards Season Wendy Elrick

It's that time of the year again! But is it all about red carpets and glamorous frocks or a serious consideration of the best in film over the past twelve months? A quick look at the Oscar nominations for best picture seems to be in order...

Black Panther – on one hand, a celebration of Afro-Futurism, on the other, another entry into the bloated Marvel Cinematic Universe that relied heavily on a CGI-driven finale between men in indistinguishable suits. An interesting choice and definitely more populist choice. Chance of winning? 0/10



BlacKkKlansman – Spike Lee finally got an Oscar nomination! Woo hoo! An honorary nod is nice but getting three for this film is pretty nice as well after 30 years in the business. I enjoyed the majority of the film, especially the central performance from John David Washington although the ending was a bit heavy handed for me. Chances? 4/10

Bohemian Rhapsody – The music is good. The hagiography a little grating. The false teeth are mesmerising. Chances? 5/10

The Favourite – I deeply appreciated the swearing. I even learned *new* swear words. And the duck quacks were deliciously placed. It was a fun twist on the historical film and I think Olivia Coleman is finally getting the attention she deserves. Chances? 6/10

Green Book – It's a crowd pleaser and it uses broad strokes for a topic that would be even more moving when told with nuance. I had a lovely cry at it, though. It has been described as a race switched *Driving Miss Daisy* and it isn't wrong. Chances? 4/10

Roma – Alfonso Cuarón basically took me and wrung every emotion out of me during this film. I didn't see it on the cinema screen but actually watched on my laptop and the intimacy of curling up with this story made it even more intense, not less. A triumph and my pick for the Best Picture. Chances? 9/10

A Star Is Born – We joke that remakes are a little out of control but actually this story works even fourth time around thanks, hugely, to the sheer charisma of Lady Gaga. Bradley Cooper's acting does outshine his directing and I think the film will probably pick up in the Actor categories but not here. Chances? 5/10

Vice – Christian Bale undergoing massive physical transformation (I mean, he had to work HARD to gain forty pounds – imagine the amount of cake he had to eat) is always popular with Academy voters as are biopics. I also really like the idea that the director of *Step Brothers* could win for a joyously nihilist film about US politics with some really stylish cinematic quirks. Chances? 9/10

The next AMES newsletter will probably be issued to members in May 2019. Any content from members can be sent to: rpreece@onetel.com by the end of the April.

© Association for Media Education in Scotland

February 2019

Scottish Charity no. SC029408