



Association for Media Education in Scotland

# NEWSLETTER

## November 2018

Scottish Charity SC029408

### Annual meetings with SQA

Mary Birch (AMES Convenor) and Julie Laing (committee member) met in October with Robert Quinn, Head of Service, Humanities, Arts and Business, and his Qualification and Subject Managers. AMES gave the members' feedback on NQ and vocational qualifications. Robert Quinn provided updates on recent and forthcoming developments.



The discussions covered:

- opportunities for school/college partnerships through level 6 Foundation Apprenticeships
- need for greater transparency on rationale for changes to course content
- stability of NQ entries and results (although it was noted that these may be affected in 2019 by the 2017 results)
- need for NQ delivery to reflect 50/50 analysing and producing course principle
- generally positive response to 2018 exam diet, and N5 unseen welcomed
- further exemplification (N5 Media coming soon from 2018 live diet)
- principle of 50/50 Analysing and Creating delivery in NQ could be reinforced
- positive response to SQA input at AMES 2018 conference
- imminent overhaul of HN frameworks (HN Next Gen) with a focus on partnerships, metaskills, flexibility, sampling for assessment, and projects, which is likely to lead to fewer frameworks and more commonality in mandatory sections
- HN TV soon to be reviewed, and Media and Communication almost complete
- possibility of social media sharing to increase engagement with documents such as Principal Assessor reports, and perhaps candidate-friendly versions (some links already shared on Twitter)

AMES was also represented at the National Qualifications Subject Team (NQST) in November. The group was updated on:

- the NQ Media exam diet
- the whole suite of Media qualifications such as National Progression Awards (NPAs).

Further Higher exemplification was made available at Understanding Standards Events, and National 5 will be available in the next month. Marker opportunities are available for Higher assignment and exam scripts. It was noted that *Centre News* is available to everyone online, not just SQA coordinators. Matt Smith, Subject Implementation Officer, asked us to let you know that he is available to visit centres to offer advice and support. He can be reached on [matt.smith@sqa.org.uk](mailto:matt.smith@sqa.org.uk). The value of NPAs in fostering school/college partnerships was welcomed. SQA will investigate whether they attract UCAS points – this may lend weight to the call for Advanced Higher Media.

### AMES Conference survey: dates for 2019

There is evidence that the traditional date for the AMES conference (the first Saturday in June) is no longer suitable for many members. Notification of a survey was sent out in early November seeking views on a more suitable date. Many of you have responded, and we thank you for that. However if you have not replied, there is still time to do so, by clicking on this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/zn0C7kuqQ7Z8Zlm32>

The link will be kept open for a short while longer, so if you want to reply, please do so now. There are only three questions, so it will not take you long to complete!

## Media Education Journal, issue 64

This issue will be posted out to members and subscribers in late December, and should be in your Christmas mail (if it comes to your home address) or waiting for you after the holiday (if we use an institutional address). It will have articles on:

- Teaching Film Narrative
- Teaching Film Comedy
- Music in Film
- Reading the Media: Social Media and the Colorado Avalanche
- The BFI Academy courses.

There will also be an obituary for Rick Instrell, and an 1991 article by Rick on *Twin Peaks* will be republished. There will also be the usual reviews section.

**Books for Review:** Would you be interested in book reviewing for *The Media Education Journal*? Here is a list of books currently available for review, with brief descriptions. All of these books are published by Auteur Publications, and because Auteur has a (largely) horror series called “Devil’s Advocates” most are in the horror genre, but we will add more titles with greater variety. We intend having a section of the AMES website where the books available for review will be regularly updated.

If you are interested in reviewing any of these titles for MEJ issue 65 (summer 2019), please contact Des Murphy (the editor) at: [desmurphy47@gmail.com](mailto:desmurphy47@gmail.com). Reviews are usually between 750 and 1000 words but, depending on content, can be longer or shorter. The copy date for MEJ65 will be mid-April 2019.

In the Mouth of Madness (John Carpenter) (1995) <i>Devil’s Advocates series</i>	Somewhat overlooked upon its initial release in 1995, John Carpenter’s <i>In the Mouth of Madness</i> has since developed a healthy cult reputation.
Candyman (Bernard Rose) (1992) <i>Devil’s Advocates series</i>	When <i>Candyman</i> was released in 1992, Roger Ebert remarked that the film was “scaring him with ideas and gore, rather than just gore...”
Ida (Pawel Pawlikowski) (2013)	Film on young novitiate nun in 1960s Poland on the verge of taking her vows, discovers a dark family secret dating back to the years of the Nazi occupation
Don’t Look Now (2017) <i>Devil’s Advocates series</i>	Book argues for <i>DLN</i> as particular kind of horror film, depending on the narrative of trauma on horror of unknowing, of seeing too late, and of the failures of paternal authority and responsibility.
The Silence of the Lambs (1999)	Based on Thomas Harris’s bestseller, a game-changer in the fields of both horror and crime cinema.
The Shining (2008) <i>Devil’s Advocates series</i>	This book situates the film within the history of the horror genre and examines its rightful status as one of the greatest horror movies ever made.
Ju-On: The Grudge	Takashi Shimizu’s Ju-on franchise was a principal instigator in the rise of contemporary Japanese horror and its international popularity at the turn of the millennium.
Suspiria (Dario Argento) (1976) <i>Devil’s Advocates series</i> [Original version of the film, not the 2019 version]	One of the most globally recognisable instances of 20th century Eurohorror, is poetic, chaotic, and intriguing.



Frenzy (Alfred Hitchcock) (1972)	<i>Frenzy</i> was Alfred Hitchcock's penultimate film, and arguably one of his most misunderstood and neglected. Whereas even <i>Psycho</i> (1960) did eventually become respectable ... <i>Frenzy</i> still remains problematic for many.
<i>Coming soon:</i>	
The Devils (Ken Russell) (1973) <i>Devil's Advocates series</i>	Undoubtedly the most notorious title in director Ken Russell's controversial filmography, <i>The Devils</i> caused a real furore on its initial theatrical release ...
Shakespeare on Film	No details yet
Update to <i>Feminist Film Study – A Teacher's Guide</i>	2008 book by Terri Murray updated

If you come across a book you would be interested in reviewing, contact Des to see if he can get a review copy from the publishers.

## AMES committee news

Mary Birch has now stepped down as the AMES convenor, due to pressure of work on other things. At the recent committee meeting she was thanked for her work for AMES over the past few years. Wendy Elrick has now taken over this role. Des Murphy remains as secretary, and Robert Preece as Treasurer.

**Membership renewal for 2018-2019:** Those who have not renewed their membership for session 2018/19 will only be able to access this newsletter from the AMES website. If you still want to renew, there's still time. If you have any questions about your membership, please get in contact with the Treasurer at [rpreece@onetel.com](mailto:rpreece@onetel.com). All members should have an ID and password to access the resources section of the website. If you do not have these, or have lost the information, please contact the Treasurer, as above.

Unfortunately, with rising costs, it will be necessary to increase subscriptions for all from the start of renewals for session 2019/20. More details nearer the time.

## Into Film Festival

Many members around Scotland have taken part again in this annual festival of free films for young people. Across the UK, 450,000 seats are taken. Members' highlights have included a lively Q&A about 'What makes a Classic Film?' after a screening of *Some Like it Hot*; experiencing the quietest cinema ever during *A Quiet Place*; BBFC insights about certification, and meeting Richard Warner, Curator of Document Film Festival.



Whether or not your classes have been involved, they can enter several competitions. Some are ongoing, but the closing date for Festival review submission is Monday 26 November.

<https://www.intofilm.org/competitions>

## Links that might be of interest [AMES does not necessarily endorse these links]

The 16th Document Film Festival kicks off in Glasgow on 30 November. The pdf of the programme can be downloaded here:

<http://www.documentfilmfestival.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Document-Human-Rights-Film-Festival-2018-A5-programme-1.pdf>

The SQA Media landing page has been revamped and it is hoped it's now easier to locate key documents such as Course specifications and Principal Assessor reports. These can be accessed at:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45666.html>

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<https://newsadviser.co.uk/>

**Next newsletter:** The next newsletter will probably be issued in February 2019. If you have any items that could be included, please email them to [rpreece@onetel.com](mailto:rpreece@onetel.com) by late January.

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