



Association for Media Education in Scotland

NEWSLETTER

September 2018

Scottish Charity SC029408

SQA 2018 Exam reports

National 5 English Film and TV Drama Questions

The course report suggests that approximately 10% of the candidates chose to answer the media questions, which corresponds to the numbers of the previous session. The questions were perceived as fair and accessible. The report highlighted that there should be more focus on the impact of the discussed techniques, rather than the meaning. Most candidates analysed films such as *The Dark Knight*, *Psycho*, Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Untouchables*, instead of TV drama.



Higher English Film and TV Drama Questions

According to the course report, an increasing number of candidates answered questions in this section. The questions were felt to be fair, focusing on a key sequence, setting and character. This enabled pupils to answer on a wide selection of texts. The course report named *The Dressmaker*, *The Shining*, *The Sixth Sense*, *Psycho*, *The Prestige*, *Shutter Island* and *Pleasantville*. Anecdotally, *The Godfather* also remains a popular choice.

Your feedback needed on SQA qualifications

Our annual meeting with SQA will take place towards the end of October. The aim is to give feedback on their qualifications at all levels, and work with them to give our pupils and students the best possible experience of media education. We want to present as full a picture as possible of what is working well and what can be improved, so please get in touch about topics such as:

- national units
- NQ assignment results
- NQ exam results
- media options in English
- HN Media and Communication standards
- changes to course specifications
- quality of support materials and advice
- anything else you feel we should raise



Please email up to 500 words to ames.media.education.scot@gmail.com by Monday 1st October. It will be helpful to know which type of centre you present in and approximately how many pupils/students you enter at each level. Your comments will be collated and taken forward with Robert Quinn, Head of Service, Humanities, Arts and Business.

!NEW! Key Aspects posters for Media at National 5 level and for Higher !NEW!

AMES has recently produced posters to highlight the key aspects of Media courses at National 5 and Higher levels. These were launched at our conference in June, and are selling well.

NATIONAL 5: Now is your chance to purchase them. The cost is £20 for the set of 2, at A1 size, and are supplied in a cardboard tube for safe transit. The cost includes the postage.

To order:

Orders with accompanying cheque should be posted to: Robert Preece, 10 Heatherley Crescent, Inverness, IV2 4AW. Payment can also be made by bank transfer – for bank account details contact Robert on rpreece@onetel.com

Official orders will also be accepted, and should be posted to the same address, or can be sent by email to Robert, following which an invoice will be sent to your school/college or to the local authority (whatever is the practice in your local area).

HIGHER: The *Integrating the Key Aspects* poster for Higher, is available *free of charge* by download from the AMES website (ames.scot). It prints at A4 size, but the graphics are such that it can be printed out, if you have access to the facilities, at any size up to A1.



AMES Conference: 2 June 2018

Around 30 people attended another successful conference at St Leonard's Hall, University of Edinburgh. The keynote by leading media educationalist Cary Bazalgette was well received and thought provoking, before we headed off for a wide range of workshops aimed at primary, secondary and FE sectors.

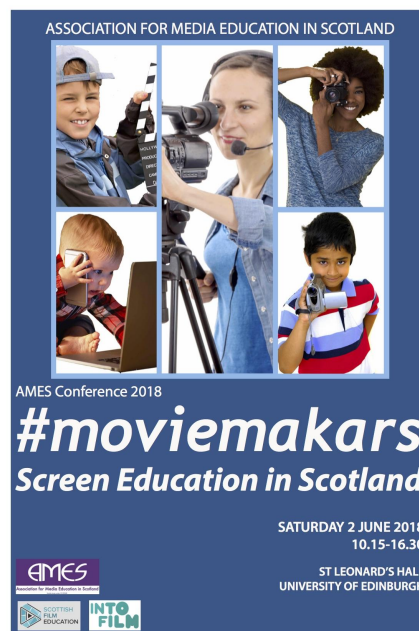
The sessions on National 5 and Higher Media were particularly helpful for those perhaps just starting out in the area of media education and for others to help clarify issues.

Workshop sessions were from Roy Stafford on teaching *Wadja*, and David Griffith from IntoFilm who ran sessions on *Mise-en-scène*, *Complex Narrative Structure* and *How to Analyse Film Comedy*.

Julie Laing (AMES Management Committee member) successfully stepped in to take Rick Instrell's workshop on Teaching Sitcom – *Gary Tank Commander*, due to Rick's ill health. (Unfortunately his session on *Blade Runner 2049* had to be cancelled.) Des Murphy delivered an interesting workshop on Teaching Musicals – *La La Land*.

Scott Donaldson from Creative Scotland gave an update on the Film Education Action Plan, and David Martin from Skills Development Scotland presented an insight into Foundation Apprenticeships in Creative Media which created positive and lively discussion.

The end-of-conference evaluation was very positive with many also commenting on the excellent networking opportunities to be had and the pleasure of meeting up with like-minded individuals to share ideas.



AMES committee update

The AMES committee met for the first time since the June AGM on 8th September, when the whole committee was able to be present. Robert Duffin was welcomed to his first committee meeting.

Tribute was paid to the work for AMES of Rick Instrell who died in July. Several of the committee were able to attend the funeral event in Edinburgh. A very significant sum of money was taken in the retiring collection for the work of AMES, and the committee are now deciding how best to use this money.

Mary Birch has agreed to continue as Convenor until after the annual meeting with the SQA, and soon after that Wendy Elrick will take the helm. Meanwhile Wendy will control the website, to ensure that it is kept up and running. Des Murphy will continue as Secretary, as well as editing the *Media Education Journal*, but will get help from Lorraine Teviotdale. Robert Preece will continue as Treasurer, but with help from Robert Duffin, with a view to passing on this role to someone else in due course. Julie Laing would act as minutes secretary, as well as the lead person for contact with the SQA. Isabel Sarren, Catriona Smith and Steve Jones will take the lead on next year's conference.

A review of the June conference identified that consideration should be given to trying an alternative date, and this will be raised further at the next committee meeting. June is now a much busier time in schools, and the alternative of late September or October would be looked at. After a very successful event in 2017 in terms of delegate numbers, this year's numbers were somewhat disappointing. The nature of the event would also be considered.

[Members are welcome to make suggestions as to the nature and content of future events.]

Membership renewal for 2018-2019

Membership renewal notices have been sent to all who pay by cheque, or by official order (those who pay by Direct Debit were debited on 1st April for the current session). Many have renewed but if you intend to renew and have not done so yet, please do so now! Subscriptions are unchanged from last session: £40 for schools and colleges (entitling all staff to membership benefits), £25 for individual subscriptions, and £15 for retired members and those who are unwaged. If you do not renew soon, we regret that this will be the last communication that we will be able to send you. Application forms are available on the website, but if you are simply renewing membership, the form is not essential. Payment of subscriptions can also be made by bank transfer: contact the Treasurer for the relevant bank details. If you have any questions about your membership, please get in contact with the Treasurer at rpreece@onetel.com

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.

Links that might be of interest

New journal from UCL IOE focusing on film education:

<https://www.ucl-ioe-press.com/journals/fej/>

Update on the progress of Creative Scotland's Screen Unit:

<https://www.creativescotland.com/what-we-do/latest-news/archive/2018/6/creative-scotland-appoints-isabel-davis-as-executive-director-for-scotlands-screen-unit>

IntoFilm Festival bookings now open.

<https://www.intofilm.org/events/festival>

BFI Film Academy applications for 2018/19 still open for 16 to 19 year olds but closing soon.

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/education-research/5-19-film-education-scheme-2013-2017/bfi-film-academy-scheme>

FANS (Film Access Network Scotland) Youth Film Festival is running 16th to 18th November. There is still time to submit films or take part in one of the film challenges. Short film submissions close this Sunday 16th September and the 2 minute Film Challenges close on the 5th October.

<http://www.fanscotland.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/www.FANScotland.org/>

Next newsletter: The next newsletter will probably be issued in November. If you have any items that could be included, please email them to rpreece@onetel.com by late October.

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Scottish Charity no. SC029408