

FILMCRONACHE 1987

In a country like our own, where the best initiatives in the field of teaching are very often left to the good will of single people or small groups, they merit particular attention like that given to International Forum, formed in 1984. It is a self financing association which organises intensive professional seminars and work-shops for script writers, directors, actors, producers and all the other people who work (or want to work) in cinema, television and video.

Founded by Lampo Calenda, an ex-documentarist from Naples, who has a vast knowledge of the professional workings of showbusiness in America and Great Britain. International Forum works mainly in Italy, but already has plans for a course of seminars in other European countries, for example Germany. The idea is to organise an international network of contacts and information which would work something like a 'conective tissue' between the professionals of cinema and television. One of the various services offered by this association is to consult and give advice on any projects detined for an international market. Who are these people that are called by Lampo Calenda to spread their know-how.

The way we choose our speakers is to invite professinals with a great experiance in this line of work. This way there is no danger of making the seminars too 'academic' but clear and well thought out. The rare figure of a professional teacher is more easily to be found in the United States, for this reason, up till now, we have used only Americans. The first seminar held by International Forum was held by Paul Gray, independant director and producer, well known overseas also for consulting on directing and trainer. Another teacher invited over to hold a seminar was Robert Mckee, script writer and story editor for a lot of the Majors, already teacher at the prestigious University of Southern California (which has been attended by Spielberg, Cimino, Lucas and Zemeckis). Due to the great success of his seminars last year, on the structure of script writing, this wizzard of American script has been invited again this year to do seminars with a special look at the genere of Horror.

Morton Zarcoff and Tom Davis have also been invited to Rome, authors of serials, series and mini series (for ewample Bonanza) and directors of the script writing department of USU, the first script writer for the legendary 'Saturday Night Live', the second, for a period of training on 'The techniques of script writing and developing narrative for television serials'. Tom Logan, actor and trainer of actors, came for a spell of teaching the techniques of riciting in cinema, television and commercials. Ralph Singleton, production director for 'Taxi Driver', already organiser of production for Coppola's Zoetrope Studios and producer of the very successful series 'Cagney and Lacey'. His seminar intitled 'Production techniques for film and television' focused on work and budget plans on an international level.

So as not to exclude other important movie makers such as those in Russia, Nikita Mikhalkov has also been invited to hold a seminar, who not only is a great director, is also an actress and poet and is very interesting for her cultural references found in her films. There are also plans for holding a seminar by a more 'classical' Soviet director from the Moscow School.

The next projects that International Forum are going to organise involve a seminar dedicated to the analysis and valuation of screen plays, held by Jeffrey Grode (story analyst for MGM) and Linda Segall (9 years story analyst at Columbia Pictures), a new work-shop by Tom Logan and another held by Jefferey Boswell, director and producer at the BBC.

These courses held by International Forum (tel 06-8620 3158) which are also attended by people from RAI television, are rather expensive but the cost is worth the very high standards of these courses. It is enough to know about Exit, a production of RAI television which, thanks to the good advice from Robert McKee has been able to enter into the running for the 1987 Oscars. One of their young writers, Stefano Reali, has just finished filming in Venezuela with Al Johnson, a film produced by Sacis.