

## Writers Credits Guiding Principles

As agreed between Screen Producers Ireland and the Writers Guild of Ireland in September 2017

The following list of credits for writers is for guidance purposes only.

The writing credit definitions mirror those of the International Affiliation of Writers Guilds.

It is important to note that **the contract between the producer and the writer will take precedent over these guidelines.**

We recommend that the producer and writer avail of legal advice before signing a contract. You can also consult with the writers guild/SPI.

### 1. Story by

The term "story" means an original idea written for the screen which is distinct from a screenplay and consisting of the basic narrative, idea, theme or outline indicating character development and action. A "Story by" credit is appropriate when the screenplay is based on a story, as defined above, and not based on any pre-existing material.

### 2. Screen Story by

Credit for story authorship in the form "Screen Story by" is appropriate when a story, as defined above, is based on source material though substantially new or different from the source material.

### 3. Screenplay by

A screenplay consists of individual scenes and full dialogue, together with such prior treatment, basic adaptation, continuity, scenario and dialogue as shall be used in, and substantially contributes to, the final script.

A "Screenplay by" credit is appropriate when the screenplay is based upon a story or a screen story as defined above.

### 4. Written by

The term "Written by" is used when the writer(s) is entitled to both the "Story by" credit and the "Screenplay by" credit.

This credit shall not be granted where there is source material of a story nature. However, biographical, newspaper and other factual sources may not necessarily deprive the writer of such credit.

### 5. Narration Written by

A "Narration Written by" credit is appropriate where the major writing contribution to a motion picture is in the form of narration. The term "narration" means material (typically off-camera) to explain or relate sequence or action (excluding promos or trailers).

## 6. Based on Characters Created by

"Based on Characters Created by" is a writing credit given to the writer(s) entitled to separated rights in a theatrical or television motion picture. This credit is accorded when a sequel to a theatrical or television motion picture is produced for television (excluding a television series).

## 7. Shared credit

When credit is accorded to a team of writers, an ampersand (&) shall be used between the writers' names in the credit to denote a writing team. Use of the word "and" between writers' names in a credit indicates that the writers did their work separately, one usually rewriting the other. This distinction is well established in the industry through custom and practice.

## 8. The Possessory Credit

The possessory credit "a film by" or its variations, is accorded to a director who has written and directed the film; and or who has a significant body of work and whose reputation as a film-maker is such that it can make a significant contribution to the marketing of the film. Writers' guilds do not believe that the possessory credit should be used in any other circumstances.



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