Domestic extremist moguls

LONDON FREELANCE Branch voted at its at its September meeting to donate £500 towards the production of a campaigning video, Press Freedom 3 – Domestic Extremist. The Branch thereby again assumes the role of film mogul.

It’s being made by a group of NUJ photographers and will document the struggle to expose the files police keep on journalists, using interviews with those involved and footage and stills taken over ten years.

The first Press Freedom films – Press Freedom: Collateral Damage (www.vimeo.com/87556015) and Press Freedom: Hostile Reconnaissance (www.vimeo.com/87514833) have been widely shown and become valuable union campaigning resources.

Six NUJ members have also launched a Judicial Review in the High Court challenging the Met’s surveillance of journalists. Some of them – including journalist and comedian Mark Thomas – spoke at the April 2015 LFB meeting (www.londonfreelance.org/f/1507mark.html). One, Jason Parkinson, recently updated the Freelance with the news that there is nothing to report yet, other than that all the deadlines that were set for the Met to respond to their initial filing have now passed.

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Photographers converge on a photographer at an “I’m a photographer, not a terrorist” event in Trafalgar Square in 2010. Photo © Matt Salusbury

Black History Month event

TO MARK Black History Month (October), the NUJ is hosting a special event in honour of Claudia Jones, the Trinidadian-born activist and social event in honour of Claudia Jones, the NUJ is hosting a special event in honour of Claudia Jones, the Trinidadian-born activist and social event in honour of Claudia Jones, the Trinidadian-born activist and social event in honour of Claudia Jones, the Trinidadian-born activist and founder of the first Notting Hill Carnival.

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Phoptographers converge on a photographer at an “I’m a photographer, not a terrorist” event in Trafalgar Square in 2010. Photo © Matt Salusbury

Go niche, young hack!

ROYAL REPORTER, or health correspondent: how to develop a specialist Is that the title of an NUJ event on Thursday 29 October at Headland House, the NUJ London HQ. Speakers include Times Education Supplement editor Ann Mroz, Mirror health editor Andrew Gregory, PA environment correspondent Emily Beaumont, former Guardian fashion and beauty correspondent Hannah Pool and Express royal correspondent Richard Palmer.

Kick-off is at 6.30. For details and to book: www.nuj.org.uk/events/royal-reporter-or-health-correspondent-to-develop-a-specialism

European digital media workers’ survey

IF YOU work in digital media – and which of us doesn’t these days? – please take a few minutes to fill in the online survey by the new Expert Group on Digital Media of European Federation of Journalists on conditions for journalists in digital media. The NUJ is a member of the EFJ as well as the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ).

The survey is in French and German as well as English and you can find it at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y2ZZ2H2Q. It aims to map the working conditions of journalists working in digital media in order to help shape union policy.

#LetItBeeb

MUSIC INDUSTRY group UK Music has launched a campaign to support BBC music services called #LetItBeeb. The campaign has the backing of Coldplay, Rita Ora, Paul Epworth, Emily Eavis, Paloma Faith, Chrissie Hynde, Brian Eno, Midge Ure, Rachel Portman, Debbie Wiseman, Alan Moulder, Michael Price, Bombay Bicycle Club, Bob Geldof, Young Turks and more. UK Music would ask supportive members of NUJ to sign the petition at www.letitbeeb.tumblr.com and follow the campaign online via www.letitbeeb.co.uk

Reckoning of day

FREELANCE financial journalist Andrew Bibby has released the latest edition of his invaluable Freelance Ready Reckoner. Produced every two years, and now in its sixth edition, the Ready Reckoner has become a standard guide for freelance journalists to compare their pay with that of staff writers. Key facts in this year’s report include: freelance journalists should invoice media clients £283 for a day’s work to achieve comparability with a staff journalist earning £25,000 – and, to match a staffer earning £40,000, a day’s freelance earnings should be £427.

The real cost to an employer of an employee earning £30,000 is £43,689. See www.andrewbibby.com

New members’ meeting

THERE IS a meeting for new and recently-joined members of NUJ London Freelance Branch on Thursday 29 October. It’s a chance to meet other new people to the Branch, and there will also be more experience working journalist Branch members on hand with advice and tips. The meeting’s from 6pm at the Camera Café, Museum Street, London WC1A 1LY (nearest Tube Holborn). It ends at 8pm. One, Jason Parkinson, recently updated the Freelance with the news that there is nothing to report yet, other than that all the deadlines that were set for the Met to respond to their initial filing have now passed.

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Photographers converge on a photographer at an “I’m a photographer, not a terrorist” event in Trafalgar Square in 2010. Photo © Matt Salusbury

Training alert!

THERE MAY still be time to sign up to Pitch & Deal, the NUJ’s professional training course on how to develop your ideas, target outlets and pitch to commissioning editors, how to talk money and protect your rights. It’s on Friday 30 October at the NUJ’s London HQ. This course is taught by longstanding freelances and NUJ Freelance Industrial Council members Louise Bolotin and Phil Sutcliffe. It is part of the NUJ trade union training programme and is therefore subsidised, at the bargain rate of £70 for NUJ members, £60 for student or unemployed NUJ members and £130 for non-members who are in a General Federation of Trade Unions affiliate. For details and to book see www.nuj.org.uk/events/pitch-and-deal-oct-2015

The Freelance

This issue of the Freelance is shorter than usual, because the journalist — the magazine of the NUJ with which it is mailed out — had an unusually short interval between issues this time. We have less time than usual to put together, and the world had less time for relevant stuff to happen so that we could report on it.