

# **FILMTONFRAUEN e.V.**

**(Women in Film Sound Association)**

## **Constitution of the non-profit association**

### **§ 1 Name, head office, financial year of the association**

1. The name of the association is "Filmttonfrauen e.V."
2. The association has its head office in Berlin and will be registered in the register of associations at the Local Court of Berlin Charlottenburg. After its registration it will bear the suffix "e.V."
3. The financial year is the same as the calendar year.

### **§ 2 Purpose of the association**

The purpose of the association is:

- a) to increase the visibility of women working in film sound in Germany and abroad, including outside the film industry, to strengthen their numbers and to increase equality between men and women.
- b) to increase channels', production firms' and the public's appreciation of film sound.
- c) the promotion of solidarity among film sound professionals, as well as their equal treatment regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion or creed, disability, age or sexual orientation.

The purpose of the constitution will be realised through:

- b) making visible the insufficient equality and visibility of women in the cultural industries,
- c) offering an internet platform for better visibility of female film sound professionals and for the exchange of themes and problems regarding equality in the film industry.
- d) collaboration between the association and relevant committees, associations and institutions in the cultural industries.

The association will be registered in the register of associations. The association will be able to become a member of other organisations or to collaborate with them.

### **§ 3 Non-profit status**

The association has non-profit status. It does not primarily pursue aims which are of a profit-making nature. The association's funds may only be used for the purposes set out in the constitution. The members of the association shall receive no endowments or dividends from the association's funds. In addition to this, no parties shall benefit from expenditure which is alien to the purpose of the association or from an unreasonably high remuneration. Members who resign from the association shall have no claim to the assets of the association or a share thereof.

## **§ 4 Membership**

1. The committee shall decide whether to approve the application to join the association. During the next general assembly of members an appeal may be made against the decision, and the decision to admit or reject a member may be revoked retrospectively.
2. Members can be
  - a) as active member: any natural person of age
  - b) as sponsoring member: organisations, associations, companies and natural persons, who are willing to support the purpose of the association as sponsoring members. Sponsoring members do not have voting rights in the general assembly.
  - c) as honorary members: natural persons whose honorary status was ratified by the general assembly of members.
3. The rules concerning membership dues are not part of the constitution and shall be determined by the general assembly of members.
4. The sum of the membership dues shall be determined by the general assembly of members.
5. Membership is terminated by resignation, exclusion or death. Notice to resign must be submitted in writing to the committee. Notice must be received by the committee two months before the end of the calendar year. The exclusion of a member is decided by the committee. Exclusion can only be the result of an urgent cause. The following are considered urgent causes: violation of the constitution, behaviour that may harm the association or arrears of more than two yearly membership fees. Before being excluded from the association, the member concerned must be allowed to put his, her or its case before the committee. The member shall be informed of the exclusion and given the reason for the exclusion in writing. The member may appeal against the exclusion at the next general assembly of members; the member must apply for this appeal fourteen days before the next general assembly of members.
6. In order to facilitate easy contact, members shall provide the association with a valid email address. The association shall be informed of changes to that email address immediately.

## **§ 5 Agents of the association**

The agents of the association shall be:

1. the committee
2. the general assembly of members (GAM)

## **§ 6 The committee**

1. The committee shall consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of seven members of the association, who shall decide on the allocation of responsibilities. Members of the committee shall not receive payment for their work; an allowance for expenses is admissible.
2. Four committee members have the power of representation in accordance with § 26 BGB.
3. The committee will be elected by the general assembly of members for two years with a simple majority. Only members of the association are electable.
4. Deselection of the committee or of individual members of the committee can occur during each general assembly of members by electing a new committee or committee member, if a written application stating the reasons is made by one quarter of the association's members at least four weeks before the general assembly.
5. If committee members have been deselected or if their term of office has expired, the committee members shall remain in office until new committee members have been elected.

6. If the committee or individual committee members resign or if they have been deselected, a GAM has to be summoned in order to hold new elections.
7. The committee is responsible for managing all aspects of the association, as long as the constitution does not assign them to a different agent of the association. In particular, it has the following responsibilities:
  - a) Preparation and summoning of the GAM, including setting up the agenda
  - b) The committee is responsible for the association's day-to-day operations
8. The committee has a quorum with a simple majority. A written ballot is permitted. A tied vote shall be decided by the vote of the chairperson that has been appointed for that particular GAM.

## **§ 7 The general assembly of members (GAM)**

1. The general assembly of members is responsible for: amendments to the constitution, election of the committee, acceptance of the annual report, relief of the committee, determining membership dues, exclusion of members, deciding on the appeal of a member who has been excluded by the committee, deciding on the dissolution of the association.
2. Every member of the association shall have one vote in the GAM. Sponsoring members do not have voting rights.

## **§ 8 Summoning of the general assembly of members (GAM)**

1. The ordinary GAM must take place at least once a year.
2. The committee may summon an extraordinary GAM at any time. An extraordinary GAM must be summoned by the committee when the summoning is requested by one quarter of all members of the association in writing, citing the reasons for the summoning.
3. When summoning the GAM, the committee shall adhere to a notice period of four weeks. The GAM shall be summoned in writing, including the agenda. The invitation shall be sent to each member via post or email. Applications for additions to the agenda shall be submitted to the committee fourteen days before the GAM and shall be included in the agenda.
4. New applications, or applications that go beyond those included in the agenda, can be included in the agenda by a simple majority of all the association's members present during the GAM. A change in the order of the items on the agenda can be decided by a simple majority of all the association's members present during the GAM.

## **§ 9 Resolutions of the general assembly of members**

1. A member of the committee shall be the chairperson of the GAM.
2. Elections shall usually be passed by a show of hands; on application, they may be carried out by secret ballot.
3. The GAM is not public; the chairperson can admit guests.
4. Resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority of the submitted, valid votes. In the event of a tie, the resolution shall be considered dismissed.
5. Members of the association that are absent can submit their vote in writing to the committee before the vote is concluded.
6. Amendments to the constitution and to the purpose of the association shall require a 2/3 majority.
7. Minutes must be kept on the general assemblies of members and are to be signed by a member of the committee and by the person who chaired the meeting.

## **§ 10 The dissolution of the association**

1. The dissolution of the association occurs through a resolution of the GAM with a majority of at least two thirds of the submitted votes, with more than half of members present in person. If the GAM does not decide otherwise, the officiating members of the committee shall be the liquidators. The aforementioned rule applies in case the association is dissolved due to a different reason or loses its legal capacity.
2. If the association is dissolved, a resolution shall be passed concerning the future use of the association's assets, which are to be made available for undertakings that adhere to the association's purpose.

## **§ 11 The association's assets**

The association's assets are composed of membership fees, sponsoring members' contributions, donations, contributions from trusts and foundations, grants from public funds and other revenues.