

SuperMom- Kick Off!



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IMPORTANT ISSUES

- Launch event & project meeting Belfast, 10-11.04.2011
- Report on single parents accross Europe in online

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Supermom Project Launch in Belfast

By Whitney Rozelle

The Supermom project partners Gingerbread NI and Possibilities NI hosted a local launch of the project at the Crescent Arts Centre in Belfast on Tuesday 12th April 2011.

Ariane Jedlitschka, from Helden wider Willen e.V., and Sabine Mahhou, from Wisamar educational institute, introduced the Supermom project to the guests and shared some of the outcomes that the lone parents had experienced from the previous project SuperMutti. The trailer of the SuperMutti compilation film was also on display during the launch so that the guests could see an example of the type of film which could be produced.



Photo by Whitney Rozelle. Anne Sweeney speaking at Supermom Launch in Belfast,

Gingerbread's Assistant Director, Anne Sweeney, invited anyone who was interested in getting involved as an expert trainer, or considering taking part in the Supermom film skills course as a trainee, to speak with the partners. Explaining Gingerbread NI and Possibilities NI's involvement in

the project, she said: 'Supermom is a really exciting project for us. It will give lone parents who get involved an opportunity to tell their own life stories. We hope that this project may even inspire some of them to go on to further training and employment in this area of work. No experience is necessary for anyone wanting to take part - just an enthusiastic approach and a willingness to take up a new challenge!'

Christine Morrow from Northern Ireland Screen, who also spoke at the launch, commented:

'This is a great project because it comes at a time when new employment options are emerging within the Northern Irish film industry and it encourages local talent to come through. It's great that this project can encourage young mothers to get involved in film making as it can sometimes be seen as a male preserve.'

The Belfast launch generated a great amount of interest in Supermom, both from local arts and media experts, and from lone parents who are considering joining the course when Possibilities NI offers it in autumn 2011. In addition to sending email updates to potential lone parent participants, Possibilities NI is excited to use the 'Supermom Kick-Off 2010' Facebook page to keep in contact with them and generate further interest in the international project.

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Media professions

How to become.... an actor?

By Sabine Roehrig-Mahhou

In each issue of the Supermom newsletter we will be featuring different professions in the field of film and media.

1) Actor

- 2) Camera operator / editor
- 3) Floor manager
- 4) Stage designer / Make up artist
- 5) Scriptwriter / Director

Martin Esslin, a Hungarian-born English producer and playwright dramatist, journalist, critic and professor defined in "The Field of Drama" an actor as "the essential ingredient around which all drama revolves". Or shorter with the formula by Eric Bentley who was introduced into the American Theater Hall of Fame in 1998: "A represents X while S looks on". The actor takes a central position in each movie and at the moment the chances for getting into this profession are better than the years before. Jobs for actors are growing also as consequence of the growing number of TV shows, but nevertheless the start is difficult and the Screen Actors' Guild, www.sag.org, even recommends that actors expect that during the initial stages of their careers they will have to either work in other fields or live off of savings.

Due to the diversity of television and theater programs as well as the needs for supporting characters, acting opportunities exist for professionals of all shapes and sizes. Possible fields for actors are:

- Film, TV and radio
- Theater
- Musical or cabaret

Besides acting for spectators or in front of the camera, synchronization is one important part.

Most actors build their career on a vocational or even University education, while

others achieve success without attending any specific educational program, based only on their talent and perseverance.

Educational programs provide future actors with knowledge of the theory, history and techniques of acting in addition to the technical and support fields associated with live productions. These programs take anywhere between ca. two to five years. But in all countries, there are also private courses, where people, who don't want to attend studies, may come and develop their professional acting skills. They last from 2 days to few months.

Important personal and social skills for actors are empathy and flexibility to portray changing characters, ability to work in a team, high self-esteem and a certain feeling for language and rhythm.

To become an actor/actress in Italy, it's necessary to have some training but above all method and constancy are essential because it is a difficult path. L'Istituto di Stato per la Cinematografia e la TV "Roberto Rossellini" in Rome - known as CINE TV - has been a training point of reference for all the technicians in the Audio and Media sector since 40 years. Today the students that attended such school are playing important roles in the productive field at national level.

In Lodz, Poland, there are many opportunities to develop acting skills, some of them are fully professional like in the Leon Schiller National Higher Drama, Television and Film School - <http://www.filmschool.lodz.pl> (4,5 years long studies finished with diploma examine and master degree) or Private Lodz Drama School - <http://www.lodz.kaszkolateatralna.pl/> (4 years long studies plus 6 months

Cont. How to become... an actor?

traineeship in theatres). The second school offers also one-year Drama Study called "Without a mask" for people who would like to take part in great drama-dance adventure.

In Lodz there are few theatres, where diploma actors and actresses may find a job, but in fact only some the most talented students may get it. Some of them will find a place of employment in local private and national television (TVP3, Toya). Many people must look for a job in different parts of Poland, especially in Warsaw and Krakow or start running their own companies connected with the media sector.



Photo by Agnieszka Borowicz-Bartosik.
How to become an actor?

In Northern Ireland there are no formal requirements for actors. While a lack of formal training does not necessarily rule an aspiring actor out of the field, that person will usually have to show proof of extensive experience - in, for example, unpaid drama troupes - in order to compete for paid work on a level with trained actors. People can pursue an acting career in Northern Ireland through either 3- or 4-year university degree courses, or by taking private lessons and attending acting skills workshops. The university courses tend to be broader, focusing not just on acting, but on other aspects of drama and film studies as well. Queen's University Belfast offers a degree in Drama and Film Studies, and a consortium of regional colleges and the University of Ulster provide degree courses in all of the creative and media arts related to film, radio and television. This is collectively called the Northern Ireland Skillset Media Academy, and it is part of a UK-wide Skillset Media Academy. Once an actor is working as a paid professional in the entertainment industry, he or she is eligible to join the British Actors' Equity, a trade union.

In Leipzig, Germany, the University of Music & Theatre "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy" (<http://www.hmt-leipzig.de/index.php?acting>) is regarded as an important torchbearer of historical tradition. It was the first German academy for musics, founded in 1843 and trains e.g. drama, speech, motion, fencing etc. in its Department of Acting. Renowned theatre professionals are regularly invited to give workshops.

The University has a practical approach: After a two-year period of basic course work, drama students spend their third and fourth year in practical training at a studio, affiliated with the leading theatres of the region. In their seventh semester students are besides given the opportunity to participate in a public audition at the Zentrale Bühnen- und Fernsehvermittlung (central stage and TV placement agency, ZBF) in order to demonstrate their artistic qualifications.

The Medienakademie Thüringen (<http://www.medienakademie-thueringen.de>) with seat in Leipzig trains people with a secondary school leaving certificate. After 3 years education they attend a test at the Federal Employment Office. Besides this, also workshops are offered there as well as at different private academies like Theater School Bongôrt-v. Roy (<http://www.schauspielschule.info/home.html>).

Possible employers are the theaters of the city of Leipzig, Dresden, Chemnitz and Halle. Besides, different TV productions are located in Leipzig where a start as supporting actor can be made.



Offer

*If you are interested in attending the free practical workshops in film related professions in one of the partner countries, please get in contact with the Supermom-team
info@supermom-kick-off.eu*

Good examples... Italy



One other new rubric of the Supermom newsletter is the presentation of different good practice examples from the different partner countries.

The start is made by Italy with three great offers either for mothers and / or people interested in film related questions.

Further information can be given by the team from Associazione NET info@associazionenet.it.

Photo by Sabine Roehrig-Mahhou

Free course in film industry for unemployed women in Rome

By Angela Maggiolo

The completely free course was addressed to women and its title was “**Producers in the film, audio-visual and digital media industry**”.

The course had as main objective the training of manager and entrepreneurs in that field. On 6th December 2010 was the deadline to apply to this course.

It was addressed to **all women** that completed the compulsory educational path and are now unemployed or which have never worked before, including employees in mobility (unemployment retraining programme) and those working, that do not reach a total gross income that is over 8.000 €.

Besides such requirements, they consider preferential titles: not to be living in Rome,

having a “weak” educational certificate (as unfortunately, humanistic degrees) and/or an atypical contract (that is project, temporary collaboration etc..) and last: belonging to disadvantaged categories such as migrant workers, ethnic minorities, single mothers etc...

16 people was selected and received 3 € per hour of attending.

The training last 160 hours and will be held in Rome, Associazione Magica, via Alessandro De Stefani, 60 (zona Talenti).

To have other information, write at info@mediamaster.orgtel.

Or visit the website. <http://www.mediamastrer.org///produzione/index.html>

Cinemoms “Cinemamme”

By Angela Maggiolo

There is an initiative organized by the Association Tigotà in collaboration with the municipality of Padua, the Cinema Multisala Porto Astra and the Associations Città delle Mamme and Oasi 2000.

It aims promoting the socialization and support for women during the period of breast-feeding, offering the opportunity to go to the cinema and watch a film in a quiet environment.

What is offered?

- A welcoming and relaxed environment with the projection of films at a lower volume.
- The possibility for parents to bring into the screening room, baby’s bottles and other food (such as milk and/or water-soluble biscuits).
- A comfortable place with bottle warmer and baby-changing table.

cont. Cinemoms “Cinemamme”

Who is it addressed?

Breast-feeding mothers and fathers who bottle-feed babies between 0 and 12 months.

Where is it?

The projections will take place in Porto Astra cinema, in Guizza area in Padua.

Before and after the projection, the cinema offers places to relax and chat but above all to participate to the organized thematic meetings.

From 25 March to 6 May 2011 | Every Friday at 10:15 | Cinema Porto Astra | Padova | Via

FREE entrance

Some offered films:

25.03 - “Nessuno mi puo’ Giudicare” by Massimiliano Bruno

01.04 - “Il dilemma” by Ron Howard

08.04 - “Lo stravagante mondo do Greenberg” by Noah Baumbach

05.05 - “I ragazzi stanno bene” by Lisa Cholodenko



Il nido in famiglia

Nest in the family = child care centres at home

By Angela Maggiolo

The project was born thanks to the initiative of the Veneto Region, Department of Social Services and Family Service and it is a unit of educational, care and socialization. It's an activity of people, professionally experienced, who take care and educate, in their house or somebody else's house, many children ensuring them domestic care, included meals and sleep, according to the criteria and ways of intervention following to the social and educational objectives.

Only the people who attended the qualification courses at regional level for educational collaborators of the project “Nido in famiglia” can open services included in the list of Veneto Region. No other course certificates the opening of a house child care centre.

An insurance coverage is granted both for the educational collaborators and for the children, following the rules defined according to the membership to an association, cooperative or other. They are covered for injury and general liability during the activities period, not only within the house but also during the trips or outside activities. A family coupon is provided for families who attend a “nido in famiglia” with at least 3 children and with at least 6 months contracts and 80 hours per month.

If you are a parent and you want to know the services active in the area you live, you can find a list of services available in the website:

<http://www.venetoperlafamiglia.it/>

EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATORS

To be involved in the project as *educational collaborator* you can find a section in the website: “apply to the courses” (“Iscriviti ai corsi”), on the other hand, if you already have a specific training for this activity and you would like to be included in the Regional lists for the project “Nido in Famiglia” you have to send the application to the email address:

venetoperlafamiglia@gmail.com

The qualification course provides: 30 hours of traineeship within an already active “nido in famiglia”, participation to a lesson of information technology and to an introductory lesson of the qualification course, pass a test to evaluate if the candidate has the useful requirements to be able to deal with the child care centre.

ORGANIZERS

To be involved in the project as *organizer*, they require the following certificates: degree in subjects dealing with the activity or high school diploma with 5 years experience in managing and organizing child structures or services authorized and accredited according to the regional law.

The *organizer* interested in implementing this experience, has to check the absence or lack of such profile in the territory where she/he would like to operate in relation to the services offered, and in this case she/he should present a minimum 5 or 6 potential educational collaborators to propose the qualification course to (the 6 educational collaborators have to follow the above mentioned courses, ex. of organizer: <http://www.tagesmuttertreviso.it/>).

An insight in the current project work

By Agnieszka Borowicz-Bartosik & Sabine Roehrig-Mahhou

On 11 and 12 April 2011 the second Supermom project meeting took place in Belfast (Northern Ireland, UK).

During the meeting Sabine Roehrig-Mahhou summed up the current result of all partner's efforts and gave a management update.

Meanwhile, the report on the situation of single parents in the partner countries is online and available for download at the Supermom website www.supermom-kick-off.eu. The report gives an insight in key areas such as demographics, modes and availability of childcare, social welfare benefits, employment and education levels of lone parents and poverty among one parent families. Additionally it looked at the potential for employment within each country's film industry. The report helps to consider and formulate the particular needs of lone parents from different countries and is by this an important basis for the following Supermom workshops. Currently the report is translated into the native languages of the partners.

The main stream of the work during the meeting concerned preparation of the vocational training

2) Vocational training in media: theoretical and practical information about different chances and further education in film related professions in form of workshops.

3) Practical implementation.

The workshops will contain theoretical and practical lessons in different film related professions such as management & marketing, script writing, acting, camera, sound, stage setting, light, direction and post-production.

The new skills acquired will be then implemented by working on a short film together with the tutors and learners in each partner country. The course manual will be soon available at the website.

At the moment we are looking for unemployed single parents interested in these workshops. For further information please get in contact with info@supermom-kick-off.eu and the national project responsible will give further information.

The UK partner used the possibility to get in contact with people interested at the launch event in Belfast, presented at the first page of this newsletter.

Different presentations were held. Ariane Jedlitschka who started with the Supermutti program in Germany reported about her experiences. Andy Herron explained how filmmaking helped him express and overcome difficulties in his own life and gave an insight about what attracted him to the film sector. Aislinn Clarke spoke about how she became a single mother in the age of 16. Although many persons in her surrounding were convinced that she will have no chance at the labour market, she started with scriptwriting and meanwhile she is doing a masters degree in this subject. Christine Morrow from Northern Ireland Screen gave information about chances of the film sector in Northern Ireland nowadays, It is a growing market and therefore the project starts at a good moment—good news for the future activities.



Photo by Matthias Petzold. Sabine Roehrig-Mahhou and Karen McCann discussing some issues.

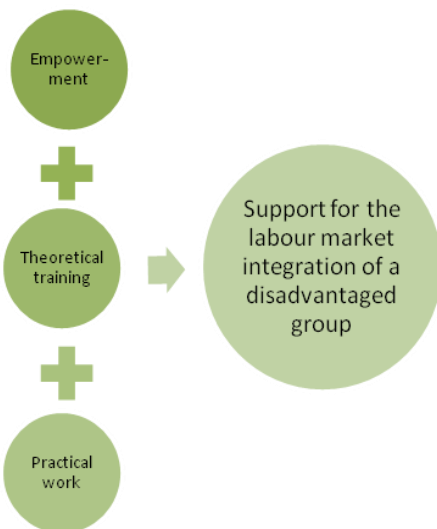


Chart by Sabine Roehrig-Mahhou. The structure of Supermom-Kick-Off project.

content. These workshops organized in all participant's countries will contain these elements:

1) Empowerment: competence analysis and confidence building in combination with vocational orientation, personal and social skills training.



Photo by Sabine Roehrig-Mahhou: Whitney Rozelle is informing single mothers about the project