

Domestic extremist moguls

LONDON FREELANCE Branch voted 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 rôle 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 two 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/fi/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

ANNOUNCEMENTS ROUND-UP

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 journalist who was deported from the US for her political activism, and who was instrumental in establishing the first Notting Hill Carnival.

The event is on the evening of **Tuesday 27 October**. Details were not yet finalised as we went to press, please check www.nuj.org.uk for full details.

Go niche, young hack!

ROYAL REPORTER or health correspondent: how to develop a specialism? That's 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-how-to-develop-a-specialism

#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

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 (IFJ). The survey is in French and German as well as English and you can find it at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y2ZZZHQ. It aims to map the working conditions of journalist working in digital media in order to help shape union policy.

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 people new to the Branch, and there will also be some more experienced 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 – come any time before if you can't make it at 6.

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 long-standing 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.