***I WROTE THESE THOUGHTS BEFORE THE JUDGE WILEY HEARING AROUND THIS TIME LAST YEAR, THE ONE ERIC WENT TO WITH SUNNY.  THEY STILL APPEAR PERTINENT, AND REFLECT THE DISCONTENT OF THE LEAD PLAINTIFF OVER THE OUTCOME OF THE SETTLEMENT RICHERT VS WGAW...WHAT HAPPENED IN COURT WAS DIFFERENT, BUT THE UNDERLYING SCAM IS THE SAME...***

ABOUT TOMORROW RE DGA, SAG,WGA

NOTES WITH DOCUMENTS TO FOLLOW DURING DAY

Here's how these lawsuits have been working, from my view: first the lawyers discover significant (or criminal) wrongdoing in the union foreign levy accountings – handed to them by Eric Hughes -- then they file a lawsuit followed by years of "motions to compel" followed by payouts to the lawyers for the writers or actors which result in "consultants" being hired, followed by the consultants being paid, the lawyers for the Plaintiffs and Defendants being paid, and then comes "settlement" as in the WGAw case, where I am the lead plaintiff.

None of this gets the robbed actors, writers or directors what they were supposed to get.

But the “class action” settlements get the unions off the hook, the MPAA they divvied up the money with gets off the hook and gets to keep stealing the biggest share of the foreign royalties "forever," saying they are the "authors" along with the WGA etc. This is blatant theft of copyright and money, but like, hey.

(If you go to lasuperiorcourt.org and then to Case Summary and type in BC377780, you'll see that the main next issue on SAG -- after all these years in court -- is fees for Neville and Kiesel. No mention of the issues in the May 16 hearing - though this letter could change that.)

Very few know that the WGAw gets paid for doing the actual 'collecting' -- disbursing -- for the DGA -- both members and non members -- and so far the Screen Actors Guild has managed to provide nothing in the way of any kind of accounting.

The WGA gets "fees" from splitting with the DGA and MPAA.

The DGA says it gets all its foreign levies with names and amounts and dates, etc. But the WGA says it doesn't, even though it provides this info to others.

But nobody knows for sure since the only person to talk about it, whistle blower Teri Mial, won't talk since she got 100K + from the WGA to keep quiet

What's sneaky about tomorrow is that the hearing wasn't mentioned in the last May 16 hearing -- the next hearing was supposed to be on August 9 and it was about "motions to compel."

But now the Aug 9 hearing is about "Motion for Attorney Fees" on both the WGA and SAG cases for Neville Johnson's firm and presumably Paul Kisel's firm.

No mention of compelling SAG to produce its documents to the court. Only of payouts to lawyers, for both firms, purporting to reprsent actors.

None of the non-union actors I know ever heard about this case, and none of the union actors believe in it.

What amazing contempt the "Rule One" SAG board of Directors must have for actors in general, if they are willing to take money from non union actors in secret and spend it within their own ranks. Not good, not legal, not ethical and not good for actors.

All of this flow of money, backwards and forwards from 2005, has resulted in millions of fees to lawyers but only two depositions in the WGAw and no depositions in the DGA or SAG -- just continuing requests for attorney fees.

Now, I talk about my being "Lead Plaintiff" not because I want to be the lead in any of these issues. None of this is pleasant. I got this job by agreeing to fight the guild along what I thought would be a mass of other people wanting to fight for rights. I only found out from the NY TIMES that my name was on the lawsuit.

Only Eric Hughes and a few other writers ever participated in this, with Eric doing the most powerful opposition to the settlement, and far-reaching investigation and original documentation; with Johnson cashing in on it, getting more fees as he defends his own interests -- and that's because of how little has been made public to the thousands of artists -- millions over time -- who are affected by these issues. No wonder. The MPAA controls the owners of the media, and the unions control the "talent" in broadcasting and film. This doesn't leave much room for opposition.

However, I have discovered that the role of "lead Plaintiff" is meant to be the one who is most representative, or at least commonly representative, of a class and it is the "lead Plaintiff" responsible for discovery, hiring and maybe firing lawyers, etc.

Nobody has told me much about the actual abilities I might have to protest the ongoing breach of my settlement; I may have resources yet unknown.

Also we should get a "real" lawyer to work along in this, though I've not been successful thus far. Nobody wants to fight both "superlawyers" like Johnson and Kiesel along with the unions and studios as well. -- That may change.

There are lots of lawsuits yet to be filed in this basket, which somebody could put a "fork" into as Judge Wiley says. -- not a pitchfork. The WGA settlement does not preclude charges against the WGA for making these agreements to begin with, outside "collective bargaining."

AND SO TOMORROW

...if I'm seeing what I'm used to seeing: Neville will pound DGA lawyer Dan like hell about the DGA accountings, and mention the SAG to spook Dan -- who also represents SAG -- and then Neville will ask that one or both of the "consultants" be allowed to get their proper fees for "reviewing" the documents or "procedures" -- and the Judge, as before, will agree to the 'consultants' fees and they will "continue" to the next hearing, where Neville will ask for fees for himself and his firm. Etc.

Of course, I have no way of knowing. The hearing could be behind closed doors, as has happened before.

I am sending along the motions made by both sides that have led up to this particular hearing.

I have had no word from Neville Johnson about my letter to the Judge, and don't know if he's sent it or not, or given it to the other lawyers, as usual.

ONWARD

Cheers,

Bill

Documents to follow