

STATEMENT BY ROGER SIMON SZ BSC, candidate for president

I am extremely honoured to once again be asked to stand by the Danish society. I would also like to thank all those societies that supported me last year in both elections, I am humbled by their trust in me.

As an avowed democrat I am acutely aware that only a proper, clear, rule based democratic process will enable every stakeholder in IMAGO to feel they are actively engaged. As a film maker I believe in the power of the collective and have an ability to bring ideas to fruition. It is about nurturing what is in the best interest of the working cinematographer across the globe, which is who IMAGO should be for.

In my two years as IMAGO treasurer, often working on my own due to ongoing changes in the presidency, not only did I steer through two annual budgets that provided a small surplus for IMAGO, but I also made the membership fee structure fairer for everyone. I am willing to support any project that benefits cinematographers, their art and their working lives. Like with the Sony fund that I managed on behalf of Sony and IMAGO which brought very welcome relief to many cinematographers in difficulty across the globe.

As president I would like to promote an open IMAGO where everyone feels welcome and at home. We need to foster a true camaraderie of international cinematographers where every member of every society can feel proud to be both a member of their society AND IMAGO.

PRIORITIES

Ecology - There is an urgent need for an ecological/green committee to monitor and report on our working practices so we can start working in harmony with our planet instead of burning it. I would like to attract a group of people from across our membership to build this committee into THE reference point on ecological issues. IMAGO is well positioned to produce an international best-practices guide that we can publish on our website.

Working conditions - There has been excellent work done by Kurt Brazda AAC and his committee, but their work needs serious board level support. We have seen through the tragedy of Halyna Hutchins and Mark Milsome that our lives are still at risk when we go to work. We also urgently need to publish a contract rider that protects us and our rights.

Masterclasses - Masterclasses give IMAGO visibility and are the best platform for sharing knowledge. We should revive this excellent initiative that has been moribund too long. We can also use our site as a depository for every filmed masterclass out there so we can present full, virtual library on every subject.

Awards - I would like to re-vive the awards, but not as a separate event but within existing festivals that don't offer a cinematography prize, like Cannes or the International Emmy Awards. IMAGO can furnish the editorial committee to help steer these festivals to greater awareness of cinematography.

Membership - Now that it is easier to become a full member I would like to open up associate membership to societies and organisations that have a related interest to cinematography, like lighting, grip, optics, assistants etc.

Administration - Regular monthly board meetings with clear decisions and action to be taken and by whom. We need to find an equilibrium between the committees on the board which is currently skewed in favour of one committee to the detriment of committees who have no representation on the board. I would like every meeting to start at least with a cinematography subject, possibly presented by a special guest when appropriate.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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