

SCREEN AUSTRALIA GUIDELINES 2010

TALENT ESCALATOR

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Script Factory: Script Development Initiative 2010

Issued 21 December 2009

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with Screen Australia's Terms of Trade.

TALENT ESCALATOR: TARGETED INITIATIVES

Script Factory: Script Development Initiative for Producers and Developers 2010

Screen Australia recognises rigorous craft-based script development as an essential part of the feature filmmaking process. The foundation of good development is the ability to read and analyse a screenplay in order to ascertain its potential strengths as well as correctly identify the source of its weaknesses. As a stand-alone practice in Australia, the script developer role demands specific, tailored support from a number of experienced and relevant sources.

Following the success of the inaugural workshop in October and with a view to strengthening and advancing Australian screenwriting culture and its practitioners, Screen Australia is once again working with development training pioneer the UK Script Factory to assist producers and script developers to hone their skills in a practical environment. Four Australian tutors will be involved in teaching the workshop alongside the Script Factory principals.

This initiative is aimed at those whose core professional commitment is to a development role.

What is it?

A four-day workshop will be offered nationally in Melbourne during March 2010.

The workshop process is designed to enable individuals with high-level story analysis skills to focus on the nuts and bolts of script developing. Individuals apply to Screen Australia with demonstrated script development experience.

Participants will be introduced to a structured approach of assessing scripts, writing script reports and preparing a development strategy. By examining produced screenplays and reading early work by new screenwriters, participants will consider what makes a good screen story and learn to recognise screenwriting talent. This workshop focuses on how to translate the analysis into constructive feedback for writers so that the script report becomes the first stage of script development.

The workshop includes time for participants to prepare written work, on which they will receive feedback from the tutors.

Course preparation

Prior to the workshop participants will be asked to read a number of produced screenplays and watch some films. These will serve as examples throughout the course that can be referred to in detail.

In addition, participants will be asked to read an unproduced screenplay and prepare a brief synopsis and some rough notes.

Fees

Successful applicants are not charged for attending the workshop.

Travel and accommodation expenses will be reimbursed for participants who live outside Melbourne, up to a maximum of \$800, on presentation of a valid tax invoice and receipts.

Eligibility

Please note, this program is aimed specifically at educating professional developers and others whose core professional commitment is finding and working with screenwriters.

- Applicants must have demonstrated experience as a script editor, script developer or creative producer on narrative feature film drama, short drama or animation. Two References (written or verbal: please provide contact number of referee) will be required to support this criterion.
- Applicants must be available to undertake the workshop.

Applicants must also meet the general Screen Australia eligibility requirements outlined in the Screen Australia Terms of Trade.

Assessment process

Applications will be assessed by a combination of Screen Australia Development Managers and industry specialists as required. Screen Australia will advise applicants of the success or otherwise of their application, providing a brief statement of reasons.

Assessment criteria

Screen Australia will take the following considerations into account when assessing applications for this program:

- The skills, experience and track record of the applicant.
- The applicant's potential to apply their skills in a practical environment and work collaboratively.
- The quality of the submitted script report or development notes.
- Clear evidence of the applicant's intention to work in a development role.

Application materials

Applications must be submitted using the relevant Screen Australia form, and include all supporting material listed in the checklist on that form.

Application timing

Applications must be submitted by close of business **Friday 29 January 2010**.