

triple j tv docs5

ABC TV Arts, Entertainment & Comedy
and
Screen Australia
proudly present
triple j tv docs5

Guidelines
February 2010



triple j tv docs5 is for emerging film makers who are 35 years or under as at the closing date: Monday 5 April 2010.

triple j tv docs is a joint initiative of ABC TV and Screen Australia. It seeks new approaches to half-hour and one-hour documentaries that explore contemporary issues, ideas and culture through the eyes of generations X, Y and Z. The films are a collection of documentaries that push the boundaries of visual program-making; fresh works with new perspectives on the world around us. They can be historical, political, social or just plain personal works. Do think about the timeslot and please consider Artscape, 10pm Tuesday, where the ABC commissions half hour arts documentaries.

The documentaries will screen on ABC1 and ABC2, and will have cross-platform potential via the triple j tv website. The initiative is designed to support one-off, stand-alone documentaries for production and post-production. The **triple j tv docs5** initiative will be promoted on triple j, ABC online and in all media, including trade publications.

triple j tv docs5 invites you to tell us your tales, from the country or the city, with respect or irreverence, authority and attitude.

Previous triple j tv docs

Fifteen documentaries have been commissioned so far through the **triple j tv docs** initiative, enabling emerging filmmakers from every state across Australia to explore themes such as celebrity, war, love, sexuality, loss and survival, and to make some of the strongest narrative based documentaries in recent years. Many of these films have gone on to win awards and appear in festivals in Australia and overseas.

For more information on previous triple j tv docs see the Screen Australia Web Site <http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/jtvdocs>

See samples of previous triple j tv docs films at www.abc.net.au/triplej/tv/docs

Funding

ABC TV and Screen Australia have committed a total of \$400,000 to this initiative. Funding from Screen Australia is made to successful applicants in the form of a non-repayable grant. The ABC contribution is in exchange for a television presale licence.

Funding is provided for the production or post-production of one-off documentaries. Documentary series cannot be considered.

Applicants can apply for:

Production funds:

- up to \$75,000 for a half-hour documentary
- up to \$150,000 for a one-hour documentary

Post-production funds:

- up to \$45,000 for a half-hour documentary
- up to \$90,000 for a one-hour documentary

This funding can be augmented by funding from third parties like state film agencies, distributors, film festivals etc. Where budgets exceed \$250,000 per

hour Producers may be eligible for the Producer Offset. For further information please refer to the Screen Australia website at:

http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/producer_offset/

Deadline

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: **5pm, Monday 5 April 2010**. Projects cannot be accepted after that time.

Final decisions will be made by mid-June 2010.

Please note: Posted applications will only be accepted if they are postmarked on or before the closing date. Applications lodged electronically will not be accepted. Incomplete or partial applications will not be accepted so please read the checklist and ensure you have supplied all materials.

Eligibility

- Teams of a director and producer are required. The team may also include a writer.
- The producer and director must each have at least one screen credit in his or her respective role. Films made at a film school qualify. Credits can be in documentary or drama production, and may include short films and television series.
- The director must be 35 years or under as at the closing date: Monday 5 April 2010.
- Producers who are 35 years or under are preferred, but DOB is not a critical factor.
- Projects will only be eligible if proof of access to key subjects is provided with the application. This can be a signed letter or an email originating from the subject.
- Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents.
- Applicants cannot be students at a film school or similar tertiary film, television or interactive digital media course (either full-time or part-time).
- Applicants must not be in breach of any obligation under any arrangement they have with Screen Australia or any of its predecessors (the Australian Film Commission, Film Finance Corporation Limited or Film Australia Limited) or the ABC.
- For all other general eligibility criteria for all Screen Australia programs, applicants should consult Screen Australia's Terms of Trade 2010, available at www.screenaustralia.gov.au

Your proposal

Your **triple j tv docs5** proposal should include a persuasive outline or treatment of the story you want to tell, including a clear and compelling account of the characters and issues you want to explore. Please include some footage of your characters or other key elements with your application.

Your outline or treatment should also tell us how you want to present your documentary:

- What kind of style and approach are you going for?
- Do you have access to the characters?
- What's the tone and feel of your film?
- How do you want your audience to respond?
- If you are using music or archival footage have you factored in clearance costs for the rights?
- Does your team have the right balance of skills – if your project is selected for funding the triple j tv docs5 managers can, for instance, help you attach a very experienced editor to your project if that is what it needs.

Please include any other information that you think is relevant and helpful.

We also value bold and imaginative cross-platform ideas and strategies for your project, so we would encourage you to provide these with your application.

Stages

triple j tv docs5 is a two-stage process made by Screen Australia and ABC.

STAGE 1: ABC TV DEADLINE – Monday 5 April 2010

All proposals must be sent in hard copy (including hard copy of the completed **triple j tv docs5 Application Form** and all required supporting materials) to the ABC at the address listed at the end of these guidelines. The ABC will select a shortlist of projects and will notify the teams who are not successful by email or letter.

For all enquiries please call: ABC TV 02 8333 4355

STAGE 2: SCREEN AUSTRALIA – May 2010

Screen Australia will contact the teams who are on the shortlist, inviting them to send a **SECOND** copy of the complete proposal, including AV materials, to Screen Australia. Screen Australia together with ABC TV will finalise the shortlist. Selected projects will be required to provide a confirmed finance plan, a revised budget and an up to date production schedule.

The teams on the final shortlist will be interviewed by the ABC and Screen Australia in early June 2010.

Assessment process overview

All applications will be read by the ABC TV Executive Producer who will shortlist the projects. A Screen Australia Investment Manager will read the short-listed projects. They will decide upon a further shortlist for interview and will meet with the selected filmmakers. The ABC TV EP will present the recommended projects to the ABC Content Commissioning Group.

The Screen Australia Investment Manager and the ABC TV EP will take their recommendations to a meeting with the Head of Production Investment at Screen Australia. Final decisions will be made at that meeting, a report will be prepared on the results and the short-listed filmmakers will be notified by telephone.

Selected projects will be required to provide a revised budget, in line with the funding offered, for approval before contracting can commence.

Selected teams will be required to meet with the Screen Australia project manager for a briefing session on doing business with Screen Australia.

Criteria

Projects will be assessed on the following:

- strength of idea
- originality of approach
- quality of the documentary story-telling
- filmmaker's creative skills and distinctiveness of vision
- relevance of the project for a prime-time audience
- demonstrated professional development opportunities for the creative team involved.

Teams short-listed for interview will be asked to provide information and costings for the project's online components. This should include details about how the documentary will work in the online/interactive environment.

Projects may be required to undergo further development prior to production.

Budgeting advice to applicants

- Please see Screen Australia budget requirements for production funding in the Terms of Trade on the Screen Australia website.
- Please use the A–Z Documentary Budget Format (QAPE or non-QAPE version) available from the Screen Australia website at: http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/filming_in_australia/budgeting/a_z.asp
- Where cast and crew are employed at least MEAA minimum rates must be paid.
- Production budgets should allow for appropriate production insurances, legals and, if the Screen Australia funding exceeds \$50,000, an audit at the end of production.
- A provision for marketing costs must be included in the budget (\$2,000 for half-hour and \$3,000 for one-hour documentaries).

- Please ensure that delivery items are costed including:
 - ABC: digibeta masters and publicity stills;
 - Screen Australia and National Film and Sound Archive: delivery items as specified in the Screen Australia Terms of Trade.
- Screen Australia funds will not be released until the full budget finance has been raised (where further finance is required).

Rights and advice to applicants

Please familiarise yourself with the Screen Australia Terms of Trade, as they apply to all Screen Australia documentary production funding.

You may wish to obtain independent legal advice about all agreements you will be required to enter into if your project is successful.

Screen Australia's financial contribution is a production grant and will be contracted with a standard Screen Australia Production Grant Agreement.

The ABC contribution is provided in exchange for a license agreement. The agreement will include the following minimum rights to be granted to the ABC:

- Australian free-to-air television rights for five free-to-air television runs on any ABC television channel (including simultaneous transmissions across channels). For documentaries that may screen on Message Stick a 'run' will include up to 3 transmissions on ABC1 or ABC2 within a 7 day period.
- website and online rights, including online streaming (ABC iView) and vodcast (download/storage) rights geoblocked to Australian users.
- first right to negotiate to acquire distribution rights throughout the world.

Additional rights to be granted to the ABC in consideration of its contribution will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Holdbacks will operate against the exploitation of certain rights during the ABC licence period.

It is recommended that **triple j tv docs5** applicants prepare proposals and budget for the widest possible clearances throughout the world to allow for maximum financing and distribution opportunities. In assessing applications, consideration will be given to the extent to which clearances for television, video and online throughout the world are achievable.

Applications will be assessed against and will be produced in accordance with ABC Governing Rules, in particular ABC Editorial Policies. These can be found at: <http://www.abc.net.au/corp/>

What you need to supply with your application

ONE copy of the following to be sent to ABC TV (see address below):

- a completed **triple j tv docs5 Application Form**, available from the Screen Australia website at http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/industry_support/Production/Doc_Special_Init_jtvdocs5.asp
- a one-line and half-page synopsis. See the Screen Australia publication *What is a Synopsis? An Outline? A Treatment?* available at http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/filming_in_australia/GW_Filming-In-Australia.asp
- an outline or treatment of the one-hour or half-hour documentary that presents the story, characters, issues and themes of the film and articulates the stylistic and visual approach
- a description of any suggested cross-platform components and opportunities for your project
- CVs of the producer, writer and director, and any other confirmed key personnel (DOP, editor, etc)
- one example of the director's previous work (a complete film, not a showreel) on DVD
- please supply footage of characters or key elements, on DVD
- written confirmation of key subjects' willingness to participate
- where there is Indigenous community participation or content involved in the project, written confirmation of the willingness of both the subject(s) and the community to be involved in the project is essential. See http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/industry_support/Indigenous_Content.asp or the *Screen Australia Program Guidelines – Development Programs*
- a budget in the Screen Australia A-Z Documentary format, available from the Screen Australia website at: http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/filming_in_australia/budgeting/a_z.asp including quotes (where available) for equipment, crew, facilities, insurance etc.

Please note: there is no application fee for triple j tv docs5.

Where to send your application

Please post **ONE** copy of your complete application to the ABC at:

triple j tv docs5
ABC TV Arts, Entertainment & Comedy
Attention: Richard Brunskill
700 Harris St
Ultimo NSW 2007 Enquiries: ABC TV 02 8333 4355

You will receive written acknowledgement of your application within two weeks.

Please note: Application materials will not be returned. All materials, including audiovisual items, are destroyed by secure document and media destruction. Please do not send any originals and ensure that you keep copies of your application and your AV materials.