

Flickerfest International short film festival would like to confirm its opinion that Screen Australia should continue to fund all short film as an investment in the future success of our Australian film industry, not just short animation and digital media as is currently proposed.

For the past 18 years the Flickerfest short film competition has been proud to provide a platform for committed short film-makers in this country to hone their skills, experiment creatively with form and compete on the same platform as their international peers.

We firmly believe that in order for Australian filmmakers to continue to compete on the world stage for the appreciation of audiences all over the world they need to be able to practise their craft in the short film form. Not only as directors, but also actors and other professionals (editors, cinematographers, sound recordists, production designers etc) develop & refine their skills on short films providing an opportunity for experimentation and risk taking. A vibrant film industry in Australia relies on the ability of its filmmakers to create projects, which display complex ideas in a narrative form as well as high production values in order to compete in an international environment.

Each year at Flickerfest we screen over 50 Australian short in competition from over 1350 entries received and therefore are exposed to the wide range of shorts of varying levels of budget and skill produced in this country each year.

Over the years we have seen many of Australia's talented filmmakers develop from the experience they have gained through shorts and we are critically aware that often the films that are receiving recognition on the world stage (Cannes, Sundance, Clermont Ferrand etc) are from 3rd or 4th time short film makers who have gone through the ranks from film school to state level budget funding and have now been recognized for their talent and skill by gaining the ability to make a fully funded Screen Australia short.

Apart from our festival activity Flickerfest has also been successfully involved for the past 6 years in developing as many outlets for people to engage with shorts films as possible, through our extensive catalogue of Australian short film content that we market across the world.

Our experience in short film marketing and distribution, curation of Australian short film programmes for overseas festivals including the London Australian short film festival at the Barbican for the past 6 years, visits to many respected international short film festivals and production of DVDS such as 'The Bold The Brave and The Best 30's years of Australian Animation' has provided us with extensive knowledge of short film trends both at home and internationally.

We believe that short film in Australia has gained such great success and recognition internationally due to the supportive structures in place that have

nurtured short film makers through the beginning stages of their careers through to being able to confidently present their work at an international standard on the world stage.

We also believe that Australian short film production has the potential to be more successful.

Flickerfest would be pleased to work in partnership with Screen Australia to actively support and encourage the best short film production in Australia through collaboration on a short film scheme that continued to direct funding to talented teams of short film makers. We propose a script assessment scheme overseen by Flickerfest in an executive production capacity that would engage key industry producers and other industry professional's who would assess and choose the specific outstanding short film projects for production. These projects would have the potential to not only develop the short film makers career but also Australia's international standing as a talented storytelling nation.

Recently Flickerfest has been funded to produce an online short film resource for emerging filmmakers by Screen Australia.

We would be very happy to meet with film Australia to discuss our ideas and proposal to continue to develop the success of Australian short film production further as outlined above

Bronwyn Kidd
Executive director Flickerfest