

## Talent USA 2018: Call out for emerging Australian directors and screenwriters

Screen Australia has announced the return of Talent USA, supporting up to eight emerging Australian directors and/or screenwriters to travel to New York for a series of career and creative growth opportunities in late March 2018.

Selected Talent USA delegates will participate in a bespoke program of masterclasses and professional development workshops, as well as have the opportunity to meet with, and gain key insights from, leading US screen industry practitioners.

Eligible applicants will have a short film or feature which has been selected for a major international festival, such as Sundance, Cannes, Berlin, Venice or Toronto, or a drama or online series which has gained significant traction with an international audience. Applicants will preferably have market-ready long form projects at an advanced stage of development or production.

In June this year the inaugural Talent USA delegation consisted of 11 directors and 6 screenwriters who participated in a series of masterclasses, workshops and industry networking events in LA.

“Following an incredibly successful Talent USA program earlier this year, which fast-tracked the creative and career development of an exciting group of Australian writers and directors, we are thrilled to announce the program will return in 2018,” said Screen Australia’s Head of Business and Audience, **Richard Harris** who will lead the Talent USA delegation.

“This time around the program will provide an opportunity for the best of Australia’s emerging screen talent to hear from some of the greatest creative minds in the business and meet with US screen industry leaders based on the East-Coast.”

Talent USA 2017 alumni writer/director **Sarah Bishop** said: “Talent USA was an incredible experience, both creatively and professionally. I heard from some amazing storytelling minds including A-List writers and directors, and had access to some of the top studio and network executives, with whom I am continuing to talk to about Australian and international projects.”

“It was an absolute game-changer in terms of my professional development and I made some great connections with my fellow alumni in the process.”

The Talent USA delegation will travel to New York from 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March. A complete schedule will be provided to each of the successful applicants. Applicants are encouraged to consider further self-directed strategic industry opportunities whilst in the US such as travel to SXSW before, or LA after, the New York schedule.

Eligible Australians can apply for a grant of up to AUD \$5,000 toward their travel costs.

The deadline for grant applications is Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>. For more information see the [program guidelines](#).

Successful applicants will be notified before Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017.