

Comment on Screen Australia draft program guidelines from Glen Crawford

I really don't understand you people. I thought after my last rather polite little rant about not being notified when a request like this was made, I might have at least made it onto your mailing list. But no, once again I only found out by someone else taking the time to tell me this round of comments was open, and I'm one of only a handful of people who've bothered to reply to the previous three requests for feedback. Don't you want to hear from me, or people like me?

OK, rant over, onto the guidelines...

I like the idea of responsibility for the selection of projects being thrown back on the producers, the mere thought of some stiff-necked bureaucrat sitting behind a leather topped desk deciding what constitutes 'suitable' material for a film fills me with dread, and I think the dismal results of the last several years of Australian film-making speak volumes in regard to the folly of this process.

What does concern me greatly however, is where you think you're going to find all these 'experienced' producers, or even worse, the 'highly experienced' writers and directors you're going to fund to make their projects. You're certainly not going to find too many in the last decade's worth of production, so you'll have to go back to the 80's and 90's to find truly successful film industry people. Unless of course you decide to select the people who've churned out the last decade's worth of basically unwatchable crap as being the only ones 'experienced' enough to continue doing what they've been subjecting us to over that time.

The simple fact of the matter is the industry has been in a bloody big hole for so long there's just not that many 'experienced' people left out there, so if you're only going to look at say projects using scripts by 'experienced' writers, that cuts me, and many others like me, right out of the 'picture' from the very start. I currently have a script under development with one of Australia's most successful producers, because I'm currently uncredited, does that mean this project won't be considered?

I think what you're doing has potential, and lots of it, but I think you're going to have to do an awful lot of fine tuning along the way to get this to work. Anything would be better than what we've been through in the last decade, but we really need to step outside the square or risk becoming nothing more than an ongoing 'boys' club' with the same old people picking up the same slush funding to make the same old crap we've just seen (Or should that be not seen?)

And please put me on your mailing list!

Regards,

Glen Crawford