



# originals

SHORT FICTION



Screen Queensland recognises the need to support creative talent and crew as they begin their careers in the screen industry – and believes that short films can be an integral part in career development in particular for those writers, directors, producers, cinematographers and editors that will go on to make long-form drama.

Short films can shape and sharpen storytelling skills across a range of disciplines and, at their best, put a career on the map.

With this in mind, Screen Queensland will select four short films to be developed and produced in 2015-16, including two from Indigenous filmmakers/teams.

All four films will be ambitious and of a high production value, aimed at prestigious Australian and international festivals, and form part of a clear career path for the creative team.

Filmmakers – writers, directors, and producers - may apply as teams or individuals. A track record and clear trajectory should be demonstrated, as appropriate to the role nominated in the application.

Ideas may be submitted as outlines (of no more than one page) or as completed scripts. Applicants or teams submitting only an outline should also include a writing sample.

Successful applicants (teams, or individuals selected to form teams) will receive a \$30,000 grant to develop, produce and market a seven-minute short film.

- Films must be developed and produced entirely in Queensland
- Films must be live action, narrative shorts (funding will not be available for factual shorts or animation)
- All key creative roles must be filled by bona fide Queenslanders
- Screen Queensland will assess each project based on the strength of the concept, the quality of the writing, the director's previous work (if applicable) and the achievability of the project for a \$30,000 budget
- Applications will include an idea and writing sample or the latest draft of the proposed screenplay, but each project will undergo further development, including a development workshop, before going into production
- Each project will be overseen by an Executive Producer (as assigned by Screen Queensland)

The short film initiative is part of Screen Queensland's Early Career Screen Program.

### What is the Early Career Screen Program for?

Screen Queensland recognises the need to support writers, directors, producers and other key creatives as they begin their careers in the screen industry- to help them create and produce high quality screen projects capable of delighting local and international audiences, winning critical acclaim and delivering commercial success and to grow the skillset and experience necessary to do so. Funding is to support the early career sector as the foundation of a successful and sustainable industry. In 2015-16, the Early Career Screen Program will be particularly targeted to deliver the following goals:

- Professional and skills development
  - Growing a highly skilled pool of screenwriters and supporting them to develop so that their ideas and talent are matched by craft, market/audience awareness, and professional standards and practices;
  - Growing a highly skilled pool of creative producers, script editors and development executives and supporting them to develop strong story skills and the tools to work at a professional level across all platforms;
  - Developing directors, cinematographers and editors and supporting them to develop, produce and showcase work that will enable them to move forwards their careers in Australia and internationally.
- Project and sector development
  - Supporting early career screen producers, writers and directors to develop, finance, produce and market content that is meaningful to audiences and the marketplace, in particular as the screen industry changes to embrace new development, production and distribution methods and models.

The program will be practice-based to reflect a need for hands-on skills development and experience rather than training.

### When do I need to apply?

Key dates include:

- Applications close: 12 October 2015 5pm. **Late applications will not be accepted and incomplete applications will not be considered.**
- Interviews for shortlisted applicants/creative teams: 20 – 21 October 2015
- Successful teams announced: 26 October 2015
- Workshop: 30 October – 1 November 2015
- Drafts and Materials: By 1 December 2015
- Production Delivered: By 30 April 2016

### Who can apply?

- Bona fide Queenslander (SQ's Terms of Trade include the definition)
- Teams made up of a Producer, Writer and Director or Producer and Writer/Director
- Demonstrable track record that includes a credit in the desired role on a short form project (ie. Short film, short documentary or commercial video).
- Full time students are not eligible to apply
- Please note: This is an early career opportunity not entry level opportunity
- Project ideas cannot be documentaries or animation.

### What documents are required to apply?

- A current version of the script for the proposed short (or a one pager summarising the concept plus a writing sample)
  - The film is to be no longer than 7 minutes, excluding credits
  - Note: If a producer or director are applying without a writer, only a one page concept will be required.
- CVs of key creative team
- Director's Showreel – where applicable

- Statement outlining how the team proposes to develop and produce the short film. This statement needs to include a marketing plan discussing which major festivals will be targeted and why. Note: statement should reference selection criteria

The producer must show that they hold the rights to the script and all other underlying rights to make the short fiction film (at application a letter from the rights holder or a deal memo will be sufficient)

### How will applications be assessed?

In all cases, the creative committee will take into consideration (where appropriate)

- The track record of the applicant (and key creative team)
- The strength and originality of the idea or concept
- The quality of the storytelling
- The development strategy and the teams understanding of the steps required to take the project forwards
- The potential of the project to reach its specified audience
- The potential of the project to be realised on its specified budget
- The potential benefit to the Queensland screen industry
- The benefit to the development of the key creative team's career

### What happens when my application has been assessed?

Applicants will be informed in writing whether their application has or has not been successful. Screen Queensland anticipates a large number of applicants and thus will be unable to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

### How do I apply?

Apply online at [www.screenqueensland.smartygrants.com.au](http://www.screenqueensland.smartygrants.com.au)

An automated application email will be sent to you within 30 minutes as confirmation that Screen Queensland has received your application. **It is the applicant's responsibility to contact Screen Queensland if you do not receive an application receipt email.**

### What happens when my application is successful?

Successful applicants will enter into a contractual agreement with Screen Queensland.

Applicants will commit to delivery of (at least), one draft of a short-film length screenplay and delivery of the finished film by 30 April 2016.

### What do I do if I've read this and want to talk it through?

Email Hannah Fitzpatrick – Production Assistant and Assistant to Head of Development and Production at [hfitzpatrick@screenqld.com.au](mailto:hfitzpatrick@screenqld.com.au) or call on (07) 3248 0500.

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