

# South Australian Film Corporation Program Guidelines

## 5.0 SPECIAL INITIATIVES

### 5.04 WRITING FOR FILM

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- › Writing for Film is a special initiative targeted at emerging and professional writers, producers and directors for cinema. Through a combination of workshops and intensive one on one project development, Writing for Film will help practitioners develop their development expertise and will support a selected group of promising projects through financed development to a market-ready stage.

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### **what is the initiative?**

The program has three main phases, starting with a core skills refreshment and writing development stage after which a select group of projects which show genuine potential will be developed individually. The respective teams will then be mentored by expert script developers over four months to refine their projects to a point that they are ready to take to market. In the final stage of the to-market process, several projects will receive additional funding of up to \$10,000 each to ensure they maintain momentum following the completion of the initiative.

Writing for Film is a SAFC special initiative which is being delivered in partnership with the Australian Writers Guild (AWG). All enquiries and applications must be directed through the AWG.

Writing for Film is a six-month program that is open to all professional screen practitioners (individuals and teams) in South Australia. It consists of three phases:

- / Phase One – Two workshops (4 days and 3 days)
- / Phase Two – One-on-one project development
- / Phase Three – SAFC Investment allocated to up to three selected projects

Selection for Writing for Film is competitive. Phase One will include up to twenty projects. Phase Two will include up to six projects. Phase Three will have up to three selected projects.

Writing for Film will be led by a number of experienced script developers, and tailored to the needs of the individual participants based on their project's format and genre.

- / Phase One will be delivered by Stephen Cleary, who is an international script consultant and developer.
- / Phases Two will be delivered by Australian based developers with oversight and input from Stephen Cleary and the SAFC.
- / Phase Three will be funded by the SAFC.

Workshop costs will be covered by the SAFC and will be free to all participants.

The first workshop is over four days, and the second over three days. If selected,

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attendance on all days is compulsory.

Completion of any writing and project assignments set during the program is mandatory. Participants who do not fulfil this commitment will be ineligible to participate in the program and excluded from other Phases of the initiative.

The program covers narrative and story, introduction to development practice, pitching and presentation skills, introduction to producing and one-on-one professional development assistance on a project basis. There will be regular writing and other assignments related to the participants' projects through the phase one workshops, and there will be a project writing task to be accomplished in the gap between the first and second workshops.

It is expected that Writing for Film projects will be features films in any genre.

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**who is eligible?**

In addition to the eligibility criteria detailed in the General Guidelines:

- / Applicants must be residents of South Australia.
- / Applicants must have started their screen industry careers and be able to demonstrate some degree of professional writing experience.
- / Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia, and be 18 years old or older.
- / Applicants can be individuals or a team. All team members are expected to attend all sessions.
- / Applicants must be the producer, director, and/or writer of the project. Applicants must also be the copyright holder, or have an option to the rights in any and all works on which the project is based.

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**what do I need to apply?**

If you have any questions please contact AWG on (08) 8232 6852 or 1300 552 228, or by email: [sa@awg.com.au](mailto:sa@awg.com.au).

**1. Applications must contain the following: :**

- / A signed and fully completed application form
- / A one page story outline/synopsis
- / A fully completed Project Questionnaire
- / A supporting statement of no more than one page explaining why you should be given a place in this program.
- / CV's of key personnel (1 page, max, per person)
- / Short bios (one paragraph) of key personnel
- / A statement of copyright, outlining who holds the copyright for your project and (if not you) what claim you have to it (e.g. an option). Please also include all copies of all legal documents which show evidence of chain of title. If you do not own the rights please show that you have made contact with the copyright holder and show that you can negotiate an option later if and when any development funding is triggered.

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**how is the project selected?**

In assessing applications, the Writing for Film Committee will assess applications against the following criteria:

- / Originality and strength of concept
- / Commercial viability of the project

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- / The strength of the creative team
  - / Commitment to the entire process
  - / Likelihood of the project proceeding into production

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### SAFC supports:

- / projects that are intended to result in commercial or business focused outcomes.
- / applicants who have started their careers and can demonstrate professional experience.

### SAFC will give preference to:

- / applications that are professional in their presentation, thought and execution.
- / participants who show a commitment to the six-month process.
- / projects intended for production and post production in South Australia.

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### What is the time frame for the program?

- / Phase One successful applications announced - Monday 11 October 2010
- / Phase One: First Writing for Film Workshop (4 days) - Monday to Thursday 1- 4 November 2010
- / Phase One: Second Writing for Film Workshop (3 days) - Monday to Wednesday 6 - 8 December 2010
- / Revised treatment due - Wednesday 5 January 2011
- / Phase Two: Successful applications announced - Monday 7 February 2011
- / Phase Two: Workshop (1 day) - Monday 28 February 2011
- / Delivery of agreed project deliverables - Monday 13 June 2011
- / Phase Three: Successful applicants announced for SAFC Development Investment - Monday 25 July 2011

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### when can I apply?

Applications close on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010. **Late applications will not be considered.**

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### where do I submit my application?

- / Deliver the application in hard copy to the following address. Note: electronic submissions will not be accepted, nor will late submissions.

#### **If hand delivered:**

#### **Australian Writers' Guild**

2nd Floor The Writers Centre  
187 Rundle Street  
Adelaide 5000 SA

#### **If mailed:**

PO Box 43  
Rundle Mall SA 5000

The Australian Writers Guild will provide emailed acknowledgement of applications. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed by email

<b>where can I find more information?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/ Visit <a href="http://www.safilm.com.au">www.safilm.com.au</a></li> <li>/ If you have any questions you are welcome to contact AWG on (08) 8232 6852 or 1300 552 228, or by email: <a href="mailto:sa@awg.com.au">sa@awg.com.au</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Special Conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/ If you are accepted into Phase One, you are expected to attend both of the first two workshops.</li> <li>/ If you are accepted into Phase Two of the program, you are expected to attend all sessions, and will be entering into a contract with the SAFC.</li> <li>/ All applications will be treated as commercial in confidence. However, the SAFC &amp; AWG may make public a list of successful applicants or promote successful applicants for the mutual benefit of the AWG, the SAFC and the applicant. Specific details of your application will not be given to third parties without your permission.</li> </ul>

## SPECIFIC TERMS OF BUSINESS

### Funding information and conditions for projects that are selected for Phase One

The SAFC usually requires applicants to hold the copyright of the underlying material such as novel, play etc prior to committing its support, however under this program the SAFC will accept projects for development or adaptation where the applicant can provide genuine proof of contact with the copyright holder to enter into negotiations for the option of the work. Please be aware that the SAFC does not pay for options as part of its support and applicant must be able to meet these requirements themselves.

### Funding information and conditions for projects that proceed to Phase Two and Three

1. The South Australian Film Corporation will proportion the cost of the program against each project accepted into Phase Two of the program as a development investment.
2. The South Australian Film Corporation will provide funding as equity investment and will require a share in the copyright and be entitled to a portion of gross proceeds from any sales revenue generated from any projects developed through Phase 2 and 3 of the Writing for Film initiative.
3. The South Australian Film Corporation will only contract with the copyright holder(s). Transfer of copyright is a matter for the applicants, not the South Australian Film Corporation.
4. The SAFC will require meaningful consultation over all successful projects selected for Phase 3 of the program and approval over a number of production elements including (but not limited to):
  - / Key Creatives (including producers, directors, writers)
  - / Principal cast
  - / Any proposed additional funding
  - / Treatments & Scripts
  - / Budgets & Schedules
  - / Third party Agreements
  - / Production Methodology
  - / Deferrals schedule
  - / All credits/logos that appear on the film
  - / Marketing strategy & Marketing Materials

5. In general, crew must be South Australian unless a rationale for using non-South Australian crew is presented and accepted by the South Australian Film Corporation.

## CREDITS

- / The South Australian Film Corporation will require appropriate credits on all development and production materials generated during the program with wording approximating the following;
  - o *Developed with financial assistance from the South Australian Film Corporation*
- / The SAFC will also receive formal logo credit on all usual publicity and delivery materials as contracted.

### The fine print

As with all South Australian Film Corporation programs, the following guidelines must be read in conjunction with the South Australian Film Corporation General Guidelines, Terms of Trade and application form. Applicants are required to discuss their applications with a Australian Writers' Guild staff member prior to submitting an application.

General Guidelines and application forms can be found at [www.safilm.com.au](http://www.safilm.com.au)



**South Australian Film Corporation**

