

I Guidelines – ACTF / Screen Tasmania Children’s Television Drama Initiative I

Development funding is available for up to two live action children’s television drama series

I Aim of the Program I

Screen Tasmania recognises the value of series television in building sustainable industry, providing ongoing employment, training opportunities and economic benefit to Tasmania. This program aims to develop a series television program with the desired outcome of seeing at least one series progress into production.

I About the Program I

Screen Tasmania is partnering with the Australian Children’s Television Foundation (ACTF) to deliver a children’s television drama initiative aimed at both experienced and also emerging Tasmanian writers and producers that are delivering high-quality content and have a demonstrated track record and commitment to a professional career in the screen industry.

Funding is available to practitioners to support the development of original and quality concepts to bible and potentially second draft script stage. Projects must be suitable for either the C drama category (5-14 year olds) or a dedicated children’s channel. It is expected that projects might be aimed at sub-categories within that age group, rather than trying to appeal to such a broad developmental age range. For example, 5-8 years, 7-10 years, 10-14 years. See the following link for more details on C drama classification: <http://www.acma.gov.au/webwr/aba/tv/content/requirements/children/documents/criteria%20for%20a%20childrens%20program.pdf>

The development process will mirror standard industry practice in television drama. Successful applicants will work under the guidance of an experienced story producer who will lead a workshop with experienced industry professionals to assist applicants to fully flesh out their concepts. The workshop will be followed by a 12-week development phase to get the project to the stage where it is ready to be pitched to broadcasters.

Projects must be:

- live action drama (animation projects are not eligible)
- intended to be 26 x half hour (with the potential for further series)
- intended to be produced entirely in Tasmania
- suitable for children’s television broadcast
- demonstrate cultural and economic benefit to Tasmania

It is suggested that projects be contemporary, however elements such as fantasy, time travel or period sequences or other inventive approaches to children’s drama will be acceptable.

Ideally projects should be of both national and international appeal.

Multi-platform projects are welcome and encouraged – however in the initial stage of development, funding is for work on the drama series development only.

I Amount I

Sixty thousand dollars is available for the development of up to two projects. Funding will be allocated by Screen Tasmania and the ACTF and will include workshop costs, fees for the story producer and development funds for the team.



I Funding Type I

Investment

I Deadlines I

Applications close 5.00pm 3 August 2009.

Applications must be received by close of business on the advertised closing day if delivered by hand, or must be postmarked no later than the advertised closing date if sent by post.

I Who Can Apply I

Both emerging and experienced practitioners (writers and producers) may apply. All applicants and projects must meet the general eligibility criteria, in addition to the following:

- individual writers or writer/producers may apply but Screen Tasmania strongly encourages applicants to apply as a part of a team. Teams may comprise of two writers or a writer and producer team
- whilst first time screenwriters may apply, this is not an initiative for novices and in the absence of screen credits it is expected that the applicant is able to demonstrate a level of experience and craft skill in a relevant area of expertise such as prose writing
- all applicants must be Tasmanian residents
- no market place interest is required to apply for this initiative.

I How Applications Are Assessed I

Screen Tasmania's funding is competitive and the following criteria is used to assess applications:

- the strength and originality of the concept/story idea
- the suitability of the project in terms of target audience
- the mix of skills and experience of the creative team, and the likelihood that their experience will advance the project
- the quality and rigour of the development notes, whether they articulate the issues facing the next stage of development, and outline strategies to resolve these issues and advance the project
- the economic and cultural benefits to Tasmania of the proposed project.

I What to Submit I

Applicants must submit three* unbound copies of the following:

*(*four copies must be submitted for projects with Indigenous content):*

- completed cover page
- completed application form
- project overview – one sentence pitch; and one paragraph synopsis
- short character breakdowns of the main characters (one paragraph each)
- a five-page concept outline in prose form, which includes the projected arc of the story over the entire series
- project rationale – detailing the background of the project; research undertaken to date; why the applicant has a commitment to it; target audience and marketplace; how your project is original; and proposed delivery platforms

- development notes – a detailed assessment of your project in terms of future development – analysing its strengths and weaknesses, and detail the strategies you will use to address the perceived weaknesses. Themes, style and tone should also be included
- resume's of team members
- a statement outlining the key likely benefits to Tasmania both culturally and economically.

I Application Assessment Process I

Due to funding limits, no applicant can be guaranteed to receive funding.

Applications will be assessed against the listed selection criteria by one representative from Screen Tasmania, one representative from the ACTF and one external assessor.

Projects will be shortlisted and up to two projects will be selected by representatives from both Screen Tasmania and the Australian Children's Television Foundation. The successful applicants will be formally announced within eight weeks of the closing date.

Applicants should note that decisions are final and irrevocable.

One copy of submitted materials will be kept on file at Screen Tasmania to satisfy our reporting requirements, regardless of whether the application was successful or not.

Applications must be received by close of business on the advertised closing date if delivered by hand, or must be post marked no later than the advertised closing date if sent by post.

Applicants must discuss the project with Screen Tasmania before applying and are strongly encouraged to attend the Writing for Children's Television Seminar (date TBA).

I General Eligibility Criteria I

All applicants and projects must comply with Screen Tasmania's general eligibility guidelines as follows:

- applicants must be a Tasmanian permanent resident
- applicants must be over 18 years of age
- applicants must have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- full-time students are not eligible to apply
- applicants must be the originator of the script, the copyright holder, or have an option to the rights in any and all works on which the project is based
- applications from recipients of past grants, loans or investments from Screen Tasmania will not be considered if any outstanding funds or progress reports have not been acquitted satisfactorily. This will not prevent applicants from receiving more than one grant, loan or investment concurrently
- Screen Tasmania does not fund retrospectively
- funds are not available for projects of the following nature: purely educational; advertising projects; infotainment; lifestyle; travel; magazine; sports; education; game shows; current affairs; news programs; community television programs.

I Applications and Enquiries I

Please forward applications to the Project Manager, Lynne Vincent McCarthy:

Post: Screen Tasmania
GPO Box 646
HOBART TAS 7000

Please forward enquires to the Project Manager, Lynne Vincent McCarthy:

Phone: +61 3 6233 6995

