

INDEX Guidelines 2009

A production initiative partnership for early career Indigenous filmmakers between ScreenWest, Screen Australia and the Film & Television Institute WA.

Index Short Drama Production Initiative

The Index initiative is designed to extend the experience of Indigenous filmmakers, particularly Directors, Writers and Producers, by supporting the production of short films. Index provides one Indigenous Western Australian production team to produce one digital drama film 10-15 minutes in length and within a total budget of \$80,000, for delivery within a twelve-month period (from the date of approval).

Upon completion of their Index funded projects, filmmakers should have the skills and working knowledge to apply for next level Screen Australia or ScreenWest project funding schemes.

The deadline for all INDEX applications is now **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2009.**

All applications must be hand delivered or posted to the Film & Television Institute (92 Adelaide St, Fremantle) by 5pm.

Eligibility Criteria

- INDEX is only open to applicants who have completed at least one drama, such as a Deadly Yarns production or a Screen Australia funded Indigenous initiative.
- INDEX projects must have Indigenous Western Australians in key creative roles; a minimum of the writer and director must be Indigenous. Where a project does not have an Indigenous producer, an Indigenous producer attachment may be required as part of the application.
- WA Residency Rules apply to writer, director and producer teams for Index.
- Every effort will be made to provide additional mentors as required and to offer an Indigenous attachment to any non-Indigenous Head of Department, depending on the availability of funds.
- The project must be able to be made for up to \$80,000.00 with no other funding or private investment.
- It is strongly recommended that applicants discuss their project with FTI's Production Support Manager/s prior to submission.

Application Process

Applicants are required to submit four (4) paper copies (bound with a bulldog clip, but not stapled) of the following:

- A completed application form;
- A one line AND one paragraph synopsis of the project;
- A developed drama script outline;
- A producer's statement addressing the rationale and expected professional benefits for the team in making the project. The statement should also address the production philosophy and budget and schedule rationale;
- A director's statement describing in detail the directorial approach to the project;
- Examples of the producer's and director's previous work;
- A fully itemised production budget using the industry standard Screen Australia A-Z Short Film Budget and budget notes;
- A production schedule;
- A crew list and one page CV's of the key creatives;
- A statement from the key creatives (Producer, Writer, Director) confirming that the project will not be used, credited to, or form part of any course of study being undertaken.
- Any other documentation or support material that would strengthen the application.

Assessment of Applications

The Panel, comprised of ScreenWest, Screen Australia & FTI representatives, plus Industry professionals, will assess projects against a broad criteria including, but not limited to:

- The strength and distinctiveness of the idea, the quality of the writing including the exploration of form and narrative and the script's readiness to proceed into production.
- The creative teams vision for the film based on their director/producer statements.
- Team composition and their ability to deliver within the proposed timeline and budget.
- Evidence of the Producer and Director's previous credits and experience and the potential for the project to enhance the career opportunities and skill of the team involved.
- A detailed budget and production schedule that adequately reflects the project's requirements
- Shortlisted applicants may be asked to attend an interview. Further script development may be offered.

Recommendation

All applicants are encouraged to discuss their eligibility and project with Production Support Manager, Yvette Coyne (yvette@fti.asn.au or 94316700) before making a formal application.