

“Film Lab: New Voices was designed to grow and diversify the pool of South Australian ‘Greenlighters’ – key creatives with the credits to trigger finance. This career building program helps to address some of the difficulties faced by up-and-coming filmmakers in breaking through in the film and TV industry – and it’s clear from the number of high quality applications received in round one that the initiative has already been embraced by the sector.

“As well as the skills development opportunities offered in the program itself, the SAFC was pleased to be able to offer professional development to the wider industry during the application process as well, presenting a film screening and networking night, a webinar information session, and 59 one-on-one meetings with prospective teams. The exciting and diverse partnerships formed through this program have already resulted in bolder and more ambitious projects which is exactly what Film Lab: New Voices is designed to achieve.

“With applications opening again in August for round two, we look forward to creating opportunities for even more South Australian filmmakers, underpinning the growth and sustainability of the South Australian screen sector as a whole.”

CEO and Creative Director of the Adelaide Film Festival Mat Kesting said “Adelaide Film Festival has international recognition for platforming bold and exciting Australian filmmaking talent and Film Lab: New Voices will continue this tradition. AFF is thrilled to support this wonderful initiative that will help unearth new South Australian talent. Today’s announcement of the three teams is testament to the breadth of talent in the state and we look forward to hosting the premiere of the film selected for production at AFF 2022.”

Head of Content at Screen Australia, Sally Caplan said “Finding pathways to support emerging talent to cultivate their skills and cut their teeth in the screen industry is at the core of what we do. Congratulations to the three teams who I’m sure will relish this opportunity to be mentored by top development executive Louise Gough to further develop their projects.”

CEO of Mercury CX Karena Slaninka said “Mercury CX plays a key role in supporting professional development, removing barriers to entry and cultivating unique, authentic stories from diverse creatives. Our professional development programs create a pipeline of talent into such initiatives as Film Lab: New Voices, which provides a unique opportunity to gain an invaluable feature film credit through the South Australian Film Corporation and the rich experience of connecting with an audience through a screening at the Adelaide Film Festival. The coordinated pathways through these organisations is quite special and is set to benefit South Australian practitioners enormously.”

ABOUT FILM LAB: NEW VOICES

Co-funded by the South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC), Adelaide Film Festival (AFF) and Mercury CX, with financial assistance from Screen Australia, Film Lab: New Voices is a low-budget feature film skills development initiative designed to provide a platform for the next generation of diverse, South Australian filmmaking talent.

A bold, ambitious, and creative program, Film Lab: New Voices gives three South Australian creative teams industry mentoring across a 12-month period to develop a low-budget

feature film script. At the end of the development phase, one project will receive a \$400,000 production grant to produce a feature film for premiere at the Adelaide Film Festival.

At least one member of each filmmaking team (writer, director or producer) must be from a group under-represented in the South Australian screen industry including: women filmmakers; First Nations filmmakers, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) filmmakers, Deaf and disabled filmmakers, LGBTQIA+ filmmakers and filmmakers from regional and remote South Australia.

Film Lab: New Voices builds on the success of the SAFC's FilmLab 2009-2012 which launched the careers of at least 12 South Australian Above-the-Line creatives and resulted in critically acclaimed, break out films *Shut Up Little Man*, *52 Tuesdays* and *The Infinite Man*, among others.

For more information, go to safilm.com.au/industry-and-skills#filmlab

ABOUT LOUISE GOUGH

Louise has 30 years' experience in development, beginning in theatre as a dramaturg and extending into screen story development. In Australia, Louise was Editorial Manager at ABC TV Drama and Narrative Comedy, Script Manager at Film Victoria, in the development team at Madman Production Company, Development Executive (Story) at Screen Australia, and most recently Head of Development at Arenamedia. Louise's past theatre positions include Literary Manager at Playbox (now Malthouse) in Melbourne, Resident Dramaturg at Queensland Theatre Company and Literary Fellow at Vineyard Theatre (NYC). For the last ten years, Louise has worked as a script advisor with Sources 2 in Europe, leading residential feature film development labs and working on fiction features as a script editor or dramatic advisor throughout Australia and Europe.

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MEDIA DOWNLOADS

To download images of the Film Lab: New Voices 2021 teams, go to: <http://bit.ly/filmlabnewvoices>