

GUIDELINES

First Nations TV Pilot Program



The First Nations TV Pilot Program is a television writing skills development initiative for First Nations South Australian screen talent.

The program has been designed by SAFC First Nations Screen Strategy Executive, Pauline Clague and will be delivered in partnership with Channel 44. The program is supported through the Screenrights Cultural Fund and Screen Australia's First Nations Department.

What is on offer?

Phase 1 of the initiative will support up to 15 First Nations screen makers to undertake a Story Development Training program. Leading First Nations industry mentors Leah Purcell, Adrian Wills and SAFC First Nations Strategy Executive Pauline Clague will assist all participants across a six-week program, delivered online, where they will learn how to create television pitch documents and write a pilot episode script.

At the end of the training stage, each participant will have the opportunity to pitch their project via an application process. Six of the projects will then be selected by the funding partners to undertake a writers room. The writers room will be a 3 day workshop to help flesh out and create the pilot episode for your series. The writers room will take place at Channel 44.

Who is eligible?

The SAFC is seeking applications from early career First Nations writers who are South Australian residents. Applicants are not required to have prior screen industry credits; however the program is competitive and applicants must be able to demonstrate a commitment to working in television production.

What projects are eligible?

This program is for original episodic television projects of any genre that demonstrate a strong authorial voice, authentic storytelling and independent spirit.

Projects are expected to be wholly produced and post-produced in South Australia.

Who is not eligible?

Applicants based outside of South Australia are not eligible for this program.

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How will applications be assessed?

- The originality and creative ambition of the concept
- The overall quality of the pitch materials
- The commitment of the applicant to further their television career
- The benefits of the program to the applicant's career development
- The willingness of the applicant to engage in the TV Pilot Initiative and to work professionally and to a high technical standard within the timeframe (as demonstrated by the Professional Development Statement)

Important Dates:

Applications Close: Monday 17 October 2022

Applicants Notified: 25 October 2022

Week 1- Wednesday 9 November 2022

Week 2- Wednesday 16 November 2022

Week 3- Wednesday 23 November 2022

Week 4- Wednesday 30 November 2022

Week 5- Wednesday 7 December 2022

Week 6- Wednesday 14 December 2022

Writers Room Application Deadline: Monday 9 January 2023

Writers' Room: Early 2023

How do I apply?

Applications will be made in the form of an Expression of Interest to the SAFC.

The Expression of Interest is available via the online grants portal safilm.smartygrants.com.au

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their application with the SAFC prior to applying.

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email.

No late applications will be considered. Decisions on applications will be final.

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Application Materials

- A completed **Expression of Interest** form via Smarty Grants
- A **short summary** of your idea - (up to 3 pages)
- **A short bio**
- Please include: your name, your current job title, your hometown, your professional goals and any relevant achievements in the screen industry or arts industry
- **A Professional Development Statement**
- Tell us how this program will help you to achieve your goal of becoming a television writer/showrunner
- **Examples/links to previous work**

Funding Conditions

Intellectual Property created in relation to a project will be held by the First Nations program participant that applied with and originated that project.

In line with industry standards, it is a condition of participating in this program that, if there is collaborative work and for the Writers' Room, collaborators will be required to assign their Intellectual Property to the project's originator and owner.

Before you apply, please make sure you are familiar with the SAFC [Terms of Trade](#).

Where can I find out more?

Contact SAFC Program Coordinator Jess Cahill on 08 8394 2029 or email programs@safilm.com.au

Our commitment to diversity and accessibility

The SAFC is committed to supporting increased participation of people from groups underrepresented in the South Australian screen industry including female identifying writers and directors, First Nations practitioners, practitioners from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, Deaf or disabled practitioners, practitioners from LGBTQIA+ communities and practitioners from regional and remote areas of South Australia.

If you have access requirements for this program, please contact us via email at disability@safilm.com.au or telephone 08 8394 2029 or via the National Relay Service.