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## FILM LAB: NEW VOICES OPENS THIRD ROUND SUCCESSFUL FEATURE FILM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

South Australia's successful low-budget feature film development initiative, **Film Lab: New Voices**, is calling for original and ambitious feature-length submissions for its third-round intake.

Co-funded by the **South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC)**, **Adelaide Film Festival** and **Screen Australia**, Film Lab: New Voices offers three filmmaking teams the chance to develop their first low-budget feature through a 12-month development program. At the completion of the Lab, one team will be selected to receive \$600,000 in screen production grant funding with their film to premiere the Adelaide Film Festival in 2026.

**Minister for the Arts Andrea Michaels MP** said "At a time when South Australian films are shining on the world stage, this is an incredible opportunity for emerging local film makers to receive mentoring and support to develop their feature films with the winner to premiere at the Adelaide Film Festival in 2026. The Malinauskas Government is committed to supporting our film industry for the future, with previous winners enjoying remarkable success here at home and overseas demonstrating the program's ability to propel film makers in the early stages of their career forward."

Applications will be assessed on the originality and creative ambition of the project, the marketability and potential audience, the diversity of the key creative team and the potential for the project to be realised within the proposed budget.

Film Lab: New Voices has already proven to be an outstanding career escalator program with the first-round film, high-concept science fiction thriller ***Monolith*** by the creative team of writer **Lucy Campbell**, director **Matt Vesely** and producer **Bettina Hamilton**, making its mark on a global stage.

The film, starring Australian rising talent **Lily Sullivan**, was selected for top US indie film festival **SXSW**, South Korea's **Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival** and London's **FrightFest** following its world premiere at Adelaide Film Festival last year. Within Australia, ***Monolith*** was one of four nominees for the \$100,000 CinefestOz Film Prize, screened at the Gold Coast Film Festival and was called one of "ten must-see films" at the Melbourne International Film Festival by industry publication ScreenHub. Internationally the film has sold into the North America, UK and has already released in NZ. ***Monolith*** opens in Australian cinemas nationally on 26 October.

**Film Lab: New Voices 2** saw animation comedy ***Lesbian Space Princess*** greenlit for production. The film by writer/directors **Emma Hough Hobbs** and **Leela Varghese** and producer **Tom Phillips** is set to premiere at the Adelaide Film Festival in 2024.

**Film Lab: New Voices 3** is a low-budget lab and SAFC is helping potential applicants to prepare compelling applications by providing an online webinar on the SAFC website and promoting screenings of previous Film Lab films. All prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to see ***Monolith*** in cinemas this week, and are invited to a free screening of ***The Infinite Man*** (written and directed by Hugh Sullivan, and produced by Kate Croser and Sandy Cameron) on 2 November at the Mercury Cinema.

***The Infinite Man*** was selected to screen in the Visions program at SXSW in 2014, won the Silver Raven Jury Prize at the Brussels International Festival of Fantasy and the New Flesh (Best First Film) Award at Montreal's Fantasia Film Festival. The film was released in cinemas nationally in Australia,



and was nominated for a number of awards including the AACTA, SPA and Australian Film Critics Association Awards.

**CEO of the South Australian Film Corporation Kate Croser** said “Film Lab: New Voices is a talent escalator program designed to grow the number of key creatives or “Greenlighters”, in the South Australian screen community. Developing *The Infinite Man* through the original FilmLab remains one of the best creative experiences of my career, with the FilmLab model pushing the limits of the team to grow our capability in all the collaboration and creative problem-solving skills that are required for success in filmmaking. Film Lab: New Voices continues this successful model for low-budget feature film development, supporting the next generation of talented South Australian filmmakers.”

**CEO and Creative Director of the Adelaide Film Festival Mat Kesting** said “The phenomenal success of *Monolith* since its AFF world premiere last October demonstrates now incredibly strong this initiative is. *Monolith* has now come full circle and opens in cinemas nationally this week. The exciting and innovative Film Lab: New Voices 2 project, *Lesbian Space Princess*, will premiere at AFF2024, and we can’t wait to see the creativity coming through the submissions for Film Lab: New Voices 3, and look forward to premiering an original new South Australian work at AFF 2026. We are thrilled to be partnering again with the SAFC and Screen Australia on this important initiative.”

**Screen Australia Head of Development Bobby Romia** said “As we embark on the third round of Film Lab: New Voices, we’re thrilled to continue our journey of empowering emerging South Australian filmmakers to breathe life into their unique stories and take them to the big screen. This initiative is all about harnessing creativity, diversity, and innovation in the local industry and we’re genuinely excited to connect with and nurture the next generation of talented voices in South Australia.”

**Film Lab: New Voices 3** is now open for submissions with three teams to be selected to undergo an intensive 12-month industry mentoring program to develop a feature film script to be produced within an allocated budget. Industry mentors with expertise in low-budget filmmaking will guide the three teams through a rigorous skills development program. One project will be selected to move into production and the final film will premiere at the Adelaide Film Festival 2025.

Applications are open to teams with feature-length projects of any genre that demonstrate a strong authorial voice, authentic storytelling and independent spirit. Applications will be assessed on the originality and creative ambition of the project, the marketability and potential audience, the diversity of the key creative team and the potential for the project to be realised within the proposed budget.

For more information go to [safilm.com.au/industry-and-skills#filmlab](https://safilm.com.au/industry-and-skills#filmlab)

### **ABOUT FILM LAB: NEW VOICES**

The first round of Film lab: New Voices launched in 2020, co-funded by the South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC) and Adelaide Film Festival (AFF), and financial assistance from Screen Australia, as 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 \$600,000 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: First Nations filmmakers, female identifying writers and directors,



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 Film Lab 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 APPLICANTS – RESOURCES BEFORE APPLYING:**

- **Watch the free online video presentation – available to stream now.**  
Find out how to apply for the Film Lab: New Voices program from SAFC Industry Development and Training Executive Kath McIntyre and get tips from previous participants of the program.  
Watch online now at [safilm.com.au/industry-and-skills#filmlab](http://safilm.com.au/industry-and-skills#filmlab)
- **Attend a free screening of *The Infinite Man* plus Q&A with producer Sandy Cameron, followed by networking - Thursday 2 November, 6.00pm at Mercury Cinema.**  
Learn more about low budget film methodology, meet other creatives considering applying for the Film Lab: New Voices program and potentially form a creative team.  
Register your place via: <https://bit.ly/FilmLabInfiniteManScreening>
- **Attend a screening of *Monolith* – in cinemas from 26 October.**  
Find a cinema session at [flicks.com.au/movie/monolith](http://flicks.com.au/movie/monolith)
- Q&A event: Thursday 26 October at Victor Harbor: [book tickets](#)  
Q&A event: Sunday 29 October at Mt Barker: [book tickets](#)

#### **FOR MEDIA**

**DOWNLOAD IMAGES** relevant to this announcement: <https://bit.ly/45EgUsN>

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