

GUIDELINES

Film Lab: New Voices



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.

Film Lab: New Voices is co-funded by the South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC), Adelaide Film Festival (AFF) and Screen Australia.

What is on offer?

Film Lab: New Voices is a bold, ambitious, and creative program that will foster a new generation of key creatives and provide a tangible production and exhibition outcome.

The program will give three South Australian creative teams industry mentoring across a 12-month period to develop a low-budget feature film script which must be conceived and designed for the allocated budget. Industry mentors with expertise in low-budget filmmaking will guide the three teams through a rigorous skills development program.

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 2026. Teams are encouraged to be entrepreneurial, however they must obtain prior approval for any additional finance and re-investment support and be able to demonstrate that their films can be completed to a professional standard for the approved budget and timeframe.

Who is eligible?

The SAFC is seeking applications from early career writer, producer and director teams who are South Australian residents. Applicants are expected to have short film, web series or scripted narrative documentary credits and the team must be able to clearly demonstrate their ability to deliver the project to professional standards on schedule and within the allocated budget.

Applicants can learn about low budget film methodology and meet potential team members at a series of film screening and networking events being held across October and November 2023. Film Lab: New Voices is a low budget feature film program and the SAFC strongly suggests that applicants attend **at least one** of these screenings prior to submitting their application. Find out more in the "Helpful Resources" section of these guidelines.

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Applications must:

- Be from South Australian teams who own or have the option to acquire the rights to develop and produce the work.
- Include a key creative team (writer/director/producer) with at least one member from a group underrepresented in the South Australian screen industry.

Key creatives with prior feature film credits will be considered on a case-by- case basis.

The SAFC is committed to supporting increased participation of people from groups underrepresented in the South Australian screen industry including First Nations practitioners, female identifying writers and directors, 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.

In line with the SAFC's commitment to growing the First Nations screen sector, First Nations key creatives and creative teams are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants are encouraged to speak with SAFC Executive for First Nations Industry Development Tyme Childs tyme.childs@safilm.com.au

Who is not eligible?

- Key creatives from interstate are not eligible for this program.
- Key creatives who have previously participated in Film Lab: New Voices will not be eligible.

What projects are eligible?

Film Lab: New Voices is a program for new, feature-length projects of any genre that demonstrate a strong authorial voice, authentic storytelling and independent spirit.

Projects must be designed with consideration to the available low budget production funding and are expected to be wholly produced and post-produced in South Australia.

The SAFC and industry mentors will work with teams to further develop the production methodology to deliver within the project's approved budget.

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How will applications be assessed?

- The originality and creative ambition of the concept;
- The marketability and potential audience for the project as presented in the pitch documents;
- The overall quality of the pitch materials;
- The diversity of the key creative team;
- The authenticity of the storytelling;
- The track record of the writer, director and producer;
- The potential for the project to be realised within the proposed budget;
- The commitment of the applicants to engage in the Film Lab: New Voices development process and to work professionally and to a high technical standard within the budget.

How do I apply?

Applications can be made in the form of an Expression of Interest via the SAFC's online grants portal safilm.smartygrants.com.au. Teams can pitch up to three projects within a single application.

Applicants must discuss their application with the SAFC Production and Development Team prior to applying.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to pitch to an industry panel comprising SAFC, AFF, Screen Australia and industry representatives. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email. No late applications will be considered. Decisions on applications will be final.

Helpful resources

- **Film Lab: New Voices program information video**
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 at safilm.com.au/industry-and-skills#filmlab

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- **Film Lab: New Voices film screenings and meet-ups**
Learn about low budget filmmaking, meet other potential applicants and find a team for Film Lab: New Voices at one of several film screening and networking events being held across October and November, 2023. Film Lab: New Voices is a low budget feature film program and the SAFC strongly suggests that applicants attend at least one of these screenings prior to submitting their application:
 - **Thursday, 2 November** – the SAFC presents a FREE screening of *The Infinite Man* plus Q&A with producer Sandy Cameron
 - **From 26 October** – *Monolith*, in selected cinemas, some sessions include Q&A with the creative team (ticketed)

Go to safilm.com.au/industry-and-skills#filmlab for more details about these events and resources.

Important Dates

Expressions of Interest Open:	24 October, 2023
Film Lab: New Voices film screenings and meet-up events:	October/November, 2023 (see SAFC website for details)
Expressions of Interest close:	24 November, 2023
Shortlisted teams selected for interview:	February 2024
Confirmation of Film Lab: New Voices Teams:	February 2024
Development Phase:	March 2024 to March 2025
Pitching of projects:	April 2025
Final Project moves into production:	August 2025
Marketing materials made available to Adelaide Film Festival:	July 2026
Delivery to Adelaide Film Festival:	September 2026
World Premiere:	October 2026

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Application Materials

- A completed Film Lab: New Voices application form via Smarty Grants.
- A maximum 2-page pitch document for each project submitted which includes project logline, one paragraph synopsis (no longer than 1/3 page), genre, format, audience, potential market pathways and the team's vision for the film.
- Statement of creative team's proposed low budget methodology for each submitted project (maximum 1-page each).
- A Mood Board to support the 2- page pitch document
- Curriculum vitae of all principals named in the team (maximum 2 pages each).
- One paragraph biography for all principals named in the team (for publicity purposes).
- A 8-10 page sample of screenwriting
- Evidence of chain of title.
- Examples/links to previous work

Funding Conditions

The SAFC will provide funding as a grant.

The SAFC will only contract with the copyright holder(s). Transfer of copyright is a matter for the applicants, not the SAFC.

The program will not require projects to attach a Completion Guarantor.

Please refer to the SAFC's [Terms of Trade](#) Statement of Expectation regarding requirements on engaging with crew and other third parties. Reporting requirements will be stated in the relevant agreements.

Projects successful in the development stages must enter into a Development Grant Agreement (DGA) with the SAFC and approved projects are subject to SAFC terms and conditions.

The final project that is selected for production must enter into separate agreements with the SAFC, Adelaide Film Festival (AFF) and Screen Australia will be subject to SAFC, AFF and Screen Australia terms and conditions.

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SAFC Terms of Trade

The South Australian Film Corporation's (SAFC) [Terms of Trade](#) provide the framework for how the SAFC conducts its business and generally align with Screen Australia's Terms of Trade. Before you apply, please make sure you are familiar with the SAFC's Terms of Trade.

SAFC Commitment to Access, Diversity & Inclusion

The SAFC is committed to supporting increased participation in the screen industry by people from under-represented groups including First Nations practitioners, female writers and directors, practitioners from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, Deaf or disabled practitioners, practitioners from LGBTQIA+ communities and practitioners from regional and remote areas.

SAFC recognises that barriers may prevent practitioners from underrepresented groups from accessing our programs.

For a confidential discussion about your individual circumstances and/or access needs, please contact the Production and Development Team at programs@safilm.com.au 08 8394 2029 or via the National Relay Service.

Where can I find out more?

Contact SAFC Executive for Industry Development and Training Kath McIntyre on 08 8394 2008 or email kath.mcintyre@safilm.com.au