



DOCUMENTARY

Development & Production Program 2010
in association with



SCREEN
AUSTRALIA



Screen Queensland

QPIX acknowledges the financial assistance of these two agencies

We are calling for TV-half-hour documentary concepts (plus treatments where available) for development and production in 2010. A number of concepts and treatments will be selected to participate in a development program and up to 7 x TV half-hours will then be selected for production. If a strong series idea begins to emerge from the collection of submitted concepts QPIX may elect to develop the separate concepts into a unified series.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Scripts will be selected for development on a mix of criteria which include the following:

- Feasibility for production under the program given the limited resources & set timeframes
- Access and proof of access
- Rights to story and materials
- Story, the coherence of the narrative, characterisation, and structure
- Imaginative content and design
- Capacity to secure broadcaster involvement with the project at the commissioning level, or at least as an acquisition.
- Capacity of projected team members
- The stipulations below focused on bringing in Indigenous writers, regional writers and writers from a non-English-speaking background

While multiple-platform drama projects are also encouraged (*see below*) this is not a selection criterion. No concept of treatment will be disadvantaged if it does not have a multiple-platform component or approach.

Story Types & Themes

Naturally all documentary concepts and stories will be welcomed by QPIX, however in 2010 we are particularly interested in concepts and stories based in the broad thematic area of **SCIENCE**.

Environmental Theme

Writers are advised that we will be seeking to select one documentary for development & production that carries this theme, depending on quality. The theme means stories which imply or sit within a broad context of themes that relate to the planet, the environment, climate change and related matters.

Indigenous Writers

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander writers are advised that we will be seeking a minimum of one documentary from them for development and production, but if the concepts and stories are strong and the other criteria based on feasibility and related matters are in place, we will make as many as we think will work. QPIX has followed this practice from the beginning but are here making it formal.

Writers from a Non-English Speaking Background

Writers from a non-English speaking background are advised that we will be seeking a minimum of one documentary from them for development and production, but if the concepts and stories are strong and the other criteria based on feasibility and related matters are in place, we will make as many as we think will work. QPIX has followed this practice from the beginning but are here making it formal.

Regional Writers

Writers from regional Queensland (and this also includes the near-metropolitan regions such as the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast) are advised that we will be seeking a minimum of one documentary from them for development and production, but if the concepts and stories are strong and

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Multiple Platform

QPIX is seeking a minimum of documentary or hybrid project that is in its essence multiple-platform, in the way it is conceived, scripted, designed and the way the writer envisages it will be distributed and/or broadcast. It can contain or include any or even all of the above themes, or none of them. This 1 project will receive an additional "seed" cash budget of \$4,000 for production.

DEVELOPMENT

Projects will be selected by a supervising team comprising QPIX working as Executive Producer, a Supervising Producer (SP) and a Development Producer.

The selection process will be based on synopsis and/or treatments of concepts. Multiple platform projects will also be expected to provide additional materials relating to production technologies, distribution platforms, and would be assisted by provision of some visual materials or information.

Concepts related materials MUST be unencumbered by option agreements to a producer. However, it is understood that a producer may have expressed interest in the script and this should be noted separately in your application. These producers will be considered for the role. (*See details below on Producers & Directors*).

To ensure that the development and production process is completed satisfactorily, QPIX will option & purchase the rights to the selected projects for the period of development and production. Some projects will receive a certain amount of development but will not be selected to continue. The rights will automatically revert back to the writer should the project not be selected for any further stages of development or not selected for production. Where projects are selected for production, the rights will be assigned to the producer on full delivery of the film and its supporting documentation to QPIX. The details of these delivery obligations are scheduled in the production contract.

The development process will be guided and mentored by the Development Producer. Script development will include one-on-one discussions with the Development Producer and the development of the script over a number of drafts and revisions via email. The Development Producer will provide constructive re-drafting notes throughout the development process. QPIX, the SP and the producing team will also offer developmental advice and direction, especially on matters relating to the feasibility of producing the script within the framework of available resources.

The treatment may be further refined once the entire production team come on board.

The supervising team will choose up to 7 projects for production from the short listed projects that have successfully completed the development process.

PRODUCTION

The production process will be guided and mentored by the SP.

Projects will be finally selected for production with a continuing focus on the above selection criteria and on how developed the projects have become.

Following the selection of up to 7 projects QPIX and the SP will select a Producer if one is not presented with the project, but it can be expected that the applicant is the Producer. To provide an opportunity for producers to expand their skill base they will work under the guidance of QPIX and the SP through the development process and through the entire production process. QPIX reserves the right to attend shoots during production, and to view and provide notes on various stages of edit and other post-production processes.

The producer will work with QPIX and the SP in choosing a director. The final selection decision will remain with QPIX, the SP and the Producer. The producer and director will work together with QPIX and the SP to crew the production.

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The aim of the production slate is to develop and produce up to 7 documentaries of as high a quality as possible, and to target broadcasters as well as other audience and distribution opportunities.

Completed films & supporting documentation MUST be delivered by the date set for it by QPIX in contract.

WHO CAN APPLY

Applications will only be accepted from writers who, if their script is selected, agree to become a QPIX member. All key creatives and Heads of Department must also become members of QPIX prior to production being finally "greenlit" and must be resident and professionally based in Queensland.

Writers MUST submit a minimum of 3 scripts concepts, with separate Application forms FOR EACH CONCEPT.

WHAT YOU GET

As the writer, you will gain a period of intensive script development with an experienced script editor, and if the script is selected for production, you will gain a significant screen credit, and ideally, a broadcast outcome.

WHAT YOUR PRODUCTION TEAM WILL GET

Details of what the production receives include:

- Digital field kit including camera, accessories, plus sound, lighting & some grip equipment
- Editing facilities (mandatory for rough cut period)
- A "seed" cash budget
- Public Liability Insurance
- The above developmental support
- QPIX will provide hosting services for the producer's film websites, and syndication services for producer's work-in-progress podcasts (audio & video). These will be accessible under subscription by those with internet-enabled mobile phones.

NOTE: In 2010, QPIX will provide the documentaries with seed cash budgets of \$3,000. If the multiple platform project selected is a documentary, it will also receive an additional \$4,000 to facilitate those elements.

WHAT YOU NEED TO PROVIDE WHEN APPLYING

An application will be in the form of a project package which will consist of:

- Synopsis (1 paragraph) x 3 copies
- Scene Breakdown/Treatment (1 to 2 pages) x 3 copies (This can be a hybrid of both forms)
- Script (at any draft stage) x 3 copies
- Film history/CV of the applicant (if applicable) x 3 copies
- DVD show reel / supporting material (If applicable)
- Completed application form (signed & dated) x 3 copies

WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO SIGN IF YOUR PROJECT IS SELECTED

To ensure that the development and production process is completed satisfactorily writers (including those applying as writer/directors) whose projects are selected will need to sign an agreement with QPIX. In broad terms the agreement states the following:

- That QPIX holds the rights to the project for the duration of the development and production process. The rights will automatically revert back to the writer should the project not be selected for any further stages of development or not selected for production. Where projects are selected for production, the rights will be assigned to the producer on full delivery of the film and its supporting documentation to QPIX.
- That if a certain approach to the script is strongly recommended by the supervising development team, the writer is to write the new draft requested, but for review only. There will be no obligation on the writer or QPIX for that new draft or version to be the one accepted for

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production, and the writer will be free to present their own version for consideration for final production.

- If a writer cannot engage with the advice of the supervising development team they can expect the team to elect to abandon the script. Time and resources are always most oppressing in this period.

PRODUCERS & DIRECTORS

QPIX has available Application forms for Producers & Directors who wish to be considered for involvement in the 2010 slate. Producers may also note their preferences for Heads of Department and other Key Crew but there are no guarantees as to the composition of the final production team. All those interested in roles in the 2010 slate should contact QPIX to ensure their names and details are lodged with our CREW LINK service.

CONCEPT PRESENTATION FORMATS

There are a range of formats commonly used in the industry and for additional information on this see the following websites – www.screenqueensland.com.au (Fact Sheets in the Funding Guidelines section of the website) and <http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/documents/SA - publications>

APPLICATIONS DEADLINE 19th MARCH

Results by 30th April

Email applications will NOT BE ACCEPTED – hard copy applications ONLY

ADDITIONAL NOTES

All applications must be for documentary productions. Dramas will not be considered under this program (see *QPIX Documentary Development & Production Program 2010*), but creative interlacing of both forms is naturally not only acceptable but could draw strong interest.

The QPIX Documentary Development & Production Program is a Queensland program. To be eligible, applicants must be resident and professionally based in Queensland.

No correspondence over the decisions made by the QPIX team will be entered into.

*QPIX and its partners reserve the right to amend the Guidelines as required.
Applicants are encouraged to contact QPIX if they require clarification.
QPIX development & production programs are funding dependent.*

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