



SHORT DRAMA

Development & Production Program 2010
in association with



Screen Queensland

QPIX acknowledges the financial assistance of these two agencies

We are calling for short film drama scripts for development and production in 2010. A number of scripts will be selected to participate in a development program and up to 9 scripts (around 10 minutes in length) will then be selected for production. An additional script call is being made under the Screen Australia/QPIX RAW NERVE Program. (See *separate Guidelines and Application Form*). Writers wishing to apply for both are required to fill out separate Application Forms for each script.

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
- Story, the coherence of the narrative, characterisation, and structure
- Imaginative content and design
- Capacity to engage audiences, compete at significant festivals and to penetrate markets
- 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 script will be disadvantaged if it is not inherently a multiple-platform project.

Applicants may wish to consider the advantages of including the 2010 TROPFEST signature item "KEY". Applicants should bear in mind that TROPFEST films are limited to 7 minutes.

Story Types & Themes

Naturally all stories will be welcomed by QPIX. We also always encourage writers to think of working on genre pieces because of their ability to cut through for the widest audiences. In 2010 we are also interested in stories based around a broad theme. It is not a criterion for selection, just a suggestion.

City

By this we mean stories which imply or sit within a broad context of themes that relate to cities and related matters. It may be from within a city, or from the country yearning for a city, or in a city yearning for the country, or in the country hating or fearing the city, or love in a city, and so on. We think this theme is almost inexhaustible. As above we strongly advise against taking this theme literally unless the story remains character- and event-driven and the theme emerges naturally within the story. However, in this case, cities do also have some claim over becoming a kind of character in some stories.

Environmental Theme

Writers are advised that we will be seeking to select one short drama 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. We strongly advise against taking this theme literally unless the story remains character-driven and event-driven, and the theme emerges naturally within the story. It need only operate metaphorically, and will usually work far better that way. A vampire story or a love story can still carry strong environmental themes under their surfaces.

Indigenous Writers

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander writers are advised that we will be selecting a minimum of one short drama from them for development and production, but if the 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 reserves the right to make all final decisions
and no correspondence will be entered into.

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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 short drama from them for development and production, but if the 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.

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 selecting a minimum of one short drama from them for development and production, but if the 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.

Multiple Platform

QPIX is seeking a minimum of 1 drama or 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 supervising writer/script editor.

The selection process will be based on SCRIPTS ONLY, not just synopses or treatments. Multiple platform projects are expected to provide additional materials relating to production technologies, distribution platforms, and would be assisted by provision of visual materials or information.

Scripts and script 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 scripts 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 Supervising Writer/Script Editor. Script development will include one-on-one discussions with the Supervising Writer/Script Editor and the development of the script over a number of drafts and revisions via email. The Supervising Writer/Script Editor 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 script may be further refined once the entire production team come on board.

The supervising team will choose up to 9 scripts for production from the short listed projects that have successfully completed the development process.

Projects not chosen for production in the program for 2010 may be approached by QPIX for production in other programs.

PRODUCTION

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

Scripts will be selected for production on a mix of criteria, as far as they can be predicted, which include the following (*not a comprehensive listing*):

- Feasibility for production under the program given the limited resources & set timeframes
- Story, the coherence of the narrative, characterisation, and structure

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- Capacity to engage audiences, compete at significant festivals and to penetrate markets
- Capacity of projected team members

Following the selection of up to 9 scripts QPIX and the SP will select a 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 as they come on board, and through the entire production process. QPIX reserves the right to visit set or location 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. Writers wishing to fill multiple roles (eg writer/director) can put their names forward into QPIX's Crew Link listings under their proposed roles, but 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 cast and crew the film. In certain cases, an industry group may become involved and select key individuals (eg DOP's).

The aim of the production slate is to produce 9 short dramas of as high a quality as possible, and to target major national and international festivals, 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 may submit up to 3 scripts ONLY, with separate Application forms FOR EACH SCRIPT.

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.

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 in the Short Drama program, QPIX will provide a tiered system of seed cash budgets – most will receive \$3,000, some \$5,000, and up to 2 may be selected for \$15,000. The multiple platform project could attract any one of these levels of support, but will also receive an additional \$4,000.

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

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WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO SIGN IF YOUR PROJECT IS SELECTED

To ensure that the development and production process is completed satisfactorily writers 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 production, and the writers 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.

SCRIPT PRESENTATION FORMATS

All drama scripts MUST be presented in the standard formats: see 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/IG/SuggScriptLayout.pdf>

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 short drama productions. Documentaries 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 Short Drama 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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