

NOVA INTERNATIONAL –

Australia's new international low-budget feature project

WHAT IS NOVA INTERNATIONAL?

NOVA INTERNATIONAL is Australia's first international low-budget feature development and production program offered by a screen development centre and a major distributor.

QPIX and MAGNA PACIFIC believe this program will uncover breakthrough material for world markets, and develop the best new Australian and international talent.

This is the new model for the new industry – **NOVA INTERNATIONAL**.

WHAT DO WE WANT?

First we want a treatment. Then we want scripts, unencumbered by contract to a producer or other party.

WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THE SCRIPTS?

We will develop the best scripts, and where possible, facilitate their production.

We will select those the **NOVA INTERNATIONAL** Team believe have a chance of succeeding in the market, secure the option over those scripts, and develop them in our Laboratories.

A script that moves successfully through the Laboratory system will be matched to a Producer and in a cascade from there, also with the other key members of crew, following QPIX's usual development and production process. The Producer will as usual work under contract to QPIX.

The budget requirements of scripts will be fine-tuned by the Team in collaboration with the Producer to an optimum low-budget level, and QPIX will work with the Producer and the Supervising Producer on securing the relevant investment and funding. Where it judges it is necessary, QPIX will adjust its position with reference to other incoming stakeholders and their level of investment.

Break-out scripts that are judged to have potential for significant success, will be facilitated forward through this same process into the appropriate budget level.

SCRIPT GUIDELINES

For this first call, writers should bear in mind some of the following characteristics when preparing their scripts, though there will always be exceptions:

The **NOVA INTERNATIONAL** team are **NOT** looking for:

- Creature, splatter, horror, zombie
- Adventure, or hardware-based thrillers
- Significant use of armoury, explosives, animals, car or other vehicle chases, water, or special effects and CGI.
- Australiana (necessarily)

The **NOVA INTERNATIONAL** team **ARE** looking for:

- Cutting-edge or quirky “art-house” drama
- Comedy or romantic comedy
- Universal stories about people and relationships
- Thrillers
- Small casts, limited locations
- Low fx or no fx science fiction & supernatural if they are stories based around people and relationships

It is intended ALL films will be shot & finished digitally. Strong scripts that are successful in moving forward to higher budgets may be able to move onto celluloid capture.

All scripts must be presented in the standard formats – there are a wide variety of references for this, including the AFC website – www.afc.gov.au

A feature is normally around 90 mins in duration.

Scripts and accompanying paperwork **MUST** be in English.

NOVA INTERNATIONAL is a low-budget feature production initiative. Low budget is a principle that can be used to guide and assist the writer in the sense that it requires compression and distillation of ideas, and a reliance on performance and story rather than hardware and effects. “Low budget” should therefore be regarded as a highly prized asset, as well as a deliberate focus.

SELECTION PROCESS

- The first assessment deadline has been extended to the **18th May 2007 for all applicants**. Scripts will be accepted throughout that period, but that is the last date for acceptance for this first call. Please see APPLICATION CHECKLIST for Stage One applications.
- After Stage One is complete, we will contact those whom we require scripts from. An industry panel that will include at least one experienced drama producer, representatives of MAGNA PACIFIC and QPIX, will read these selected scripts. This is the **NOVA INTERNATIONAL** team. Scripts that in the opinion of the **NOVA INTERNATIONAL** team cannot work in the market will not be picked up. Applicants should allow at least 2 months for the Team to complete this process.
- Applicants are discouraged from lodging incomplete scripts or early drafts.
- When a script is selected, QPIX will take the option over the script as a first step.
- Once a script is selected and optioned, it will be developed within the QPIX script Laboratory process under the guidance of MAGNA PACIFIC, the **NOVA INTERNATIONAL** team, and as the development moves on, also the producer and incoming key members of the production teams, such as the Director.
- The budget allocated to the development of these scripts will not be large, but it will depend on the market potential of the script.

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GUIDELINES
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- Some scripts may be diverted into a Trailer/Pilot making process instead of full production, and the **NOVA INTERNATIONAL** team and other stakeholders reserve the right to make this decision.
- **NOVA INTERNATIONAL** is a commercial project, but the **NOVA INTERNATIONAL** team will remain focussed at all times on bringing the best of our independent Queensland filmmakers forward into key creative, technical and administrative roles in production. Those roles will not however be appointed exclusively from Queensland.
- The call for scripts is international, so internationally-based writers must be able to participate in the development process on-line, and a number of separate criteria will apply to this process. They will be outlined on a case-by-case basis.
- The projects will be filmed wholly, or primarily, in Australia.
- There are no guarantees that any scripts will be produced, and there are no guarantees about the scale of investments.
- The eventual investment in successful **NOVA INTERNATIONAL** scripts will depend on their market potential.
- All decisions by the **NOVA INTERNATIONAL** team are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

APPLICATIONS CHECKLIST

Applications to **NOVA INTERNATIONAL** will follow 3 stages.

Application - STAGE 1

The Stage 1 Application must consist of

- Application Form (download from website or call and have faxed or posted to you)
- Script synopsis (around 5 lines – one paragraph)
- Outline Treatment (up to around 5 pages)
- Filmography / Writing History (of published or produced work) / CV
- Any additional materials required from time to time, or which in your judgement could help the Team assess your capacity to deliver (eg showreel DVD's)
- Do NOT send your script at this stage

Application -STAGE 2

If the Team select your script for a full reading, you must supply to the QPIX address the following:

- 4 hard copies of the script, separately bound in the standard manner, within around 1 week for national entries, and 2 weeks for international entries. Some allowance can be made for significant distance of the writer from this city and for geographical isolation. If a distance-related delay for script delivery is expected, a courtesy phone call or email communication to that effect would be appropriate – long delay in supply could disqualify the script, or place it into a following round for re-consideration.

Application -STAGE 3

If the Team select your script for development you will be informed and begin the development process either face-to-face or online with the supervising producer.

Contact QPIX qpix@qpix.org.au, or 61-7-3392 2633
QPIX- 33a Logan Rd Woolloongabba QLD 4102 AUSTRALIA

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