

Script Hot House

A new development programme for writers

write2screen - the Creative England-funded network connecting writers and film-makers in the East of England - is launching a development programme for screen writers throughout the Eastern region with support from Creative England.

The aim: To identify new writers with a distinctive voice and an ability to write for the big screen.

write2screen will offer 12 promising writers advice and mentoring from industry experts to develop their feature scripts, and then help the very best talent access decision-makers and producers.

We are particularly interested in attracting writers who may be working in another form such as novelists, dramatists, and creative non-fiction writers who have not written for the screen before – as well as new screenwriters.

The submission process:

Send us the story outline for your feature film with a sample of your writing by **Friday 2 August**, along with an entry fee of £15. The writing sample - 10 pages – can be from a screenplay, short story, play or novel.

Stage 1 – We work with 12 writers to develop their feature script idea

A team of experienced script readers and script editors will select 12 writers to work with. Firstly, we will invite the 12 selected writers to attend an intensive Screenwriting Hot House Day, where they will receive individual story development feedback, and guidance to prepare them for writing the first 30 pages of their screenplay. Then, the selected 12 writers will submit the first 30 pages of their script for assessment and feedback.

Stage 2 – We work with 6 writers to completion of their feature script

From the group of 12 we will select the 6 projects which we feel have the most promise and development potential. These writers will be 'hot housed' through the writing of the rest of their screenplay over the next two months. We will hold another Screenwriting Hot House Day, inviting industry professionals we feel could be of most benefit to the selected projects, and hold one-to-one sessions to guide writers as they embark on the rest of their scripts. The selected 6 writers will submit their finished feature film scripts by early January 2014.

Stage 3 – We select 3 scripts and help writers present them to industry

From the 6 submitted feature film scripts, we will choose up to 3 scripts for presentation to the industry executives and established filmmakers who have pledged support to our programme.

What we are looking for: Compelling stories and original voices in any genre, aimed at any venue, from the arthouse to the multiplex.

Deadlines and timetable:

The deadline for submissions is Friday 2nd August 2013.

- 12 writers attend a Screenwriting Hot House Day in Norwich during week of **16 September**.
- 12 writers submit the first 30 pages of their screenplay by **25 October**.
- All 12 writers will receive written feedback on their scripts by **15 November**.
- 6 writers attend a second Screenwriting Hot House Day during **late November**.
- 6 writers complete their feature film scripts by **10 January 2014**.
- Up to 3 scripts are selected in **January 2014** to present to industry gatekeepers and producers.

Eligibility: Submissions are invited from writers resident in the East of England (that is the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex) or with another strong and specific connection to the region within the last 5 years which can be evidenced (i.e. having been a student at a recognised institution in the region). You must be over 18 and not in full time education.

Selection Criteria: We are particularly interested in attracting writers who may already be working in another form: dramatists and novelists and non-fiction writers who have not written for the screen before, as well as new screen writers seeking support, opinion or mentoring. write2screen assessors will choose projects for development based on a variety of factors, which may include originality and cinematic potential in addition to subjective assessments of quality and effectiveness.

Rules:

- Submissions must be in English.
- Screenplays should be un-produced and not already funded or subject to any awards.
- Submission to the programme is a warranty that the work submitted is your own.
- The assessors make decisions in good faith and such decisions are final
- You can submit more than one idea, but each submission carries the fee.
- Please avoid adaptations of source material in copyright unless you own the rights or you can demonstrate that all relevant rights and permissions have been obtained.

How to submit:

If you are interested in this opportunity you need to send 3 documents to info@write2screen.org.uk:

- An outline of your story in no more than 500 words.
- A sample of 10 pages of your writing; screenplay, drama or other fiction.
- A short CV which should include contact information (email /telephone) demonstrate how you meet our eligibility criteria (residency or other basis) and note all relevant experience and writing credits - whether published / produced or not.

These 3 documents must also be sent in hard copy together with a cheque for £15 payable to 'write2screen c/o Wavelength Films Ltd' to:
Wavelength Films, The Royal, 25 Bank Plain, Norwich NR24SJ
by 5.30pm on 2 August 2013.