

The National Pitch Competition 2011 - Application Guidelines

Represent Australia at the MPA CICE Film Workshop in Beijing 2011.

The Motion Picture Association [MPA] Asia Pacific partners with the China International Copyright Expo [CICE] to host the MPA-CICE Film Workshop in Beijing this December.

Only one Australian will participate in this unique opportunity, and to get there you need to win The National Pitch 2011 brought to you by Screen Development Australia [SDA].

For your chance to compete in The National Pitch you must first win your state based competition.

State based competitions are held by Screen Development Australia [SDA], which includes Metro Screen [NSW], Media Resource Centre [SA], Open Channel [VIC], Film and Television Institute [WA], QPIX [OLD] and Wide Angle Tasmania [TAS].

The MRC is hosting the SA state final of the National Pitch competition at the Mercury Cinema on **Tuesday 20th September from 6pm.**

A pitching information session will be held at the Mercury on **12th September from 6pm – 7pm.** Deadline for applications is **4pm on Wed 14th September.**



The SA winner will then be flown to Sydney to pitch their project in The National Pitch on **12th October at The Chauvel Cinema**, with a chance to represent Australia at Beijing in December.

What is the MPA CICE Film Workshop Beijing 2011:

This workshop brings together senior international, Chinese film industry professionals and emerging filmmakers from across the Asia/Pacific region to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on the craft, business and technology of filmmaking. The workshop also provides an opportunity for filmmakers to develop their careers, build networks and potentially collaborate on new projects. Similar competitions are being held to select the representatives from the 13 other territories in the Asia Pacific. On the second day of the workshop a pitching competition is held with this years prize is yet to be announced.

Past workshop success:

The workshop has been providing stepping-stones and career development for emerging filmmakers for the past five years. In 2006, emerging filmmaker Xue Xiaolu, participated in the workshops pitching competition and won a trip to the US to meet studio executives. Last year, her film 'Ocean Heaven', starring Jet Li, produced by Bill Kong, with cinematographer Christopher Doyle, opened in a number of territories to critical acclaim. It opened the Shanghai International Film Festival in 2010 and Xue Xiaolu was named Emerging Talent of the Year at CineAsia, the region's premiere movie convention in Hong Kong.

How to apply:





State finalists will be given the opportunity to pitch their project, their slate and themselves, to a panel of screen professionals at their state's finals competition. The industry panel at the events will select overall state representatives to compete in the National Pitch competition.

SA champion wins:

The opportunity to represent their respective state at The National Pitch. Return flights to Sydney will be covered by the MRC.

National champion wins:

The title of Australian representative at the Beijing workshop, return flight from your capital city to Beijing, accommodation for three nights in Beijing and workshop registration. Please note: incidentals are the winner's responsibility.

Important dates for SA applicants:

Information session	12 th Sept (6pm, Mercury Cinema)
Application deadline	14 th Sept by 4pm (MRC)
Applicants notified	15 th Sept
SA Pitch competition	20 th Sept (Mercury Cinema)
The National Pitch	12 th Oct (Sydney)
Film Workshop	1 st and 2 nd December (Beijing)

Who is eligible?

- Applicants must be residents of South Australia and Permanent Resident of Australia, MRC members, 18 years +, and have least one screened credit at a recognised film festival (see list at end of document).
- This is NOT an entry-level initiative. For your team to be eligible, **both the Producer and Director must be 'establishing' or 'established'**



filmmakers. You need to have a solid track record and have created a body of work in film production.

- While only one person will be performing the pitch, there must be a full team of writer, producer, director behind the project.
- This is **NOT** an entry-level initiative. For your team to be eligible, **both the Producer and Director must be 'establishing' filmmakers.** You need to have a solid track record and have created a body of work in film production.
- The pitch will be assessed on its own creative merits regardless of the Writer's previous production credits. A script is not required, but you should be able to provide a decent synopsis.
- The applicant must be the originator of the screenplay, the holder of the copyright, or have an option on all relevant rights in the project and must be able to deal in the rights for the project to be able to make any application. The producer will be required to provide full Chain of Title documents.
- The applicant **MUST** be available to attend the National Pitch event on **12 Oct** and the Beijing workshop on **1-2 December 2011**. Applicants must be prepared to obtain relevant travel documents, including passport.
- Anyone who is in default of any contractual obligations to the SAFC or MRC is not eligible.
- Applicants must discuss their application MRC's Manager of Programs and Development prior to submitting.

Selection criteria.

- Strength and **originality** of pitch idea as a dramatic feature film.
- Understanding of chosen genre and your **market**.
- Demonstration of how participation in this workshop will advance your career.
- Be ready to make the leap to feature length work.
- Demonstration that you have produced a body of work and are committed to a screen career.

Application Materials

1. Log line, one paragraph, one page synopsis of your pitch project.
2. Written proposal outlining how you meet the above Selection Criteria (750 words max)
3. Brief filmography outlining festival screenings, prizes and awards and relevant industry experience of all team members.
4. Short written reference from an industry professional supporting your application (1 page max).
5. A showreel of Writer, Producer and Director's previous work.
6. A brief outline of a current project or current slate that includes a long form drama (200 words max.)

LIST OF RECOGNISED FILM FESTIVALS

- Academy Awards
- Adelaide Film Festival
- Annecy International Animated Film Festival
- Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival (IDFA)
- Aspen Shortsfest
- BAFTAs
- Berlin International Film Festival
- Brisbane International Film Festival
- Cannes Film Festival
- Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival
- Dendy Awards, Sydney
- Dungog Film Festival
- Edinburgh International Film Festival
- Flickerfest, Sydney
- Frameline, San Francisco
- Guangzhou International Documentary Film Festival
- Hiroshima International Animation Festival [IAFH]
- Hong Kong International Film Festival
- Hot Docs - Canadian International Documentary Festival
- Hamburg International Short Film Festival
- imagineNATIVE Film Festival, Toronto
- I've Seen Films International Film Festival, Milan
- Karlovy Vary International Film Festival
- Locarno International Film Festival
- London Film Festival
- Los Angeles Film Festival
- Melbourne International Film Festival
- Melbourne Queer Film Festival
- Message Sticks Indigenous Film festival, Sydney
- NewFest Film Festival, New York
- Oberhausen International Short Film Festival
- Ottawa International Animation Festival
- Outfest The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festival
- Palm Springs International Film Festival
- Palm Springs International Shortfest
- Pusan International Film Festival
- Revelation Perth International Film Festival
- Rhode Island Film Festival
- Rotterdam International Film Festival
- San Sebastian International Film Festival
- Seoul Intl Cartoon Animation Festival
- Sheffield International Documentary Festival
- Shorts Film Festival, Adelaide
- SilverDocs Washington
- Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film
- Singapore International Film Festival
- South by Southwest Film Festival
- Sundance Film Festival
- Sydney Film Festival
- Sydney Mardi Gras Film Festival
- St Kilda Film Festival
- Telluride Film Festival
- Toronto International Film Festival
- Tribeca Film Festival
- Tropfest, Sydney
- Venice International Film Festival
- Wildscreen
- Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival