

Raw Nerve 2010 – Entry Level Short Film Initiative

Application Guidelines

Aim

This initiative aims **to assist entry-level filmmakers** to develop and produce engaging, entertaining short films of up to 15 minutes in length in any genre.

Who is eligible?

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the MRC's ***Script Structure & Character Development Seminar*** at the Raw Nerve launch on Jan 29 (your script will be better for it!) This year we intend to shortlist six teams to participate in an intensive and structured four week development phase consulting with the MRC developers. Of the six projects supported with development, four will then be green-lit for \$4,000 cash and \$2,500 in-kind production investment.
- Applicants must be residents of South Australia, MRC or AWG members and 18 years +.
- 'Entry level' is defined as a filmmaker who, in the role in which they are applying, has never had any work commissioned for television, screened competitively at a non-student festival (excluding SASA), nor received project funding from the MRC or a state or federal film agency.
- Prior attendance at MRC, AFTRS or AWG courses will be favourably considered.
- Filmmakers who have been assisted with a production subsidy to produce a film through one of the MRC's MPG production initiatives are strongly encouraged to apply.
- The applicant must be the originator of the script, 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.
- We encourage teams but will accept applications from new writers who do not as yet have a production team attached to their project. If a writer's script is successful in being shortlisted for the development phase, MRC will assist the writer in optioning their script and help them attach a Producer and Director to their project early in this process.
- Applications seeking post-production funding only are ineligible.
- Anyone who is in default of any contractual obligations to the SAFC or MRC is not eligible for funding.

Application Materials

1. Completed Application Form

Available from MRC or download from www.mrc.org.au

2. Production-ready script

Please ensure your script is formatted according to industry standards, does not exceed 15 pages and includes the following information on the cover page:

- the name or working title of the project
- writer's name, address and all contact details
- relevant copyright holder and contact details (if not the writer)
- draft number
- date

Please contact the MRC or the AWG if you require any information on script formatting or presentation.

3. Story Concept

In one to two sentences, describe your story in the following way:

It's a story about(description of your protagonist/hero)
who wants to(your hero's goal in the story)
but(your hero's problem/obstacle)
so he/she(your hero's plan to overcome obstacle)
and then.....(what happens; how the story unfolds)

Your 'pitch' should be written in such a way that it should make readers want to know more about your story. If you can't describe your film in this way, then you should probably consider rethinking the structure of your story and/or your hero's journey.

4. Story Synopsis

In no more than one page describe your story in terms of the themes you are exploring through action and character. This is not the plot of the story! Don't merely tell us what happens in your story but focus on what your story is about... your message... your 'controlling idea'. **What it is that you as a writer that want to say to an audience with this project.**

The story synopsis brings out the dramatic issue at the heart of your story, keeps a clear eye on what's at stake for your characters and gives us an understanding of how and why your story will engage with an audience.

5. Producer's Statement

Confirm in this one page statement an understanding of the genre of your film and pitch to us **why the themes in your film will resonate with an audience.** Outline how your take on these themes is novel and fresh. Discuss your production methodology and give us confidence you can deliver the film within the time and budget available.

Include information about who you intend to work with on this production and how their skills will contribute to the outcome. Include information as to what it is about this story that makes it worth telling and in career terms, how it fits within your career path and that of your team.

6. Director's Treatment

In no more than one page, outline your project and how it will be realised. Talk to your stylistic intent for the material and how you will approach the storytelling, both visually and from a performance point of view. Discuss how this film fits into your career trajectory and why it is an important story for you to tell. What is your passion for the material, why are you the right person to tell it, why is this story relevant and why now?

7. CVs (and showreels where applicable)

Producer, Writer and/or Director. CVs must be no longer than two pages.

Filmmakers who are shortlisted for development will also need to supply the following documentation when they submit their shooting script for consideration for production funding...

8. Chain of Title Documents

Agreements clearly confirming that the Writer is the sole owner of copyright in the script and that it is an original work. Furthermore that the Writer grants to the Producer the Option to acquire certain rights in the work for the purposes of producing a film and exploiting that film in the marketplace. There will also need to be an agreement between the Director and the Producer in which the Director assigns all their rights in their work on the script to the Producer. These contractual agreements can be obtained from either the MRC or AWG.

9. A-Z Budget, Quotes, Deal Memo's

The Producer needs to convince us that the team is all on the page and there is a plan; an appropriate methodology that will enable the film to be beautifully realised within the parameters of the available investment and schedule.

The Producer will need to negotiate with equipment and facilities providers and **supply their quotes**, which are reflected in the budget. Similarly HOD's will need to be contracted and **deal memo's supplied** which confirm the agreed rates (or donation of their time at no cost) for their work on the film as budgeted.

10. Marketing Strategy

Considered plan prioritizing the sort of festivals which the filmmakers feel may be receptive to screening their film and why.

Please forward **5 copies** of all application materials to:

Media Resource Centre
13 Morphett Street
Adelaide SA 5000
by **5.00pm Friday Feb 19, 2010**.

Applications received after the deadline (including by post) will not be accepted.

Terms and Conditions of Funding

- A) All applicants successful in reaching the development phase will be required to attend a two day Director's Seminar and a two day Producing Shorts Seminar in March. Successful teams who attended the MRC's ***Script Structure & Character Development Seminar*** on Jan 29 will be reimbursed for their course costs.
- B) In the development phase, the Writer, Producer and Director will all need to commit to a structured four week development plan in consultation with MRC developers.
- C) Successful applicants must provide the Media Resource Centre with an ABN or complete a 'Statement by a Supplier' form for taxation purposes.
- D) If successful in securing production funding, the production team must be available to commence pre on April 19 with a view to completing principal photography in May. Delivery to the MRC will be June 28.

Raw Nerve 2010 - Timeline

(as of Feb 4, 2010)

Jan 29	Raw Nerve launch <i>Script Structure & Character Development Seminar</i>
Feb 19	Deadline for Raw Nerve entries
March 8	Committee selects 6 projects to shortlist for development
March 9 – April 1	Script development begins... 6 teams over 4 weeks - selected writers attached to Producer/Director teams - script meetings with MRC development team - rewriting/refining drafts
March 13/14	<i>Producing Shorts Seminar</i> (shortlisted teams to attend)
March 27/28	<i>Director's Seminar</i> (shortlisted teams to attend)
April 2	Shortlisted teams submit shooting scripts & support material.
April 5-11	Committee assesses submissions
April 12	Committee green-lights 4 projects for production
April 13-16	Contracting begins
April 19	Commencement of Pre-production
May 10-31	Shoot window
June 1	All projects to have commenced Post-production
June 28	Delivery to MRC
July 7	Screening @ Mercury Cinema