

Atlantic Film Festival's Script Development Program: Call for Feature Film Outlines



Every great feature film begins with a well-written and dynamic screenplay. As original ideas and highly developed scripts are key elements to the success of the screen industry, the Atlantic Film Festival is looking for the best and most talented writers from the Atlantic region to participate in our annual script development program. Presented by Telefilm Canada & Astral's Harold Greenberg Fund, this program offers a unique opportunity for Atlantic Canadian writers to develop their feature film ideas from outline to treatment to first draft, and pitch them to a room full of film producers at the 32nd Atlantic Film Festival. It is during the Script Pitch Event that the writers will vie for \$10,000 in development funding from the presenting sponsors.

THE PROCESS:

The jury will select FOUR feature film outlines that will be developed into rough first drafts through three intensive weekend sessions under the guidance of Noel Baker, one of Canada's top story editors. The writers will also work with acclaimed pitch expert, Jan Miller, to hone their pitching technique by participating in an abridged version of her renowned Pitcher Perfect workshop. All writers will also take part in the Script Pitch Event, during the 32nd Atlantic Film Festival, where the writers will pitch their feature film idea to a room of industry professionals with the aim of attaching a producer and/or director to the projects and to compete for the \$10,000 development prize.

Please Note: Successful applicants MUST be available for ALL 3 WEEKEND workshops and any other related events during the opening weekend of the 32nd Atlantic Film Festival, September 13-16, 2012.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Application Deadline: Monday, March 12, 2012 at 5PM

Workshop #1: May 4–6, 2012

Workshop #2: June 15–17, 2012

Workshop #3 including pitching training with Jan Miller: August 10–12

One-on-One Pitch Session with Jan: first week of September (this can be done remotely through Skype or Phone)

32nd Atlantic Film Festival: September 13–23, 2012

Script Pitch Event: September 16, 2012



See the films the world loves.

Atlantic Film Festival's Script Development Program: **Call for Feature Film Outlines****NOEL BAKER**

Noel Baker's most recent credit is for co-writing the screenplay for the 2011 hit Indo-Canadian hockey comedy *Breakaway*, starring Russell Peters and Rob Lowe. Baker is best known for the cult classic punk rock road movie *Hard*

Core Logo (and the rollicking memoir recounting the experience, *Hard Core Roadshow*). As a script doctor, story editor and renowned screenwriting teacher, Baker has collaborated and consulted with hundreds of writers, directors and producers on feature films, shorts, and TV projects. A passionate mentor to emerging writers, Baker has taught at the Canadian Film Centre since 1999. He has workshoped more projects than he can remember at the Praxis Centre for Screenwriters in Vancouver, Inspired Script in Halifax, the Canadian Screen Training Centre in Ottawa, festivals across the country. He has been a guest lecturer and visiting artist at institutions as varied as the University of Toronto, York University, University of Western Ontario, Willamette University in Oregon, and United Arab Emirates University.

**JAN MILLER**

Miller is the vision behind the design and execution of the AFF's Strategic Partners Co production market. In 2009 she co-designed Trans Atlantic Partners, an international co-production training program with Germany's Erich Pommer

Institut and new last year, New York's IFP. She was Director of Development for imX Communication for 2 years. She was also one of the driving forces behind the creation of the National Screen Institute-Canada and its Features First and Drama Prize programs. Her world renowned pitching/content development workshops are in demand across Canada, Berlin, Cannes, Columbia, Mexico, China & Cuba. She is founding Chair of WIFT-AT and Co-Chair of the Women Making Waves Conference. Jan began her career with her international touring company Small Change Theatre with its original clown and mask shows that played to standing ovations around the world.

RULES & REGULATIONS:

1. Submissions only accepted from Atlantic Canadian writers (NB, NL, NS, PE).
2. Only outlines for feature film scripts will be accepted and with a maximum of 10-12 pages. These will be accepted in electronic format only.
3. The writer must have ownership of his/her idea. The outline cannot be optioned or in-development with a third party. It is recommended in this case that outlines co-written with another person(s) have a co-writer ownership agreement.
4. The outline must be based on an original idea developed by the writer, or a proposal for an adaptation accompanied by all necessary permissions, releases and original source material.
5. Preference will be given to stories that can be produced in the Atlantic region and are suitable for development into a Canadian dramatic feature film of at least 75 minutes in duration.
6. Writers may submit only ONE outline. Your submission must include a \$25 CDN processing fee and must be received by the deadline of 5PM, Monday, March 12.
7. Submissions will ONLY be accepted via EMAIL at alysons@atlanticfilm.com.
8. The workshops will be limited to a maximum of four writers. Participants will be announced early April.
9. All participants will receive one full Delegate Pass to the 32nd Atlantic Film Festival in September, along with a maximum of five complimentary tickets to Script Out Loud Session.
10. Once selected, chosen writers must confirm their ability to participate in all aspects of the program, including each of the three weekend workshops, the pitching workshop and one-on-one pitch consultations, and the opening weekend of the 32nd Atlantic Film Festival. An inability to take part in all aspects of the program may lead to disqualification.
11. After the initial development period, writers will pitch their script ideas to industry professionals at the Script Pitch Match during the Atlantic Film Festival. A jury comprised of program mentors and sponsors will select the final script. The jury's decision will be final.
12. Once selected, the winner of the funding will be required to complete and deliver the creative material within a specific period of time, as detailed in the contract.
13. The winner of the funding will be required to submit a project status report within six (6) months of delivery of the first draft script or treatment. Should the first draft script or treatment be optioned within the six (6) months following delivery or anytime thereafter, the winner will submit a project status report and a copy of the option agreement.
14. The Festival retains the power to decide on all matters not specifically dealt with in these regulations. Notice of participation implies recognition of these regulations. In any dispute, the decision of the Festival will be final.
15. The Atlantic Film Festival and the Inspired Script sponsors, Telefilm Canada and Astral's Harold Greenberg Fund, must be acknowledged by an on-screen credit once the project is produced.
16. The Atlantic Film Festival retains the right to host a screening of the film within the year of the film's production and subsequent release.

Atlantic Film Festival's Script Development Program: **Call for Feature Film Outlines****PRESENTING SPONSORS:****TELEFILM CANADA**

Telefilm Canada is a federal cultural agency dedicated to the development and promotion of the Canadian audiovisual industry. Telefilm provides financial support to the private sector to create distinctively Canadian productions that appeal to domestic and international audiences. The corporation also administers the funding programs of the Canadian television fundy.

**ASTRAL'S HAROLD GREENBERG FUND**

Astral's Harold Greenberg Fund is a national, non-profit organization founded and supported by Astral Media's The Movie Network and Viewers Choice to fund the production and development of Canadian feature-length theatrically released movies. The Reel Support initiative is sponsored by Fujifilm Canada.

APPLICANT CRITERIA:

Applicants must meet at least ONE of the following criteria to qualify. . .

- The writer must have at least 2 produced writing credits in either: film, television or documentary film. These projects can be of any length.
- A produced writing credit includes feature, short or documentary film, as well as episodic television or television movie.
- Productions must be professionally produced, and must have been exhibited in cinemas or broadcast on television prior to the application deadline. The produced writing credits must be within the last 7 years.
- The writer must be in receipt of development funding from their Provincial Agency, Telefilm Canada, or the Harold Greenberg Fund.
- The writer must provide a letter of reference from an established industry player who supports their writing talent and considers them to be a career-focused writer.

REQUIRED SUBMISSION MATERIALS:

- A completed and signed application form (two writers: two signatures), indicating the applicant's eligibility.
- Outline: the outline should be either a maximum of 5 pages with 2 key dramatic sample scenes or an outline to a maximum of 10-12 pages.
- Synopsis: A short synopsis not exceeding 10 lines (100 words) must accompany entry for promotional purposes.
- Screenwriter Resume, Filmography & Biography: Entrants should include a full resume (to a maximum of 3 pages) and filmography (dated) along with a 100 word maximum biography. The Festival reserves the right to make modifications to this bio for promotional purposes.
- Written materials supporting the applicant's eligibility as defined under "Applicant Criteria"
- \$25 submission fee. Payment can be made below with a credit card, by phone directly to the accounting department at 902-420-4563, or cheques can be sent by mail to 1601 South Park St. Halifax, NS B3J1L2. Please make cheque payable to the Atlantic Film Festival Association.

Atlantic Film Festival's Script Development Program: **Call for Feature Film Outlines**

APPLICANT INFO:

Name of Applicant(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

PAYMENT INFO:

Master Card

Visa

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name as it appears on Card: _____

Signature: _____

