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## Met Film School Skillset Writers' Training Scheme

### Programme

The Met Film School Writers' Training Scheme will support ten talented emerging writers to develop a first draft of a feature film script whilst supporting their creative and professional development through an intensive training programme. The initial six months will include 1:1 support from both a script supervisor and a producer and professional support, bespoke training courses, masterclasses, readings, workshops, and a series of placements designed to familiarize writers with working practice across the value chain of cinema from production to exploitation. Five of the writers will then be selected for a further six months of development support. The programme will be delivered by a proven partnership of producers, distributors and training providers with an existing track record of developing scripts and delivering this level and type of training. Additional training and placements will be provided by a range of people and organisations including Hollywood studios, and high level writers, agencies, producers and distributors.

Participants will be paid competitive fees on commencement and on delivery of the treatment and each draft and set of revisions during both the first and second six months of the programme as well as receiving the benefit of the ongoing support and training. Participants must retain copyright in their projects for the duration of the first six months, and thereafter are free to assign rights to their projects if they so choose.

#### Phase 1: June - November 2008

An initial skills gap analysis will identify the bespoke training needs of each writer. Following this, writers will begin work on their script under the guidance of an individual script editor/supervisor, with whom they will meet up to twice a month. Writers will be required to deliver a treatment, a first draft and revisions during the course of the six months. They will also:

- attend five week-long placements in development, production, post-production, sales, and exhibition
- participate in workshops on professional development, story, and pitching
- attend a week-long residential workshop delivered in partnership with the Performing Arts Labs (PAL), during which they will work on their script through readings, actor workshops and 1:1 masterclasses with high-level industry screenwriting and directing mentors
- attend bespoke courses designed to meet the individual training needs of writers as identified in the initial skills gap analysis
- workshop their script through a rehearsed reading with professional actors
- attend masterclasses and case-studies with high level professionals reflecting global industry practice
- pitch their completed projects directly to invited industry professionals

#### Phase 2: December 2008 – May 2009

Five writers will be invited to participate in the second six months of the programme, during which they will have intensive script editing/consultancy and other support in developing a second draft and revisions of their project. Participants will be paid on commencement and on delivery of the draft and the revisions.

Graduating writers will be offered ongoing email, telephone and chat group support and opportunities to arrange further development meetings and introductions to appropriate companies who may be interested in developing or optioning their work.



## How to Apply

Please note that this is not an entry-level scheme and is aimed at writers who have already demonstrated truly exceptional promise within some level of industry environment. Accordingly, applicants must satisfy all of the following selection criteria:

- Have had a screenplay commissioned or produced by a recognised film or television production company OR have written or directed an award-winning short film OR have agency representation.
- Have completed at least 1 work - either a full length feature screenplay, a ½ hour television episode or a produced stage play
- Be able to provide at least two references supporting their work from recognised industry professionals
- Have demonstrable talent and experience

Please note that applications not meeting the above criteria will not be considered.

While both professional placements and training days will take place in London, applications from across the UK are strongly encouraged and support will be provided towards travel and accommodation expenses for regional applicants.

Applicants should apply by **5pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008** by email to [wts@metfilm.co.uk](mailto:wts@metfilm.co.uk) and by post to Writers Training Scheme, Met Film, Ealing Studios, Ealing Green, London, W5 5EP with the following:

- A brief covering letter (max 500 words) explaining how you meet the selection criteria and why you want to apply to the scheme
- Your CV
- An outline or treatment of no more than 2 pages for a new piece of work you would like to develop on the scheme
- A sample piece of writing - - either a full length feature script, a ½ hour television episode or a produced stage play
- Two references supporting your work from recognised industry professionals

Successful applicants will be confirmed in May 2008. The programme will commence in June 2008.