

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 & The Harold Greenberg Fund, this program offers a unique opportunity for Atlantic Canadian writers to develop their feature film ideas from outline into a treatment and finally into a first draft. The first draft scripts will then be presented to a jury and writers will pitch their projects to a room of film producers at the 37th Atlantic Film Festival. It is during this Script Pitch Event that the writers will vie for a \$10,000 development prize, made available through The Harold Greenberg Fund.

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 Michael Melski, one of Canada's top story editors. The writers will also attend a pitch workshop with Michael to hone their pitching technique. All writers will also take part in the Script Pitch Event, during the 37th 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. Writers will be evaluated upon: the quality of the script; the demonstrated abilities of the writer within the entire curriculum of the program; and, the ability of the writer to articulate the attractiveness of the story in verbal form.

Please Note: Successful applicants MUST be available for ALL 3 WEEKEND workshops and any other related events during the opening weekend of the 37th Atlantic Film Festival, September 14-21, 2017.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Application Deadline: Friday, June 2 at 5PM

Workshop #1: June 24–25, 2017

Workshop #2: July 29-30, 2017

Workshop #3: August 25–26, 2017

One-on-One Pitch Session:
September 14, 15 & 16, 2017

Script Pitch Event: Sunday September 17, 2017

37th Atlantic Film Festival: September 14-21, 2017

MICHAEL MELSKI

MICHAEL MELSKI's screenwriting credits include the award-winning feature films GROWING UP, CHARLIE ZONE, MILE ZERO, TOUCH AND GO, PERFUME WAR and his upcoming supernatural thriller THE CHILD REMAINS. In addition, Michael has been a story editor/consultant on THE DISAPPEARED, BLACKBIRD, SABAH, FAITH FRAUD AND MINIMUM WAGE, RELATIVE HAPPINESS, HARD DRIVE, ROAMING, NOON GUN and others. He has also written for several Gemini-nominated television series including BLUE MURDER, SNAKES AND LADDERS, and STREET CENTS. A past writing resident at the Canadian Film Centre, Neptune Theatre, and the Shaw Festival, Michael has taught screenwriting at NSCAD, been a guest lecturer in Ryerson's film department, and is the author of many published stage plays including HOCKEY MOM, HOCKEY DAD, and THE FLY FISHER'S COMPANION. He is currently based in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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. Acceptable file formats include: .pdf, .doc, .docx, .txt . If you would like to submit a different format please check first before submitting.
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. Co-writers are welcome to apply and need only fill out one copy of the application form, noting the co-writing relationship. Both parties are expected to participate in the program when possible but exceptions can be made if only one party is available on a given weekend session.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Writers may submit only ONE outline. Your submission must include a \$25CAD processing fee and must be received by the deadline of 5PM, Friday, June 2, 2017.
8. Submissions will ONLY be accepted via EMAIL at programadmin@atlanticfilm.com.
9. The workshops will be limited to a maximum of four writers. Participants will be announced on or before June 19, 2017.
10. All participants will receive one full Delegate Pass to the 37th Atlantic Film Festival in September, along with a maximum of five complimentary tickets to the Telefilm Canada Script Pitch Event & Reception.
11. 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 37th Atlantic Film Festival. An inability to take part in all aspects of the program may lead to disqualification.
12. After the initial development period, writers will pitch their script ideas to industry professionals at the Telefilm Canada Script Pitch Event 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. The Atlantic Film Festival and the Script Development Program sponsors, Telefilm Canada and the Harold Greenberg Fund, must be acknowledged by an on-screen credit once the project is produced.
17. 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.

PRESENTING SPONSORS:

TELEFILM
C A N A D A

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 fund.

THE HAROLD GREENBERG FUND

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The Harold Greenberg Fund is a national, non-profit organization founded and supported by Bell Media's The Movie Network to fund the production and development of Canadian feature-length theatrically released movies.

APPLICANT CRITERIA:

Applicants must provide a letter of reference from an established arts professional who supports their writing talent and considers them to be a career-focused writer. In lieu of a letter of reference, the applicant may provide one of the following:

- Proof of at least 2 produced writing credits in either: film, television, or documentary film. These projects can be of any length (feature and short).
- 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.
- Receipt of development funding from their Provincial Agency, Telefilm Canada, or the Harold Greenberg Fund.

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 the 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". This will be either acknowledged in your filmography in terms of writing credits, a copy of your funding acknowledgement OR a letter of reference.
- \$25 submission fee. Payment can be made below with a credit card, by phone directly to the accounting department at 902-422-3456, or cheques can be sent by mail to:

1892 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1W6.

Please make cheque payable to the Atlantic Film Festival Association.

APPLICANT INFO:

Name of Applicant(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

PAYMENT INFO:

Cheque

Master Card

Visa

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name as it appears on Card: _____

Signature: _____

