



MRC SPRINGBOARD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

General Information

Introduction

Springboard is a uniquely innovative twelve-week development initiative designed to provide a professional and project development opportunity for screenwriters, directors and producers. Participants will gain skills and develop a project through a series of workshops and mentoring sessions.

Springboard is designed to prepare projects PRIOR to submission to either the 'PIP Production Initiative' and or the 'Livecast Production Initiative'.

Those seeking to apply to the MRC production initiatives are strongly encouraged to participate in Springboard and gain the benefit of the workshops and mentoring to become familiar with industry standards and gain the required skills and knowledge that will ensure their project is as competitive as possible.

Professional and Project Development

- A Pitching and Networking Event to pitch half page concepts and form teams to apply to one of the production funds.
- An intensive weekend 'Screenwriting Essentials' workshop covering the principles of dramatic screenwriting and story development presented by Charlie Carman (former developer at Miramax, Working Title, FilmFour, script manager at Film Victoria and currently lecturer of MA screenwriting at the VCA.
- Four evening 'Directing Essentials' workshops presented by TV and feature film director, Michael James Rowland, *Lucky Miles*, *Dance Academy*, *Spirited*, *The Last Confession of Alexander Pearce*.
- Four evening 'Producing Essentials' workshops presented by established film and TV producer Carolyn Johnson, *Tanna*, *Son of A Lion*, *First Footprints*.
- 8 weeks mentoring for each project to support script development as well as provide guidance to teams as they prepare applications for submission

into the production initiatives. This mentoring will ensure that projects are developed to a high standard PRIOR to submitting to a production initiative. N.B All workshops are open to every participant regardless of specialisation.

The intention of the Springboard Development Program is to provide professional development and mentoring to individuals and teams to develop competitive projects for submission into the MRC production initiatives.

Production Initiatives

Livecast Screenplay Production Initiative

Similar to a 'radio play', and recorded in front of a live audience, this initiative is an opportunity to produce a short work of fiction, work with professional actors and experience an audience responding to your work. This initiative would be useful for director's seeking to gain experience working with actors, writer's seeking to do a proof of concept and producers keen for a production opportunity. Director's will work with a sound designer in post-production to complete the work. Producers can explore podcast publishing and promotion opportunities for the completed production.

- Up to six production opportunities are available.
- Each project should be no more than 10 minutes' duration.
- Projects should be a narrative piece, of a genre that works well in a non-visual medium, ie: comedy and murder mystery.
- Projects may be original works or adaptations (subject to copyright availability).
- Directors will have the opportunity to work with professional actors and rehearse their scripts prior to recording.
- The budget allows for a limited number of professional actors for performance and some rehearsal on the day so this should be considered at scripting stage.
- The Director will direct the editing and sound design thereby providing a comprehensive professional development opportunity.
- All participants must be MRC members.

- This initiative is open to all applicants whether established or emerging. See guidelines for further details.
- Selection is competitive and will be based on the strength of the script and the career building opportunity for the creative team.

PIP 2017

- Up to six production opportunities are available.
- Each project should be no more than 10 minutes' duration and can be of any dramatic genre, a documentary of up to 10 mins duration or a web-series of no more than three x five minute episodes.
- Projects may be original works or adaptations.
- All applicants must be MRC members.
- This initiative is open to emerging practitioners at different stages in their career pathway. See guidelines for further details.
- Selection is competitive and will be based on the strength of the script and the career building opportunity for the creative team.

Who is Springboard for?

- Early stage practitioners seeking to gain professional level skills and form collaborative teams with whom they can advance their careers
- Mid-level and established practitioners seeking to gain specialist expertise in a different discipline eg: a producer seeking to develop as a director or writer.
- A team with a mix of an emerging and established practitioners eg: an experienced producer with an early stage writer/director with a strong project, or an experienced writer seeking to test a concept in front a live audience.
- Participants will benefit greatly from this initiative if they form a writer, producer, director team early on, with a specific project that they intend to submit to one of the production funds.



MRC SPRINGBOARD PROGRAM—SCREENWRITING

Workshop Guide

Presenter – Writer/Developer, Charlie Carman

This workshop is designed to upskill writers as they prepare their projects for submission into the Springboard Production Initiatives: the ‘PIP Production Initiative’ or the ‘Livecast Production Initiative’.

Charlie Carman is one of Australia’s most experienced script developers. She first trained in TV and Film with Channel4 and FilmFour in the UK on features such as *Sexy Beast* and *Slumdog Millionaire*. Gaining a reputation for high-end script skills, she was taken on as a reader/assessor by Miramax and Working Title and became a tutor for The Script Factory. She then took on the role of Script Manager at Film Victoria, running the most extensive development fund in Australia and developing and/or funding a number of commercial and critically acclaimed shows including: *The Water Diviner*, (FF), *The Dressmaker*, (FF), *Oddball* (FF); *Please Like Me*, (ABC) *Miss Fisher’s Murder Mysteries* (ABC); *Bruce* (Webseries). She was then selected by US production company Circle of Confusion who produce *The Walking Dead*, to do a year-long work placement in LA in 2015, where she was given responsibility for assessing submissions as well as doing script editing work on several projects on their slate. Currently she is a lecturer and tutor for the VCA’s MA in Screenwriting and a number of her students have been shortlisted for writing competitions, including the prestigious Academy Award Nicolls prize. As a freelance writer and developer she works on projects across Australia, the US and UK.

Day One – Saturday 18th February @ 9.30am – 5.30pm

First principles of Development

- What does a script developer do?
- How to use development language – the importance of communication in the creative team; the way to keep focused on serving the story (and the audience).
- The key principles of development in relation to dramatic writing and stories.
- What funding agencies are looking for in development and how to deliver it to them.

PRACTICAL:

- Using the principles outlined, workshop different concepts within the group
- Demonstrate how even a one-line concept can tell you if your idea has 'legs'

Day Two – Sunday 19th February @ 9.30am – 5.30pm

Dramatic principles

- Recap of dramatic fundamentals – creating an effective story world, establishing the central character and their goal, structuring the script to ensure escalation of stakes, eliciting emotion, writing for a specific audience and creating powerful and memorable scenes.
- A more advanced look at screenwriting craft. Higher level areas such as: How to effectively create anti-heroes; How non-traditional structure works; creating complexity with genre-hybrids etc.
- How to use different writing techniques to deliver a powerful emotional experience to an audience.
- The most common and recurrent problems in script development and how to fix them
- Which dramatic principles are most relevant to short-form – i.e. short films and web series eps.

PRACTICAL:

- Using the principles outlined, workshop different concepts within the group

Housekeeping

- Writers, producers and directors are welcome and encouraged to participate in this workshop as all will benefit from gaining a shared understanding of dramatic concepts with which to provide feedback and discuss projects.
- All workshops will take place in the Iris Cinema. Please use the MRC entrance which is at the rear of the Mercury Cinema.
- Each session will be a full day so please come prepared.
- Please BYO food and drink. There is a small kitchenette with kettle, tea, coffee and microwave available for use.
- Please make every effort to attend the entire weekend as this is a once off presentation and will NOT be repeated.
- Please ensure you bring along a logline of the script you are working on.
- If you have a laptop bring it along



MRC SPRINGBOARD PROGRAM - PRODUCING

Workshop Guide

Presenter - Producer, Carolyn Johnson

This workshop series is a hands on practical guide to scheduling, budgeting, preparing for and managing a production. It is designed to upskill producers as they prepare their projects for submission to either the 'PIP Production Initiative' or the 'Livecast Production Initiative'.

Producer, Carolyn Johnson is a well-established independent producer who has worked across feature film and television. Her most recent film is the award-winning feature film *Tanna*, set in Vanuatu which has screened in over 30 festivals and won numerous awards including the 'Audience Award' at Venice Critics Week and is Australia's official entrant for the 2017 Foreign Language Academy Award®. Other highlights include: *A Sense of Self*, (ABC) *First Footprints*, (SBS), *Son of a Lion* (FF), which won awards and screened in festivals including Berlin, Pusan, Hong Kong, San Francisco, Sydney and Melbourne. Carolyn is a graduate of the AFTRS and has taught producing and production management at the AFTRS and Metro Screen in Sydney.

SESSION 1 – Tuesday 14th March 2017 @ 5.30 – 8.30pm

First principles of Producing

- What and who is a producer? The leadership, admin, finance and creative skills they need to succeed.
- The fundamentals of copyright, rights agreements, and foundational option and chain of title agreements
- Producer, Prod Manager, Director, Writer, 1st AD relationships.
- Presenting professionally when dealing with funding agencies, investors including presenting well prepared documents

SESSION 2 – Monday 20th March 2017 @ 5.30 – 8.30pm

Breaking down and scheduling a script

- How to break down a short film to prepare for doing a budget/script timing/ design elements, cast, night shoots.
- Practical exercise - preparing a schedule for your short film

SESSION 3 – Monday 27th March 2017 @ 5.30 – 8.30pm

Preparing a budget

- Using A-Z short film budget – a practical and hands on workshop that shows you how to do your budget, and what are the key considerations, including standard crew and cast rates, insurances, design and effects etc.
- Get familiar with the Standard Production Agreements Kit, Cast Agreements, HOD & Crew Agreements, Volunteers, Insurances and Safety Assessments, Locations
- An overview of Post production and Delivery requirements

SESSION 4 – Tuesday 4th April 2017 @ 5.30 – 8.30pm

It's Production Time

- Production Templates Kit including: Call Sheets, Daily Progress Reports, Crew Lists and Cast Lists
- Managing production – pre prod meetings, location recces, rehearsals and the shoot and issuing production documents
- Post-production Matters!
- Distribution – Festivals, short film buyers and VOD platforms.

Handouts

- + Standard Rights Agreements Kit
- + Production Agreements Kit
- + Production Templates Kit

Housekeeping

- All workshops will take place in the Iris Cinema. Please use the MRC entrance which is at the rear of the Mercury Cinema.
- Each session is 3 hours in duration.
- Please BYO food and drink. There is a small kitchenette with kettle, tea, coffee and microwave available for use.
- Please make every effort to attend every session. If you are unable to attend for some reason, handouts will be made available to assist you in the preparation of your budget and schedule.
- Please ensure you bring along a draft of the script you are working on, regardless of whether it is incomplete.
- You will also need a calculator and if you have a laptop bring it along.



MRC SPRINGBOARD PROGRAM - DIRECTING

Workshop Guide

Presenter – Director, Michael James Rowland

This workshop series is designed to foster the development of craft skills and support directors as they prepare their projects for submission to either the 'PIP Production Initiative' or the 'Livecast Production Initiative'.

Michael James Rowland is an award winning screenwriter & director working in feature film and premium TV drama. His credits include, *Lucky Miles* (FF), *The Last Confession of Alexander Pearce* (TV Movie, ABC/BBC) and (TV Series), *My Place* (ABC2), *Dance Academy* (ABC2), *Spirited* (FOXTEL) and *Tangle* (FOXTEL). Michael is a graduate of the AFTRS and runs workshops in directing and writing throughout Australia. Prior to his screen career, Michael was Art Director at the Adelaide Festival Centre.

[SESSION 1 – Wednesday 15th March 2017 @ 5.30 – 8.30pm](#)

First Principles of Directing

- The key skills a screen director needs.
- Understanding story
- Understanding character
- Understanding drama as conflict.
- Understanding subtext
- What is a script?
- The writer/director relationship - Working with a writer to finesse the draft

[SESSION 2 – Wednesday 22nd March 2017 @ 5.30 – 8.30pm](#)

Working with actors

- How to cast the right actor
- How to run a rehearsal
- How to direct a performance
- Essential film grammar and bullet proof drama/comedy coverage

[SESSION 3 – Wednesday 29th March 2017 @ 5.30 – 8.30pm](#)

Reading and breaking down a script

- How to research and develop a visual style
- Pre-visualising your script through aspirational casting, mood boards and storyboards.
- How the director works on set, what is their relationship with the 1st AD, DOP, producer, etc.
- Production design, special effects, special requirements eg: underwater /night/stunts etc.
- Communicating your vision in funding applications

SESSION 4 – Wednesday 5th April 2017 @ 5.30 – 8.30pm

It's Production Time

- What to consider when doing Location recces
- Managing production - developing relationships with your crew and cast, on set etiquette
- Post-production matters!
- Distribution – Festivals, short film buyers and VOD platforms.

Housekeeping

- All workshops will take place in the Iris Cinema. Please use the MRC entrance which is at the rear of the Mercury Cinema.
- Each session is 3 hours in duration.
- Please BYO food and drink. There is a small kitchenette with kettle, tea, coffee and microwave available for use.
- Please make every effort to attend every session.
- Please ensure you bring along a draft of the script you are working on, regardless of whether it is incomplete.
- If you have a laptop bring it along.



MRC SPRINGBOARD PROGRAM

Application Guidelines

Purpose

This initiative recognizes that projects that are developed through a structured and mentored program, that also offers craft based professional development, is a proven successful approach to upskilling screen talent whilst generating bold, original screen stories.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be SA residents and 18 years +.
- This is an open program and as such there is no selection criteria other than the requirement to be a financial member of the MRC.
- Writers, Directors or Producers, whether established, mid-level or emerging can apply to this initiative as the mentoring is tailored to each individual's particular level of experience.
- Teams are encouraged to apply with a joint project however each individual must apply separately.

Submission Process

Applicants may participate in the entire Springboard program or choose to do individual modules in a particular specialisation.

It is not obligatory to participate in Springboard to apply to the MRC production initiatives however the opportunity to upskill in a specialisation and/or gain valuable mentoring to develop a project will increase the competitiveness of your project in the production rounds.

To reserve your place at Springboard 2017 jump online, complete the application form and pay the relevant fee.

Key Dates

- 30 January 2017 - Pitching and Networking Event
- **13 February 2017 - Applications to Springboard Due**
- 19th April 2017 – Pip & Livecast Applications Due
- 29th May 2017 - Successful projects announced

Fees

The cost has been kept to a minimum to enable and encourage as many practitioners as possible to participate. The low fee structure is made possible by the support of the SAFC.

The fee structure is as follows:

Full Rate \$190 plus \$60 membership fee
Concession Rate \$140 plus \$45 membership fee
Individual Modules (Producing, Directing or Writing)
 \$150 for each module plus relevant membership fee.

Apply Now

To complete the online application form go here: [Springboard Application](#)

For further information, please contact the MRC Production Team:

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MRC SPRINGBOARD REFERENCE GUIDE

Reading, Listening and Watching

Summer is a great opportunity to do some research and prepare some ideas for the Springboard development and production initiative. We have compiled a listening and watching list of some of the best and most successful short films, webisodes and podcasts to provide inspiration.

Podcasts

Blacklist table reads are feature length films.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/black-list-table-reads/id982082891?mt=2>

BBC radio: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/programmes/genres/drama/player>

Beyond the voice: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b082klf5#play> (Expires 18/12)

Final Rune: <http://www.finalrune.com/audio-fiction-stories/>

Radio Drama Revival: <http://www.radiodramarevival.com/>

CBS Radio Mystery Theater:

https://archive.org/details/otr_cbsradiomysterytheater

Old Time Radio: <https://archive.org/details/oldtimeradio>

Star Wars Adaption: <http://www.npr.org/2015/12/18/460269884/that-time-npr-turned-star-wars-into-a-radio-drama-and-it-actually-worked>

War of the Worlds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xs0K4ApWl4g>

Successful Webisodes

There is an abundance of great examples of content made for viewing online. See below to links to some of the most recent successes.

Danger 5

<https://youtu.be/rKJlIMVEqD0>

<https://youtu.be/RGQF9kskfXw>

<https://youtu.be/xKJs-mCavbY>

Noirhouse

<https://youtu.be/q9DmE9BdcAQ>

<https://youtu.be/6jg2K8KdPi8>

Bruce

<https://youtu.be/Y1BSwe7Cl9U>

Little Acorns

https://youtu.be/xObE3O9oq_E

How to Talk Australians

<https://youtu.be/DHQRZXM-4xI>

Broad City (started as web, got bought and adapted into TV show)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/BroadCity>

Short Films

Examples of shorts can be found below and check out Youtube also.

AFTRS Student Short Films

<https://www.aftrs.edu.au/search?sort=title&sortbtn=Sort&f.Section%3A%7CC=afters-video&query=student+films#>

Granny Smith - 2014 Tropfest Winner

<https://youtu.be/vZnSAa9Vbl0>

Shiny –Tropfest Winner 24

<https://youtu.be/ipmG1HEMvXk>

We've All Been There - Tropfest Winner 2013

<https://youtu.be/QpkjGqYJxos>

Flat Daddy-Nominated AACTA Best Short Fiction Film 2016

is now available to watch on ABC iView.

<http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/flickerfest/ZW0908A013S00>

General Reading

For some great reference and reading check out:

Michael Hauge – www.storymastery.com