The Process – Script Development Program 2020

READ EVERYTHING BEFORE APPLYING

I am offering four emergent screenwriters an opportunity to work with me to develop and write entry level scripts for independent cinema. If selected, you will be guided through a unique development process. Our goal, to create a script that will appeal to directors wanting to make the jump from award-winning short films to features. This means the scripts will need to be in the micro to £250K range.

This is a free to enter and free to participate opportunity. Your script will remain yours to do with, as you please, at every point in the process. However, if opportunities arise to put your project in front of suitable directors and producers, those opportunities will be offered to you as they arise. This is precisely what has happened in the beta-test of the scheme. The writer I took on late in 2019, is currently working on her 3rd draft. I have already found a director and producer who want to read her script when it's ready. She also has created her own opportunities to get the script out there.

All the development work is done using online tools, such as video conferencing (Zoom) and file sharing (Dropbox).

If you are selected, you only take on one commitment. To complete all the steps of the development program and write at least two drafts of the script in four months.

Participation in the scheme can be ended by either party at any point in the process. If it's not working, we just go our separate ways.

The scheme is going to be run in two halves, with two writers selected now and two later in the year. If you fail the first selection, you can reapply for the second opportunity.

How to Apply

The application process is simple. Send me an email with three things in it.

1. The concept or idea you want to work on. NOT a polished logline! A rough idea expressed as four to six sentences.
2. Exactly ten pages of a "calling-card script" attached to the email as a PDF ONLY!
3. Finally, tell me a little bit about you. No more than four to six sentences. You must tell me what country you are based in.

You are going to be judged on two things. Your idea and your ability to write. In the next two sections, I'll explain what I'm looking for.

Ideas

Do This! - Offer me an idea for a movie I will want to see on the screen. An idea that will excite audiences without the advantages of a huge budget, famous cast or director. An idea that will stand out in a list of Netflix new releases. Make me want to work on this idea with you. Enthuse me about your idea.

This isn't about being original, it's about offering me something fascinating.

Don't Do This! - Don't pitch me a plot! Plots aren't ideas.

Don't tell me a story! Stories aren't ideas.

Don't be boring.

Don't pitch me a CGI heavy action movie when it can't possibly be done for £200,000.

Don't pitch me a title! A title isn't an idea (except when it it)

Your Calling Card Script

Do This! - Send me exactly ten pages of a script you've already written. Ten pages that will help me understand you as a writer. I am looking to see how you write cinema. So, show me you understand formatting, visual storytelling and how to create drama.

Do send me a sample script that is a pleasure to read and where I want more pages when I get to the end of it.

Don't Do This! - Don't send me ten pages of dialogue.

Don't send me a first draft of the concept you're pitching! (This will be an automatic disqualification)

Don't send me pages that have me losing the will to live halfway through page one.

Don't send me pages that aren't properly formatted.

Don't send me pages of fan fiction or from an existing TV or film franchise! Original work only.

Deadline

Send me your pitch by 20th February 2020 – email: processofscreenwriting@gmail.com