

SCREENWRITING COMPETITIONS

Winning a competition is a great way to raise the profile of a new project. This is by no means a comprehensive list but it does include most major domestic and international screenwriting competitions.

Please Note: All competitions listed below require scripts submitted in industry standard format. As this standard differs between Australia, the US and the UK, we advise careful study of accepted formatting standards before submitting. All scripts must be in English, and all entrants must be 18 years or older. Collaborations are acceptable to most competitions, but check the specific rules for each competition before applying. Many international competitions have discounted entrance fees for early submission. Also a number of the US contests mention 'consideration for representation' as one of the prizes of gaining a place in competition. The value of this as a prize varies with the size and importance of the competition.

AUSTRALIAN

[AWGIE Awards](#) – Monte Miller Script Award.

- The Monte Miller unproduced screenplay award is open to Associate Members only.
- There are two categories - short and long form - and applicants must be AWG associate members to enter.
- Scripts must be printed, formatted as per industry standard and not bound. Check the AWG website for competition and prize details.
- Owing to the increasing numbers of applicants, Monte Miller (Long Form) entries will be initially judged upon a synopsis and the first 20 pages of the fully-submitted script before progressing to a short list judging round.
- Check the [AWG](#) website for details.

[INSITE Award for Best Unproduced Screenplay](#)

- Single category – unproduced feature script.
- INSITE is an initiative of the AWG and the Bigpond Adelaide Film Festival, and applicants must be associate AWG members to enter.
- Scripts must be printed, formatted as per industry standard and not bound.
- Entry fee for the 2011 INSITE competition was \$49.50.
The 2010 INSITE competition winner received \$2500.00, a script reading staged during the festival, and travel to Adelaide for the reading rehearsals and the festival.
- Previous winners include: Tony Ayres (*Home Song Stories*), Kriv Stenders (*Lucky Country*) and Samantha Lang (*L'idole*).
- Check the [AWG](#) website for details.

Inscription

- For unproduced theatre and film scripts.
- This competition is run in conjunction with the AWG.
- Entrants must be Australian residents.
- No restriction on genre, but entries must run a minimum of 40 minutes.
- Check the [AWG](#) website for details.

INTERNATIONAL

The Don and Gee Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting

- Open to international writers who have earned \$5000 (US) or less writing for film and TV.
- The competition is for feature scripts of 90 – 120 pages length.
- Adaptations and translations of scripts are not eligible for this competition – the aim is to identify and encourage new writers.
- Up to five fellowships of \$30 000(US) are awarded yearly.
- Entrance fee ranges between \$30.00 (US) for early submission to \$45.00(US) for regular submissions.
- Electronic application only – scripts accepted in PDF format.
- Former recipients of the Nicholls Fellowship include Alison Anders (*Grace of My Heart*, *The L Word*, *Sex and the City*) and Jeffrey Eugenides (*The Virgin Suicides*, *Middlesex*)

American Zoetrope Screenplay Contest

- Open to international writers who have earned \$5,000 (US) or less total writing for film and TV.
- Entry fees are \$35.00 (US) for early deadlines and \$50.00(US) for the final deadline.
- Cash prize of \$5,000 to the winner.
- The winner and top-ten finalists will be considered for representation by a slate of firms including William Morris Agencies. Entry is via electronic submission only.
- Previous competition winners and finalists include Michael Cahill *King of California*.

Austin Film Festival Screenplay competition

- Open to writers who do not make a living from writing in either TV or film.
- Prize categories include Drama, Comedy, TV drama and Sitcom, with further awards – the Latitude Production Award and the Sci Fi award – considered as part of the screenplay categories.
- Prizes include cash prizes, travel and accommodation.
- Submissions can be taken either electronically or by surface mail.
- Entry fees are \$50.00 (US) for screenplays, and \$30.00 (US) for teleplays.

Bluecat Screenplay Competition

- Competition for feature length unproduced screenplays, between 80 – 120 pages.
- Cash prizes for the eventual winner and four finalists, and a special Joplin prize for a writer residing outside of the US, UK or Canada.
- Submission fees range between \$50.00(US) to \$60.00 (US) per submission.
- Entrants automatically receive a one page of feedback on their script.
- Submission is electronic.

[Final Draft Big Break International Screenwriting Contest](#)

- Competition for feature length unproduced screenplays, between 90 – 120 pages.
- Multiple entries permitted.
- Cash prizes for 1st to 5th place winners, meetings with producers for top three place getters plus travel, prize packages including software and subscriptions for all top ten finalists.
- Submission is electronic, with a standard deadline of \$50.00 (US) and an extended deadline of \$65.00(US).
- Previous winning scripts include produced scripts *The Escape Artist*, *Dawg* and *A Plumm Summer*.
- This contest also prides itself on the number of writers who have gained representation after placing in competition.

[Scriptapalooza](#)

- Competition for feature length screenplays (80 – 140 pages) and spec or original teleplays for sit com, pilot, one hour and reality teleplays.
- Multiple entries are permitted.
- Substantial cash prize for the winner in the feature category, lesser prizes for the teleplay categories; finalists and runners up receive packages of software and consideration for representation
- Entry fee is \$40.00 (US), and submissions are in hard copy.
- Refer to their website for TV entry dates.

[LA Comedy Shorts Film Festival Screenplay Competition](#)

- Comedy script competition open to international writers.
- Categories are: comedy feature (80 – 130 pages) comedy short (1 – 30 pages) and Half hour comedy TV pilot
- Prizes include cash, travel and accommodation, tickets to the festival itself, and consideration for representation.
- Entry is via [Withoutabox](#) or [email](#).
- Entry fee varies from \$30 - \$70 (US).

[Gimme Credit International Screenplay Competition](#)

- Open to non-professional (\$15,000 US or less total income from screenwriting) writers.
- Categories are Features, Shorts and Super Shorts.
- Entry fee ranges vary, and some current information suggests the competition might restrict entry to feature scripts only from 2010 onwards.
- All entrants receive feedback on their scripts after the announcement of the competition winners, with further feedback able to be purchased as part of an expanded entry fee. Film Victoria makes no submission as to the level of this feedback.
- No information available as to prizes offered.

[London Independent Film Festival](#)

- Competition for unproduced screenplays.
- Multiple categories: feature, short, sci fi/horror and film pitch.
- Open to UK and International writers.
- Prizes include cash, consideration by William Morris Agency (a competition sponsor), and a staged script reading in London
- Preferred entry by website [Withoutabox](#). Email submission process and materials required listed on LIFF website.
- Cost of entry varies depending on category and regular/late submission, and varies from £10.00 (film pitch) to £55.00 (feature script).

Terror Film Festival

- This is a competition run as part of the Terror Film Festival in Pittsburgh.
- Competition is for international writers of unproduced screenplays in feature and short categories, across a surprisingly wide range of genres, including but not limited to: 'Action, Adventure, Comedy, Crime, Detective, Drama, Fantasy, Horror, Musical, Mystery, Myth, Political, Romance, Science Fiction, Thriller, War, Western'.
- Three finalists are awarded in each category.
- Prizes include cash, and tickets to the Film Festival itself.
- Entry fees range from \$40 - \$85 (US).
- Submission is hard copy, bound – no loose pages.

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