

Thursday, 7 November 2019

## Screen NSW opens third year *Screenability* call for emerging filmmakers with disability

Screen NSW is on the lookout for emerging filmmakers with disability to produce shorts that could premiere at the 67th Sydney Film Festival in 2020.

The *Screenability Film Fund* is now open for a third year of applications, offering up to three teams \$30,000 each in production finance, the services of an appointed experienced Executive Producer and provision to engage a mentor for the practitioner with disability. All successful projects will be considered for premiere at the Sydney Film Festival.

Applications are sought for short film proposals between 5-15 minutes that appeal to a broad audience (with or without disability content), and can be drama, factual, animation or experimental. Applicant teams must have at least one key creative (writer, director, producer) that identifies as having a disability and one key creative must be a NSW resident.

Grainne Brunson, Head of Screen NSW says that since launching in 2016, the *Screenability* initiative has supported a total of 16 screen practitioners with disability either by facilitating internships with a range of screen companies or by financing production of the six significant short films that have held sold-out world premieres at the Sydney Film Festival.

“It’s been fantastic to see our supported creatives use their experiences to propel them to bigger and better things. Standout recipients include Daniel Monks, who used his time with the *Screenability* Program as a springboard to catapult his feature film *Pulse* into the Busan Film Festival, where it was the first Australian film to win the Busan Bank Prize (2018). We then supported him in filming his short *Broken*, which opened at the Sydney Film Festival in 2018.

“We’ve also been really pleased to see other States follow our lead with support for filmmakers with disability, so this year we’ve refocused our efforts to support a local, rather than national pool of talented, committed and professional emerging NSW-based practitioners with disability, who are all keen to expand their skills. I’m excited to see the applications in the coming month,” said Ms Brunson.

The *Screenability Film Fund* is part of a suite of initiatives under *Screenability* NSW, an open-ended policy commitment by Screen NSW to work with industry to grow participation in the screen sector by Australians with disabilities.

***Screenability Film Fund* applications are now open and close at midnight Sunday 1st December 2019.** For guidelines and applications, visit the [Screen NSW website](#).

**ENDS**

Working to the Social Model of Disability, the term ‘disability’ refers to barriers, rather than medical conditions or impairments, which are seen as being the disabling factors, preventing or limiting opportunities.

Eligibility in this case covers people with sensory or physical impairments (including deaf people), hidden impairments, intellectual impairments, learning difficulties or mental health conditions, who face barriers accessing opportunities in the screen industry.

Screen NSW is committed to supporting increased participation in the industry of people from under-represented groups including women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with disability, LGBTIQI people, people from western Sydney and people from regional NSW. Priority will be given to emerging producers from these under-represented groups.