



## **MRC SPRINGBOARD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

### **Springboard V2.0 - Web Series**

#### **General Information**

#### **Introduction**

Springboard V2.0 is a comprehensive professional development program of workshops, screenings, seminars, mentoring, and writers' rooms designed to provide professional skills in the crafts of screenwriting, producing, and directing.

In addition, V2.0 will deliver focused workshops on writing episodic content for web series, laying the foundation for writers to pursue a career in writing for television and/or the growing web series sector.

With the dynamic television and SVOD industry thriving, demand for writing talent is increasing. Springboard provides a pathway to develop vital skills for tapping into the global industry.

Springboard is also designed to assist in the development of web series and short films for submission to the MRC's PIP shorts and web series funding initiative. This year, there are six opportunities to receive funding with an increase in budget levels to support ambitious, bold web series and short films.

Springboard is designed to dovetail with PIP. If you are aiming to apply for the MRC's funding initiative, you are strongly encouraged to participate in Springboard and gain the benefits of the workshops to enable you to apply your knowledge to your project and ensure your application is as competitive as possible. In 2017, five of the six successful PIP teams participated in Springboard.

#### **Program Overview**

Springboard is bigger and better this year, with a packed program delivered by a stellar line up of industry professionals.



- **Event 1 – THE BIG PITCH – MERCURY CINEMA FOYER**  
**Thursday 8 February 2018**

A friendly introductory session to find a team, practice pitching your project idea one-on-one, network and get valuable feedback on your project idea.

- **Event 2 – WORLD’S BEST WEB SERIES SCREENING – MERCURY CINEMA**  
**Tuesday 6 March 2018**

Get inspired; watch the best web series that are being produced around the world. We will also screen work from Luke Eve’s series’ High Life and Low Life, Exec Produced by Stephen Fry. Luke has made a successful career specializing in web series. Budgets are going up and demand is increasing. Watch his work and, later in Springboard, meet Luke via live stream from Los Angeles to learn about how to finance your web series.

- **Event 3 & 4 – TWO X SCREENWRITING WORKSHOPS - MERCURY CINEMA**  
**9 (Friday evening), Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 March AND 23 (Friday evening), Saturday 24, Sunday 25 March 2018**

Develop and increase your understanding of dramatic screenwriting including sessions on writing and structuring episodic content presented by Mike Jones. Livestream session with Luke Eve TBC.

### **About Mike**

Mike Jones is a writer, story producer, script editor, lecturer, and recipient of numerous accolades including an Australian Writers’ Guild award. He has worked in script development with companies including the ABC, WarnerBros, Porchlight, and Jungle Entertainment. He serves as regular story-producer and script editor for Princess Pictures and Everycloud Productions, leads long-form script development labs for Google/YouTube, and is story consultant to ABC Signature studios in the US.

Mike oversees story development with SweetPotatoFilms, whose recent success in includes the multi award-winning mystery drama series, ‘The Kettering Incident’. He is story producer for ABC youth-drama series ‘Deadlock’ for EveryCloud productions, and has also served as script producer for ABCTV across its ‘Long Story Short’ slate of comic-drama series including ‘F\*cking Adelaide’, ‘Other People’s Problems’, ‘Wrong Kind of

Black', and 'Edge of the Bush'.

### **About Luke**

Luke began his career as a freelance photographer. Armed with a strong visual aesthetic and a keen eye and talent for dramatic comedy, Luke has the unique ability to capture great performances in a visually exciting style. Luke graduated from the Australian Film Television and Radio School in 2005 and in the same year won Tropfest with his film Australian Summer.

He was the recipient of an AFC funded internship with This is That productions in New York City. As well as juggling multiple commercials he directed a short film in 2009, *Man's Best Friend*, which was a big success on the international short film circuit. He also directed his first television series, Dave in the Life for SBS.

Luke directed and produced Cockroach, a 14-minute visual effects loaded film that has gone on to screen at over 30 International Film Festivals as well as winning over a dozen awards. He also co-created, co-produced and directed the award winning web series, Low Life. The series won Best Comedy and The Grand Jury Prize at Melbourne Web Festival. It also garnered him the Best Director gong for the Online Video Awards. In the same year Luke directed two episodes of Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery in the United Kingdom.

- **Event 5 – PRODUCING A SHORT – IRIS CINEMA**  
**DATES TBC**

Participate in one evening and one weekend intensive workshop covering copyright and contracting, budgeting and scheduling, how to prepare, plan and produce a short project across pre-production, production and post-production. Presented by highly experienced, award winning producer Carolyn Johnson (*Tanna, Son of A Lion, First Footprints*).

- **Event 6 – DIRECTING FOR WEB SERIES – IRIS CINEMA**  
**DATE TBC**

One weekend intensive workshop focusing on directing episodic content. This will benefit directors of any genre and format including short films. Presenter TBC



- **Event 7 – WRITER’S ROOM 1 – MERCURY FOYER**

**Tuesday 24 April 2018**

Give and received feedback on your draft scripts. Each writer will be assigned to a group. Each participant will read the script and provide constructive feedback. These sessions will assist both the writer and the reader as they gain valuable skills in giving and receiving feedback guided by workshop mentors.

- **Event 8 – HOW TO APPLY TO MRC’S PIP FUNDING ROUND – IRIS CINEMA**  
**Tuesday 1 May 2018**

An MRC Production Executive will explain the PIP funding guidelines and provide relevant and useful information that will assist in preparing applications to PIP. Get tips and advice on how to make your application as competitive and compelling as possible.

- **Event 9 – WRITER’S ROOM 2 – MERCURY FOYER**  
**Tuesday 8 May 2018**

The final formal opportunity to receive feedback on your draft scripts before preparing for submission to PIP. Each writer will be assigned to a group. Each participant will read the script and provide constructive comments and feedback. These sessions will assist both the writer and the reader as they gain valuable skills in giving and receiving feedback guided by workshop mentors.

- **Event 10 – PIP FUNDING ROUND DEADLINE**  
**Tuesday 5 June 2018**

### PIP Funding Round Overview

- Up to six production opportunities are available.
- Applicants with a web series are strongly encouraged to apply. As per the table below, web series will benefit from higher budgets to support more ambitious projects where there is more than one episode intended to be produced.





## Key Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>The Big Pitch</b>	8 Feb
<b>Applications to Springboard CLOSE</b>	20 Feb
<b>World's Best Web Series Screening</b>	6 March
<b>Workshop: Screenwriting with Mike Jones 1</b>	9 (evening), 10, 11 March
<b>Workshop: Screenwriting with Mike Jones 2</b>	23 (evening), 24, 25 March
<b>Workshop: Producing a Short</b>	TBC
<b>Workshop: Directing for Web Series</b>	TBC
<b>Writer's Room 1</b>	24 April
<b>How to apply for PIP</b>	1 May
<b>Writer's Room 2</b>	8 May
<b>PIP Applications CLOSE</b>	5 June
<b>PIP successful projects ANNOUNCED</b>	13 July



## 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** \$260 plus \$60 membership fee

<b>Concession Rate</b>	\$205 plus \$45 membership fee
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For further information or enquiries please contact the MRC Production Team, Karena Slaninka, Kath McIntyre or Shabana Azeez.

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