



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**.

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 **Kirsty Stark**.

About Kirsty

Kirsty Stark has worked in the Australian film industry for over a decade, first as a freelance camera assistant and cinematographer, and now running her own production company.

She produced two ABC iView series – *Goober* and *Wastelander Panda: Exile*, along with the feature film *A Month of Sundays* and ABCME show *First Day*.



Kirsty is currently in post-production on two new projects - *Unboxed* and *The Projectionist* - and in development on a TV series.

Kirsty has presented at SXSW and TEDxAdelaide, and received multiple awards and recognition for her work. Her company, Epic Films, was named the Screen Producers Australia "Breakthrough Business of the Year" in 2016.

- **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 6 – DIRECTING FOR WEB SERIES – IRIS CINEMA**
DATE 28 April, 29 April, and 1 May 2018

One weekend intensive workshop focusing on directing episodic content. This will benefit directors of any genre and format including short films. Presented by **Richard Jasek**.

About Richard

At the age of nineteen Richard was accepted into the prestigious Fulltime Program of the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS), one of the youngest students ever to have been selected, where he majored in Direction.

Since then his work has ranged across television specials, documentary, teaching, and mainstream television drama, including Heartbreak High, Blue Heelers, Neighbours, Home & Away, Something in the Air, All Saints, Stingers, Murder Call, The Secret Life of Us, McLeod’s Daughters and City Homicide. Richard was Producer of the 7 Network’s primetime police drama: City Homicide, and Executive Producer of one of the longest-running serial dramas in the world, Neighbours.

His recent documentary work includes the science biographies Driven to Diffraction (about the Nobel-winning father-son science duo William and



Lawrence Bragg), and *Microbes to Macrobes* – the story of Frank Fenner (about the man who became a prime force in the successful campaign to eradicate smallpox). His most recent documentary, *Making A Mark*, follows finalists in the inaugural \$100,000 Ramsay Art Prize.

A recognised lecturer, he has taught at organisations including the AFTRS, Flinders University, Griffith University, University of Southern Queensland, and Britain’s National Film School.

- **Event 8 – HOW TO APPLY TO MRC’S PIP FUNDING ROUND – IRIS CINEMA**
Tuesday 3 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.



- 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.
- In addition to the cash funding available (see table below), selected projects gain access to equipment and MRC legals.

PIP Cash Funding Breakdown		
Web series	2 x high-level web series	\$ 15,000 each
Short or Web series	2 x mid-level projects	\$ 9,000 each
Short or Web series	2 x low budget projects	\$ 5,000 each

Benefits of Springboard

- Early stage practitioners will gain professional level skills and form collaborative teams with whom they can advance their careers
- Mid-level and established practitioners will upskill and have the chance to take a deeper dive into their chosen discipline
- Practitioners seeking to pursue a different discipline. E.g. a producer seeking to develop as a director or writer will gain new skills.
- A team with a mix of an emerging and established practitioners e.g. an experienced producer with an early stage writer/director with a strong



project will benefit from a mix of experience

- 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.

Key Dates

Event	Day	Date	Time
Workshop: Screenwriting with Mike Jones 1	Friday	9th of March	6:30 pm - 9 pm
	Saturday	10th of March	9:30 am - 3:30 pm
	Sunday	11th of March	9:30 am - 5:30 pm
Developing Web Series with Luke Eve	Saturday	10th of March	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Workshop: Screenwriting with Mike Jones 2	Friday	23rd of March	6:30 pm - 9 pm
	Saturday	24th of March	9:30 am - 5:30 pm
	Sunday	25th of March	9:30 am - 5:30 pm
Workshop: Producing a Short with Kirsty Stark	Saturday	7th of April	9:30 am - 5:30 pm
	Sunday	8th of April	9:30 am - 5:30 pm
Writer's Room 1	Tuesday	24th of April	6:30 pm - 9 pm
Workshop: Directing for Web Series with Richard Jasek	Saturday	28th of April	9:30 am - 5:30 pm
	Sunday	29th of April	9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Directing Masterclass with Richard Jasek	Tuesday	1st of May	6 pm - 9 pm
Writer's Room 2	Tuesday	8th of May	6:30 pm - 9 pm
How to apply for PIP/Film Law Lecture by Jankus Legal	Tuesday	15th of May	6:30 pm - 9 pm
PIP Applications CLOSE	Tuesday	5th of June	5:00 pm



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:

Springboard 2.0 Fees	
Full Rate	\$260 plus \$60 membership fee
Concession Rate	\$205 plus \$45 membership fee

For further information or enquiries please contact the MRC Production Team, Karena Slaninka, Kath McIntyre or Shabana Azeez.

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