

PITCH, PLEEZ!

TERMS & CONDITIONS

The Melbourne Queer Film Festival has proudly supported and fostered local queer filmmaking talent through its various awards and prizes over its 30+ years.

Pitch, Pleez! offers Australian LGBTQIA+ filmmakers the opportunity to create original content by assisting in the production of a short fiction or documentary film, or a web series pilot.

The winning pitch will continue to address MQFF's central values of celebrating and showcasing proudly different queer stories in an Australian context.

Basic Concept

A pitch competition is held in an open session free of charge, running no more than 90 minutes. A shortlisted set of up to 6 applicants have 5 minutes each to pitch to a panel of judges in front of an audience. They can prepare and use various audiovisual aids if they have provided them prior to the event.

The event will have an MC, and judges may ask questions of the finalists as required. The winner will be announced on the day.

Timeframes

Applications close **Sunday 26 April 2026 at 11:59pm (AEST)**.

Finalists will be notified by **Monday 11 May 2026**.

Other key dates, such as the pitch competition session, will be available on the MQFF website and through social media.

Submission Requirements

Each submission must address the following:

- Project type (fiction/documentary/web series pilot).
- Project length (must be less than **15 minutes**).
- The project **MUST** have LGBTQIA+ representation.
- Link to a (maximum 3 minute) pitch video for initial assessment.
- Current draft of script (attachment).

- Applicants must warrant that they own or are licensed to use all materials (script, music, photography etc.).
- Applicants must warrant that they agree to the terms and conditions contained in this document.
- **Budget** - summary project budget (as an attachment). If the overall budget is greater than \$10,000, evidence of where the additional funds will be secured is to be provided.
- Screener link to one example of previous work by the director.
- Post-production must be completed no later than **1 October 2026**.
- Completed application form and agreement to terms and conditions.

Evaluation Process

All eligible projects will be assessed by an in-house panel and up to six finalists will be selected to proceed to the pitch competition session. Finalists will be provided with an opportunity to pitch their project to a panel of judges at the competition. The winner will be announced on the day.

Pitches of up to 5 minutes may include audiovisual presentation and the like, and detailed budget and production to be submitted separately ahead of the pitch competition event. The timeframe must be strictly adhered to, and presenters will be stopped at the expiration of their time.

Assessment Criteria

- Relevance of story to a queer audience.
- Strength and diversity of your creative team.
- Timelines and production planning.
- Budget and project objectives.
- Quality of story idea.

Resubmissions

No resubmissions can be made to the *Pitch, Please!* development fund for projects that MQFF rejects. MQFF may invite applicants to resubmit after additional project development has taken place.

Judging Panel

The panel will consist of experienced screen professionals with skills in production, distribution and writing, and a member of the MQFF board. Judges will be given access to all materials submitted prior to the pitch competition.

Prize

- The successful project will be awarded \$10,000 AUD to fund their project.
- An All-In-Pass to the 2026 Melbourne Queer Film Festival.

Funding

If requested, the successful project will be required to provide additional production documentation before receiving the funds. The funds may be disbursed incrementally as the project evolves and progression reports are provided to MQFF, or in one payment, as approved by MQFF.

MQFF expects that progression reports would include a minimum of:

- A final draft of script.
- Bios of all key cast and crew and other creatives.
- Shooting schedule.
- Post-production schedule.
- Agreements of any in-kind support.
- Detailed budget planning.
- Evidence of Invoices paid or requiring payment.

Obligations to MQFF

- MQFF must have first rights on the World Premiere of the film.
- MQFF logo and acknowledgment, alongside any participating sponsor logos to feature in credits.
- All required approvals and licenses must be obtained from stakeholders engaged in the making of the project.
- Recipients of funding must act in compliance with any statutory or regulatory conditions applicable to the project.
- Applicants must keep MQFF apprised of any significant changes to the project.
- Courtesy consultation during final edit stages if requested.
- Copies of final edit in the formats requested by MQFF.
- EPK including production stills & posters for publicity/archive purposes.

General Information

- The information in these Terms and Conditions can change. MQFF reserves the right to review the pitch competition and change its policies, procedures and assessment criteria.
- The application form does not necessarily cover all the information MQFF will need to assess which applications to support. MQFF reserves the right to ask applicants for additional information.
- All applications are made at the applicant's own risk. MQFF will not be liable for loss, damage or costs arising directly or indirectly from: 1. The application process; and 2. MQFF's decision not to provide an award to an applicant, and/or dealing with the application.
- It is important that applicants check the information given in the application form carefully. MQFF may withhold or reclaim funds in the following circumstances: 1. If the application was filed dishonestly or with incorrect or misleading information about the organisation or the project, whether deliberately or accidentally; and 2. If, during the term of the agreement, the awardee acts dishonestly or negligently to the disadvantage of the project. MQFF will follow up cases of suspected fraud and will pursue the matter legally.

Complaints and Appeals

MQFF's decision is final. Formal appeals against the final decision will not be considered unless the applicant has worthy cause to believe that the procedures for processing the applications were not adhered to or were applied in such a way as to prejudice the outcome of the application.

Contact

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