



Pitch, Pleez!

The Melbourne Queer Film Festival has proudly supported and fostered local queer filmmaking talent through its various awards and prizes over its 29 years.

In 2019 we are thrilled to announce an exciting new initiative and prize, a Pitch competition **Pitch, Pleez!**. This \$10,000 prize will offer Australian LGBTI+ filmmakers the opportunity to create original content by assisting the production of a short fiction, documentary or 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

Our pitch competition will be held in an open session free of charge in a venue at the festival in an event of less than 90 minutes. A short-listed set of up to 6 applicants have 5 minutes each to pitch to a panel of judges in front of an audience. They can use various audio-visual aids if they wish. Additional materials will have been provided during their original submission. The event will have an MC. Judges can ask questions of the finalists as required and the winner will be announced on the day,

Timeframes

- Competition will be held on **Sunday March 17, 2019** at a festival Venue.
- Finalists will be notified **Friday March 1, 2019** by email.
- Applications close **Friday February 15, 2019 at 12pm**.
- An Information Session will be held on **January 16, 2019**.

Submission Requirements

Each submission must address the following:

- Project type (fiction/documentary/web series or pilot)
- Project length (must be less than **15 minutes**)
- The project **MUST** have LGBTIQ 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, characters, music, photography etc)
- Applicants must warrant that they agree to the terms and conditions contained in this document.
- **Budget** -Summary project budget (attachment). If 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 of the creative team
- Post Production must be complete by **December 1st, 2019**
- 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. The selected finalists may be offered some pitch coaching from skilled industry insiders at a pitching workshop. 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 AV presentation and the like. Detailed budget and production information will have already been submitted separately as well. The timeframe is 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, Pleez! 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 an MQFF board member. Judges will be given access to all materials submitted prior to the pitch competition.

Funding

Prize money of **\$10,000** will be awarded. The prize may include additional non-cash items such as film making support, camera or editing software if supplied by sponsors.

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. MQFF may be able to organise additional assistance or

provide an industry mentor if the film makers have particular gaps in skills or highlight the need for help.

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 Australian Premiere, if requested.
- MQFF logo and participating sponsor logo 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.
- 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;
 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 in 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 good cause to believe that the procedures for processing the applications were not adhered to or applied in such a way as to prejudice the outcome of the application.