

THE NORMAN JEWISON FILM PROGRAM: WRITERS' LAB OVERVIEW

WHAT IS IT?

The Writers' Lab is a 5 ½-month, full-time program for up to five (5) writers a year and provides the opportunity to:

- Build your confidence by exercising narrative, cinematic, and technical storytelling skills
- Establish strong relationships through collaboration with directors, editors, producers, and other key creatives
- Engage with actors to workshop your scripted material
- Define what your unique offerings are within the screen industry
- Generate and develop work that showcases your voice
- Help package your projects for the marketplace
- See some of your written work onscreen, including a fully realized proof of concept to showcase your voice and writing, and to promote your feature

Ultimately, the experience in the Writers' Lab gives you a host of new relationships and enhanced skills, an expanded slate, a professionally produced proof of concept, and a primary project or two at an advanced development stage to further showcase your talent, along with an understanding of the next steps needed to advance your career.

HOW IT WORKS

The Writers' Lab experience is a combination of individually focused mentorship, Lab-specific and cross-discipline workshops, and sessions targeting the artistic, collaborative, practical, and business aspects of writing and creating.

Each writer in the Lab will have different trajectories and goals coming into and upon leaving the program, so we take a targeted approach to individual mentorship and project development, consulting with you along the way.

This program is designed to engage a multitude of working professionals on short-term contracts as workshop leaders, consultants and mentors, that best reflect the needs of each cohort. We do not operate with a full-time/permanent faculty.

To ensure we have the flexibility to build the right program activities for each individual and cohort, we do not have a set curriculum. Elements of the program, including mentors, guests, and workshops, will change annually according to the needs of the current cohort, and the projects in question, while continuing to reflect the core components outlined below.

The program is full-time, with the expectation that this is a priority for you. We schedule a lot of activities, as well as pockets of time for you to apply feedback and advance your work, to take time to digest the learning, and to regroup/reassess as needed.

In general, the program runs Monday to Friday during business hours, with exceptions made for guest availability, and for production activities as necessary. We cluster in-person program days wherever possible, with other days being set up for virtual/remote participation as appropriate.

The Writers' Lab is designed to be highly collaborative with the other Labs (Directors, Producers, Editors), and wherever possible, with the talent in CFC's other core programs, including the CBC Actors Conservatory and the Slight Music Residency. This Lab is for writers who are ready to collaborate with other artists to develop and realize their work, as a way of expanding your professional skills, your work, and your creative process.

Writers retain all original IP to the projects and work that you bring into the program to develop. The CFC does not take any ownership of underlying IP, but we do own the completed produced exercises, short films, and showcases, as all insurance, agreements, and ongoing liabilities are with the CFC.

1. DEVELOPING VOICE & CREATIVE VISION

Writers explore different practices and approaches, to build a range of experiences you can draw upon when examining and evolving your work and process, through:

- Case studies with other creators, which help break down a variety of approaches, styles, and work
- Hands-on workshops and production exercises, to give you the opportunity to see your creative work realized, and improve your cinematic storytelling and screenwriting skills

- Individual coaching throughout, to increase your ability to better articulate and execute on your vision at all stages of the creative process, and support your exploration of what makes you and your projects distinct

2. BUILDING COMMUNITY & STRONG CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Writers expand your understanding of how best to respect and engage with directors, producers, actors, editors, and other key collaborators through practical interaction, workshops, and mentorship.

The opportunity to work through artistic differences, develop and navigate effective communication styles, and discover your best approach all serve to deliver on this component.

As you work together with other creatives in a variety of ways on several exercises and projects, you will build relationships, expand your networks, and ideally forge long-lasting partnerships.

3. UNDERSTANDING THE BUSINESS OF WRITING & THE MARKETPLACE

Writers meet with a range of industry professionals from all facets of our business, both traditional and non-traditional, gaining valuable insights on key considerations for content creation, best and evolving practices, and feedback on your projects/slate and larger career strategy.

These sessions and meetings are meant to help bridge the gap between your creative aspirations and the business, while also expanding your own professional network.

4. PROJECT ACCELERATION & PACKAGING

Writers come into the program with a primary narrative feature project, and a project slate which reflects your vision across different genres and formats.

Primary projects will be actively developed, through workshopping and/or actor table reads, as well as feedback from mentors, consultants, and peers.

Throughout the Lab, you will work to identify and articulate the distinctive elements of these projects, while developing your primary project/script, the pitch, and the creative package.

You will also work to develop and produce a fully realized proof of concept in the program, which speaks to your distinct voice, and showcases your feature.

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The CFC is committed to providing accessible practices that are in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). If you require accommodation at any stage of the application process, or have any questions regarding appropriate accommodations, please contact Deborah Fallows, Executive Lead, People & Culture, at: dfallows@cfccreates.com.

CONTACT

For questions, please email programs@cfccreates.com.