



EMBARGOED UNTIL 9AM 1 JULY 2019 AEST

TRUANT PICTURES ANNOUNCES AUSTRALIAN BASED SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

Truant Pictures, based in Sydney and Los Angeles, announced today the launch of its first Australian focused screenplay competition, committed to uncovering the next great horror, science fiction and thriller screenwriters, with a pool of prizes and initiatives to help support emerging writers' careers.

Aussie writers have the opportunity to win a significant cash prize and receive professional feedback from industry heavyweights with international reach. The winner will receive a \$5,000 cash prize, a hot desk for one week at Truant Pictures' office in Sydney, and mentorship from Truant's Development & Production Executives Toby Nalbandian and Greg Schmidt. In addition, two finalists will receive \$1,000 cash each, and all three writers will be read and noted by one of the Industry Insider judges **Stuart Beattie** (*Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl, Collateral, I, Frankenstein*), **Yolanda Ramke** (*Cargo*) or **Zak Hilditch** (*1922, These Final Hours*), along with written feedback from Los Angeles based ex-pat Aussie script consultant Tim Schildberger.

The competition is open to any writer who is a current Australian citizen or permanent resident and has earned no more than \$30,000 from fiction screenwriting in the last 12 months. Only feature film scripts in the genre of horror, science fiction and/or thriller (or any sub-genre thereof) are eligible.

"We're looking for compelling stories, unique voices and writers who exhibit a strong command of their craft, whether they're 'in the system' or have never been read," says Schmidt.

"Truant Pictures was created with a vision to collaborate with Australian filmmakers to produce compelling and entertaining stories with universal audience appeal. We're committed to discovering and nurturing the next wave of Aussie genre talent and are excited to be launching our first public initiative focused on writers," says Nalbandian.

Entries for the Truant Screenplay Competition are open from July 1 to September 2, with winners announced in November 2019.

All reading and judging will be done in collaboration with LiveRead/LA (www.livereadla.com) – a Los Angeles based organisation dedicated to helping writers improve their skills.

Entrants can apply here: <https://filmfreeway.com/Truant>

For media enquiries, please contact:

Email: tessa.crozier@al.com.au

About Truant Pictures

Truant Pictures, a subsidiary of Animal Logic, develops and produces film and television in collaboration with emerging and established Australian talent for a worldwide market. Truant's slate of projects is being developed with talent across Australia and the world, including Aussie writers Zak Hilditch, Joan Sauers, Nicholas Verso, Stephen McCallum, Andy Friedhof, Jub Clerc, Michael Kratochvil, and writing teams Alexei Mizin & Ryan van Dijk, and Shayne Armstrong & Shane Krause.