

## WRITING SHORT FILMS

### A 10-Session Emerging Artists Trust Workshop with René Le Bas

Short film scripts are a great way for emerging writers to showcase their voice and advance their careers. This course will help writers develop their craft, articulate their voice, and meet the creative challenges of writing a shootable/fundable script. This course will run for 2 hours fortnightly on Monday nights 3rd February – 15th June 2020.

#### About the Facilitator

**René Le Bas** is an IIML graduate who holds an MA in Scriptwriting. He is a Seed Grant recipient, winner of the SWANZ Best Unproduced TV pilot and he was shortlisted for the 2019 Adam NZ Play Award. In 2019 alone, three of René's short scripts went into production, 'Remains' and the EAT-funded short 'Josie' produced by Ocean Beach Pictures and 'Wrong House' for the New Zealand Film School.

Rene has run writing workshops through EAT for the past five years, and with this course, he aims to equip writers with the skillset necessary to write a short film script that will serve as their 'calling card' to the wider industry.

Through this course, René aims to give writers an understanding of the variety of ways in which a short film can be funded, including self-funding, crowd funding, sponsorship, and project grants e.g. EAT and NZFC's Fresh Shorts. This course will help writers determine which path is right for their project, and to develop a funding application if desired.

## Schedule and Outline

### **3rd<sup>th</sup> February**

#### 1) WHY WRITE SHORT FILMS?

Session one will help writers gain an understanding of the purpose of a short film, how writing one can benefit their careers, and how a short film is different from other mediums. Case studies will also explore what does and doesn't work in existing short film scripts.

### **17<sup>th</sup> February**

#### 2) INTERESTING CHARACTERS IN UNIQUE SITUATIONS

Scott Myers of The Blacklist says that screenwriting is about "simple plots and complex characters." Session two explores how to create complex characters, and how to have your character drive the plot.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> March**

#### 3) START SMALL – UNDERSTANDING YOUR STORY

Writers will begin to develop their short film premises. This session will focus on the importance of loglines, synopses, and outlines in the development process.

### **16<sup>th</sup> March**

#### 4) WRITING COMPELLING SCENES

Earlier sessions have explored your short film concept on a macro level. This session will delve into building intrigue and generating conflict at a scene-by-scene level.

### **30<sup>th</sup> March**

#### 5) REWRITING

Writing is rewriting. Session five will help writers identify areas where their first drafts can be improved upon, and provide tips and techniques for further rewrites and edits.

~MONTH-LONG WRITING BREAK~

### **27<sup>th</sup> April**

#### 6) Q & A WITH OTHER SHORT FILMMAKERS

As you write your short film, learn from other writers and directors about the process of writing and what seeing their script go through production entailed.

### **11<sup>th</sup> May**

#### 7) SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Bulletproof your premise and funding application by articulating who your audience is, the tone and genre of your film, develop a bio and other supporting materials for your funding application/crowd funding campaign.

### **25<sup>th</sup> May**

#### 8) PITCHING & FINDING YOUR TEAM

Session eight will focus on how to find the right collaborators for your project, and the relationship between writers, producers, and directors. The session will also focus on techniques for how to nail your pitch.

### **8<sup>th</sup> June**

#### 9) PITCHING OF COMPLETED SCRIPTS/APPLICATIONS - Group 1

### **15<sup>th</sup> June**

#### 10) PITCHING OF COMPLETED SCRIPTS/APPLICATIONS - Group 2

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### **Details**

#### **Cost**

\$200 for the full 10 sessions, payable in advance (or by arrangement)

#### **Venue**

Innermost Gardens  
31 Lawson Place, Mount Victoria, Wellington 6011

#### **Time**

Mondays, 6:30pm-8:30pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020—15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

#### **Register**

To apply, please send

- a one-page screenwriting sample
- a paragraph about yourself explaining how the course will benefit you

to René Le bas at [nzscreenwriting@gmail.com](mailto:nzscreenwriting@gmail.com)

#### **Deadline to apply**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Please note spaces are limited so early registrations are advised

**More information** Contact Sally Thorburn [sally@eatwellington.org.nz](mailto:sally@eatwellington.org.nz)