



REALNESS – An Africa Screenwriter’s Residency

SUBMISSIONS UPDATE

One month ago, Urucu Media announced the call for submissions for REALNESS, a Pan African screenwriter’s residency which aims to provide the continent’s best emerging writing talents the necessary time, space and support to develop their unique cinematic vision.

From June to August 2016, 5 writers will be invited to participate in a residency program that will allow them to develop a new draft of their original feature screenplays, under the mentorship of international industry professionals.

“We are on the hunt for the top emerging talent and most promising projects,” says Urucu Media’s Elias Ribeiro, “the ones that have true potential to become award winning feature films; this is our goal to ensure Realness will live beyond a first edition.”

In just four short weeks, there have been over 50 submissions, with 30% of them coming from outside of South Africa. The scope of writers ranges from established writer/directors to self-taught, emerging talent.

The 5 selected writers will experience 7 weeks of script development and mentoring in the idyllic setting of the Nirox Artist Residency. In addition to meals and accommodation being provided, each participant will be given a stipend of R15 000. The residents will have the opportunity to present their projects to an audience of producers, industry members and a jury composed of experts at the Durban International Film Mart. Ultimately, the director and producer of the most promising project will be invited to pitch to co-producers, financiers and festival programmers at La Fabrique des Cinema du Monde in Cannes in 2017.

“Our goal is not only to identify and select the best emerging talent in Africa, but also to grant these filmmakers the access they need in order to take the next steps to getting their film made.” says Ribeiro.

Realness and Urucu Media recently welcomed Faribridges Wertheim Becker Attorneys on board as a partner to assist with the process of legally protecting the ownership of each resident’s work. Realness is a safe space to create and each writer owns the rights to their work. The only request is that Realness is credited shall the film ever get made.

There is no obligation for the writers to work with Urucu Media, or any other production company; who they partner and work with is left entirely to the discretion of each writer.

Ribeiro went on to say, “We believe the residency is great opportunity to get to know people and vice versa. If we fall in love with a project, we will talk to the team behind it about potentially partnering, but there is no pre-agreed commitment to do so.”

The submission window closes on the 31st of January (or until 120 completed entries have been received, whichever ever comes first) and the final selection will be announced at an event hosted by the pavilion Les Cinemas du Monde in Cannes, 2016.

Although REALNESS applications need to be submitted in English, screenplays may be delivered in French or Portuguese, with supporting documents supplied in English.

More information regarding submission materials can be found at www.urucumedia.com/realness



