



18 November 2024
Adelaide

APPLICATIONS FOR THE MERCURY QUICKSILVER PRODUCTION FUND OPEN

Calling all early career and emerging South Australian screen creatives - applications for the next round of The Mercury's Quicksilver Production Funding are now open!

Supported by the South Australian Film Corporation, The Quicksilver Production Fund supports the professional development of creative talent by providing funded production opportunities of short form content that demonstrate an authentic, original artistic vision.

With a total of **\$136,000 in funding and mentoring support**, this initiative is an opportunity for projects ready to commence production for the first half of 2025.

The Quicksilver Production Fund will provide eight creative teams with grants ranging from \$8,000 to a whopping \$50,000 to produce a short film or the pilot of a web series. Projects can be narrative fiction, documentary or animation, up to 15-minutes in duration.

At least two of the \$10,000 grants will be awarded for projects with a majority of First Nations as key creatives, as part of The Mercury's commitment to fostering the development of South Australia's First Nations filmmakers.

In addition to the provision of cash budgets, in-kind support will also be provided by way of equipment and facilities hire at The Mercury, public liability and volunteer insurance cover, a suite of contract templates & production forms, paid project mentoring from an ATL industry mentor, and the use of the Mercury's Iris Cinema auditions and a cast & crew screening.

The Mercury General Manager Sarah Lancaster said: "We're thrilled to work with the South Australian Film Corporation to develop the next generation of SA filmmakers. The funding of short film projects presents a major opportunity for emerging and early career practitioners to hone their skills, strengthen connection with collaborators and advance their careers. In addition to cash grants, The Mercury will provide production and post-production support - including equipment and facilities hire, production offices, Shane

Brennan Writer's Room and space for use for auditions, industry mentoring and use of the cinemas to celebrate their finished projects on the big screen.

Previous Quicksilver Funded films were celebrated at the Adelaide Film Festival this year with three projects included in the Made in SA program during the Adelaide Film Festival; *Boy on Fire*, directed by Alies Sluiter, *The Hitcher*, directed by Henry Reimer Meaney and *Finding Jia*, directed by Alice Yang, which took out the Short Film and Audience Awards."

South Australian Film Corporation CEO Kate Croser said: "I'm excited by the incredible calibre of talent and creative voices beginning their screen careers in SA and the SAFC is so pleased to continue our ongoing support for The Mercury and the Quicksilver Production Initiative to provide a rare and valuable opportunity for many of these SA creatives to take their bold and authentic stories to the screen."

Quicksilver applicants are encouraged to participate in upcoming one-day [Launch Lab](#) workshops including 'Crafting Your Short Film Script' on Saturday 16 November with guest presenter Writer/Director Matt Vesely and an esteemed panel of filmmakers including Erin White, Mathew Thorne, Sean Lahiff and Alies Sluiter who will share their insights into the world of short filmmaking and the hidden gems behind crafting a short film that not only captivates audiences but also garners critical acclaim and international recognition. To assist Quicksilver applicants create a standout written application, a second Launch Lab focusing on the art of pitching will be led by Producer Rebecca Summerton on Saturday 30 November.

The Mercury's [Quicksilver Script Consultations](#) are also running throughout November, providing the opportunity for Quicksilver applicants to finesse their short film scripts with industry professionals.

Applications close 11.59pm Monday 3 December.

More details: <https://themercury.org.au/industry-support/quicksilver-production-funding/>

ABOUT THE MERCURY

The Mercury has a legacy spanning 50 years as a member-based centre for screen culture in the heart of Adelaide's West End.

Proudly South Australian, The Mercury is a not-for-profit organisation that operates the independent Mercury Cinema and, utilising funding from the South Australian Film Corporation, provides pathways for emerging filmmakers starting their professional screen industry career.

The Mercury's subscription model at \$25/month or \$300/year offers unlimited screenings to Silverscreen and Cinematheque programs, free entry to the Script Club, Launch Lab, all industry programs, complimentary use of all production facilities and equipment, one-on-

one script consultations, industry mentoring, ability to apply to the Quicksilver Production Fund and a discounted South Australian Screen Award submission fee.

With alumni including Emmy award winners, Oscar nominees, a Cannes Special Jury Prize winner and the Best Director winner at Sundance Film Festival, our passion for quality is undeniable.

The Mercury also boasts two cinemas – a 186 seat Mercury cinema, and the 36 seat Iris - both of which offer a comprehensive film program of contemporary, classic and cult favourites films.

Centrally located, The Mercury neighbours the Jam Factory, Nexus Arts, The Lion Arts Factory, ILA, UniSA West Campus, TAFE SA, AC Arts & the Flinders University Festival Plaza.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Susan Colyer, Marketing Manager
marketing@themercury.org.au
0407970913