



AWG WRITERS IN RESIDENCE CONSULTATIONS | GUIDELINES

Three AWG members (Sandy Cameron, Matt Bate and Ruth Estelle) will be available for a minimum for 16 one-on-one consultations each (4 days x 4 consultations per day) throughout the month of August.

The initiative is designed to assist emerging writers via a consultation with an established screenwriter and/or story developer. The consultation will consist of feedback on a short-form concept/script.

The priority for the Writers in Residence consultations during August 2023 will be providing consultation on short-form projects that will be submitted to The Mercury's upcoming Quicksilver production funding initiative.

Only subscribers of The Mercury may book in for one of these consultations and can do so via Google form: <https://forms.gle/JGNobDjzvk3UHF4v7> Registrations will remain open for the duration of the initiative (the month of August) OR until all available consultation times have been filled, whichever happens first.

Ahead of the consultation, both Consultant and Participant/s must enter a contract stipulating that the original IP and IP that results from the consultation, including any contributions from the Consultant, is and remains sole property of the Participant/s.

ELIGIBILITY/SUBMISSION CRITERIA

- Only Subscribers of The Mercury are eligible and Subscriptions must be active at the time the booking form is submitted.
- If you have a co-writer or creative collaborator, i.e. Dir or Prod, who will be participating in the consultation, they must also be a Mercury Subscriber.
- The number of Participants who can take part in a consultation is capped at 2.
- During August, priority will be given to short-form projects – short films and web series – that are intended for submission to the upcoming Quicksilver initiative. And bookings for Quicksilver applicant projects will be made on a first come first serve basis. Any projects not intended for submission to the Quicksilver initiative will be given a consultation on a discretionary basis, if there is availability.
- Subscribers will list their mark the consultants by their preference, from 1-3, on the online booking form with 1 being their most preferred.
- Once a Subscriber/Participant has received their consultant and consultation time confirmation, they will need to ensure that all relevant script/story material is emailed to the Development and Program Manager at steph@themercury.org.au 3 days ahead of the booking. It may be sent earlier, but not later than 3 days prior, to allow the consultant time to prepare.



- There is no guarantee that any script/story material received later than 3 days prior to the consultation will be read ahead of the consultation.
- Script/story materials may include the following:
 - Short film/web series script/s - up to 15 pages in length total (not including title page). If your script/s are longer than 15 pages in total, you pay provide a sample of your script/s.
 - In lieu of a Script, particularly in the case of documentary projects, you can include a scene breakdown or beat sheet.
 - Treatment or one pager that includes a logline and synopsis or (in the case of a web series) episode breakdowns.
 - Other creative documents – vision board, release strategy, directing notes etc – may be included if you feel they are a crucial to the consultation process – however please be mindful in keeping documents concise to aid the consultant’s preparation.
- Best efforts will be made to ensure Subscribers/Participants get their most preferred Consultant and time, but this cannot be guaranteed.
- If a Subscriber/Participant can’t attend in person (i.e. due to sickness or distance) a zoom meeting can be arranged.
- If a Subscriber cancels, we cannot guarantee that another time can be arranged.
- If a Subscriber does not initially get allocated a time, they will be waitlisted and, in the case that there is a cancellation, waitlisted Participants will be allocated a consultation one by one from the top of the waitlist.
- If a Subscriber does not get allocated their preferred consultant and/or time and they are not able to attend the alternative time, and all other slots are taken, they will be waitlisted and, in the case that there is a cancellation, waitlisted Participants will be allocated a consultation one by one from the top of the waitlist.
- If a Subscriber can no longer attend for whatever reason, either in person or via zoom, they must inform the Development and Program Manager to allow someone on the waitlist to take their place, as soon as possible.
- If a consultant must cancel due to unforeseeable circumstances, best efforts will be made to reschedule the meeting or facilitate a zoom consultation.
- In the case of our First Nations Subscribers who require a First Nations Consultant, our best efforts will be made to facilitate this.
 - To indicate this as a preference, simply list **‘require a First Nations Consultant’** under the ‘is there anything else we should take into account when booking your consultation?’ section of the form.



CONTRACT/AGREEMENTS

- Both Consultant and Participant/s will enter a Script Consultation Agreement that states that the IP, including any development of the IP that comes as a direct result of the consultation, remains the sole property of the Participant.
- This Script Consultation Agreement will be provided to the Participant and must be SIGNED at least 3 days before the allocated meeting time and submitted to steph@themercury.org.au before or at the time of submission of creative documents.
- Participants must only submit script/story material that they are the originator or owner of. By submitting your booking form, you are claiming you possess ownership over the IP and have the relevant rights to develop the story and creative elements within the story, within the context of a professional consultation.