



NZ On Air & NZ Film Commission - Joint Documentary Fund 2013 Request for Proposals (Second Call)

Introduction

The Joint Documentary Fund is a partnership between NZ On Air and NZ Film Commission to provide a new opportunity to make strong, appealing one-off documentaries of a quality likely to delight New Zealand audiences, win awards, and secure festival invitations and broadcast sales.

Size of fund

\$2.5 million combined from NZ On Air (\$1.75m) and NZ Film Commission (\$0.75m). At least \$0.5 million of the fund has been committed to date. One project has received development funds and a commitment for that project may be made before the application deadline.

What kind of documentary?

Projects should tell important, appealing stories that are likely to have longevity, namely be of interest to audiences for some time. There will be a clear New Zealand cultural relevance, and some onscreen New Zealand presence. It is not essential for a project to be set in New Zealand. There are no restrictions on topic but two similar stories would not be selected.

Duration will depend on the scope of the project but should generally be of theatrical feature duration (typically defined as 80 minutes or longer). However, it may screen in a different format for television (e.g. in two-parts or an edited duration). Please indicate if you are expecting to produce separate theatrical and television versions of your documentary and, if so, clearly explain how the theatrical and television versions will differ. The theatrical version is expected to have a distinctively cinematic quality which should include a compelling dramatic narrative and emotional journey. Projects will be shot in digital format, not film.

It is expected a minimum of three projects will be selected. While budgets will vary depending on the scope of each project no single project is likely to receive funding in excess of \$750,000 and most are expected to be less than \$500,000.

Third party investment is encouraged, particularly for projects requiring higher budgets.

Who may apply?

Established New Zealand documentary makers with an important documentary credit (either theatrical or television). Projects from less experienced documentary makers may be considered if they can provide material (e.g. a rough cut) that meets the fund criteria, and the proposed production team overall has sufficient expertise. If necessary, the funders may require an executive producer acceptable to the documentary maker be attached. Projects will need a producer but in some cases the director may also be the producer.

To be eligible applications will need

- to secure the support of a mainstream, free to air broadcaster (TVOne, TV2, TV3, Four, Prime, Māori Television) for a primetime screening (6-10pm).
- an appropriate broadcaster licence fee
- a credible distribution plan to achieve theatrical distribution in at least three New Zealand cities . This plan may rely on a distributor, self distribution or the NZ International Film Festival.

Expected distribution model

First NZ release: Theatrical distribution in at least three New Zealand cities either by way of the NZ International Film Festival or a credible distribution plan

Second: Available for NZ free to air broadcast and on-demand within six months of first theatrical screening. DVD release (if applicable) within six months of first broadcast

Third: Anticipated availability to NZ On Screen (non exclusive, full length) from around five years of first broadcast depending on sales achieved

Selection process

Projects will be selected by a panel made up of staff from NZ On Air and NZ Film Commission with invited independent experts. It is expected that selected projects will be announced in May 2014.

Submission of applications

Applications should be submitted electronically to tv@nzonair.govt.nz along with a completed application form no later than 5.00pm Monday, 3 March 2014. There is no limit on the number of eligible applications a producer or director can submit.

Contracting

Successful projects will enter into a three-way production funding agreement with NZ Film Commission and NZ On Air. Recoupment terms will be as per current NZ Film Commission and NZ On Air guidelines.

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