

**Fourth edition
Biennale College – Cinema
2015 International Call**

Goals

- To complement and enrich the Venice International Film Festival with works by new talents, sponsored by the Biennale and developed and produced in an advanced workshop for training, research and experimentation that will admit, at the end of a selection process, young filmmakers from all over the world, and will cover the entire spectrum of the conception, development, production, direction, marketing, audience engagement and distribution of audiovisual works.
- To further research into *micro* and *low-budget* productions, which in times of economic crisis have become one of the few opportunities for young talents to make the leap into directing feature-length audiovisual works.

Other priority goals include:

- To promote and support the production of up to 3 audiovisual longer than 60 minutes, whether they be feature-length films or transmedia projects, at the conclusion of a one yearlong series of activities that both involve and promote all the professional figures in the filmmaking process.
- To present the selected works at the Venice International Film Festival of the Biennale di Venezia, and to distribute them online as well in streaming in the Festival's Sala Web, thereby addressing one of the most sensitive issues in independent filmmaking today, visibility.

This initiative will include the selection and development of 12 *micro-budget* projects, the production of no more than 3 audiovisual works and their presentation during the Venice International Film Festival, with online distribution in streaming as well. The selection will be made by the Director of the Cinema Sector of the Biennale di Venezia, whose decision will be final, assisted in the various phases by a staff of consultants of his own choosing.

The audiovisual concepts will be developed from every point of view, focusing not only on the artistic development, but on *audience design* as well, which means involving a specific, even niche, audience from the earliest phases in the development of the film, instead of waiting until it has been completed.

The programme will also focus attention on the organizational aspects and on cost control.

La Biennale already achieves these goals by supporting, directly or with contributions from the European Union, productions in the sectors of Dance, Music and Theatre.

Biennale College Cinema, developed by the **Biennale di Venezia**, is supported by the **Ministry for the Cultural Heritage and Activities – General Direction Cinema** and by the **Regione del Veneto**.

Biennale College – Cinema is held for the fourth consecutive year in academic collaboration with **IFP** in **New York** and the **TorinoFilmLab**, and in collaboration with the **Busan International Film Festival**.

Phases and schedule

The project is divided into six phases, which correspond to each of the steps required for the development and production of a film:

- The first phase will take place approximately from 11th May 2015 until the 72st Venice International Film Festival in September 2015 and will include the launch of the Call for participation for the fourth edition of the Biennale College – Cinema, represented by the publication and promotion of this announcement for the selection of 12 projects. The first phase will end with the selection of the 12 projects by the Director of the Cinema Sector.

- The second phase will take place during the month of October 2015 and will include the first workshop for the development of the projects by the 12 selected teams. The projects will be presented in public at its conclusion.
- The third phase will take place during the month of November 2014 and will include an online session to develop the screenplay for all 12 projects and the selection by the artistic Director of the Cinema Sector of up to 3 projects.
- The fourth phase will feature a second workshop to be held during the month of December 2015 to develop the screenplay, for the teams of the 3 selected projects.
- The fifth phase will feature a third workshop for the 3 selected teams, to be held in January 2016, and will be dedicated to pre-production and direction.
- The sixth phase will run from January 2016 to August 2016; it will involve the allocation of the funding, following approval of the fittingness and congruity of each project, and the production of the works and their presentation at the Venice Film Festival. In early July, during the editing phase, participants will present a *rough cut* for viewing by the Artistic Director of the Cinema Sector, and submit the final product by mid-August.

Each of the six phases will be coordinated by the Director of the Cinema Sector of the Biennale di Venezia, assisted by the Head of Programme for the Biennale College Cinema, Savina Neirotti, and by two Heads of Studies: they will be Jane Williams and Michel Reilhac for the 2015/2016 edition.

The first phase will feature the collaboration of several prestigious international figures and institutions, selected by the Director of the Cinema Sector of the Biennale di Venezia.

The fifth and sixth phases will also benefit from the collaboration of a *Financial Controller* who will monitor the allocation of funds during the set and post-production phases.

The projects of the Teams that are not selected from phase three onwards will in any case enjoy an **online follow up** and will be able to explore various opportunities to find co-producers in partnership with existing *coproduction markets* around the world.

PHASE ONE

International selection of 12 *micro-budget* concepts/ideas presented by teams composed of a director and a producer.

International selection process to select up to 12 teams consisting of 1 director and 1 producer, with no age limit and with the following characteristics:

- **The application for participation must be submitted exclusively by a team.**

There is no participation or registration fee.

- The **directors** must be at their debut or second work and must present themselves in tandem with **producers** who have already produced at least 3 audio-visual works (including every form of short film, web docs, web series, music videos, advertisements, etc.) If the producer has already produced a feature-length fiction or documentary film distributed and/ or presented at Festivals, he is still eligible to participate in the Call.

- Teams that have previously submitted an application to the previous Biennale College – Cinema editions will not be able to re-apply with the same project. Teams who were selected for the first phase of the previous Biennale College – Cinema editions will not be accepted again.

B. Documentation required for applications to the international Call:

- a. A Synopsis (1 page, max 350 words or 1.800 characters)
- b. A *treatment* for a micro-budget project (5-10 pages, max 3.500 words or 18.000 characters) that fully describes the project. It can be a feature film, an animation, a documentary or a transmedia project – all genres eligible. A statement outlining how the project will explore the micro-budget aesthetic – what particular challenges the film team is looking to explore in terms of form and content. (No more than one page). To be presented in the same file of the treatment.
- c. A *Director's Vision*: it can be represented by a mood board, a project-book (few pages of a storyboard, a colour script, a series of drawings or photographs) or by a video (max 3 minutes). It visually complements the written concept, and describes the project through images.
- d. Previous works by the director (max 2) digital or on film, to be uploaded directly on the website.
- e. A *Casting Idea* (1 page, max 350 words or 1.800 characters)
- f. A *Total Budget* up to a maximum of 150.000€
- g. Biographies of the director and the producer
- h. A Production Company Profile
- i. A Video-Presentation by the director (max 3 minutes)
- j. An *Audience Engagement Plan* (1 page, max 350 words or 1.800 characters), which describes how to create audience awareness through on-line communities
- k. *Rights Disclosure* with regards to full ownership of rights to the submitted project or, should the rights of third parties be involved, a guarantee that the acquisition of all rights in view of production has been concluded or is currently being negotiated. In the latter case the cost must be indicated in the budget, which in any case as specified above in point f, cannot exceed the total of 150,000 euros.
- l. Signed agreement between the producer and the director.

C. Selection and announcement of the selected projects

The selection will be made by the Director of the Cinema Sector of the Biennale di Venezia, whose decision will be final; he may opt during this phase to be assisted by consultants of his own choosing. The selection of the projects and the Teams will be announced during the 72nd Venice International Film Festival.

D. Rules of participation

Following the announcement, the 12 teams selected will sign a specific *application form* with La Biennale di Venezia, which will detail the conditions of their participation.

E. Conditions of hospitality

Up to 12 selected teams will be hosted for the duration of their stay in Venice (11 nights for the first workshop, 5 nights for the second workshop and 6 for the third) in selected structures provided by the Biennale di Venezia at its own expense. The participants will pay their own travel expenses for the first workshop, whereas the travel expenses (in economy-class) for the selected teams for the second and third workshops will be paid by the Biennale di Venezia.

Each team (composed of one director and one producer) may bring an extra collaborator during the workshop – a screenwriter, director of photography, etc., - but all the relative costs for travel, room and board will be at the expense of the team.

PHASE TWO

Workshop to develop and fully structure the 12 concepts, and presentation of the projects to the team of the Biennale College and to the artistic Director of the Cinema Sector.

The 12 selected teams (24 people) will attend an intensive workshop to develop and define the concept, it will last 10 days and will lead to the production of an in-depth *step outline*. This phase will be coordinated by a Head of Studies who will establish the organizational aspects of the workshop: group sessions will alternate with moments of individual feedback, in a variety of group combinations. In some cases the authors will work independently of their specific producers, in groups with other authors, and sometimes the author/producer teams will work together.

The process for structuring the concepts will involve both the narrative aspects and the aspects of production. Each team will work separately with experts in story editing, crossmedia, audience design, *community management*, production. At the conclusion of the development workshop each team will present its projects to the Director of the Cinema Sector of the Biennale di Venezia.

PHASE THREE

A. Online development session

Upon completion of the first workshop, the 12 teams must present, during the month of November, a first draft of the screenplay. In the following months all teams will receive feedback from the tutors by e-mail or Skype.

B. Selection of up to 3 projects

The Director of the Cinema Sector, after listening to the presentation of the projects at the conclusion of the first workshop and assessing the 12 first drafts, will select up to 3 projects that will move on to the next phase; his decision will be final.

PHASE FOUR

At the beginning of December 2015 a second workshop will be held in Venice for the 3 selected projects. It will be 4 days long and will focus on the development of the screenplay to prepare it to move on to the second draft.

PHASE FIVE

Direction and pre-production workshop for the 3 selected teams.

In January 2016 the 3 teams will live in Venice to attend the third workshop on pre-production and direction lasting 5 days, during which they will explore the visual aspects of the film and plan the production process. Each team will work with tutors/trainers covering the different areas of production. The goal is to prepare the three teams, once the workshop is concluded, to shoot and edit the film over the next seven months.

During this phase, **the online activities of community building and audience engagement will continue under the supervision of the team composed of the Head of Studies and the Community Manager.**

PHASE SIX

A. Allocation of funds for the production and supervision of the teams' work through the final editing.

At the end of the workshop, funds for the production will be allocated up to a total of 150,000€ for each team, after the Director of the Cinema Sector, assisted by a team of experts, approves each project for funding, and the Financial Controller of the Biennale College confirms the relative congruity. Between January and mid-August, over a period of seven months, the teams will shoot and edit the feature-length films, monitored at a distance by the College. The films may be shot in any country and the creative freedom of the artists is protected: they may choose to shoot in a small number of locations or all in interiors, or shoot the entire film with a hand-held camera, or primarily in outdoor. They can choose to shoot over 2, 3, or 4 weeks, etc. Each of these decisions will be analyzed and assessed during the College workshops. The teams will be constantly informed of any offers received by the Biennale for the choice of particular locations for the productions.

B. Presentation at the Venice Film Festival and concurrent distribution in streaming on the Sala Web

In September 2016 the finished films will be presented at the Venice Film Festival, and in streaming. A DCP copy of the film must be donated to the ASAC (the Biennale di Venezia Archive), for non-commercial use.

C. Creation of a presentation/event for the projects that are not selected

The Biennale di Venezia, in agreement with the teams of the projects that were not selected for the second and third workshops, may seek contacts to promote these projects either with third parties working in the co-production market such as the IFP in New York, or within the context of presentations such as the the Meeting Event organized by the TorinoFilmLab.

The Biennale reserves the right in any case to modify, cancel or interrupt the initiative described above, in that the announcement or the selection do not constitute a binding contract for the same, nor do they entail the right to the reimbursement of any expense other than those specified above.