

## **Course outline: Diploma in Script Development**

The Script Development Diploma course is broadly divided into the following areas:

### **Analysing Material**

This part of the course examines the criteria for assessing scripts and other source material for development. It looks at context specific requirements as well as widely recognized criteria and tools to gain an accurate picture of the strength and weaknesses of projects under consideration. The aim is to enhance student's critical judgement and equip them with a systematic understanding of the elements required for successful screen narratives thus strengthening their ability to assess the suitability of scripts, treatments and a wide variety of source material (e.g. short stories, novel, plays, biographies, historical events and current affairs) for production.

Practical tasks will include reading scripts, treatments and other source material and appraising their merits through writing assessments and reader's reports.

### **Working with Writers**

Finding and nurturing new talent, understanding the writer's process and preparing for meetings is key to these sessions. We will discuss tone and authorial voice as well as taking an in depth look at how to write useful notes. In addition, we will explore the different types of development documents that can be utilized during the development process.

### **Industry Context**

Much of this section of the course will be delivered by industry practitioners invited to share their detailed knowledge and experience of their area of expertise with the broad aim that students will gain a good understanding of the wider industry and be equipped to make strategic decisions within it. Sessions will pay particular attention to the positioning of talent and projects within the industry.

### **Development Project**

New writers with first drafts or treatments will be invited to present their projects for development to the students and each student will be assigned to a writer. Whilst this process will be supervised and guidance from tutors will be available, the intention is that the student manages the process of developing the script through two stages.

## **Assessment**

There are graded assignments that students undertake, to ensure that the intended learning is achieved. Other ungraded task will be set throughout the course. Repeated failure to complete these tasks will be noted and treated in the same way failure to attend is dealt with. To qualify for the Diploma, all the assessed work must be completed on time to pass rate standard.

The aim of the course is to enable students to be confident and competent in developing feature film projects, and it is designed to continually build students' skills in the craft, and knowledge of the industrial context. However, the programme cannot, of course, guarantee competence and excellence in its students and the course leader has the authority to exercise her individual discretion if asked to give references or recommendations, offer opportunities, and dispense career advice.