



## **AACTA PROOF**

**Presented in partnership with the Gold Coast Film Festival**

### **Terms and Conditions**

#### **1. ENTRANT ELIGIBILITY**

- 1.1 An individual entrant must be 18 years of age or older and:
- (a) an Australian citizen;
  - (b) or an Australian resident, being a person who is lawfully domiciled in Australia, and who has actually been in Australia, continuously or intermittently, for more than one-half of the year immediately preceding the application.
  - (c) a current resident of Queensland;
  - (d) or part of the key creative team that includes at least one current resident of Queensland.
- 1.2 Entrant teams must consist of the writer, director and producer (key creative team) responsible for the production of the short film should they be shortlisted, with at least one of which a current resident of Queensland.
- 1.3 Participation in **AACTA PROOF** and any related activities, including travel, is at the entrants' own risk.

#### **2. SUBMISSION ELIGIBILITY**

Entrants may submit a single submission to **AACTA PROOF** by visiting <https://aacta.awardsplatform.com/> and completing the application form and supplying specified supporting material ("Submission").

- 2.1 To be an eligible entry, the Submission **MUST**:
- (a) be wholly owned (all intellectual property) by the entrant(s). No proxy Submissions will be accepted;

- (b) be for a short film (“Film”) of no more than 10 minutes in duration that serves as a proof of concept for a feature film with a proposed budget of no more than \$5M.
  - (c) be a new and original concept which has not yet been commissioned and for which the worldwide rights are still available.
  - (d) be produced in Queensland should the application be successful.
  - (e) include the following information:
    - (i) A one-pager – a single page summary of no more than 500 words that includes:
      - title;
      - logline;
      - genre;
      - short synopsis of the proposed feature film;
      - statement on how the proof of concept short film demonstrates the feasibility, cinematic potential, tone, stylistic execution, and key creative elements of the proposed feature film.
    - (ii) Script for the proof of concept short film of no more than 10 minutes in duration;
    - (iii) A pitch deck of no more than 5 pages that articulates the vision of both the proof of concept short film and the proposed feature film, and how the proof of concept short film will capture and prove the essential elements of the feature film (tone, aesthetic, stakes, target audience);
    - (iv) The resumes/CVs of all key creative members of the team;
    - (v) Proof of Queensland residency of at least one member of the key creative team.
    - (vi) Any previous work (i.e. video files for previous productions).
- 2.2 Correct entry information is the responsibility of the entrant. Entrants warrant that all of the information provided, including the information provided on the **AACTA PROOF** entry form and the credits and résumé/CVs of all members of the team, is true and correct.
- 2.3 By submitting to **AACTA PROOF**, entrants automatically grant AACTA and the Gold Coast Film Festival a non-exclusive, royalty free license to use the Submission (in whole or in part) for PR and the marketing of **AACTA PROOF**.
- 2.4 Submissions must be complete and received by **9am AEST Monday April 13, 2026**.

### **3. SHORTLISTING**

- 3.1 All submissions will be reviewed by a panel made up of representatives from AACTA, Gold Coast Film Festival, Screen Queensland and other industry figures as selected by AACTA.
- 3.2 Submissions will be judged based on –
- (a) Clarity of concept.
  - (b) Target audience and market appeal.
  - (c) Story and emotional impact.
  - (d) Visual and stylistic vision.
  - (e) Feasibility and scope.
- 3.3 3 successful applicants (“Finalists”) will be confirmed. They will officially be announced at the 2026 Gold Coast Film Festival on May 3, 2026.
- 3.4 By entering a Submission, the entrant acknowledges that at least one of the team members must attend the announcement of the **AACTA PROOF** finalists at the Gold Coast Film Festival on May 3, 2026.

#### **4. PRIZES**

- 4.1 The 3 finalists will each receive;
- (a) A \$20,000 Production Fund; payable as follows:
    - (i) [30% (\$6,000)] on the date the final shooting script, production budget and production schedule for the Film are approved by AACTA and the Gold Coast Film Festival; and
    - (ii) [60% (\$12,000)] within 30 days of presentation of invoices by the finalist for costs incurred by the finalist in the production of the Film as set out in the approved production budget; and
    - (iii) [10% (\$2,000)] on the date the final Film is submitted to AACTA and the Gold Coast Film Festival.
  - (b) Complementary equipment hire from Panavision/Sony valued at \$15,000; and
  - (c) Complimentary post production from Post Lounge valued at \$30,000; and
  - (d) 2 x tickets to attend the 2026 AACTA Awards Ceremony on the Gold Coast in February 2027 (date TBC)
  - (e) Annual AACTA Professional Memberships for all team members.
  - (f) 2 x online workshops focussing on Audience Building and Digital Marketing.

(g) As agreed, the attachment of an experienced executive producer to help guide the project.

4.2 All prizes are non-transferable and cannot be redeemed for cash.

4.3 Any part of the Production Fund that is not spent on production of the Film as verified by invoices submitted to AACTA in accordance with clause 4.1(a)(ii) must be returned to AACTA within 7 days from the date the final Film is submitted to AACTA.

## **5. THE FILM**

5.1 The Film must move into pre-production by June 1, 2026 and be completed by December 18, 2026.

5.2 A rough cut must be delivered to AACTA and the Gold Coast Film Festival by November 27, 2026.

5.3 All crew must be paid at industry rates unless otherwise agreed upon.

5.4 The Finalist will own all assets, licenses and IP for the Film (and proposed feature film).

5.5 The Finalist indemnifies and holds AACTA, the Gold Coast Film Festival and all other partners to the initiative harmless from and against any and all actions, claims, suits, demands, costs and expenses (including legal expenses), damages, injury or losses incurred or suffered by AACTA, the Gold Coast Film Festival and all other partners to the initiative arising from or relating to any breach or alleged breach by the finalist of any terms or conditions of these terms; and/or any act or omission, negligence or recklessness of the Finalist.

## **6. GENERAL**

6.1 Subject to availability, the Finalist will provide the services of at least one individual responsible for the creative direction of the Film for the reasonable publicity and promotional purposes of AACTA and the Gold Coast Film Festival, not to exceed 8 hours.

6.2 The Finalist agrees to undertake Audience Building and Digital Marketing as advised in the 2 workshops.

6.3 The Finalist agrees to consider and undertake best endeavours to apply the advice and direction given by the attached executive producer.

6.4 Applicants consent to the publication of the names of each team member of their submission if the submission is one of the Finalists.

6.5 Any Submission that does not comply with these terms is invalid.

6.6 Beneficiaries of any prize accept the prize 'as is' and acknowledge that neither AACTA, the Gold Coast Film Festival and all other partners to the initiative accept any responsibility for any tax implications that may arise from their receipt of any prize. Beneficiaries should seek independent financial advice.

- 6.7 AACTA reserves the right to verify the validity of any Submission and any entrant and may disqualify any entrant whom AACTA has reason to believe has breached any of these terms.
- 6.8 Failure by AACTA to enforce any of its rights at any stage does not constitute a waiver of those rights.
- 6.9 Nothing in these terms limits, excludes or modifies or purports to limit, exclude or modify the statutory consumer guarantees as provided under the *Competition and Consumer Act* or or similar consumer protection laws in the states and territories of Australia ("Non-Excludable Guarantees").
- 6.10 Except for any liability that cannot by law be excluded, including the Non-Excludable Guarantees, AACTA, the Gold Coast Film Festival, their related entities, and all other partners to the initiative are not responsible for and exclude all liability (including negligence), for any personal injury; or any loss or damage (including loss of opportunity); whether direct, indirect, special or consequential, arising in any way out of: (a) any technical difficulties (whether or not under AACTA/Gold Coast Film Festival/all other partners to the initiative's control); (b) any theft, unauthorised access or third party interference; (c) any entry or prize claim that is late, lost, altered, damaged or misdirected (whether or not after their receipt by AACTA) due to any reason beyond the reasonable control of AACTA; (d) any variation in prize value to that stated in these terms; (e) any tax liability incurred by a beneficiary of a prize; (f) use/taking of the prize (g) the Gold Coast Film Festival announcement event.
- 6.11 In these terms:
- (a) "AACTA" means the Australian Film Institute (ABN 17 006 725 266); and
  - (b) "The GCFF" means Gold Coast Film Festival (ABN 21 098 091 260)