

GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING A FULL PRODUCER CREDIT IN AUSTRALIAN LONG-FORM TELEVISION DRAMA & NARRATIVE/SITUATION COMEDY SERIES PRODUCTION

OBJECTIVES

- Offer the accreditation **S.P.A.** mark for producers to include in the screen credits as an acknowledgement of her or his vital role and contribution
- Classifying eligible producers for inclusion in the Screen Producers Australia Awards*
- Assist in mediation of credit disputes

OVERVIEW

The Producer insignia for Australian productions is the **S.P.A.** (in capitals) acronym that appears following the names of producer/s lodging the **Levy Request for Information Form (RFI)** for members or the **Notice of Producer Credit Form** for non-members of their feature, documentary or long form television (drama, narrative comedy or children's) production with Screen Producers Australia.

The **S.P.A.** insignia is an accreditation mark only and does not necessarily indicate membership of Screen Producers Australia, however it does signify that the credited producer/s performed a majority of the producing duties on the production as outlined in the Producer Credit Criteria.

PROCESS

Following receipt of the Levy Request for Information Form (RFI) or the Notice of Producer Credit Form, Screen Producers Australia staff will offer the verified producers of the production the use of the **S.P.A.** acronym. Use of the **S.P.A.** acronym is entirely optional.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible the production must have passed the SAC (Significant Australian Content) test and granted a Provisional Certificate or be an official co-production as defined by the [Screen Australia Producer Offset Guidelines](#).

Note: As is often the case in television production, if a Provisional Certificate was not required please note this on the submitted Levy Request for Information Form (RFI) or the Notice of Producer Credit Form.

TELEVISION PRODUCTION AWARDS DEFINITIONS**

A **Television Drama Series** is defined as a drama of a potentially unlimited number of episodes, but no fewer than five episodes, comprising either:

- A series of self-contained stories, which can be screened in any order; or
- A number of interweaving and overlapping plots continuing from one episode to the next.

A **Telemovie** is defined as a single, self-contained and continuous drama made for television of no less than **one television hour** in length.

A **Mini Series** is defined as a complete, self-contained dramatised story with a major continuous plot for which there is an expectation of an ending resolving the major plot tensions.

A **Television Narrative or Situation Comedy Series** is defined as a series comprising of at least four scripted episodes, no more than one television hour in length, of self-contained stories or a continuing story with an ongoing plot and characters.

PRODUCER CREDIT CRITERIA

Subject to the control of the Owner, the title of Producer, including the Australian equivalent of Show Runner (Executive Producer), in Australian Television Drama/Narrative Comedy is expected to exercise decision-making authority over a majority of the following specific job functions to receive the **S.P.A.** mark:

1. DEVELOPMENT

- Conceive the underlying concept upon which the production is based or involved at its inception **OR**
- Select the material upon which the production is based and secured necessary rights for development and production of the material.
- Select the writer(s).
- Conceive and/or supervise the creation of the series 'bible'
- Supervise and oversee the development process.
- Secure the initial financing and/or development funding.
- Serve as the primary point of contact for the studio and/or financing entity.

2. PRE-PRODUCTION

- Select the director and producer(s) and/or production supervisor and/or production manager and/or line producer.
- In consultation with the director, selected the production designer, cinematographer, editor and visual effects company.
- Participate in location scouting in consultation with the director.
- Supervise the preparation of the preliminary budget and approved and signed the final budget in consultation with the relevant production supervisor/manager and line producer.
- Creatively involved in the final shooting script(s) in consultation with the director and the writer(s) and approved and signed the final shooting script(s).
- Approve final shooting schedule in consultation with the director, producer, production supervisor/manager and line producer.

3. PRODUCTION

- Exercised final approval of the deals for the principal components of the production.
- Supervise the production team.
- Provide ongoing in-person consultation with the director and principal cast
- In collaboration with the director, provided in-person consultation with the production designer, art department, wardrobe, make-up and hair.
- Approved the weekly cost report.

4. POST PRODUCTION & MARKETING

- Select the composer in consultation with the director, and participated in-person with the composer and the director in the scoring process
- Consult with the director and the editor during the preparation of the first cut shown to the broadcaster/studio/financial entity.
- Provide in-person consultation with the editor, the director, the broadcaster, studio or financial entity and participate on the final cut of the production.
- Select the music supervisor in consultation with the director, and participate in-person during the music recording sessions.
- Provide in-person consultation with the director on the re-recording stage.
- Provide in-person consultation with the director on the titles.
- Provide in-person consultation with the cinematographer, the director, the broadcaster, studio and/or financing entity on the edited master.
- Consult on the media plan and materials, and the marketing and distribution plans for the production.
- Consult on the plans for exploitation of the production in ancillary and foreign markets.

*Only financial members of Screen Producers Australia are eligible to enter the Awards

** Based on the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) award entry criteria