



# ITALY | SUNDANCE INSTITUTE SCREENWRITERS WORKSHOP

TUSCANY | CAPALBIO CINEMA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL | JULY 8/11 2015

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## 2015 RULES AND REGULATIONS

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### FOREWORD

Launched in 2015, the Workshop is a joint initiative with Capalbio Cinema, New Cinema Network and Fondazione Sistema Toscana. Modeled on the Institute's venerable Workshops, in its inaugural edition the Italy | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop will provide an opportunity for writers/directors from the European region to develop their screenplays under the guidance of accomplished Creative Advisors during an intensive four-day program.

Partnering up with Capalbio Cinema and New Cinema Network, two of the main local interconnecting-platforms devoted to international emerging storytelling, and after seeding Screenwriters Workshops in Brazil, Mexico, Jordan, Turkey, India and Japan, the Sundance Institute will bring its model to for the first time. For both Participants and Advisors, the Workshop experience will be deeply enriched by the presence of artists and projects representing the personal and cultural histories of filmmaking voices from around the world.

### GENERAL STRUCTURE

The first edition of the **Italy | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop**, the workshop for feature films devised for Capalbio Cinema and New Cinema Network, will be a four-day full immersion and **will take place from July 8 to 11, 2015**.

The Sundance Institute Feature Film Program staff and Creative Advisors have drawn on their teaching backgrounds and shared Workshops experience to conceive a four day structure designed to support up to a maximum of eight screenwriting fellows. The first two days will be comprised of Joan Tewkesbury's Designed Obstacles exercises that allow writers to fully explore character, and Erin Cressida Wilson's workshop on screenplay structure. One-on-one meetings with the fellows will follow on the third and fourth days allowing the fellows to address specific issues in their screenplays.

The Workshop is designed to give aspiring independent artists the skills and knowledge they need to develop their craft and advance their projects.

The Workshop will be offered to a maximum of **8 promising Italian and European emerging writers and writers/directors** who will be presenting a feature film project (first or second feature) in development.

Participation to the Italy | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop will be upon invitation only: a Selection Committee, appointed by Capalbio Cinema and New Cinema Network, will select the participant projects through a call launched through the web platforms of all partners and patrons.

Projects submissions must be presented according to these rules and regulations and by the indicated deadlines. Projects selection will be publicly announced by **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.

All participants will receive their agenda and all related material about the workshop one week before the | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop.

During the event, a representative from New Cinema Network will meet with the projects and will select one (or more) of the | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop official projects to participate in the NCN co-production market (to be held in Rome, October 17-19, 2015).

If one (or more) of the selected projects is intended to be developed in Regione Toscana (creatively and/or productively and/or financially), the abovementioned project will receive a support – whose exact terms will have to be agreed with the Fondazione Cinema Toscana - from the Toscana Film Commission.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible projects for the Italy | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop must be Italian and European projects of outstanding artistic value for a first or second time narrative feature film with theatrical potential (minimum length of 70 minutes).

### **SUBMISSIONS**

All submissions must be received by **June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.

All submissions must include the following materials:

1. **synopsis** (1000 word limit.)
2. **complete biography** of the writer/director of the project and up to 2 additional members of the project's creative team (500 word limit each.)
3. **artistic statement** (1000 word limit.): a description of the creative vision for the material, giving the sense of where the writer/director is in the creative process. (Here's an example of the type of information needed: What is your personal connection to the material? What do you want an audience to take away from your film? How do you envision the realization of this script in terms of story, character, tone, and/or visual style? Is there a budget level you have in mind, and who is the audience you most want to reach? Why are you passionate about this story?)
4. **cover letter** (750 word limit.): an introduction of the writer/director and the project. There are no strict requirements for this letter, but we'd like to get a brief idea of who the applicant is, what the script is about, and how the applicant thinks the Lab process could be helpful to him/her.
5. **treatment** of the project
6. **sample of the first 5 pages** of the project's screenplay
7. **(where applicable) the previous work(s) by the director** of the project (short/long - feature/documentary films) in the original language with English subtitles; such materials should be made available online on streaming platform (such as Vimeo) or sent through a filesharing system (such as Wetransfer). These materials will be made available only to the Italy | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop Committee and team and for selection purposes only.

Any other English-language material that will contribute to a better understanding of the writer/director's work and/or of the project would be highly recommended.

Each project submission and all materials must be accompanied by the duly filled Italy | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop entry form. All written materials must be submitted in English only.

Incomplete submissions will not be taken into consideration.

Applications can only be submitted more than once when specifically invited to do so.

The Italy | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop entry form is available online at <http://sundance.romacinemafest.org/>

The applicant will receive an email notification when the application is submitted and will be asked to send back via email (sundanceworkshop@capalbiocinema.com) the entry form duly filled in all its parts and signed (digital signature).

The applicant will receive a feedback about his/hers submission status no later than **June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.

For any issues regarding the application materials and/or procedure, please email [sundanceworkshop@capalbiocinema.com](mailto:sundanceworkshop@capalbiocinema.com).

All submitted materials are used for pre-selection and selection purposes only and kept in Capalbio Cinema's and New Cinema Network's archives. The materials will not be returned. In the event the project is invited, they will be used for the update of the Capalbio Cinema and New Cinema Network website and for publicity purposes regarding the 2015 Italy | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Capalbio Cinema and New Cinema Network Staff will verify that the submitted projects fulfil the eligibility criteria and that the submissions include all requested materials according to these rules and regulations.

The Italy | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop Committee will select the final participating projects, taking into consideration the viability and quality of the plans and the demonstrable talent of the writers/directors. During the making of the final selection a geographical spreading could be taken into account.

The list of selected projects for the Italy | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop 2015 will be publicly announced by **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.

The submission of a project implies the unconditional acceptance of these rules and regulations as well as the acceptance of all decisions taken by the Committee, which are final.

The signature on the entry form is considered as proof that the signatory freely accepts all rules and regulations and all the Committee's decisions regarding the selection of the projects.

If the project is selected, the signatory formally commits himself or herself to present the project in the Italy | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop 2015; declares himself or herself the sole and exclusive owner of all the rights related to the project, and therefore entitled to submit it to the Italy | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop, guarantees that the submitted project does not infringe the rights of any third party.

The signature on the entry form releases and indemnifies Capalbio Cinema and New Cinema Network from any and every claim against it for damages. In the case of there being more than one owner of the rights to the project, the entry form must be signed by all of them.

### **PARTICIPATION IN THE ITALY | SUNDANCE INSTITUTE SCREENWRITERS WORKSHOP**

Once a project has been selected, at least one representative must be present during the days of the Italy | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Workshop (8-11 July 2015).

Five nights' accommodation will be offered to the writer/director for each selected project.

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