



2026 Emerging Writers' Awards Information Kit

The AWG Emerging Writers' Awards (formerly the Monte Miller Awards) are the premier awards for unproduced scripts in Australia, dedicated to uncovering the best new scripts and talents among AWG's Associate and Student Membership.

Categories are open to short and long form work across all genres and formats, including film, television, audio, theatre and interactive media. The winning and shortlisted scripts will be inducted onto the Australian Writers' Guild (AWG) prestigious [Pathways Showcase](#).

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THE PRIZES

Short Form Category

The winner of the Emerging Writers' Award for Short Form will:

- Receive \$5000 in prize money
- Have their winning project inducted onto Pathways Showcase
- Receive a mentorship meeting with a suitable full member of the AWG

Long Form Category

The winner of the Emerging Writers' Award for Long Form will:

- Receive \$5000 in prize money
- Have their winning project inducted onto Pathways Showcase
- Receive a mentorship meeting with a suitable full member of the AWG

HOW TO ENTER

- Ensure that your Associate or Student membership is up to date (the Emerging Writers' Awards are open to Associate and Student members only). For questions about your membership, please contact admin@awg.com.au.
- Please ensure that you have read this document in its entirety before submitting your entry. Entries that do not follow the guidelines may be deemed ineligible and subsequently withdrawn and refunded.
- Login to your member account at www.awg.com.au.
- Select 'competitions' from the site menu and then navigate to the Emerging Writers' Awards page.
- Follow the link to submit an entry for either the long form or the short form category.
- As part of your entry form, you will be prompted to upload a PDF document which contains your logline, synopsis and the script itself. Please note that all three must be included in one file (more information about suggested lengths below).
- The entry form will also prompt you to pay the entry fee of \$50.00.
- After you submit, you will receive two separate emails: a payment receipt and a confirmation of your submission.

GUIDELINES FOR ENTRANTS

- The Awards are open to current financial AWG Associate and Student

Members. Membership must be valid at the time of entry and for the duration of the competition.

- AWG offers to waive the joining fee for new members joining to enter the Awards. To take advantage of this special offer, please email admin@awg.com.au to arrange a coupon code.
- New members will need to join for a minimum of 12 months.

GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY

- **Entries close 5pm TUESDAY 7 APRIL 2026 (AEST).**
- Scripts must not have been professionally produced at the time of entry.
- Entries may be feature or short film, television series or miniseries, web series, audio, documentary, theatre, children's television, animation or interactive.
- Entrants must own all the rights to the script being entered. If the work is an adaptation, you must have the right or be able to secure the right to adapt the underlying material on which the screenplay is based, or the underlying material must be in the public domain.
- All entries for the Emerging Writers' Awards are to be completed online via the AWG website, including uploading of script documents.
- Your script document needs to include your logline (one or two lines), your synopsis (maximum 1 page) and the script itself. You will only be able to upload one document so all three elements **MUST** be included.
- Your script document **MUST NOT** include any personal details, nor any indication of awards or funding previously received.
- Scripts must be presented and formatted to industry standards. For guidance, you can download Screen Australia's suggested film/television script layout [here](#). If you're submitting a play, see Australian Plays' suggested script layout [here](#).
- All instances of collaboration and authorship must be declared in the entry form (there is space to include the name of co-writers). Co-writers are not required to be AWG Members, nor can co-writers be Full Members or eligible for Full Membership of AWG (have at least 45 minutes of produced credits).

IMPORTANT NOTE: To ensure a fair judging process, the writer's name and personal details **MUST NOT** appear on any part of the synopsis/script or as a header or footer within the script. Entries should also not include any reference to previous funding received for the development of the script, including agency logos. Entries that include any of the above details will not be

eligible to enter.

CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

Short Form Category

- Includes scripts up to and including 30 minutes in length (1 page of text = 1 minute of screen time).
- Each entry must include a logline (one to two lines) a one-page synopsis and the full script itself (all uploaded as one single PDF document).
- If you are entering the script for a television series or miniseries, the one-page synopsis should reflect the entire season and the script should be the first episode/pilot.

Long Form Category

- Includes scripts more than 30 minutes in length (1 page of text = 1 minute of screen time).
- Each entry must include a logline (one to two lines), a one-page synopsis and the full script itself (all uploaded as a single PDF document).
- If you are entering the script for a television series or miniseries the one-page synopsis should reflect the entire season and the script should be the first episode/pilot.
- You have the option to include a one-page episode-by-episode breakdown in addition to your one-page synopsis, however it is not required. If you decide you would like to include an episode breakdown, it will need to be included as part of the single document.

NUMBER OF ENTRIES

- Entrants may enter only one individually written script in each Award category. However, if a script is co-written, it may be entered by any one of the AWG Member co-writers who has not already submitted an entry in that category.
- An entrant may thus have two scripts entered in one category: one written solely by them, and another co-written script which has been entered by their AWG Member co-writer (if that co-writer has not already entered a script in that same category).
- In all cases, no individually – or collaboratively – written script can be entered more than once in any single category.
- Members may enter previously submitted scripts provided the work is

significantly changed from the original submission. We encourage members to develop, redraft, edit and polish their work as part of their creative process.

The Australian Writers' Guild expects that the winners of the Emerging Writers' Awards in either category will assist in publicly promoting Australian screenwriting, and these Awards. For this reason, recipients should be prepared to participate in a small number of media opportunities at the time of receiving their award.

Entrants agree that their work may be assessed at the discretion of the Australian Writers' Guild by the Pathways Showcase judging panel for entry onto Pathways Showcase.

JUDGING PROCESS

- An industry panel will judge the scripts.
- The judges will select the longlist, shortlist and winner by assessing the scripts for:
 - Originality and excellence of the idea
 - The potential for the project to be produced, commercial viability
 - Excellence in craft and skill
- The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the decision.

The shortlist and winners will be announced publicly in the second half of 2026.

All enquiries regarding the 2026 Emerging Writers' Awards should be directed to admin@awg.com.au.

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

If your story or characters significantly depict the lived experiences of minority cultures or community groups that fall outside your own lived experience, the AWG requests that you accompany your entry with a short statement (maximum one page) outlining the collaborations, processes and practices that allowed you to confidently complete the submitted work.

The statement may detail processes involving co-writers, producers,

consultants and/or actors, or anything else you deem helpful in assisting and informing the judging panel in understanding your methodology (any collaborators mentioned by name will be redacted for the judges). This statement will help the AWG and AWGIE judges maintain standards of excellence, quality and integrity in the judging process. Files should be PDF only and should not include the writer's name. You will have the opportunity to upload your statement when completing the entry form online.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Australian Writers' Guild asserts that art in all its forms is an expression of our humanity; that good writing is human writing; that the art and craft at the core of great writing results from human endeavour, experience, and aspiration, and often from application across many years.

The Australian Writers' Guild's primary purpose is to affirm and defend the right of every writer to have the value of their work recognised and protected through copyright and properly remunerated through just and fair industrial agreements.

Artificial Intelligence is by its nature iterative, and therefore an affront to that purpose. By those measures, Artificial Intelligence will never knowingly be awarded for writing excellence by the Australian Writers' Guild.

No script, or part thereof, that has been created, generated, storylined, drafted, or iterated utilising Artificial Intelligence can be entered into any Award Category. Any script discovered to have been wholly, or in part, the result of Artificial Intelligence, will immediately be disqualified, and the entry fee forfeited. Further, any Award later discovered to have been awarded to a work that did employ Artificial Intelligence at any point during the writing process will be withdrawn and re-awarded to the runner-up in that category for that year, and the new results will be publicly announced.