



Northern
Territory
Government

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

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Opportunity for Territorians to Hone Screenwriting Skills

The Northern Territory Film Office (NTFO) and the Northern Territory Writers' Centre are bringing 'must attend' workshops to Darwin and Alice Springs for Territorians serious about writing, producing or directing Territory stories.

NTFO Director Penelope McDonald said following the success of the *Arista Lo Budget High Quality* workshop held in Darwin in November 2007, the Northern Territory Film Office has again joined forces with the United Kingdom based company Arista Development and the Northern Territory Writers' Centre to support script development in the Territory screen industry.

"Writers, directors or producers who have projects in development are strongly encouraged to apply, but the workshops are also suitable for Territorians who are interested in developing screen projects," Ms McDonald said.

"Mr Stephen Cleary, Director of Arista Development and producer of more than 50 feature films including *Rob Roy*, will be returning to the Northern Territory to present weekend workshops in Alice Springs and Darwin and will also be available to meet with individuals to provide feedback on their scripts," Ms McDonald said.

"Strong written documents are needed to attract investors, broadcasters and other funding organisations to be involved in screen productions, and these workshops will provide Territorians with the opportunity to hone their skills in writing for the screen.

Arista Development will be hosting the two day workshop *Treatments and Short Documents*, aimed at writers, directors or producers of dramas or documentaries in Alice Springs on Saturday 21 June and Sunday 22 June 2008.

Darwin based writers, producers and directors will have the opportunity to attend a new two day Arista script development workshop, *Writing and Developing Family and Children's Films*, being held in Darwin on Saturday 28 June and Sunday 29 June 2008.

Ms McDonald said that following the Territory workshops, Mr Cleary and his Arista Development team will head to Tasmania where they will be running an intensive national residential script development workshop.

"The Northern Territory Film Office is offering scholarships to support two teams of feature film writers, directors or producers to travel to Tasmania to attend the week long Arista Development Residential Workshop being held from Sunday 13 July to Saturday 20 July 2008.

"These workshops offer Territorians a unique opportunity to access international expertise and will be jam packed with essential information for Territorians writing or developing films to make their Territory story stand out in the marketplace."



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Scholarship applications for the Arista Development Residential Workshop in Tasmania close Friday 13 June 2008.

To register for the workshops or to apply for one on one meetings visit www.filmoffice.nt.gov.au or phone 89525222 by close of business Friday, 13 June 2008.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Penelope McDonald on 8952 5222.

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