

COURS ÉCRIRE TON COURT – SPRINT FOR YOUR SCRIPT

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE 12TH EDITION

Montreal, June 17, 2010 — The Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEC), in collaboration with the Société des auteurs de radio, télévision et cinéma (SARTEC), the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ), the Festival du nouveau cinéma de Montréal, the Writers Guild of Canada (WGC), and the Maison de la culture Maisonneuve, invites young screenwriters to participate in the competition **COURS ÉCRIRE TON COURT**. For the twelfth edition, screenwriters are invited to submit the first version of their scripted screenplay for a short fiction or animated film of no longer than 12 minutes, by **August 9, 2010**.

A pre-selection committee, to include a representative in charge of mentoring from the SARTEC, a representative from the WGC, as well as a filmmaker, will choose seven projects from the submissions, based on the narrative quality of the scripts, their cinematographic potential, as well as the author's vision.

SCREENWRITING WORKSHOPS: AN INCREDIBLE CREATIVE OPPORTUNITY!

A key component of the competition, these workshops will offer finalists a unique opportunity to benefit from advice given by experienced screenwriters. As well, mentors will accompany each participant throughout the contest to help with revising his/her screenplay. These sessions, intended to be interactive, will take the form of work sessions or discussions, either on an individual or a group basis and will take place on September 20 and 21 as well as on October 5 and 6 at the Maison de la culture Maisonneuve.

Finalists will also have the opportunity to present their work to experienced producers in front of an audience composed of industry professionals. These presentations will be followed by a closing cocktail reception and the awards ceremony as part of the 39th edition of the Festival du nouveau cinéma (October 13 to 24, 2010).

Upon receiving the final version of the screenplays, a five-member jury will select the winners of the following prizes:

- The **Grand Prix**, worth a total of \$8,000, will be awarded to the best screenplay, which includes the opportunity to participate in the prestigious Festival International du court métrage de Clermont-Ferrand with all expenses paid by the SODEC worth \$3,000, where the winner will enjoy unlimited access to screenings and participate in various professional activities as well as the *Prix à l'écriture cinématographique* awarded by the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec worth \$5,000.
- The **Prix SODEC/SARTEC**, worth a total of \$4,000, will be awarded to a second screenplay. The winner will also participate in the Festival International du court métrage de Clermont-Ferrand. Travel and hotel costs up to \$3,000 will be covered by the SODEC. The winner will also have unlimited access to screenings and will participate in various professional activities. As well, the SARTEC will award the *Prix spécial du jury* worth \$1,000.
- The **WGC Prize** for the Best English Language Script will be accompanied by \$500.

Eligibility:

The contest is reserved for screenwriters eligible for the SODEC's Programme d'aide aux jeunes créateurs (please see the program description on the SODEC's Web www.sodec.gouv.qc.ca).

Projects must be submitted by individuals, not organisations. Only one project per person is allowed. Projects can be submitted in either English or French.

Applicants must:

- **be between the ages of 18 and 35 years old** (screenwriters must not turn 36 by the submission date of August 9, 2010);
- **be pursuing a professional writing career** (neither secondary school or college students, nor university undergraduates no matter what the area of study are eligible);
- **be a resident of Québec for at least two years;**
- **be available between September 13 and October 25, 2010;**
- **submit all the required entry material to SODEC;**
- **never have been selected as a finalist in a previous edition of the contest.**

ATTENTION: Projects that have already been submitted in previous years to the COURS ÉCRIRE TON COURT competition cannot be resubmitted. Screenplays based on literary adaptations or screenplay proposals that have already been refused twice by the SODEC (in any program) are not eligible. Projects that have been submitted cannot be resubmitted during the current fiscal year (ending March 31, 2011) to any of the SODEC's programs, with the exception of the finalists chosen for the twelfth edition of COURS ÉCRIRE TON COURT.

HOW TO APPLY

Submissions must be received no later than Monday, August 9, 2010, before 5:00 p.m.
Submissions received after this date will not be eligible.

Applicants must drop off, or send to, the SODEC offices at 215, rue Saint-Jacques, bureau 800, Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1M6, to the attention of Francine Landry, **four copies of each** of the following elements:

- first draft of the script with dialogue (maximum length: 12 pages);
- completed entry form;
- synopsis (maximum length: ½ page);
- statement of intent describing the origin of the project and the screenwriter's vision;
- brief CV (maximum length: 2 pages), outlining the applicant's relevant experience.

Applications sent by e-mail will be refused. No documents will be returned.

SELECTION

Projects, whether in English or in French, will be evaluated according to the following criteria: narrative quality, cinematographic potential, the author's vision, and appropriateness for the short film format.

The SODEC will only contact candidates whose project has been selected, between August 25 and 27, 2010. Decisions are final and no comments about project evaluations will be communicated to participants that have not been chosen.

The SODEC's Programme d'aide aux jeunes créateurs

The SODEC's Programme d'aide aux jeunes créateurs aims to provide necessary tools to young screenwriters, directors, and producers to help them create innovative cinema.

For more details and to access the application form, please click here: www.sodec.gouv.qc.ca

-30-

Source: Marie-Hélène Paradis, Director of communications and institutional relations,
SODEC
Tel: (514) 841-2281 toll-free 1 800 363-0401
E-mail: info@sodec.gouv.qc.ca

Information: Francine Landry, Coordinator of **COURS ÉCRIRE TON COURT**
SODEC
Tel: (514) 841-2330
E-mail: francine.landry@sodec.gouv.qc.ca