



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Trade and Industry

‘THE PITCH’
Film TT Script to
Screen Finale

REMARKS
SENATOR THE HONOURABLE PAULA GOPEE-SCOON
MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2021

I am pleased to celebrate the culmination of the Business of Film - Script to Screen Capacity Development and Content Creation programme presented by FilmTT.

Entrepreneurs from the Creative Industry in Trinidad and Tobago have been taking our culture to the world for decades. However, much of this has been through private arrangements with some support from the Government and we recognize that more attention has to be given to the sector. In this regard, guided by our National Development Strategy/Vision 2030 and Roadmap to Recovery Report, the Government has identified the Creative Industry, of which film is a key component, as a priority sector for development.

These policies highlight a number of initiatives inclusive of:

1. the promotion and support for intellectual property protection,
2. the establishment and promulgation of a local content guideline for local media houses.
3. the promotion, development, use and the export of locally created content.
4. support for the transition of creatives from the informal sector to the formal sector by digitizing and sensitizing the registration process.

As the primary agency responsible for the development of the film and audio-visual sector in Trinidad and Tobago, FilmTT is integral to building the capacity of the local film industry and advancing our overall development goals.

This Business of Film - Script to Screen Capacity Development and Content Creation programme is a perfect example of what is needed for our community of local filmmakers. The development of the three-month capacity and content creation programme was designed to invest in projects that are viable, timely and foster national pride. The programme seeks to build on their production skills as well as their ability to devise, create, deliver and promote quality, international audience-pleasing screen content. The sessions which included practical components and funding incentives were facilitated by local and international industry professionals. This type of expertise and mentoring is welcomed and serves to further harness the skills of our local content creators.

Additionally, there were a number of workshops aimed at bridging gaps by providing filmmakers with the proper story/script writing skills, production tools, marketing, music and distribution guidelines. After an intensive five-week programme with international film educator Stage32 and local film industry experts, fifteen filmmakers entered into a month long virtual film pitch process reminiscent of a Hollywood boardroom. During these sessions filmmakers were given the opportunity to present their stories in a bid to secure developmental funding. Projects considered for investment demonstrated a sound and structured plan and identified a way to move the industry forward and bolster our economy through its quality execution.

Today, the top three winners of the Business of Film – Script to Screen programme and their respective projects will be announced. These real-life scenarios are imperative to understanding the international market and building institutional knowledge to be able to better exploit these opportunities in the future.

I must commend all participants, our skilled filmmakers for participating in this programme and taking the opportunity to invest in yourself particularly during a pandemic which has been catastrophic to the industry. Additionally, I wish to extend best wishes to the winners and look forward to enjoying your offerings on all our various screening platforms.

I also congratulate FilmTT for their continuous efforts, programmes and stakeholder collaborations over the past year to develop the sector and be at the forefront of the digital landscape in Trinidad and Tobago.