

PARTNER WITH AUSTRALIA.

CO-PRODUCTIONS WITH AUSTRALIA

Official co-productions are an effective way of combining the local incentives available in two or more countries for a particular project.

Official co-productions open the door to a range of opportunities in Australia: including eligibility for direct financial assistance from the Australian federal film authority, Screen Australia; qualification as local content (allowing official co-productions to be counted towards free-to-air television quotas); and access to Australian Government tax incentives such as the Producer Offset, a 40% offset on qualifying Australian production expenditure for feature films and a 20% offset for non-feature films and television (see **Ausfilm's Screen Production Incentives in Australia** factsheet at www.ausfilm.com).

Official co-productions may also be eligible for financial assistance, tax incentives and other benefits in the countries of the other co-producer(s).

Australia's International Co-production Program is administered by Screen Australia.

AUSTRALIA'S CO-PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS

An official co-production must be made under the terms of one of the relevant treaties or MOUs between Australia and partner countries.

Screen Australia produces a document entitled *International Co-production Program Guidelines*, which all producers considering a co-production with Australia should read carefully. The guidelines are available at www.screenaustralia.gov.au/coproductions.

REQUIREMENTS

An official co-production must comply with all of the articles and annexes contained in the relevant treaties or MOUs, the terms of which vary from country to country.

There must be a producer from each of the co-producing countries and an overall balance between each co-producer's creative contribution and financial contribution (which may be sourced from any country). The minimum percentage of an Australian co-producer's contribution typically required under the treaties and MOUs is 20% or 30%.

An Australian co-producer's contribution is determined by:

- // the percentage of the total budget spent on Australian elements of the co-production.
- // an equivalent percentage of the total budget contributed by the Australian co-producer.
- // an equivalent percentage of Australian key creative participants and other cast and crew.

The percentage of Australian key creative participants is determined by the application of a points system set out in Screen Australia's *International Co-production Program Guidelines*.

More detailed information is available from:

Screen Australia

Co-production Division

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www.screenaustralia.gov.au/coproductions/

AUSTRALIA HAS CO-PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

TREATIES

- // Canada
- // Germany
- // Ireland
- // Israel
- // Italy
- // United Kingdom
- // Singapore
- // China

MOUs

- // France
- // New Zealand

Treaty negotiations are underway with South Africa.

AUSFILM YOUR GATEWAY TO THE AUSTRALIAN FILM AND TELEVISION INDUSTRY.

APPLICATION PROCESS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

// The Australian co-producer must make an application to Screen Australia with information about the production together with various documentation such as financing arrangements.

// The foreign co-producer must make a separate but equivalent application to the competent authorities in their country.

// Applications should be submitted four weeks in advance of the scheduled meeting at which Screen Australia will consider the application.

// Screen Australia will provide a provisional approval on a proposed official co-production taking into account the recommendation of the Screen Australia Co-production Committee which first assesses applications.

// Final approval will only be granted when Screen Australia and the foreign competent authority or authorities have all approved the completed production as eligible for official co-production status.

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