

## INFORMATION SHEET AND APPLICATION 2017-2018 Cohort

Thank you for your interest in applying for this program. Below you will find information about the program, as well as the attached application. Please read through this packet completely.

### OBJECTIVE

The Incubator Lab is an exclusive partnership between LMU SFTV and Film Independent to present a 10-month Incubator Lab program. The Incubator Lab is a program designed to give select recent alumni of LMU's Film & Television program a bridge to the film industry, and to help them move their specific projects forward in a concrete and significant way.

Participants in the Incubator Lab will attend all of Film Independent's major educational programs- the Film Independent Forum, the Directors Close-Up, and monthly Incubator Sessions- as well as receive passes to the Los Angeles Film Festival. All participants in the Incubator Lab will receive Filmmaker Pro level memberships to Film Independent. Additionally, participants will have regular group meetings at Film Independent to receive mentorship and guidance on their projects (approximately 8 times over the course of the year).

The Incubator Lab will empower recent SFTV graduates aspiring to become directors, writers, producers, and creative professionals to commence work on the first project of their career and facilitate their progress in entering the industry. Applicants will enter with a project "in hand" so as to create an authentic entry into the industry.

The foundational goal of this program is to identify and support focused and driven new alumni as they work to build their creative portfolio and therefore reputation in the entertainment industry. We are trying to give strong support to alumni that will make a significant business and artistic impact on the industry through their boldness and effort.

### WHO SHOULD APPLY

B.A. graduates may apply starting one year after their graduation date. M.F.A. graduates may apply upon date of graduation. Graduates may be no more than 4 years removed from their date of graduation.

The ideal candidate is a young LMU alumnus who is ambitious, curious, and who is ready to enter the industry with their first project in hand. The Lab will accelerate opportunity for this alum in an effort to shrink the window between graduation and success in the entertainment industry.

Preference will be given to individual or paired directors, producers, and screenwriters with specific film, television or new media projects. Groups will be considered under special circumstances, but it is *highly* recommended to apply as an individual or pair. Please note: all members must be LMU alumni and at least one member must be an alumnus of SFTV. Applicants may only submit ONE project for consideration.

*Applicants will be judged primarily by:*

- Their ability to communicate their first project(s) through creative materials and pitches
- Their anticipated commitment to the Lab as evidenced by their academic and professional performance
- Their readiness to enter the industry as detailed in recommendations and statements

The Lab will run from June 2017 through April 2018.

## WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Participants in the Incubator Lab will be required to attend all of Film Independent's major educational programs- the Film Independent Forum, the Directors Close-Up, and monthly Incubator Lab Sessions- as well as receive passes to the Los Angeles Film Festival. All participants in the Incubator Lab will receive Filmmaker Pro level memberships to Film Independent. Additionally, participants will have regular group evening meetings at Film Independent to receive mentorship and guidance on their specific projects (approximately 8-10 times over the course of the year). All monthly Film Independent meetings will be mandatory.

Participants will also have access to SFTV equipment and resources upon project approval. There will also be opportunities to join SFTV events on and off campus.

Following successful completion of the Incubator Lab, participants will have the opportunity to apply for fellowship grants that will help further the development of their projects past the conclusion of the program.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process will proceed in two stages. The first stage will consist of submission of all application materials as detailed in this packet. All eligible applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of select members of SFTV faculty, staff and alumni, as well as entertainment industry professionals and Film Independent staff members.

Select applicants will be chosen to proceed to the second stage, which will consist of a final review of applications, as well as an in-person pitch presentation, where you will be expected to present and pitch your project for a select group of SFTV faculty, staff, industry professionals, and Film Independent staff members.

The final Incubator Lab group will be selected and notified of their status the week of May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

## TIMELINE

(Dates Subject to Change)

**Week of February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**- Applications available in Xavier 217, and online at <http://sftv.lmu.edu/outcomes/incubatorlab/>

**Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017** - Completed applications due by 5PM (There will be **NO** exceptions to this deadline. Late Applications will be disqualified immediately)

**Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017** - Finalists will be chosen to proceed to final pitch round

**Week of April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017** – In-person pitch presentations.

**Week of May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017** – All applicants will be notified of their final status.

**June 14<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**- Los Angeles Film Festival and Incubator Lab kick-off.

***Please note that individuals selected to participate may be required to provide a small deposit fee to secure their space in the Lab.***

## HOW TO APPLY

Fill out the attached application and materials and email as PDF to [matthew.mills@lmu.edu](mailto:matthew.mills@lmu.edu) **OR** deliver by hand or by mail along with all application materials to Xavier Hall Room 217

Matt Mills  
LMU School of Film and Television  
One LMU Drive, Xavier 217  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
ATTN: Incubator Lab

There are five required parts to an application: the attached application form, recommendation form (via webform), resume(s), project pitch summary, statement of intent.

Please use the following checklist for your application. Items 1-3 must be completed by each individual. For pairs applying, items 4-6 only need to be completed once per pair:

1. Application form
2. Professional Resume
3. Recommendation Form(s)
4. Project Pitch Summary (example attached)
5. Statement of Intent
6. Supplemental Materials (Optional):

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed; please be diligent in your preparation of these materials.

## QUESTIONS

All questions not answered on this form regarding the Lab should be addressed to:

Matt Mills  
310-338-6048  
[matthew.mills@lmu.edu](mailto:matthew.mills@lmu.edu)

Thank you for your interest in this program!

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION  
2017-2018 INCUBATOR LAB**

Please complete fully to ensure processing of your application.

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT ID: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL (non-LMU) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

SFTV MAJOR: \_\_\_\_\_ MO/YR OF GRADUATION: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

(where you can receive mail AFTER graduation) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAME AND POSTION OF RECOMMENDER (s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

FORMAT (i.e. Feature Film, Pilot, Web Series, Screenplay): \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your agreement with the following statements by initialing to the left of each:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I am expecting to fully complete all coursework and units to graduate in May 2016, or have completed all coursework and units between May 2013 and May 2016.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand the first three pages of this packet, have submitted all required materials as listed below, and understand the expectations of me should I be accepted into the Lab.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## FUTHER MATERIALS:

Along with this application, please enclose the following:

➤ **Recommendation Form (via online survey)**

**Please provide at least one professional recommendation *per team member*. Two may be accepted per team member, if desired.**

- One professional recommendation (i.e. job or internship supervisor, etc)- **REQUIRED**
- One additional recommendation (professor, supervisor, etc)- **OPTIONAL**

**Recommendations may be submitted via survey webform. For each recommender, please email them this link to complete the recommendation survey:**

<https://lmu.wufoo.com/forms/incubator-lab-recommendation-form/>

Recommendation forms will be emailed directly to us, so please don't include them in your written application packet. You may check with your recommender or our office to confirm receipt.

Recommendations are best served to speak to your ability as a self-starter and your ability to develop and collaborate on creative projects.

➤ **Project Pitch Summary (One per team)**

Project Pitch Summaries should successfully encapsulate appropriate info for your project, including a brief logline, expanded synopsis and brief bios of the members of your team. Please refer to the attached example as a guideline.

➤ **Statement of Intent (One per team, min. 300 words)**

The Statement of Intent should discuss how you will benefit from the Incubator Lab program, how you will utilize the resources provided to you, and your goal(s) you hope to achieve at the end of the Incubator Lab program.

➤ **Resume (One *per team member*)**

Enclose a professional resume for each member of the team.

➤ **Supplemental Materials (OPTIONAL):**

Any materials that you feel will appropriately contribute to the presentation of your specific project (i.e. reel, look-book, budget, script segment). Script segment submissions are limited to 10 pages.

## PROJECT PITCH SAMPLE

### The Long and Short of It

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*Dramedy*

#### **Talent**

Producer/Director: Tom Smith  
Producer: Lucy Jones  
Writer: Jennifer Stone

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#### **Logline**

A rebellious teen on the run from her probation officer cons her way into a suburban family as a live-in helper for their Autistic daughter - an experience that changes her cynical perception of the world, but threatens to be snatched away at any moment as the law catches up with her.

#### **Synopsis**

On the street, Jacquelyn (18) and her sister Bethany (7) are known as "Jack" and "Coke." Adorned with tats and piercings, and unschooled but wicked smart, if you call her anything but "Jack," she will cut you. Having run away from their last foster home, Jack and Coke pretend to be collecting donations for the Red Cross. But, when her little sister is nabbed by cops, Jack takes off, with no choice but to abandon Bethany or face jail time. Jack learns from her probation officer Mike (40) - a physically intimidating man who is more interested in having his way with Jack than in doing his job - that her little sister has been placed in a group home. Unwilling to go along with Mike's sexual bargaining, Jack flees, and hiding out, strategizes ways to get her sister back. That's when she comes across an opportunity to prove herself a capable guardian for her sister: getting a job as a live-in companion for a little girl with autism (Glory, 7). Intending to exploit the family for her own ends, Jack is surprised and changed by the experience of being treated like a member of a real family: Though she lied about her identity in order to get the job, Jack discovers she possesses a unique ability to connect with the girl. Soon the unconditional love and sacrifice of Glory's mother, Kate (40s), and a budding romantic relationship with Glory's brother, James (17) impacts Jack as much as she impacts them. She even inspires the dispirited father Kelly (40s) to be more involved in his family. But it only works as long as they believe her lies and don't know about the ulterior motive of saving her own sister from another horrible foster family. When the corrupt probation officer Mike finally catches up with and exposes Jack, everything she's gained is in jeopardy.

#### **Personnel**

##### **Lucy Jones, Producer**

Lucy Jones is the Vice President of Production and development at Specialty Films. She is responsible for identifying potential feature projects that fit the company's mandate and developing that material until it is ready to go into production. Jones works alongside the writers and directors, overseeing the entire filmmaking process, from the initial pitch, through the casting, set visits, and notes on rough cuts, to the film's delivery. During her time at Specialty Films, she has produced 13 horror features for Lionsgate and 4 action movies for Warner Bros. In 2008, Jones was the Co-Executive Producer of *Flirting with Forty*, starring Heather Locklear - a film she set up independently after optioning the novel by Jane Porter and selling it to Sony Pictures Television. Over 4.6 million viewers watched *Flirting with Forty* when it premiered on Lifetime, making it one of the most watched television movies of 2008. This year she also became a voting member of the Producer's Guild of America, and a Programmer for Q Films, the LGBTQ Film Festival of Long Beach. She is a regular fixture on juries and committees for GLAAD and the Outfest Film Festival, and was nominated by Power Up as one of the year's Amazing Gay Women In Showbiz. Jones considers herself an advocate for female filmmakers, and strives to enable more women to get their stories onto the big screen.

### **Tom Smith, Producer/Director**

Tom Smith produced such award-winning films as a creative executive at New Line Cinema as *Pump up the Volume*, *House Party* and *Who's the Man*, and then later as an independent producer with the Sundance favorites *Joe the King* and *Searching for Paradise*. In 2008, he won an Emmy for the HBO documentary *Autism: The Musical*. His short fiction film, "Flying Lessons", debuted at Palm Springs International Short Film Festival, won the Best Dramatic Short at First Glance Hollywood, and the Silver Lei at the Honolulu Film Festival. It inspired the critically acclaimed full-length narrative feature *Fly Away* which premiered in competition at the South By Southwest Film Festival in 2011, winning Best Narrative Film at the Arizona Film Festival, before opening theatrically in select cities, to excellent reviews from *The New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, *New York Observer* and *Los Angeles Times*, which called it "most overlooked for an Oscar." *Fly Away* continues in international release via iTunes, Amazon, Netflix. Smith is currently an Associate Professor of the Arts at NYU Tisch School of the Arts, in Film Producing and Screenwriting.

### **Jennifer Stone, Writer**

Raised in Stone Mountain, Georgia, Jennifer Stone graduated from Northwestern University as a Theatre major with a concentration in acting. As a member of the University's Creative Writing for the Media Program, she was granted the T. Stephen May Scriptwriting Award. Stone's film industry experience began with various assistant positions including, most notably, working for two-time Academy Award-winning screenwriter Alvin Sargent. She found a home in film development applying her aptitude and affinity for working with written material. Having worked with various studios, networks, and the production companies of talents such as Sandra Bullock, Meg Ryan, Adam Sandler, and Bill Pullman, she currently is the sole script reader for Universal's specialty film arm Focus Features and a member of Local 700, in the Story Analyst branch of the Motion Picture Editors Guild. In 2004, Stone was selected as a Fellow in the Outfest Film Festival's Screenwriting Lab and now serves on the jury selecting Outfest Screenwriting Fellows. In 2006, she was also awarded the \$7500 Writers Arc Foundation Screenwriting Fellowship for her screenplay entitled *Sensational*. In the same year, Stone was named a Semifinalist in the Academy's prestigious Nicholl Fellowship when her script *Pentimenti* was ranked among the Top 30 of nearly five thousand submissions. Most recently, *Pentimenti* also won the Atlanta Film Festival's Screenplay Competition, which included a public reading at Atlanta's cherished 14th Street Playhouse. Jennifer Stone is represented by Original Artists.

### **Contact**

Lucy Jones  
Ljones@specialtyfilms.com  
555-555-5555

Tom Smith  
Tom Smith@aol.com  
555-555-5555