

## LMU INCUBATOR LAB at FILM INDEPENDENT

### CURRICULUM AND BENEFITS OVERVIEW

The Incubator Lab is a program designed to give select young 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.

As required by your commitment to the program, The Incubator Lab participants will meet at Film Independent for ten three hour sessions over one year. As part of the Incubator Lab, the participants must also attend the Los Angeles Film Festival, Film Independent Forum in October, and the Directors Close-Up in February – March. All participants in the Incubator Lab will receive Filmmaker Pro level memberships to Film Independent, providing exclusive access to Film Independent resources, events and networking opportunities. In addition to these sessions, participants may be invited to meet with an advisor for a one hour consultation to discuss the particulars of their projects.

Below is a list of potential sessions, events, festivals and programs that may be included as part of the Incubator Lab curriculum in the coming year:

#### **Los Angeles Film Festival**

Participants in the Incubator Lab receive passes to the 2015 Los Angeles Film Festival, including the various educational panels and conversations that take place there. The LMU/FIND partnership will be announced at a special reception, attended by all the Incubator Lab participants, as well as staff and filmmakers.

#### **Understanding the Film Business and Marketplace**

Special guests share their insight on how to build a successful career strategy and provide an introduction to the roles of agents, producer's reps, financiers, sales agents, production companies and distributors in furthering the development of a project and a career.

#### **Get Your Ducks in a Row: The Principles of Pre-production**

When prepping your first feature, there's an overwhelming amount of paperwork and contracts that have to be in place before you can move forward. For a first-time producer, it can be daunting setting up your own LLC; optioning the rights to a screenplay or solidifying your specific chain of title documents; wading through guild agreements and assembling crew deal memos. Representatives from Indieworks will make sense of all this and more, and bring a sense of order to the pre-production process so you can keep a level head and steer your production with confidence.

#### **American Film Market (AFM)**

Incubator Lab participants are invited to attend the AFM, as well as attend an AFM orientation produced by Film Independent. (Passes Not Included in Film Independent Membership)

#### **Film Independent Forum**

The Film Independent Forum is a 2 ½ day conference on the state of independent film production and distribution. This is a must-attend event for up-and-coming filmmakers and established industry alike. The Film Independent Forum is packed with off-the-record discussions, practical solutions and

extensive case studies, all reflecting the reality of the industry today. Past speakers include Werner Herzog, John Singleton, Ted Hope, Ted Sarandos, and many more.

### **Pitch Clinic**

Through presentations and interactive pitch sessions with established film professionals, participants will learn how to present their projects to financiers and production companies. Participants will also learn how to hone a pitch to best communicate their vision to fit the needs and expectations of various types of industry professionals.

### **Festivals and Markets as a Point of Sales**

To understand the difference between a festival and a market and how to navigate these two types of events with a finished project or work in progress.

### **Spirit Awards Screening Series**

Incubator Lab participants receive a pass to attend theatrical screenings of every Spirit Award nominated film and hear Q&A's with the filmmakers (approximately 40 films each year). In addition, all Incubator Lab participants will receive DVD screeners of select Spirit Award nominated films.

### **Grants, Labs, Awards and Funds**

Learn about the array of grants and grant-giving organizations that are available to filmmakers to develop and produce their projects. An overview of the different domestic and international opportunities.

### **Directors Close-Up**

Film Independent's Directors Close-Up gives you an intimate look at the craft of directing straight from the visionaries behind the camera. In this unique five-week series, you can ask questions, see behind the scenes of your favorite movies, and hear first-hand from directors whose originality, ingenuity and talent have set them apart as leaders in their craft.

- 5-night series pass
- 3 Networking Receptions

### **Navigating the World of Episodic Content for the Web and TV**

Special guests explore the dynamics of episodic content for both television and the web, provide insight on how to develop projects for these spaces.

### **Social Media Tools for Marketing, Funding, and Audience Engagement**

Experts in the field of marketing present effective tools and strategies to build and engage your audience before, during and after your project is completed.

We will also look at different crowdfunding sites and alternative distribution models beyond the traditional theatrical release. Kickstarter, Indiegogo, Seed + Spark and US Projects, among other sites, are providing filmmakers with new ways to raise their funding, as well as to connect with audiences. Learn the full range of options in this detailed workshop.

### **The Final Pitch**

An interactive session with a producer's rep, financier, production company representative, and distributor where students will be able not only to pitch their projects, but to consult specific aspects of their projects with these experts.