

MAA

Master of Arts Screen 2023
(Nine Disciplines)

AFTRS

Fast-Track Your Career
in the Global Screen Industry

The Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) is Australia's national screen and broadcast school.

Working hand-in-hand with industry, AFTRS is a global centre of excellence that provides Australians with world-leading creative education and training so that Australian talent and culture may thrive at home and around the world. AFTRS is the only Australian school to be consistently rated among the top international film schools by *The Hollywood Reporter*. In 2023 AFTRS will celebrate its 50th anniversary.



MumLife, 2021
Director
Ruby Challenger

Master of Arts Screen: Offered in Nine Disciplines

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The Master of Arts Screen is a two-year program that offers unique access to expert training, professional mentorship and industry-based learning. The degree is designed to fast-track the careers of future industry leaders.

Through an intensive cycle of hands-on workshops, you will gain high-level specialist skills in your discipline. You will apply theoretical ideas to cross disciplinary exercises, developing a dynamic and multi-faceted skill set.

The course culminates in the creation of a major screen project supported by our world-leading facilities and staff. Recent projects have been selected for the Cannes and Berlin film festivals, as Dendy Finalists at the Sydney Film Festival, and have secured representation for filmmakers nationally and internationally.

AFTRS' Master of Arts Screen is highly regarded by the industry in Australia and abroad. Graduates have a track record of appointment to senior positions at major production houses, broadcasters and national and state screen bodies. These include Matchbox Pictures, Essential Media, Channel 7, Channel Ten, SBS, Screen Australia and Create NSW.

Nine disciplines are offered in 2023: Cinematography, Directing, Documentary, Editing, Music, Producing, Production Design, Screenwriting and Sound Design.

Career Opportunities

The Master of Arts Screen will set you on the path to becoming a leader in your chosen discipline. The course will equip you with the specialist knowledge and collaborative experience necessary for a head of department. By the end of the course, you will have the peer networks, adaptability and entrepreneurial skills vital to thrive in today's rapidly changing global industry.

Applications for the 2023 intake close
31 August 2022

DISCIPLINES

Cinematography, Directing, Documentary, Editing, Music, Producing, Production Design, Screenwriting, Sound

DURATION

Two years, full-time

DELIVERY

Sydney, on campus

ATTENDANCE PATTERN

Year 1: Three days, face-to-face teaching each week

Year 2: Project-focussed with classes for professional development

COURSE FEE

Domestic student annual tuition fee \$27,744 (\$55,488 total indicative course fee)*

International student annual tuition fee: Visit the AFTRS website for details

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

FEE-HELP approved Scholarships available.

CRICOS: 096795K

TEQSA: PRV12011

*AFTRS tuition fees are reviewed each year and you are liable for the additional tuition costs if the tuition fees rise during the course of your enrolment.

“AFTRS is a space to explore your voice and cultivate interests. It helped me to establish myself as a professional and discover how best to collaborate with others. As graduates, we are empowered to tell stories with such gusto that audiences won’t be able to look away.”

Jayden Rathsam Hüa,
Master of Arts Screen, 2020



The Retreat, 2020
Director
Victoria Zerbst



Elagabalus, 2019
Director
 Xanthe Dobbie

Why study the AFTRS Master of Arts Screen

- One-to-one mentorships with Heads of Discipline—award-winning Australian practitioners
- Production funding for collaborative productions to create a portfolio of high-level work
- Professional placement tailored to your goals
- Unrivalled world-class production facilities
- Industry-led collaborations
- Masterclasses with award-winning international filmmakers
- Dedicated Masters working space
- Small class sizes (maximum of 8 places per discipline)
- Three days face-to-face teaching each week in the first year, with two days free to pursue individual projects or work
- Project-focussed second year with targeted classes for professional development

Disciplines

Cinematography

Accomplished cinematography requires the mastery of visual language, high-level collaboration and creative leadership. In this course – Australia's only full-time Master in cinematography – you will undertake learning through intensive small group workshops using professional equipment, studios and support staff all accompanied by ongoing one on one mentoring.

Through extensive production experience, you will learn to critically evaluate the theory, techniques and technologies of cinematography, strengthen your ability to collaborate effectively and refine your understanding of cinematic storytelling across screen platforms. In the final year, you will work collaboratively with other students to create major projects and conduct key research into your own creative practice.

During the course you will be able to undertake a short professional placement and engagement with industry, providing professional networking opportunities and potential for future collaborations.

Directing

In our digital world, the skills and capabilities demanded of the screen director are multifaceted. Unique in its structure, the Master of Arts Screen: Directing provides the opportunity for emerging directors to develop towards a mastery of screen directing through a program of carefully scaffolded collaborative workshops, research projects and mentorships.

For nearly 50 years, AFTRS' directing graduates have enjoyed successful and celebrated careers across the screen industries, locally and globally. AFTRS has repeatedly been named among The Hollywood Reporter's top 15 film international film schools in their annual roundup.

You will gain access to world-class mentors and lecturers for practical and theoretical insights into screen directing skill sets and leadership. This course gives you the opportunity to work alongside cinematographers, writers, producers, designers, editors and composers in the development of creative projects. Through it you will build ongoing relationships within future industry networks.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Studying the Master of Art Screen: Cinematography at AFTRS will allow you to confidently create impactful screen images in a variety of professional settings and across a wide spectrum of formats and styles. This course is dedicated to the enhancement of your career. Our graduates continue to be highly represented at Australian Cinematography Society (ACS) Awards, both at the State and National levels, including AFTRS Head of Cinematography Kim Batterham, who was recently inducted into the Australian Cinematographers Society's Hall of Fame.

Celebrated AFTRS cinematography alumni include Warwick Thornton (The Sapphires, 2012; Sweet Country, 2017) and Bonnie Elliot ACS (Seven Types of Ambiguity, 2017; Stateless, 2020). Academy Award winners include Andrew Lesnie ASC ACS for The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001), and Dion Beebe ACS & ASC for Memoirs of a Geisha (2006).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This program will equip you with specialist knowledge and collaborative experience, propelling you towards a professional role directing TV series, feature films, TVCs, gaming, online content and 360° formats.

AFTRS directing alumni have been nominated for and won a slew of awards, including Jane Campion, winner of the Academy Award, BAFTA, Golden Globe and Venice Silver Lion for The Power of the Dog (2021), nominee of BAFTA and Emmys for Top of the Lake (2013, 2014) and Academy Awards for The Piano (1994); Gillian Armstrong, winner of AFI Awards for My Brilliant Career (1979); Chris Noonan, Academy Awards-nominee for Babe (1996); Cate Shortland, AACTA Awards-winner for Somersault (2004) and Berlin Syndrome (2017); Shannon Murphy, BAFTA-nominee for Babyteeth (2019); and AFTRS Head of Directing Rowan Woods, winner of AFI and BAFTA Awards for his feature films and TV.

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Documentary

In the digital era, documentary film and series have engaged and impacted international audiences like never before.

The Master of Arts Screen: Documentary will develop your directing, storytelling and leadership skills through hands-on specialist workshops, masterclasses and industry mentoring. You will work closely with students across disciplines including cinematographers, editors and composers to create world-class, market-ready projects.

You will get access to tutors and guest lecturers with high-level industry experience, who will deliver hands-on specialist workshops, masterclasses, academic expertise and mentoring.

You will learn about visual storytelling and screen business, expanding your understanding of all aspects of documentary-making, from story conception, development and pitching, to shooting and editing and the marketplace and distribution.

AFTRS has been repeatedly named among the top 15 international film schools in The Hollywood Reporter’s annual roundup. This course will provide the skills required to become a successful documentary maker in a rapidly evolving media landscape.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

AFTRS documentary graduates have screened their films and won prizes at major festivals all over the world. Among them are Robert Nugent (End of the Rainbow, 2007), Rebecca Barry (I Am A Girl, 2013), Sascha Ettinger-Epstein (The Oasis, 2008; The Pink House, 2017), Madeleine Hetherington (The Surgery Ship, 2017), Larissa Behrendt (After the Apology, 2017); and Hollie Fifer (The Opposition, 2016).

Editing

The Master of Arts Screen: Editing provides you with the opportunity to immerse yourself in the craft of editing. You will be developing the craft of making cohesive moving stories to industry standard using Avid Media Composer.

You will discover how to shape an actor’s performance and structure a scene to enhance the effectiveness of the narrative. In documentary editing, you will face the challenge of working with archival as well as shot footage and threading it together seamlessly.

You will learn to work closely in teams, collaborating with the directing, writing, producing, sound, and music students to bring your projects to life. You will learn about coverage, continuity, and the entire postproduction workflow, from transcoding rushes, to online, grading, sound, music, and complex VFX. You will experience the pressures and rewards of being a screen editor. You will collaborate with a range of key creatives from every department, and learn about working with editing assistants and postproduction supervisors. By the end of the course, you will have developed the skills to edit professional projects and the confidence to approach professional directors and producers for work. You will develop a high-level reel to showcase your work, and gain valuable industry contacts.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Master of Arts Screen: Editing will enable you to work at a professional level on-screen narratives of all kinds. You will graduate with the skills you need to fast-track your career as a professional editor in film, television, documentary, advertising, VR, AR and web-based screen projects.

AFTRS editing alumni include Margaret Sixel ASE, winner of an Academy Award and BAFTA for Mad Max: Fury Road (2016); Nick Meyers ASE, winner of an AACTA for Balibo (2009) and an ASE Award for The Rocket (2013); Andy Canny, winner of an AACTA for The Invisible Man (2020); Mark Perry ASE for Rake (2012-2016), Friday on My Mind (2017) and The Kettering Incident. (2016); and Andrea Lang ASE, Cunnamulla (2001), winner of Film Critics Circle of Australia and Hollywood Film Award for Best Documentary, and We Don’t Need a Map (2017), winner of the NSW Premier’s Digital History Prize and Best Documentary ATOM Award.

Music

In the Master of Arts Screen: Music you will learn how to apply different styles of music to screen narratives. You will discover how music works with images and performance to create meaning and move audiences.

Throughout the course, you will develop your own unique voice as you produce music for the screen. You will record with professional musicians live in the school’s state-of-the-art recording studios, and experiment with the most effective technologies to help you realise your ideas.

This course is designed for those looking to become screen composers, orchestrators, copyists, music editors and programmers in film, television, documentary, advertising, web-based and interactive projects. You will be required to write and produce music for a range of projects in collaboration with your fellow Master of Arts Screen students. These projects will increase in scope and complexity as you progress through the course. You will focus on exploring the possibilities of the form and developing an individual voice. Industry practitioners contribute to the coursework program, providing insights into their practice. Seminars and collaborative productions will help you develop your understanding of the role of music in screen narrative.

In your final year, you will work collaboratively on major projects and a strategically aligned research project. The course culminates in a short professional placement and engagement with industry, providing professional networking opportunities and potential for future collaborations.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Master of Arts Screen: Music enables you to work as a composer at a professional level on screen narratives of all kinds, including film, TV, advertising and gaming.

AFTRS screen composing alumni include Antony Partos, President of the Australian Guild of Screen Composers (Operation Buffalo, 2020; Mystery Road, 2018-2020; Top End Wedding, 2019; Jasper Jones ,2017), Caitlin Yeo (Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan, 2019; The Butterfly Tree, 2017; The Rocket, 2013), Matteo Zingales (Harrow, 2018-2021; Mystery Road, 2018-2020; Fahrenheit 451, 2018) and Antonio Gambale (Unorthodox, 2020; Stung, 2015; Joe Cinque’s Consolation, 2016).

Producing

The Master of Arts Screen: Producing provides you with the tools to create and develop your own projects. You will learn about development, audience identification, financing, production and marketing. This practical knowledge is complemented by intensive workshops on creative leadership and entrepreneurial skills.

At the core of producing is the power of story – and the innovative ways stories can be brought to the screen. In this course you will be encouraged to explore your own ideas, to test your work with an audience in mind, and to experiment. You will meet and forge strong creative relationships with colleagues from a range of disciplines that you will carry with you into your professional screen career.

Acquire an advanced skillset in the creation and development of screen stories, identifying and targeting audiences financing, production management and distribution. Graduates are fully equipped producers, ready to create bold, cutting edge screen content in the rapidly changing screen sector.

The Master or Arts Screen: Producing will propel you into a career in the screen industries, specialists in ideation, development, team leadership and content creation for every screen existing or as yet unimagined. You will emerge with the skills vital to thrive in today’s fast-moving media landscape and join a network of influential alumni creating bold screen stories for hungry international audiences, within thriving production companies around the globe.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This program will propel you into a career in the screen industries, with specialist skills in ideation, development, team leadership and content creation for every screen imaginable. You will emerge with the skills vital to thrive in today’s fast-moving media landscape and join a network of influential alumni creating bold screen stories for hungry audiences, within thriving production companies around the globe.

Notable AFTRS producing alumni include Katie Shortland (Head of Business Affairs and Strategy at CJZ Group), Michael Pontin (Wormwood, 2014; Backtrack, 2015; Otherlife, 2017; Standing up for Sunny, 2019; June Again, 2021; Long Story Short, 2021), Taylor Litton-Strain (Jade of Death, 2018), Sheila Jayadev (Ali’s Wedding, 2017; Stateless, 2020; Here Out West, 2021), Liam Heyen (I Am Woman, 2019; Top End Wedding, 2019; Cleverman, 2016-2017) and Luke Eve (High Life, 2017; I Met a Girl, 2021).

Production Design

The Master of Arts Screen: Production Design offers emerging production designers, art directors, designers and artists the skills to forge a creative and versatile career in the design or art department on screen projects.

Production design makes a vital creative contribution to the visual realisation of screen stories. It’s a multifaceted discipline that encompasses conceptual and practical design skills, collaboration, and teamwork. Digital visualisation technology is opening new methods for screen designers to communicate their ideas, collaborate, and support screen stories in innovative ways. In this course, you will explore new platforms and technologies involving production design concepts and practices.

Through design skills development, collaborative exercises, and research, you will develop a strong creative practice and discover your own design process.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Master of Arts Screen: Production Design enables you to work at a professional level on a broad range of screen productions. Potential careers include production designer, art director, set designer and set decorator.

Award-winning AFTRS alumni include Melinda Doring, AACTA prizes for The Sapphires (2012) and The Eye of the Storm (2011), and an AFI Award for Somersault (2004); Annie Beauchamp, Art Directors Guild Award for Moulin Rouge! (2002), and USA Art Directors Guild Nominee for Black Mirror: Striking Vipers (2019); Alex Holmes, AACTA nominee for The Babadook (2015) and The Nightingale (2018); Chris Batson, APDG Award for The Voice (2012); Justine Seymour, Emmy nominee for Unorthodox (2020), winner Best Costumes Action on Film Award, USA (2014), Batman Evolution. Emma Bourke, APDG Award Best Emerging Designer for Screen for, Sweet Tooth (2019).

Screenwriting

The Master of Arts Screen: Screenwriting develops the next wave of Australian screenwriters. In this course you will acquire industry knowledge, craft skills and peer networks; vital resources in building a sustainable career in the screen industries. Through an intensive incubator-style program, you will develop a portfolio of creative work that showcases your understanding of screenwriting craft. You will work collaboratively on the development of screen stories with peers in other discipline including directing, producing and sound; and gain an understanding of the journey from script to screen.

Through craft-based writing workshops and crossdisciplinary collaborations, you will learn the complex skill set demanded of screenwriters at the highest industry level. Industry practitioners will provide insights into their professional practice and essential feedback on your scripts. To practice your craft, you will participate in peer feedback incubators that allow you to develop a major creative work or set of screenplay documents. Industry practitioners will provide insights into their professional practice and essential feedback on your scripts.

In the final year, you will develop a portfolio of screen documents, story development training and undertake a professional placement. By the end of the course, you will have the ability to generate work that is audience-focused and distinctive, whether writing to a brief or developing original material. You will graduate a versatile storyteller, able to work across platforms in a rapidly evolving media landscape.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Each year, Australian feature films, television and other screen media are testament to the impact of the AFTRS screenwriting program. Notable screenwriting alumni include Tony McNamara, BAFTA winner and Academy Award nominee for The Favourite (2018) and Golden Globe nominee for The Great (2020); Jacqueline Perske (Love My Way, 2004-2007; Seven Types of Ambiguity, 2017; The Cry, 2017); Julie Kalceff, Emmy, Rose d’Or, GLAAD, and MGFF My Queer Carrer winner for First Day (2020-2022) and LA, NY, Melbourne and Vancouver Web Fest winner for Starting From Now (2014-2016); and Jane Campion, winner of an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for The Piano (1993) and nominee for Best Adapted Screenplay for The Power of the Dog (2021).

Sound Design

Prepare for the next stage of your career as a sound practitioner. In the Master of Arts Screen: Sound Design, you will explore sound as a means of driving narrative and building story worlds.

Whether your interest is in production recording, mixing, or sound design and editing, this course will prepare you for tomorrow's industry. Through a combination of practice-based learning and theory, you will critically evaluate the techniques and technologies of sound production and design. You will investigate the ways in which sound can be produced, edited and manipulated to create an emotional response in the audience. You will be encouraged to challenge norms and build an informed creative practice, aware of future platforms and changing work practices.

In your final year, you will work on a funded major project(s) using the School’s extensive production facilities. The course concludes with a professional placement.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Master of Arts Screen: Sound Design enables you to work at a professional level on a broad range of screen productions. Potential careers include, sound editor, sound designer, sound recordist and sound mixer in film, television, advertising, online, gaming and all other screen formats.

AFTRS sound alumni have been nominated for and won awards for their exceptional skills and talent. Among them are David White, winner of the Academy Award for Best Sound Editing—proudly displayed in the AFTRS foyer—for Mad Max: Fury Road (2016), Peter Grace, winner of the Academy Award for Best Sound Mixing for Hacksaw Ridge (2017), and Tara Webb, Best Sound Academy Award nominee for The Power of the Dog.



Composer Jorde Heys
(MA, 2019)
Recording the score for short
film *The End, The Beginning*.



Behind the scenes of *Mudcrab*, 2021
Director
David Robinson-Smith

Scholarships

To ensure we reflect Australian society and Australian stories, AFTRS wants to work with students from a diverse range of backgrounds. To support this, the School has a range of scholarships available to assist degree course students with the costs associated with higher education. For details, visit aftrs.edu.au/scholarships

For details of how to apply for AFTRS Scholarships, visit aftrs.edu.au/scholarships

Scholarships available:

- Netflix First Nations Scholarship
- Craft Excellence Scholarship
- Equity Scholarships
- First Nations Scholarships

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Behind the scenes of
Hashtag Childless, 2021
Director
Isabella Andronos

Australian Film Television
and Radio School

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Australian Government
AFTRS

AFTRS acknowledges the Traditional Owners, the Bidjigal people and Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, on whose land we meet, work, study and teach. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from all nations of this land.