



Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development

Unit FO409, Hatfield Plaza · 1122 Burnett St, Hatfield 0028 · Pretoria, Gauteng · South Africa

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COURSE BROCHURE

Scriptwriting For Film And Television In South Africa Training

Communication Studies and Language / Communication Studies

Unit Standard 117954 · NQF Level 7 · 15 Credits · 12 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips learners with the practical and theoretical skills required to write compelling scripts for film and television within the South African context. It covers narrative structure, character development, dialogue, and industry-specific conventions, enabling participants to produce professional scripts that resonate with local audiences.

Category	Communication Studies and Language
Subfield	Communication Studies
Unit Standard	117954
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 7 · 15 Credits
Duration	12 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Apply fundamental principles of scriptwriting, including three-act structure and genre conventions.
- Develop original characters and dialogue that reflect diverse South African voices and contexts.
- Analyze existing film and television scripts to identify effective narrative techniques.
- Design a complete script for a short film or television episode, adhering to industry formatting standards.
- Evaluate scripts for coherence, pacing, and cultural relevance within the South African media landscape.
- Demonstrate proficiency in pitching and presenting script ideas to industry stakeholders.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Aspiring and emerging scriptwriters, content creators, media students, and professionals in the South African film and television industry seeking to formalize their skills.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Introduction to Scriptwriting and the South African Industry

- Overview of the South African film and television landscape.
- Key industry bodies: NFFV, SABC, M-Net, and independent producers.
- The scriptwriter's role: from concept to screen.
- Understanding broadcasting codes and content requirements.
- Introduction to script genres and formats.
- Case study: successful South African productions.

Day 2: Story Fundamentals and Narrative Structure

- The three-act structure: setup, confrontation, resolution.
- Character arcs and motivation.
- Theme and subtext in storytelling.
- Plot vs. story: narrative techniques.
- Story mapping and beat sheets.
- Workshop: breaking down a local film into acts.

Day 3: Character Development and Dialogue

- Character profiles: backstory, archetypes, and stereotypes.
- Dialogue writing: rhythm, slang, and South African vernacular.
- Subtext and exposition.
- Character voice: age, region, and socioeconomic background.
- Scene analysis: dialogue-driven moments.
- Exercise: writing a dialogue scene with conflict.

Day 4: Script Formatting and Industry Standards

- Standard screenplay format (Courier 12pt, margins, sluglines).
- Television script formats: multicam vs. single-cam.
- Software tools and templates.
- Common formatting errors and how to avoid them.
- Practical: format a sample scene correctly.
- Peer review of formatted scripts.

Day 5: Genre-Specific Writing and Audience Awareness

- Genre tropes and expectations in South African context.
- Comedy timing and situational humour.
- Drama: emotional beats and tension.
- Thriller: suspense and pacing.
- Soap opera: cliffhangers and multiple storylines.
- Audience demographics and content regulations.

Day 6: Developing a TV Series Bible and Pilot Episode

- Components of a TV series bible.
- Logline and premise.
- Character arcs across seasons.
- Pilot structure: cold open, inciting incident, cliffhanger.
- Writing a pilot outline.

- Exercise: develop a bible for a South African TV series.

Day 7: Writing for Television: Episodic Structure and Room Writing

- Episodic structure: teaser, acts, tag.
- Balancing multiple storylines.
- Writers' room dynamics and brainstorming.
- Writing to a running time and budget.
- Network notes and revisions.
- Workshop: break a story in a simulated writers' room.

Day 8: Writing for Film: Feature-Length Structure and Visual Storytelling

- Feature film structure: sequence approach.
- Visual storytelling: show, don't tell.
- Scene description: atmosphere, action, and subtext.
- Transitions and montages.
- Case study: South African feature films.
- Exercise: write a key scene from a feature outline.

Day 9: Adaptation and Intellectual Property

- Adaptation techniques: fidelity vs. creative license.
- Rights clearance and option agreements.
- South African copyright law and the Copyright Act.
- Writing treatments and proposals.
- Ethical considerations in true-story adaptations.
- Exercise: adapt a short story into a scene.

Day 10: Pitching, Networking, and Industry Survival

- The elevator pitch: structure and delivery.
- Written pitch documents: one-pagers and proposals.
- Targeting the right market: broadcasters, streaming, and film festivals.
- Networking strategies in the SA industry.
- Dealing with feedback and rejection.
- Role-play: pitch a script to a mock producer.

Day 11: Rewriting, Feedback, and Collaboration

- The rewriting process: macro vs. micro revisions.
- Giving and receiving feedback.
- Working with directors: vision and script notes.
- Collaborative script development.
- Time management for rewrites.
- Workshop: rewrite a scene based on feedback.

Day 12: Final Project and Course Wrap-Up

- Final project: writing a complete scene or short script.
- Peer and instructor feedback session.
- Career pathways: freelance, staff writer, or creator.
- Resources: guilds, funding, and development programmes.
- Course evaluation and certification.
- Networking mixer with industry guests.

ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Delegates are assessed through exercises and a final test. A mark of **50% or above** earns an **AATICD Certificate of Completion**, issued digitally with a unique verification code. This course carries **15 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 7**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 47,100.00	R 47,100.00
1	In-House	R 61,300.00	R 61,300.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 70,700.00	R 70,700.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
04 Aug 2026	19 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
05 Aug 2026	20 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa
06 Aug 2026	21 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE
07 Aug 2026	24 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
07 Aug 2026	24 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Lagos, Nigeria
10 Aug 2026	25 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
10 Aug 2026	25 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
11 Aug 2026	26 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa

Contact us if no suitable date is listed – on-demand sessions can be arranged for groups.

HOW TO GET A QUOTE OR APPLY

1. **Get an instant quotation online:** visit www.aaticd.co.za, open the page for this course (Unit Standard 117954) and click **Get A Quote / Apply**. Select your training method and number of delegates – your quotation is generated immediately and emailed to you with the course brochure attached.
2. **Apply by email:** send the course title, your preferred training method (Online, In-House or On-Campus Pretoria), the number of delegates and your preferred dates to apply@aaticd.co.za – our team will reply with a formal quotation.
3. **Apply by phone or WhatsApp:** call **+27 12 004 8389** or WhatsApp **+27 65 077 6310** and we will prepare your quotation and reserve your seats.
4. **Confirm your booking:** accept the quotation and settle the invoice. As soon as payment is confirmed your delegates are enrolled and receive their AATICD LMS login details by email, along with joining instructions for their chosen training method.

Group discounts apply automatically – the more delegates you enrol, the lower the price per delegate. No payment is required to request a quotation.

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