**WGA LOW BUDGET AGREEMENT FOR THEATRICAL SCREENPLAYS**

NARRATIVE

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **BUDGET BELOW $200,000** | **BUDGET $200,000 -** | **BUDGET $500,000 -** |
|  |  | **BELOW $500,000** | **$1.2 MILLION** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **EMPLOYMENT:** | **CHOOSE:** | **CHOOSE:** | • Standard Minimum Basic |
| **WORK-FOR-HIRE (1ST & 2ND DRAFTS;** | • $11,966 (25% of minimum) | • $23,931 (50% of minimum) | Agreement terms: $47,862 |
| **ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY)** |  |
|  | • No $5,000 Script Publication Fee | • No $5,000 Script Publication Fee | • $5,000 Script Publication Fee |
|  | is payable after writing credit is |
|  |  |  |
|  | OR | OR | determined. |
|  |  |
|  | • May defer up to $47,862 | • May defer up to $47,862 |  |
|  | • May defer $5,000 Script | • May defer $5,000 Script |  |
|  | Publication Fee | Publication Fee |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **SCREENPLAY “SPEC”** | • Choices above (same budget | • Choices above (same budget | • At least $10,000 due upon |
| **SALE (ORIGINAL)** | category) | category) | commencement of principal |
|  |  |  | photography. May defer up to |
|  | • May also defer up to | • May also defer up to | $47,862. |
|  | $23,374 for the first rewrite | $23,374 for the first rewrite | • $5,000 Script Publication Fee |
|  | (if a rewrite is performed). | (if a rewrite is performed). |
|  |  |  | is payable after writing credit is |
|  |  |  | determined. |
|  |  |  | • May also defer up to |
|  |  |  | $23,374 for the first rewrite |
|  |  |  | (if a rewrite is performed). |
|  |  |  |  |

Deferred payments are paid “most favored nations” with the person who performs directing services, however, sums due are no less than those stated above.

Low budget minimums are $47,862 for Original Screenplays and $38,950 for Non-Original Screenplays. Calibrate accordingly if the project is Non-Original.

Work-for-Hire treatment and 1st and 2nd drafts are paid at 25% and 50% of $71,236 for Original Screenplays ($62,334 for Non-Original Screenplays) in the below $500,000 categories and paid per standard MBA terms in the $500,000 - $1.2 million category.

**WGA DOCUMENTARY SCREENPLAY CONTRACT FOR THEATRICAL SCREENPLAYS**

DOCUMENTARY

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **BUDGET BELOW $500,000** | **BUDGET $500,000 -** | **BUDGET $750,000 -** |
|  |  | **BELOW $750,000** | **$1.2 MILLION** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **EMPLOYMENT:** | • May defer up to $47,862 | • At least $10,000 paid to | • At least $10,000 paid to |
| **WRITERS WHO ARE ALSO EMPLOYED** |  | Writer within 10 days of signing | Writer within 10 days of signing |
| **AS PRODUCERS OR DIRECTORS** |  |
| • $5,000 Script Publication Fee | the Contract. May defer up to | the Contract. May defer up to |
| **(ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY)** |
| may be waived by Writer | $37,862. | $37,862. |
|  |
|  |  | • $5,000 Script Publication Fee | • $5,000 Script Publication Fee |
|  |  | may be waived by Writer | may be waived by Writer |
|  |  |  |  |
| **EMPLOYMENT:** | • At least $5,000 paid to Writer | • At least $10,000 paid to | • At least $15,000 paid to |
| **WRITERS WHO ARE NOT ALSO EMPLOYED** | within 10 days of signing the | Writer within 10 days of signing | Writer within 10 days of signing |
| **AS PRODUCERS OR DIRECTORS** | Contract. May defer up to | the Contract. May defer up to | the Contract. May defer up to |
| **(ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY)** |
| $42,862. | $37,862. | $32,862. |
|  |
|  | • $5,000 Script Publication Fee | • $5,000 Script Publication Fee | • $5,000 Script Publication Fee |
|  | may be waived by Writer | may be waived by Writer | may be waived by Writer |
|  |  |  |  |
| **SCREENPLAY “SPEC”** | • May defer up to $47,862 | • At least $10,000 paid to | • At least $10,000 paid to |
| **SALE (ORIGINAL)** |  | Writer within 10 days of signing | Writer within 10 days of signing |
|  | • $5,000 Script Publication Fee | the Contract. May defer up to | the Contract. May defer up to |
|  | may be waived by Writer | $37,862. | $37,862. |
|  |  | • $5,000 Script Publication Fee | • $5,000 Script Publication Fee |
|  |  | may be waived by Writer | may be waived by Writer |
|  |  |  |  |

Deferred payments are paid “most favored nations” with the person who performs directing services, however, sums due are no less than those stated above. Low budget minimums are $47,862 for Original Screenplays and $38,950 for Non-Original Screenplays. Calibrate accordingly if the project is Non-Original**If the budget is over $1.2 million, please call the WGAW’s Contract Department at (323) 782-4501 or the WGAE’s Signatories Department at (212) 767-7837 to learn how you can work under the WGA Minimum Basic Agreement. The guilds encourage writers and their representatives to negotiate overscale deals and to defer as little of the Writer’s compensation as possible – these charts set forth the MINIMUM terms required to make your project under the WGA Low Budget Agreement or WGA Documentary Screenplay Contract.**