

With the Friday 16 March deadline fast approaching, budding screen writers across Scotland now have one week left to get their entries in for Scotland's new short film competition 'One Minute Wonder', hosted in association with Metro Ecosse, Scotland's leading broadcast and live events production company.

If you are gearing up to enter but find yourself suffering from writers block, why not check out our top tips for screenwriting, courtesy of revered screenwriter and One Minute Wonder judge, Adrian Mead. Good Luck!

TOP TEN TIPS FOR SCREENWRITING

The following guidelines can be applied to any length of drama script but should prove particularly useful for a one minute idea.

1. Choose a subject around the competition's WILD! theme that you are passionate about, something that fascinates, terrifies, infuriates or excites you. It is always easier to create an original piece of work if you have an emotional investment in the subject.
2. Show don't tell. You're writing a film script so try and use images to tell your story rather than lots of dialogue.
3. Keep it simple. Don't try and squeeze a huge and complex idea into such a short time frame.
4. Of course that doesn't mean be mediocre! The whole point of a scheme like this is to give you the chance to be bold and exciting. Choose one idea and perhaps focus right in on some intimate and previously unexplored aspect of the subject.
5. If you opt for writing a monologue your character should have something to say that surprises or moves us.
6. Look at other mediums. Painters, artists, graphic novelists and cartoonists all construct images that rapidly convey what they are trying to communicate. Look at how they have done it.
7. Sound is an incredibly powerful and evocative tool. Think of the sounds that create atmosphere and mood and how you can use them in your script.
8. Get inspired! Listening to music can be a great tool for inspiring ideas. Brainstorm with mates. Look at newspaper headlines or search the internet for inspiration. Sit in a busy place such as the bus station or a shopping precinct and do some people watching.
9. Get Writing! Remember if you aren't in you can't win so don't waste this fantastic opportunity!
10. For a FREE 15 page booklet of writer's career tips email info@meadkerr.com.