



INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENT INITIATIVE 2025/2026

Lantern Pictures have an exciting opportunity for an experienced writer/director/producer to upskill alongside award-winning showrunner, Sarah Lambert and the team. This placement will develop the participant's skills across Lantern's diverse slate with a strong focus on writing and creating television drama from the ground up.

Lantern Pictures was founded two years ago by writer-showrunner Sarah Lambert, director-writer Jane Manning and media executive Andrew Lambert to create bold, character-driven drama and comedy with heart, from a female creative-led company that places writers at the centre of the story-telling. Lantern has a first look deal with Fremantle Media Australia.

Lantern Pictures has a diverse slate of projects that span Australian and overseas markets so this placement would be a valuable opportunity for someone who is passionate about TV development and eager to gain hands-on experience within an award-winning team.

Our first series, *Help Me!*, a 6 x 1 hour commissioned by ABC TV, goes into production in Sydney in mid-2026. *Help Me!* is a darkly funny, whip-smart drama with a crime-driven plot and character-driven heart created by Sarah Lambert, who is also lead writer and showrunner.

Sarah has created some of Australia's most beloved and critically acclaimed drama series in recent years. She was the writer and showrunner of *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* (Amazon Prime), starring Sigourney Weaver and adapted from Holly Ringland's bestselling novel. The series was a hit with critics and audiences around the world, breaking records for the most successful Australian Amazon original launch ever, and winning four AACTA awards including Best Limited Run Series. Prior to this, Sarah adapted Markus Zusak's novel, *The Messenger* (ABC TV). Sarah was also writer and showrunner of *Lambs of God* (Foxtel) starring Ann Dowd, Jessica Barden and Essie Davis. Adapted from Marele Day's iconic novel, *Lambs of God* was in official competition at Series Mania, and also received 18 AACTA nominations and won nine, including Best Telefeature or Mini Series.

Dates and Location:

Lantern Pictures would like to offer a six-month placement, with the candidate beginning as soon as possible.

The time period that would likely offer the richest experience for the successful candidate would be from late May to November 2026, but we are open to discussion on this.

Lantern Pictures' office is located in Rozelle, Sydney, Australia.

The production office for *Help Me!* is located in St Leonards, Sydney.

Placement Description:

This will be a dynamic and broad role working very closely with Lantern across our diverse slate. We envisage the responsibilities to include:

- Reading and reviewing potentially licensable third party IP
- Observing and participating in Sarah's rigorous approach to writing and editing, allowing the participant to hone their skills in this area
- Observing Sarah in her capacity as showrunner for *Help Me!*, allowing the participant to better understand the showrunner role and working model
- Reading and reviewing approved third party submitted IP
- Participating in development, submission and production meetings
- Conducting research on current works in development
- Helping to write pitch decks and bibles, and helping with image research, graphics and visual presentation, learning valuable skills from Sarah and the team in how to craft successful pitches
- Providing creative feedback on project materials
- Helping Sarah with script work on various projects. This could include: writing treatments, story grids or character backstories
- Drafting development proposals and funding applications
- Helping set up and manage company social media profile and posts
- Assist with slate updates and calendar management
- Act as administration support to Sarah and Lantern co-founders Jane Manning and Andrew Lambert. This may include: updating writing teams with episode notes or story documents, managing materials for episode review and delivery.
Administrative support will not be a major component of the role however, as we are a small team, some flexibility will be well regarded.
- The participant will be primarily mentored by writer/producer, Sarah Lambert and director/producer, Jane Manning, with additional guidance from development executive, Katie Pollock and Andrew Lambert on the financial, legal/BA and commercial side of producing.

Requirements:

- The successful candidate will be a writer, ideally with producing and/or directing experience, and with showrunner ambitions
- Is passionate about creating entertaining and impactful television
- Is both creative and has strong organisation skills, with excellent attention to detail
- Is familiar with Final Draft, and ideally familiar with Canva (or other design programs) and Excel
- Is resourceful and capable of working independently, as well as in a team
- Has strong communication skills
- Will have the ability to switch gears and manage a variable workload
- Has skill and experience in writing and creating social media posts
- Is motivated and keen to learn
- Works well independently but also in a team
- Has strong integrity and a drive for excellence, and ideally a sense of humour

The Lantern team have professional and/or personal connections with New Zealand, and very much look forward to meeting the successful candidate.