



**International Film Festival Rotterdam** and **New Zealand Film Commission** invite filmmakers with features in development with NZFC to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for **Rotterdam Lab** - a five-day international workshop for emerging film producers and creators, to be held during the festival **28 Jan – 7 Feb 2027**. The Lab aims to refine producing craft and expand international networks.

### Are you eligible?

You are **eligible** to submit an EOI if:

- You are a writer, director or producer who has made short films or a feature debut that has travelled **and**
- You have received NZFC development funding for a feature film at a second or subsequent draft stage after July 1 2024.

### What to expect

Rotterdam Lab will award New Zealand two producers and two creators (writer, director) participants a place on the lab, and NZFC will provide travel funding for these filmmakers. You can also read about the lab [here](#). While the lab is pitched at early-career filmmakers, past participants show a range of experience as you can see from [this year's cohort](#).

### What to do if you're interested

Submission Requirements:

- A one-paragraph biography;
- A CV and cover letter;
- A link to one prior film work that best represents you
  - *Please list and provide a link for only films you have written, directed or produced.*

To submit an application for the 2027 Rotterdam Lab, please apply via the portal by **1pm Tuesday, 27 October 2026**.



## **What is it?**

### **Rotterdam Lab**

The Rotterdam Lab is an intensive training workshop for international film producers and creators, held at the heart of the IFFR Pro industry days. Taking place alongside the world-renowned CineMart project market, the Darkroom and Lightroom works-in-progress and immersive showcases, and the Pro Hub and Reality Check industry activities and conference, the Lab has become a cornerstone of professional development.

Over six days during IFFR (International Film Festival Rotterdam), the Lab hosts more than 75 producers and creators, each nominated by partner organisations from around the globe. The programme offers emerging professionals the tools, knowledge, and international network needed to navigate the complex world of film financing, creative development, co-production, sales, marketing, festivals, and global distribution.

### **Introducing: Rotterdam Lab – Creators**

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Rotterdam Lab, a new initiative expands its reach: a dedicated strand for creators—writers and directors - introduced in 2026. This track is designed for filmmakers who want to deepen their understanding of the production process, strengthen their creative partnerships, and develop entrepreneurial skills to navigate today's increasingly complex financing and production landscape, where many creators must also self-(co)produce.

While the original Lab empowers producers, this new programme gives creators a full-immersion introduction to the business of film and the inner workings of the audiovisual industry. Participants gain insights into financing, (co)production, sales and distribution, legal frameworks, and revenue streams—knowledge shared by leading experts and practitioners. The aim is to equip creators to collaborate more effectively with producers and build sustainable, long-term creative partnerships. This programme empowers directors to:



- Engage in well-informed conversations with co-producers, financiers, sales agents, and other partners.
- Understand key legal and financial frameworks, including IP rights, chain of title, and the fundamentals of international co-productions.
- Navigate the industry as creative entrepreneurs, especially when taking on hybrid roles as director-producers.
- Develop a shared language with their producers, building stronger, trust-based collaborations.

Creators will attend dedicated plenary sessions and masterclasses, running in parallel and interwoven with the traditional producer-focused Lab. Joint activities—roundtables, workshops, and group sessions with industry guests—will bring the two cohorts together, fostering dialogue and simulating real-world collaboration between artistic and production roles.

**For nominated Lab participants:**

- Six (6) nights of hotel accommodation.
- Participation in the full Rotterdam Lab programme: five intensive days of masterclasses, lectures, roundtables, mentorships, and workshops.
- IFFR CineMart accreditation, granting access to:
  - CineMart co-production meetings
  - Daily networking lunches and drinks
  - 20 film festival screening tickets (including Press & Industry screenings)
  - All Pro Hub industry panels
  - Festival Talks and Interviews with renowned guests
  - Art Directions & Immersive VR programme
  - Invitations to the IFFR Filmmakers Party and Industry Party
  - CineMart Awards