

films & casting TEMPLE

... worshipping cinema

Film & Casting TEMPLE's Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties – Audiovisual Co-Production Agreement Between Australia and India

1. Film & Casting TEMPLE is one of the first Australian film production, casting, and consultancy firm which was part of the birth and growth of Australia's film links with India. Please refer to our website <http://www.filmsandcastingtemple.com/index.html>. As a company working predominantly between Indian and Australian film industries we wholeheartedly support and welcome the initial Audiovisual Co-Production Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India (Agreement). We strongly believe that this treaty will strengthen India/Australia film links for the benefit of diasporic and diverse Australians.
2. Film & Casting TEMPLE understands the treaty embodies a belief that co-production between the two nations will enable greater understanding between the Australian population and their India diaspora neighbours.
3. As a company heavily involved in Australia India film trade and working nationally in Australia (based out of our Disney/Fox Studios office for the last 23 years), we would request that workshops and in-person panel discussions be explored to further inform and promote the co production treaty around Australia for Australians particularly of South Asian and CALD background..

Article 2:

4. Article 2 of the Agreement states that each party shall designate a competent authority for the purposes of implementing this Agreement.
5. Film & Casting TEMPLE submits that a designated authority from India be identified prior to the commencement of this Agreement to avoid further delays and effective communication.

Article 4:

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6. Film & Casting TEMPLE recommends a mechanism, particularly from the unregulated Indian film industry, for checks and balances to ensure that genuine film professionals are prioritised and encouraged to apply for coproduction. This would maximise the resources by weeding out time wasting queries from non professional or non genuine film people

Article 6:

7. Article 6 dictates that an audiovisual co-production shall be entitled to the full enjoyment of the benefits which are or may be accorded to national audiovisual works in India and Australia respectively to the laws in force at the time.
8. We would request that the financial benefits rewarded to each nation are in proportion to the physical, fiscal, and creative investment made by each producer from each Country.

Article 7:

9. Article 7 states that the parties shall have entry into and temporary stay in their respective territories of the creative and technical personnel and the performers engaged by the co-producer of the other country.
10. May we please request that as in the past proper checks and balance are placed to ensure genuine visa application so that a few rotten apples do not spoil the nice market which has so much potential and is so beneficial to Australian film industry.

Article 8:

11. Article 8 states that each co-producer should make a financial and creative contribution of no less that 20%.
12. Film & Casting TEMPLE would advise that the Australian producer's offset to be deemed as a contribution given that it is an equity provided to Australian from Australia.
13. We also submit that Indian producer contribution be equity contribution not counting any film subsidies from Indian federal or state governments.

Article 12.3

14. Article 12.3 states that at least 90% of the footage included in an audiovisual co-production shall be specially shot for that audiovisual work.
15. Film & Casting TEMPLE believe that this would be detrimental for the crucial sector of documentaries where substantial archival footage is needed.

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Article 16.2:

16. Article 16.2 states that either competent authority may withhold approval of an audiovisual work as an audiovisual co-production on the basis that the overriding aim of overall balance.
17. Film & Casting TEMPLE requests that this be in exception cases, with detailed and objective reasons for withholding the approval along with an appeals process please..

Submitted by Film & Casting TEMPLE
Office Manager Ms. Charlotte Woodford on behalf of
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