



THE REELWORLD *EMERGING 20* MARKS ITS 21st YEAR WITH A SCREENWRITING FOCUSED REDESIGN OF THE PROGRAM

E20 2022 OFFICIALLY KICKS OFF THIS WEEK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2022 (Toronto) - [The Reelworld Emerging 20 Program \(E20\)](#), the longest-running Canadian program for filmmakers who are Indigenous, Black, Asian, South Asian, and People of Colour is back with its **21st** edition featuring a special redesign. After extensive input from the community and industry leaders, and a significant contribution from Canada Media Fund, we have restructured and focused the Emerging 20 program into a comprehensive screenwriting program, taking place over 3 months. This year the E20 Program is split into two screenwriting streams - **Series** and **Film**. With nearly **300 applicants** to choose from for this year's three-month program, the final selection of **20 participants** will soon begin the exciting creative process as the 2022 E20 sessions kick off this week.

"Reelworld has always championed the works of Canadian filmmakers who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour. With the redesigned E20 program, Reelworld is deepening its commitment to support storytelling from diverse writers," said **Safia Abdigir, Industry Programming Manager who oversees the program at Reelworld**. "We recognize the value in having diverse representation in the crafting of scripts for film and TV, they foster authenticity and strengthen our Canadian content."

This prestigious incubator was created by Reelworld in 2001 to discover, equip and connect emerging racially diverse Canadian content creators with key influencers in the Canadian screen industry, and also to provide rising talent with essential support to shape their projects. Applicants will work closely with a dedicated story editor to help them shape and hone their work. At the end of the program, the scripts will be workshopped with ACTRA actors in partnership with the ACTRA diversity committees from across Canada. The participants will have the opportunity to pitch their polished scripts to broadcasters, streaming companies, and



distributors as well as producers, some of whom have been through the Reelworld Producer Program, to move their projects onto the next step.

Successful completion of the Reelworld E20 Program qualifies the film screenwriters to apply to Telefilm Canada's *Talent to Watch* program through the Industry stream, which if selected, offers up to \$250,000 for fiction feature films and \$150,000 for feature-length documentaries. Telefilm Canada has been a supporter of the Reelworld E20 Program since its inception.

Film	Series
Shirley Yip, Film - <i>Orchid Dream</i>	Rabiya Mansoor, Series - <i>Queer Guide to Matchmaking</i>
Ivan D. Ossa, Film - <i>Untitled</i>	Shakil Jessa, Series - <i>Bad Influence</i>
Kosa Akaraiwe, Film - <i>No Medals</i>	Preeti Torul, Series - <i>Demons</i>
Jerry Wolf, Film - <i>We Are Not Monsters</i>	Mahlana Rae Johnson, Series - <i>Welcome to Elle</i>
Abdullah Malik, Film - <i>Infidels</i>	Mostafa Shaker, Series - <i>Sana's Basement Beauty Solutions</i>
Emma Cheuk, Film - <i>Late Bloomer</i>	Meghan Swaby, Series - <i>Higher Marks</i>
Qaseem Fazal, Film - <i>The Family Value</i>	Jouv Darl, Series - <i>Holy Vamps</i>
Leanne Wang, Film - <i>Family of Three</i>	Arshad Khan, Series - <i>Finding Farida</i>
Eva Grant, Film - <i>Entity</i>	Daniel Foreman, Series - <i>Daughters of the Wolf</i>
Sina Sultani, Film - <i>Trace</i>	Diane Johnstone, Series - <i>Desperate Church Wives</i>

2022 E20 Screenwriters



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Film
Orchid Dream



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To connect with the 2022 Reelworld E20 Cohort, please visit [Access Reelworld.ca](https://www.reelworld.ca).

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Facebook: [Reelworld Film Festival](https://www.facebook.com/ReelworldFilmFestival)

Reelworld Screen Institute

Reelworld was founded in 2000 by award-winning actress and producer Tonya Williams to advance opportunities for Canadians who are Black, Indigenous, Asian, South Asian, and People of Colour in the screen industries by providing professional development and advocating for racial equity in Canadian content and production. Reelworld Screen Institute, a non-profit, provides training programs and presents the acclaimed Reelworld Film Festival, which celebrates stories by racialized Canadians. Providing access to opportunities is core to Reelworld, and Access Reelworld is Canada's leading hiring platform for racialized crews and talent. Reelworld Foundation, a registered charity, is transforming the industry by creating mechanisms that hold systems accountable for greater equity.

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