



# *Ustories Guidelines 2022*

## **ART. 1 – ARTISTIC RESIDENCE USTORIES**

**Ustories** is a **project of cinematographic residence for the realization of a short film site specific in Umbria**. The contest is directed at **young professionals/rising artists under-35**, with no restrictions of residence and nationality.

Ustories is an innovative residency in the Italian landscape, because it offers young professionals a way to create, produce and distribute their work, supporting them financially and with staff.

Ustories is organized by **Dromo Studio**, in partnership with **Umbria Film Commission, Centro Nazionale del Cortometraggio, Officine Mattòli, Premio Rodolfo Sonogo, Lago Film Festival, PerSo Perugia Social Film Festival, Cinema Postmodernissimo, Atmo, Associazione Culturale Argo** and supported by Regione Umbria through POR FESR 2014-2020.

## **ART. 2 – BENEFICIARIES AND OBJECTIVES**

**The Ustories residency** is aimed at young professionals under-35 who work in the cinematographic and audiovisual field, with no restrictions of residence and nationality.

Specifically, the residency is for **Screenwriters, Directors, Producers and mixed figures** who can fulfill different positions from writing to artistic direction, identified in the guideline as “Authors”.

The main goals of the selection announcement are:

- Connecting artists and territory to achieve audiovisual creations able to **describe the historical/artistic and naturalistic aspects in original ways and languages;**
- Contributing to the start of a new production chain for the cinematographic field in the regional area, engaging creative companies, service corporations, qualified suppliers, public institutions and managers of cultural sites in specific projects with wide exposure on a national and international level, in order to become a permanent and virtuous base.

## ART. 3 – USTORIES ITINERARY

### Phase 1 – Call and finalists selection – NOVEMBER 2021 / MARCH 2022

The contest is directed to couples of artists and professionals under 35 in the cinematographic and audiovisual field, with no restrictions of residence and nationality, made up as follows:

- **Director + Screenwriter;**
- **Author** (see art. 2 for the definition of “Author”) **+ Producer**

At this stage, the applications will be judged by a selection committee by virtue of the **documents A, B, C, D (in Italian or English)** attached to the submission (see art. 7).

Only 5 couples of artists will pass to the next phase, which is the first step to cinematographic residency on site.

**In the beginning of March** the official announcement of the 5 couples of artists selected to take part to the **artistic residency** will be published.

Before the start of phase 2 and the ensuing residency, the 5 couples of finalists will receive a **dossier containing textual and photographic info on the main location** of the site specific short film (see art.4).

### Phase 2 – The residency of the 5 couples (Writing and Developing) – APRIL 2022

**In the month of April**, the selected 5 couples will be hosted for a week in Umbria, in the location where the first step of the residency will occur, with board and lodging provided by the organization. During the days of this residency the couples will be able to visit the location that’s going to be the center of the site specific short film and its urban and natural surroundings. The couples of artists will be supported during the residency by **professional tutors**, who will help them with the writing and the preliminary development of the project and by **illustrators/ graphic designers**, whose job will allow the couples to prepare a mood board in view of the final pitch.

At the end of the week the finalists will have to submit: **an original screenplay with no restrictions of genre of max 15 pages in Italian or English** (A4 format, cover excluded, font COURIER NEW size 12) that has as the main location the one chosen by the organization; **a pitch of max 1 folder** that describes the cornerstone of the story in a captivating way; **a mood board of max 10 panels** that allows to understand the background and the concepts around the staging.

The screenplays will be presented during **the residency’s final evening** through **a pitch** in which the very authors will recount their stories to the audience with the aid of audio, video and graphic supplies. Still in April, in the weeks following the first step of the residency, the winners will be declared, assigning **the production prize of 15.000 € to the most deserving screenplay; the people’s choice award; other potential mentions.**

### Phase 3 – The residency for the winning project (Pre-Production, Production and Post-Production) – MAY 2022/SEPTEMBER 2022

**The screenplay of the winning couple** will be produced and finalized in the 5 following months through the following phases:

- **May 2022:** the winning couple will have to submit the definitive screenplay after the online revisions of the text with the tutor. Still in May, **the couple will carry out a second step of the residency of 5 days** to define the production plan, the technical/artistic cast, together with a first directing plan;
- **May/July 2022:** the couple, with the tutors and the organization, will define **the details**

**of the production plan.** The couple will be able to continue their work remotely and/or in person at the participants' discretion;

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- **July 2022: the couple will carry out a third step of the residency of 7 days** to conduct the production of the short film with the technical/artistic cast and the organization;
- **August/September 2022: the couple will carry out the fourth and last step of the residency of 7 days** for the post-production and finalization of the work.

To help finalize the project, the organization will make resources and support available in the area for:

- **Research of the workforce necessary to carry out pre-production, production and post-production;**
- **facilities such as a photo shooting and a casting room, costume shop, carpenter's shop, and a scenography workshop;**
- **technical and technological equipment for shooting and production;**
- **audiovisual post-production and editing studio equipped with state of the art software and technology;**
- **technical and artistic expertise brought respectively by Dromo Studio and Strani Rumori, as well as logistic and productive expertise brought by Atmo;**
- **activation of audience development strategies.**

During the pre-production, production and post-production phases, the winning couple will have to interact with a shortlist of professionals and tutors.

**All the board and lodging expenses of the winning couple** during the residency will be paid by the organization, excluding travel expenses.

**Ustories will assist** the authors of the short film with the research of national and international festivals to which submit the short film they created.

**This support will be coordinated with a distribution company specialized in short films** with which the residency project will establish a partnership.

Inside the distributive network in which it will circulate, the winning work will have to carry the logo of the residency project, Dromo Studio's, Regione Umbria's, European Union's and of all the partners associated with the event.

#### **ART. 4 – SITE SPECIFIC SHORT FILM**

The couples selected for Ustories will work in close proximity with the territory and the location of the cinematographic residency. For this reason, there will have to be a location that in the screenplay's writing will constitute the main scenography of the short film's narration.

The short film will therefore be site specific, wherein **site specific means an intervention, in this case an artistic one, in a precise location.** The interaction of the intervention with the surrounding environment is crucial for the jury's judgment and will be allowed to reference all the aspects about its identity: from story to architecture, from special structure to culture.

For instance we can consider *site specific* a story set in a building, a natural park, an urban area with peculiar and recognizable characteristics, a defined location that may belong to public and private institutions.

The name and the information about the site specific location will not be made public until the dossier is sent to the finalists couples.

In addition to the designed location, it will be possible to involve in the screenplay up to three locations, identified during the residency's week in the month of April 2022.

## ART. 5 – AWARDS

### 1) **The production prize of 15.000 € assigned to the winning couple**

The budget will have to be spent entirely on the short film that the winning couple will create during the first step of the residency. **In the following phase, with the help of a production tutor**, the couple will be able to distribute the different assets to the single expense entry, **prior consent of the organization**, which will ensure to trace all the payments. The very same, commits to **pay every expense within the month of September 2022**.

The organization will put at the winners' disposal a **list of regional professional figures** for every position (actors, stagehand, set designers, costume designers, editors etc.) along with audiovisual services. The couple will be free to call trusted professionals from outside the region for a total expense of maximum 30% of the established budget.

The supplied budget can be integrated with external financing sources if the winning couple has the means or commits to finding a contract of associated production, sponsorship or others. Every choice will still have to be examined with the organization and the production tutor and will in no way be able to change the timings present in Ustories regulations.

The aforementioned **extra budget** can be spent **even in its entirety outside the region and even following the month of September 2022**, to cover eventual post-production or distribution expenses.

Il suddetto **budget extra** potrà essere speso **anche interamente al di fuori della regione e anche successivamente al mese di settembre 2022**, per coprire eventuali spese di post-produzione o distribuzione.

### 2) **People's choice award**

During the last day of the first step of the residency all the projects will be presented through a public pitch. Each viewer will receive a form with the titles of the screenplays and a series of boxes from 1 to 5. The viewer will have to punch the slot corresponding to the grade that they consider appropriate. At the end of the poll, the winner of the People's choice Award will be declared.

The couple who wins the people's choice award will receive a prize from one of the venture's partners.

### 3) **Mention**

The 5 finalist screenplays can receive some mentions tied to artistic quality, involvement of the site specific location and originality of the submission.

The ones who receive a mention will have the chance to participate for free to the next edition of the Ustories residency.

## ART. 6 – PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

The ones allowed to participate to the Ustories selection are young professionals in the cinematographic and audiovisual field, of age between 18 and 35, residing in national or international territory. The legal age must have been reached at the publishing date of this announcement.

To sign up to the Ustories contest one must read the guidelines and accept them in its entirety, fill the online form and deposit the registration fee of:

50 € if the registration occurs by 23:59 on the 15/12/2021  
70 € if the registration occurs by 23:59 on the 15/01/2022  
100 € if the registration occurs after 15/01/2022 and still within the registration deadline on the 15/02/2022.

The registration fee refers to both participants, not the individuals.

The registration fee can be deposited through Paypal at the following [link](#) or bank transfer made out to:

**Associazione Culturale Argo**

BANK Intesa San Paolo  
Iban: IT45R0306909606100000018021  
Reason: Application Ustories Residency 2022  
+ first and last name of the participants.



## ART. 7 – DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION

The call's first phase involves the selection of the couples contesting for the Ustories residency through the following documents:

- A) Personal curriculum** of each participant (including filmography/videography with links to their last works);
- B) Valid ID** of each participant;
- C) Cover letter of each participant** (2 units\* max; font COURIER NEW size 12, line-spacing 1.5, 30 lines per page);
- D) Small report that is 5 units\* max** (font COURIER NEW size 12, line-spacing 1.5, approximately 30 lines per page) **including a small plot for the short film** loosely based on one of the themes written below, **directing notes and annotations on the approach to the chosen theme.**

\* a unit equals 1.800 characters divided in 30 lines of 60 characters each.

The following themes can be developed freely, not necessarily tied to Umbria's territory. To each theme is connected an aphorism, which must be interpreted as a non-binding narrative "trigger" that indicates one of the many possible directions:

- *TIME*  
*"Some hours are slow and some rush."*
- *RELATIONSHIPS*  
*"The individual is a bundle of relations, a knot of roots."*
- *THE DREAM*  
*"My house will continue to travel on two legs and my dreams will have no boundaries."*

Only one of the three suggested themes can be developed, with no restrictions of genre, it will also be possible to use elements from the other two themes, provided that they won't be prevalent.

Do not put any name or identifying initials in the report.

**All the documents must be uploaded in Italian or English to the specific online registration form in pdf format.**

The documents sent outside the specific form available on [www.ustories.it](http://www.ustories.it) will not be accepted. Only **5 couples** of artists will pass to the following phase, which is the first step of cinematographic residence in loco.

The selection of the applications will be carried out by and at the incontestable discretion of Ustories' Artistic Direction.

The names of the 5 finalists couples will be published on the website [www.Ustories.it](http://www.Ustories.it) within the first half of March 2022.

The relating finalists will also receive a notification of the selection via email.

## **ART. 8 – DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATIONS**

The applications to the Ustories residency can be sent to the organization through the specific online form according to the aforementioned deadlines and **by and no later than 23:59 of 15 February 2022.**

For the detailed description of the materials and the methods of submission of the applications, see the Guidelines (Art. 7.).

## **ART. 9 – THE JURY AND THE JUDGEMENT'S CRITERIA**

### **PHASE I**

The jury that will evaluate the documents sent by the couples, in phase 1, will consist of the same members of the Artistic Direction of the Ustories residency.

The small reports on the themes will be evaluated initially by the jury without associating to them the curriculum and the cover letter.

Only once the best works received are selected, CV and cover letter will be used by the jury to declare the finalists couples in case of equal evaluations.

### **PHASE II**

The names of the jury members who will evaluate the screenplays of the finalists couples will be published during the months in which the call will be active (November 202 - February 2022).

The jury will consist of experts in the cinematographic, artistic, theatrical, literary and institutional field. The names will be published on the website. [www.ustories.it](http://www.ustories.it).

La valutazione delle sceneggiature proposte avverrà secondo i seguenti criteri:

The evaluation of the submitted screenplays will be carried out based on the following criteria:

Parameter	Maximum grade
Artistic quality	30
Technical-economical sustainability	30
Involvement of the cultural site and enhancement of the same	20
Originality and ability to employ innovative descriptive language	20

On the event's website in the weeks following the residency the rankings of the submitted screenplays will be published with the obtained grade.

The jury's opinion is unquestionable.

#### **ART. 10 – APPROVAL OF THE GUIDELINES**

The regulations present in this Guideline are considered automatically accepted by the participants to the call for the Ustories residency. At the same time, during the course of the whole initiative, the participants renounce every claim, action, request or compensation towards the promoter Dromo Studio snc, and the partners of the Residency, the members of the Jury, the professors and the tutors of the training and of the project's development.

The lack of conformity to the participation's procedure dictated by this Guideline will implicate the exclusion from the call and/or the residency.

#### **ART. 11 – COPYRIGHT**

The winners of the Ustories residency, that is the creative couple that will make the short film through the production prize made available by the organization, will keep moral property on the work while ceding for free every right to economic use to Dromo Studio snc, which will be presented as only producer of the film.

In case the short film's budget is integrated by third parties, a share of associate production will be included for each party, guaranteeing each of them a percentage of the right to economic use of the work.

Dromo Studio snc will in any case maintain majority of the decision making power on the economic use of the work.

#### **ART. 12 - DISAGREEMENTS**

In case of disagreements about the interpretation and the application of the Guidelines' articles, they will be referred to an Arbitration Board, which will decide by law, according to standard proceedings, by rule of Artt. 806 and ss. C.p.c.

The Arbitration Board will be formed by three members, one nominated by each of the two parties and a third nominated by the first two or, if there's a disagreement, by the President of the Arbitration Chamber established at the C.C.I.A.A. of Perugia.

The Court of the Arbitration will be Perugia.

The arbitrators will make a decision within 120 days from the establishment of the Arbitration Board.

### **ART. 13 – NOTICE ACCORDING TO ART. 13 OF THE LEGISLATION N. 196/2003**

Dromo Studio snc is the owner of the treatment of the supplied personal data, which will be used to allow the proponents to take part in the Ustories residency and to potentially win it.

The personal data, whose submission is optional but required for the development of the residency, will not be conveyed and will be treated both manually and electronically. The contestants are still owners of the rights illustrated by Art.7 of the Legislation n. 196/2003, among which is the right to obtain the cancellation, the update, the correction and the supplementation of the data, as well as the one to oppose, for legitimate reasons, to the treatment of them.

Such rights can be practiced by addressing Dromo Studio snc.

### **ART. 14 - INFORMATION**

Information and clarifications on the Ustories residency can be requested to the organizer Dromo Studio snc at the email address [info@ustories.it](mailto:info@ustories.it).

Other info on the Ustories residency will be published on the website [www.ustories.it](http://www.ustories.it) along with a section dedicated to FAQ.