

Subject: Trainee's write film proposals and win broadcast contracts!

Dear Friend of CSFilm,

Happy New Year! I hope your year has begun on a very good note. May it be filled with peace and joy.

Since you have been so supportive and encouraging of CSFilm's work, I wanted to immediately share with you the following exciting news.

Four of our trainees from the recent five week intensive documentary production training, submitted story ideas to a Request for Proposals and have been accepted as finalists. It is an incredible achievement for emerging filmmakers who have not written proposals before.

Let me give a little background on this development: At the screening of the student's films in Kabul in early November, a staff person from Cetena, an Afghan media group, came up to share his excitement about the quality of the films. He asked if the students were available to submit proposals in response to Cetena's Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP was for documentary films to be aired on Afghan television.

The learning curve for the students in terms of proposal writing was very steep and we worked intensively together (via skype and email) to develop their understanding of how to present their story ideas, budgets, timelines and all the other required components of a proposal. The training really helped them understand the importance of character driven stories and it is clear from the proposal reviewers' responses, that this is what won them finalist status.

If we can generate funds quickly, we can offer a proposal writing training in March and April and see to it that the new trainees get further employment and opportunities to tell their own stories to a wider Afghan audience.

If you would like to see a few of their proposed stories, about a family of blind musicians and their music institute, a former Mujahideen turned community development leader, and the work of woman business owners, go to: <http://sheridanworks.com/blog/trainees-projects>

Thanks again for your continued support of this work!
Michael

Community Supported Film works to strengthen the documentary storytelling capacity in countries where the dissemination of objective and accurate information is essential to stabilization and development.

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