



## **NFDC Labs announces Romance Screenwriters' Lab in association with Harlequin**

~The first of its kind screenwriters' lab in this genre invites entries to aspiring Indian writers~

**Mumbai, Monday, April 28, 2014: *Got a romance story idea that you wish to see manifest into a book as well?* NFDC Labs**, the Training and Development arm of NFDC (The National Film Development Corporation Ltd), announces today the Romance Screenwriters' Lab in association with the world's leading publishers of the most popular romance fiction series Mills and Boon, **Harlequin**. The lab, a three-part program, organized and spearheaded by NFDC, is the first of its kind with romance and women-centric plots as the theme where popular Indian film writers/directors, to be announced soon, will mentor the final selected scriptwriters. The deadline for the submission of the entries is 23 May 2014.

The objective of the lab is to help aspiring Indian scriptwriters develop their scripts with inputs and consultation from well-known Indian writers/directors. The first round of selection from the entries received will be done basis the synopsis submitted, post which the selected participants will need to submit a detailed script with dialogues, where the best few will be zeroed on.

While NFDC will conduct the three-part workshop with the selected participants on scriptwriting mentored by writers/directors, Harlequin too will have separate book-writing workshops led by well known authors, offering novel writing tips and editorial feedback to the writers. The partnership between NFDC and Harlequin brings in innovative and collaborative efforts where Harlequin will offer book deals to select writers.

Commenting on the launch of this initiative, **Nina Lath Gupta, Managing Director, NFDC India**, said, "We are thrilled to introduce the first of its kind Romance Screenwriters' Lab this year. With romance as an eternally entertaining genre worldwide, where India is no exception to stories and films in this space, our partnership with Harlequin, world's leading publishers, for this initiative couldn't be a better fit. There is a vast pool of exceptionally talented writers with unique and diverse stories in this country and offering this opportunity to enhance their skills with talented mentors will only help

us compliment our ongoing developmental mandate.”

“Entertaining stories that connect with people can transcend formats and be told successfully through books or cinema. Harlequin India is excited about the Romance Screenwriters Lab partnership with NFDC. It is a unique arrangement to identify storytellers who can write both screenplays and novels. We are looking forward to getting original and compelling romance stories, which could have elements of drama or thriller or comedy or even darker issues, and be set in contemporary times or any time in the past.” – **said, Amrita Chowdhury, Country Head & Publishing Director, Harlequin India.**

**Duration of the Lab:** The lab will be held in three sessions, namely: the first session – last week of July 2014; second session – third week of Sept 2014; the third and the final session - 16th November - 20th November 2014, culminating just before Film Bazaar 2014. NFDC will offer an opportunity to the selected participants to attend Film Bazaar and pitch their projects to the attending India and international delegates, comprising producers, investors, distributors, sales agents, and the likes.

For more details on rules and regulations of the lab, please visit: <http://filmbazaarindia.com/programs/romance-screenwriters-lab/>

### **About NFDC India**

The National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (a Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting) was formed by the Government of India with the primary objective of planning, promoting and organizing an integrated and efficient development of the Indian film industry. With more than 300 films in 21 Indian languages, many of which have earned wide acclaim and won national and international awards, NFDC's architecture aims towards creating domestic and global appreciation of the Cinemas of India. While its recent successes include films like ***The Lunchbox*** by Ritesh Batra, ***The Good Road*** by Gyan Correa, its catalogue boasts of classic titles like, ***Gandhi*** by Richard Attenborough, ***Salaam Bombay*** by Mira Nair, ***Train to Pakistan*** by Pamela Rooks, ***Duvidha*** by Mani Kaul, ***Ek Din Achanak*** by Mrinal Sen amongst many others.

In lieu of its mandate of fostering excellence in cinema and promoting diversity of Indian culture, NFDC also conducts script development, need based workshops through NFDC Labs. Having commissioned 30 productions / co-productions in 17 Indian languages and introduced 19 new filmmakers, NFDC has restored 87 titles and digitised 31 titles under its brand Cinemas of India and recently launched a Video-on-Demand platform currently hosting more

than 75 titles available for Free, Pay-Per-View, and Subscription Video-On-Demand.

NFDC organises Film Bazaar, South Asia's Global Film Market in Goa, the biggest co-production and distribution market for the entire South Asian region, held every year in November, alongside IFFI.

### **About Harlequin**

**Harlequin** is one of the world's leading publishers of books for women. The Toronto-based company publishes over 110 titles a month in 31 languages in 111 international markets on six continents. Harlequin is unique in the publishing industry, combining over highly recognizable imprints including - Harlequin, Mills & Boon, MIRA Books, HQN Books, Harlequin TEEN, Spice, Harlequin Nonfiction. Harlequin creates entertaining and enriching experiences for readers to enjoy, to share and to return to, that drives the company's success and enables Harlequin to push the boundaries, launching new stories, reaching new readers, offering new formats.

Harlequin India, which started in 2008, has brought its global romantic fiction and general fiction books to India. It has published Indian authors for its romantic fiction genre and has now expanded its Indian publishing portfolio to publish Indian authors in other genres of fiction.

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