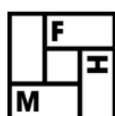


NEW VOICES

DELIVERED BY



Film Hub
Midlands

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



SUPPORTED BY



READ THROUGH THIS PDF TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT NEW VOICES AND
SUBMITTING YOUR IDEA

WHAT IS NEW VOICES?

BFI NETWORK has teamed up with South West and Midlands based production companies [Blak Wave Productions](#), [Little by Little Films](#), [Daniel Alexander Films](#) and [Deaffest](#) to run a new filmmaking talent development opportunity for aspiring South West and Midlands based filmmakers looking to develop a five-minute short film idea.

New Voices aims is to support aspiring filmmakers who may face barriers accessing the BFI NETWORK Short Film Funding, who do not feel confident to apply via the usual routes, and/or would benefit from a supported development process. We recognise that filmmakers can feel excluded from accessing funding and propose this new approach to encourage different voices to break through.

We are opening a call for **short five-minute film ideas** that provide fresh and authentic perspectives; giving a **voice to new talent, particularly those who are [underrepresented in the screen industries](#)**.

If you would like to find out more about what BFI look for from projects then please read [our funding priorities](#) and/or view past BFI NETWORK funded short films on our [BFI NETWORK Website](#).

We will select the filmmakers for the programme on the potential of the idea and creative ambition of the talent.

Once selected we will support the filmmakers develop their short film idea to a finished script, which can then be submitted to the BFI NETWORK Short Film Fund in 2022.

The selected filmmakers will receive:

- Mentoring support from one of the partner production companies.

- Script development sessions with a dedicated script editor to help progress their short film idea a final draft script ready for application to BFI NETWORK.
- Group-based online training on how to put together an application to BFI NETWORK, including sessions on *fundamentals of scriptwriting, profiling yourself and your work, finding your voice as a director, building a relationship with a producer* and more.
- Peer-to-peer sharing will also be encouraged and made space for throughout the programme as we believe there is great value in creatives learning from each other.



Behind the scenes of BFI NETWORK short film 'HATS' directed by Michelle Pascal

HOW IT WILL WORK?

Following an open call out, there are 2 phases to New Voices:

OPEN FORUM EVENT & CALL OUT

We will kick off with an online open forum event that anyone can join on **Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 5.30pm – 7pm**, during which we will discuss how New Voices will work, what ideas we are looking for and each of the partners will introduce themselves. You will also be able to meet a few of the participants from last year's programme who will talk about their experience.

[Register for the Open Forum Event here >>](#)

The open forum event will be delivered via Zoom with live closed captions and BSL interpretation. If you have any specific needs, please contact us in advance of the event and we will arrange this.

To tell us about your access needs, and/or if you have any questions in regard to access, please email us on bfinetwork@watershed.co.uk

Applications for New Voices are now open and will close on **Monday 15th November at 6pm**, you will be able to apply with a paragraph about your short film idea, which can be delivered in writing, as a video or audio recording. Scroll down to our 'How do I Apply?' section for more information and the application form link.

If you would like to speak 1:1 either via phone or zoom call with one of our BFI NETWORK Talent Executives ahead of sending us your idea then you can book a 30 minute slot. This is an opportunity to ask us any question you might have and tell us more about your short film project idea.

[Book a 1:1 Talent Executive meeting here >>](#)

Applications will be shortlisted for the next stage on the potential of the idea and creative ambition of the talent.

Phase 1: Training, Mentoring & Script Development
December 2021 – February 2022

As part of New Voices there will be a cohesive online training programme offer covering the topics below. These sessions will be split into two sections: a webinar masterclass that will be recorded and shared as public access resources, followed by a closed group workshop with the selected filmmakers focusing on their own project and journey.

- **Fundamentals of Scriptwriting**
- **Profiling yourself and your work** (CV writing / critical reflection on your own past work)
- **Finding your voice as a Director** (writing a director statement / mood boards and visual support materials)
- **Producer Relationship & Budgeting** (how to work with a producer as a writer/director or director / budget expectations / understanding production constraints)

Over the three month the selected filmmakers will also receive:

- **3x 1hr mentoring sessions with one of the partner production companies.**
- **3x 1hr script development sessions with a professional script editor.**

The intention of these sessions will be to take you from short film idea to a final draft script that would be eligible for BFI NETWORK Short Film Funding. The mentoring support is designed to give you ongoing support through this part of the process and a space to find your voice as a filmmaker. While the script development sessions will focus on improving your writing skills and ensure that your script is communicating your story effectively.

End of Phase 1 Deliverables: Latest version of short film script & 1x piece of related support material (e.g. pitch deck, mood board, sizzle reel, treatment etc)

Phase 2: Attaching a Producer & Application to BFI NETWORK

March 2022 – April 2022

After reviewing the materials delivered at the end of Phase 1 the partners will decide which projects have reached the stage to be strong enough to form an application to the BFI NETWORK Short Film Funding.

All successful projects will be presented with at least one possible producer match, who they will be encouraged to meet with. Ultimately it will be the participant's decision on who they would like to the role as producer on their project, but that person must meet the minimum requirements for BFI NETWORK Short Film Funding (e.g. have a creative track record as a producer, are based in the UK and have previously delivered a funded short film or equivalent).

Once matched with a producer the teams will begin preparing their application for BFI NETWORK Short Film Funding. They will be supported by the BFI NETWORK Talent Executives through this process, including regular 1:1 meetings.

All applications will be submitted to BFI NETWORK Short Film Funding by 2 May 2022.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Fresh and original ideas from new or aspiring filmmakers based in the South West or Midlands, who currently do not feel confident applying for BFI NETWORK Short Film Funding via the usual routes and/or would benefit from a supported development process.

You may submit an idea to us for the New Voices programme as an individual looking to develop the project as a writer/director. You can also apply as a filmmaking team consisting of a writer and a director

working collaboratively on a project. As this programme aimed at aspiring filmmakers we welcome creatives from any practice or background who are looking to focus on film.

Short film ideas must be a maximum of 5 minutes in length and narrative/fiction only. The work should feel culturally relevant, be risk-taking and must be eligible for BFI NETWORK Short Film Funding; please refer to the [BFI NETWORK Short Film Funding Guidelines](#).

This programme is open to all, but in line with [BFI's commitment to supporting inclusion](#) and areas of interest of the partners, we strongly encourage ideas from those who identify with one of the demographics below and welcome intersectionality across these areas:

- Those from Asian, Black, Mixed, Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Mixed or Other ethnic background
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Pansexual, Intersex, Asexual and/or other non-heteronormative identities
- Non-binary or transgender identities
- Those who are D/deaf, Hard of Hearing, Disabled and/or neuro-diverse

All applicants will be over the age of 18, not in full time education and be permanently based in the South West or Midlands ([See the BFI Map of Regions](#)).

HOW DO I APPLY?

New Voices is now open for idea submissions until **Monday 22nd November at 6pm**.

You must send us your idea using one of the forms provided, but the longer answers can be provided as text, video or an audio recording. Please see the forms below for more details.

[Send us your idea via our Online Form here >>](#)

Or download the Text Only Word version of the form from our website and email it to bfinetwork@filmhubmidlands.org – please put New Voices 2021 Application in the title.

If you would like the application form in any other format, please contact us on bfinetwork@filmhubmidlands.org



Behind the scenes of BFI NETWORK short film 'Pickney'. Directed by Michael Jenkins who works with partner BLAK WAVE

ACCESS SUPPORT

The open forum event and training will be delivered via Zoom with live closed captions and BSL interpretation. If you have any specific needs, please state this in the relevant section of the application form. To tell us about your access needs, and/or if you have any questions in regard to access, please email us on bfinetwork@watershed.co.uk

There is also funding available via the BFI Access Support Fund for applicants who are D/deaf, hard-of-hearing, disabled or neurodiverse, and people with sight loss, where this support is needed in order for someone to make a funding application to BFI Short Film Funding. This can be used to cover costs such as:

- The costs of a support worker to assist you in using funding guidelines and making an online application.
- The provision of guidelines in an alternative format (please note we can already provide a plain text version and audio described version of the BFI Short Film Funding guidelines).
- Costs for meetings relating to your application including travel, note-takers, BSL interpreters.

[Find out more information here.](#) We can help support you to make an application to this fund, if you are selected as a filmmaker on New Voices then we talk you through this process.

THE TEAM

BFI NETWORK exists to support, develop, and champion new voices looking to kick-start their filmmaking career. Made possible through National Lottery funding, BFI NETWORK collaborates with film organisations and leading cultural venues across the UK to provide short film and early feature development funding, industry-backed professional development and networking support to producers, writers, and directors of all ages.

Blak Wave Productions is an independent production company based in Bristol, committed to producing film and TV that better reflects our society, giving a voice to unheard voices and telling untold stories. Blak Wave strives to create content that is fresh, imaginative and crafted by diverse talent, utilising the skills and knowledge of Award winning self shooting director Michael Jenkins and producer

director Somina 'Mena' Fombo. Passionate about literally changing the face of TV and film, they focus on creating entertaining, emotional and compelling stories across various genres, with recent credits including 'The Shadow of Slavery' for Channel 4, shorts for BBC Arts' Culture in Quarantine' and the upcoming live action 'Pickney.'

[Website](#)

Little By Little Films is a multi-award-winning independent production company dedicated to brilliant storytelling by and about underrepresented voices, with a focus on women, LGBTQ+ folks and D/deaf and disabled people. Founded in 2011 by Emmy®-winning producer and director Lindsey Dryden and now based in Gloucestershire, LBL Films is LGBTQ+- and disabled-led, and works collaboratively with authentic voices to tell powerful, unexpected and intimate stories with artistry, originality and inclusivity.

With credits on Netflix, BBC and PBS, work on display in Tate Modern and Tate Britain, and collaborators including Wellcome Trust, Royal Court Theatre and the ACLU, the company's award-winning productions include Sundance Special Jury Award-winning feature documentary *Unrest* (2017, Netflix/PBS); Emmy®-winning documentary series *Trans In America* (2018, SXSW/ACLU/Condé Nast them.); narrative short *The Forgotten C* (2020, The Uncertain Kingdom); short doc *Jackie Kay: One Person Two Names* (2017, Tate Queer British Art); and feature documentary *Lost and Sound* (SXSW, 2012).

[Website](#) / [Twitter](#)

Daniel Alexander Films, Daniel Alexander is an award-winning director and BAFTA crew x BFI Network filmmaker based in Birmingham. He currently produces and directs work for platforms and agencies including the BBC and the BFI. Daniel Alexander is the creative producer and curator of the region's leading BAME film development programme, BACK IN, which has commissioned over eighteen filmmakers from diverse backgrounds.

During the pandemic, Daniel Launched The Midlands Film Archive, an online platform that is home to original films created by Midlands based filmmakers. This has grown to become the 'go-to' website for films in the midlands including BAFTA winning productions.

[Website](#) / [Create Central Website](#) / [Film Archive](#) / [Showreel](#) /

Deaffest is the UK's leading Deaf-led Film and Arts Festival, established in 2006. Taking place biennially in Wolverhampton, UK, the next Deaffest festival - its 14th edition – is in 2022.

Deaffest supports and develops the talents of emerging and established deaf filmmakers and artists from the UK and around the world, showcasing films and documentaries by UK and international filmmakers. Exhibitions, seminars, workshops, parties and networking attract a wide and diverse festival audience. Deaffest is the place where everyone is welcome to take part, sharing their interest in films and the arts.

[Website](#)