

CREATIVE ENGLAND

iSHORTS+ “FUNNY GIRLS” FAQ’S

These FAQ’s relate to iShorts+ “Funny Girls”, our comedy short film initiative to support female directors and writer/directors based in England.

Please go to <http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/film/talent-centres#new-talent> to download our iShorts+ “Funny Girls” Guidelines and check our full eligibility criteria.

Please read both the Guidelines and the FAQ’s carefully before submitting your application here <http://applications.creativeengland.co.uk/application/57>

ELIGIBILITY

1. What is iShorts+ “Funny Girls”?

iShorts+ shines a light on new and emerging talent from across England’s diverse filmmaking community, championing writers and directors whose talent and track record warrants a more greater level of funding, editorial support and promotion, often across genres the Talent Centres believe would benefit from additional awareness. Our inaugural initiative “**Funny Girls**” will offer 5 filmmaking teams a £10,000 award toward the production of a comedy short film. Awardees will also benefit from intensive development support, a bespoke comedy workshop, and access to expert industry mentoring via our partners **Big Talk** and **Baby Cow**, two giants of the UK Film and TV comedy scene.

2. Who is eligible for iShorts+ “Funny Girls”?

“**Funny Girls**” was primarily conceived to support female directors and writer/directors who are aspiring feature film makers and wish to use short film to further develop and enhance their comedic voice. The director or writer/director must not have directed a feature film that has been theatrically released in the UK.

3. Who are you accepting submissions from?

Project submissions are invited from teams of writers, directors and producers. In each instance, the director (or writer/director) must be female, with the roles of writer and producer non-gender specific. All submissions must have a producer attached and we would normally expect this individual to act as the lead applicant.

4. We are a co-directing team, can we apply?

Yes, you may apply as long as one of the co-directors is **female**, and you have a producer attached at the point of application.

5. What level of experience do I need in order to be eligible?

“Funny Girls” is open to both new and emerging directors and writer/directors. Whatever your stage of career, you should be able to demonstrate a distinctive creative voice through your previous work (e.g. in shorts, television/online drama, theatre, commercials, music promos, documentary, Artist Film & Video and/or other related media) and the clear potential to deliver a comedy short that could ‘break out’ and act as a significant calling card for your feature film aspirations.

6. I am a Scottish/Welsh/Northern Irish director or writer/director based in England. Can I apply?

Yes. If you are a woman and you are resident in England, you can apply.

7. Will Creative England consider co-funding with other national film agencies?

We can consider co-funding with other national film agencies as they are our partners in the Net.Work. However consultation will be on a strictly case by case scenario and any final funding decision will ultimately be made by Creative England.

8. I am an emerging/established producer who has already had a film theatrically released in the UK. Can I submit a comedy short film project?

Yes. As long as the talent connected to your project (i.e. your female director or writer/director) have not yet had a film theatrically distributed in the UK, your project is eligible. Producers may submit up to two projects as a lead applicant.

9. Can I apply as an individual or do I need to do it through a company?

Producers can apply as an individual or through a company.

10. I am living abroad can I apply?

No. This is an England-wide initiative so all members of the filmmaking team must be resident in England (including Greater London).

11. Do I need to be represented by an agent to apply?

No, agent representation is not a requirement.

12. If I applied to iShorts last year can I also apply to iShorts+?

As long as your creative team have the requisite level of experience and they meet the full eligibility criteria outlined in our Guidelines for this scheme, you may apply.

13. I live in London and have applied to London Calling or London Calling Plus in the past, does this preclude me from applying to iShorts+?

No, it does not – you are still eligible to apply. iShorts+ is an England wide initiative, including London. As long as your creative team meet the full eligibility criteria outlined in our Guidelines for this scheme, you may apply.

14. I am currently in further/higher education (university, film school etc.), can I apply?
No, you cannot apply if you are currently enrolled in formal further/higher education.

15. I am under 18, can I apply?

No, you must be over 18 to apply to **iShorts+**. If you're 16-19 years of age, passionate about film and interested in a career in the film industry you should get involved in the BFI Film Academy. Find out more here; <http://www.bfi.org.uk/education-research/5-19-film-education-scheme-2013-2017/bfi-film-academy-scheme-2013-4>

SUBMISSIONS

1. How do I know which Talent Centre to apply to?

You do not choose a Talent Centre. Regardless of where you are based in England you apply directly to Creative England through our online application portal here; <http://applications.creativeengland.co.uk/application/57>

2. How many applications can I submit?

Eligible directors, writer/directors and writers can be attached to one application. Producers can submit up to two applications.

3. We do not have the rights to the project we wish to apply with. Can we still submit?

If you do not own the rights to the project you must either apply with the person who does own the rights or be in the process of securing the rights to any project submitted to us. Please be advised that we may wish to see proof of this.

4. What sort of short film project can I apply with for “Funny Girls”?

The genre is **comedy**, so the short film project must have comedy at its core in terms of overall conceit, characterisation, and theme. You must have clear potential to deliver a comedy short that could ‘break out’ and act as a significant calling card for your feature film aspirations. Please be advised that no other film genres will be accepted as part of this scheme.

5. I have an idea for a comedy short but have not yet written the script. Can I apply?

No, we require a **completed screenplay** at initial application stage – to a maximum length of 20 pages, in standard industry format. We work closely with all successful applicants throughout the development phase of the process to deliver a final shooting script which meet Talent Centres’ requirements to achieve Creative England’s final approval. Please be advised any pitch documents, treatments and outlines will not be accepted as part of this scheme and will be deemed ineligible. For a full list of materials required as part of the submissions process, please download our full **iShorts+ “Funny Girls” Guidelines**.

6. Are you accepting all sub-genres of comedy for “Funny Girls”?

The majority of sub-genres will be considered including (but not limited to); action comedy; alternative, offbeat and surreal comedy; black, topical and satirical comedy; comedy horror; comedy of manners and farce; character driven and observational comedy; comedy drama; mockumentary and musical comedy; romantic comedy; broader slapstick and spoof comedy. Given this is a production award for a narrative short film project, we will not accept applications for comedy sketches, sitcoms or any non-narrative project of an improvisational comedic nature.

7. I have an idea for a documentary comedy short. Can I apply?

As per above, we will accept “mockumentary” as a comedy sub-genre. Beyond that one caveat we are only interested in short film narrative as a format.

8. I have an idea for an animated comedy short. Can I apply?

Regretfully, we’re unable to accept submissions for such projects at this moment in time. If you have a mixed media comedy short film project, then we would ask you to demonstrate your capability to deliver the idea within the budget and timeframe.

9. Is there a submissions deadline for the iShorts+ “Funny Girls” initiative?

Yes, the application deadline is **5pm, Friday 29th August 2014**. Please download our complete Guidelines at <http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/film/talent-centres#new-talent> for a full summary of all the key dates related to this scheme.

10. Who will read my application?

All applications will be read and assessed by the Talent Centres executives. Depending on the volume of submissions, we may also use experienced external assessors at Stage 1 of the assessment process. Executives from our partners Baby Cow and Big Talk will enter the assessment process at the long-listing phase.

11. What specific criteria and process will Creative England use to assess my application?

The specific criteria and process used are set out in the **iShorts+ “Funny Girls” Guidelines**. Download them here <http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/film/talent-centres#new-talent> from Monday 14th July 2014.

12. When will I know if my application has been successful?

Depending on how far your application gets through the assessment process, there could be various key dates. Please refer to our **iShorts+ “Funny Girls” Guidelines** <http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/film/talent-centres#new-talent> for the full details regarding our decision process and timeline.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1. What is the maximum contribution granted by Creative England on “Funny Girls”?**
The maximum amount iShorts+ can award your comedy short film is £10,000.
- 2. My budget is higher than £10,000. Can I apply?**
Yes, but you should be able to realise your comedy short film within the resources available to you, which includes both our £10,000 contribution to your budget and any other support that you can bring to the table (whether cash or in kind).
- 3. Do I need to have attached cast or crew members to my project?**
No, we do not expect you to have secured key cast or HOD’s when you apply. However if you have already secured some of your key creative team, and you feel it bolsters your application, please indicate who they are in your project statement.
- 4. Is the iShorts+ Award subject to conditions?**
Yes, please refer to the [Appendix 1](#) of the iShorts+ “Funny Girls” Guidelines for details of our standard terms and conditions for awards under this strand. Please note that successful awardees will be required to attend a two day comedy development workshop at our Brighton Talent Centre in November 2014¹. Awardees will also be required to do additional Creative England Talent Centre networking as part of their iShorts+ “Funny Girls” production award.
- 5. If we successfully receive a production award, do we have to pay Statutory/ National Minimum Wage on the production?**
The Producer/Production Company is responsible for meeting any statutory and National Minimum Wage requirements. Details of this responsibility and requirement will be supplied as part of our iShorts+ “Funny Girls” Production Pack.
- 6. If I receive an iShorts+ “Funny Girls” Award, when does my comedy short film project need to be completed and delivered by?**
All selected films will need to be completed and delivered before the end of August 2015.
- 7. What does the final run time of my comedy short film have to be?**
To increase the chances of eligibility for future UK and international festival entries, we strongly recommend the final run time of your delivered comedy short film should be somewhere between 5 and 15 minutes.

¹ Creative England Talent Centres will make a contribution to your travel and accommodation expenses, the specific details of which will be confirmed upon confirmation of any successful production award.

8. I have a comedy short film project in early development but am unable to submit by your deadline, will I get another chance?

iShorts+ will return in 2015 but the specific brief will not focus on female directors and writer/directors with feature aspirations in film comedy. Therefore we encourage you to do all you can to develop your idea to first draft stage and submit it as a completed screenplay by **Friday 29th August 2014**.

9. Can I contact Baby Cow or Big Talk about my application?

No, you cannot. Creative England is running this scheme and is investing the production award. As such, all queries whether they relate to eligibility, submission, assessment or process should be directed towards our Talent Centre team.

10. Who should I contact at Creative England about my application?

In the first instance, please download and read our full iShorts+ **“Funny Girls” Guidelines** along with these FAQ’s. However, if you still need clarity and have a further question please email talent.centres@creativeengland.co.uk with **“Funny Girls Query”** as your subject header. Thank you.