



SHORTFLIX - GUIDELINES

SHORTFLIX is an exciting new short film initiative led by Creative England and the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain in partnership with Sky Arts, and supported by Creative Skillset's Film Skills Fund, with BFI's Film Forever National Lottery funds.

Please read these guidelines carefully before starting your application. Applications will be accepted up to **5pm on Wednesday 8th March 2017**.

If you have any questions that are not answered here or require further support, get in touch with us at shortflix@creativeengland.co.uk.

For information on other Creative England film initiatives, visit creativeengland.co.uk/film-and-tv.

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What is SHORTFLIX?

SHORTFLIX is aimed at aspiring new filmmakers aged 18-25 who are not currently in full-time education, employment or training. We're looking for ideas from creative, talented and ambitious young people that have the potential to make great short films for showcase on Sky Arts.

We'll select up to 20 ideas, with successful applicants supported to turn these into a short film script or outline. Up to 5 of these projects will then be awarded funding and the young filmmakers will work with a budget of up to £10,000 each and a professional team to make the short films.

SHORTFLIX will provide training, mentorship, funding and industry exposure, with professional support provided at every stage. No previous professional experience or study of film production is required and participation is free.

Who is it for?

We are looking for new young voices from across the UK and from diverse backgrounds. You are eligible to apply if:

- you are aged 18-25 at the time of application and live in the UK;
- you are NOT currently in full-time education, employment or training;
- you have a passion for film but do NOT have any previous professional experience or an undergraduate / post-graduate degree (e.g. bachelor's, master's) in film production;
- you can commit to working with us to deliver the film, and are able to participate in the training programme.

You can either apply as an individual or as a team of up to 4 people (all team members must be eligible – see above).

Applications are open to young people resident in any part of the UK. We particularly encourage applications from those who are based in an English region (i.e. outside of London) or in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Increasing diversity in the film industry is important to us and we would especially like to hear from young people who might otherwise experience obstacles to entering relevant employment, education or training. This includes candidates of diverse ethnic and/or cultural heritage, candidates from disadvantaged backgrounds, disabled candidates and young adults at risk.

Participation is free and financial support is available for a wide range of access needs – if you would like to discuss this contact shortflix@creativeengland.co.uk.

What kind of short film ideas are eligible?

We are looking for distinctive ideas that have the potential to engage an audience. Your short film idea is eligible if it:

- tells us something about your community, heritage, identity, or area (this doesn't have to be your own personal story, but we want to know why the story is important to you);
- is fiction (any genre), documentary or visual art and up to 8 mins;
- is achievable on a budget of up to £10k and set in the UK;

As a guide, a budget of up to £10k will cover 2-3 days of shooting for the film. To ensure that you can achieve your vision within budget, we suggest sticking to few locations, a small cast, simple sets & props, and no or limited special effects.

The following are NOT eligible:

- films being made as part of a further or higher education course;
- promotional films;
- ideas based on already existing films, TV shows, books, music tracks, etc.;
- animations (although we will consider part-animated, part-live action).

For further guidance, contact us at shortflix@creativeengland.co.uk.

How do I apply?

You will need to complete and submit an online application form via the Creative England website at creativeengland.co.uk/film-and-tv/shortflix.

For guidance on completing your application, contact shortflix@creativeengland.co.uk.

Applications will be accepted up to **5pm on Wednesday 8th March 2017**.

As part of the application, you will be asked to submit:

- **Contact details and a short personal statement** telling us about yourself and why you'd like to make a film (for each team member).
- **A digital pitch (2-3 min video filmed on any device) or written pitch (up to 500 words)** for your short film idea, telling us:
 - What your film will be about & where it will be set.
 - Why you want to tell this story.
 - What your vision is for the film.
 - Who will be involved in the film.
- **Links to any previous creative work you have made** (this can be anything from a short film to a recorded performance, artwork, animation, short story, poem, stage/radio play or blog article). We are looking for interesting ideas and stories, not technical proficiency.

We are particularly interested in receiving digital pitches that demonstrate your creative voice. You can film your digital pitch using any kind of camera (e.g. smartphone or webcam) and upload to a video-sharing site (e.g. YouTube, Vimeo). If your video is set as private, please provide the password so that we can access it.

The pitch should put across the style, feel and atmosphere of the film you'd like to make and what makes your idea compelling, unique and original. If your vision fits a specific genre (story type - e.g. comedy, horror, thriller) then do mention this. We'd also like to know if there are any particular creative references and/or inspirations for the idea. Finally, be clear on whose story it is and what it's about, but try not to get bogged down in plot details - although be sure to include the ending!

How can I find out more?

We're holding a series of roadshow events in January & February 2017, where you can find out more and learn how to pitch your idea.

You can sign up below:

- [Wednesday 25th January - HOME, Manchester](#)
- [Tuesday 31st January - Antenna, Nottingham](#)
- [Monday 6th February - National Youth Theatre of Great Britain, London](#)
- [Thursday 16th February - Watershed, Bristol](#)

If you can't make it along to the roadshows, keep an eye on our Twitter page [@Films_CE](#) where we will be sharing application tips live from the events. You can also find useful resources, information & inspiration, connect with other aspiring filmmakers, and post questions on [Hiive](#), the network for creative people.

What happens once I've applied?

Once you have applied you will receive an email confirmation. If you do not receive this within 10 working days, please contact shortflix@creativeengland.co.uk.

We will assess applications according to:

- Originality of idea and the inspiration behind it.
- Genuine passion and desire of applicant/team to want to tell this story.
- Commitment of the applicant/team involved to make and deliver a film.
- Strength of the applicant/team's previous creative work.
- Whether the idea can be realised within the specified budget.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an informal interview on 29th, 30th or 31st March, so we ask that you make sure you are available on one of these dates. Financial support will be available for travel costs and/or other access requirements (e.g. for disability) to attend interview.

What happens if my idea is selected?

If your idea is one of the (up to) 20 selected, you will receive training and support from industry professionals to turn it into a short film script or outline.

All selected filmmakers will attend a 2-day workshop focusing on storytelling, and will get feedback on their work before submitting a final script or outline.

What happens if I am awarded funding?

If yours is one of the (up to) 5 final short films awarded funding, you will receive further training as well as mentoring. You will work with a professional producer, crew and budget of up to £10,000 to make your film.

All awarded filmmakers will attend a 3-day workshop focusing on how to make a film from script to screen. They will receive mentoring from a relevant industry professional, and additional support including: script, budget and schedule reviews; help finding locations, crew and cast; creative and technical guidance.

Once the final short films are completed, they will be showcased on Sky Arts and also screened for film industry professionals.

Key Dates

Application deadline	5pm Wednesday 8 March 2017
Interviews	Between 29 - 31 March 2017
Selection announced of up to 20 ideas	By 3 April 2017
Storytelling workshop (2 days)	During week of 1 - 7 May 2017
Deadline for script / outline	23 June 2017
Funding awards announced for up to 5 projects	By 10 July 2017
How to make a film workshop (3 days)	During week of 17 – 23 July 2017
Mentoring	24 July – 22 September 2017
Production of the films	Autumn/Winter 2017
Delivery & broadcast of completed films	Spring 2018

Contact

Please feel free to email us at shortflix@creativeengland.co.uk.

If you would prefer to speak to someone, you can phone Creative England's Bristol office on 0117 952 9982.

FAQs

I'm currently working, can I apply?

We do not accept applications from those in full-time employment. If you are working part-time (fewer than 30 hrs per week), you are eligible – as long as you are not working professionally in film production (runners & apprentices excepted).

I'm currently a student, can I apply?

We do not accept applications from those in full-time further or higher education. If you are studying a part-time course, you are eligible – as long as it's not an undergraduate or post-graduate degree specifically in film production (see below).

I have previously studied film, can I apply?

We do not accept applications from students or graduates of an undergraduate or post-graduate degree in film production (e.g. bachelor's, master's), as we assume that you will already have received high level training in this area. We will consider other types of film production courses (e.g. HND, BTEC or youth workshops, etc.).

I have previously received film industry funding for my work, can I apply?

Applicants must not have received film industry development or production funding from any national agency or broadcaster at a professional level. We will consider other types of funding received on a case by case basis.

How many people can be in a team?

We will accept applications from teams of up to 4 people. All team members must fulfil the eligibility criteria as specified in these guidelines.

Can I make more than one application?

Individuals can be lead applicant or team member for only one application each.

Do I need to have attached cast or crew members to my project?

We do not expect you to have secured cast or crew. However if there are some cast and crew you'd like to work with, please indicate on the application form (be realistic though - Will Smith and Jennifer Lawrence are likely to be busy - and expensive!)

How much does it cost to participate?

Participation is free. Financial support is available for travel and for additional access needs (contact us at shortflix@creativeengland.co.uk to discuss prior to application).

What is the maximum funding granted by Creative England for each short film?

The maximum we can award your short film is £10,000. Creative England will hold this money and manage how it is spent on your project to best achieve your vision.

I would like to raise additional production funds for my film. Is this allowed?

Due to the strict timeframe for delivery and the nature of the partnerships involved, it must be possible to complete your film on a budget of £10,000, without raising any additional funds.

Terms and Conditions

General

- Whilst the information and advice in these guidelines is believed to be accurate at the time of going to press, Creative England reserves the right to make changes at any time at its discretion. Neither Creative England nor any of its partners shall be responsible for any loss attributable to errors, omissions or other inaccuracies in the information contained in these guidelines.

Applications

- We will retain declined applications for a period of two years, after which time the application forms will be destroyed.
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives members of the public the right to request information held by Creative England. This includes information held in relation to applications to any of Creative England's publicly funded programmes including SHORTFLIX. If you choose to apply, you should be aware that the information you supply, either in whole or in part, may be disclosed under the Act.
- In exceptional circumstances, we may solicit applications directly. A solicitation does not guarantee funding and all solicited applications will be treated the same as any other application in respect of assessment and decision-making process.

Assessment & selection

- Creative England's decision in all matters concerning the assessment and selection of projects is final. Inevitably, applicants may be turned down and may be disappointed as a result.
- Applicants who wish to make an appeal against a funding decision can only do so if they have good cause to believe that the correct procedures, as published in these guidelines, have not been adhered to or applied in such a way as to prejudice the outcome of an application.

Funding

- If you are the recipient of a production award, you will be required to enter into an agreement with Creative England and Sky Arts. This will include the requirements for delivering the completed short film and also the terms and conditions related to the Sky Arts showcase and any further distribution and exhibition.

Broadcast

- Sky Arts will reserve the right to final decision on showcasing the short films via its website and via television broadcast. If Sky Arts decides for whatever reason not to showcase any of the completed short films, its decision will be final and non-negotiable.