

## **4STORIES WRITERS' GUIDELINES**

4Stories, the new-talent scheme, designed to bring on and help establish the next generation of writers and directors, is back!

The scheme is aimed at finding genuinely diverse voices, exploring contemporary stories of and by communities that are rarely seen on mainstream television.

We encourage applications from talent currently under-represented in TV Drama – including women, disabled talent, BAME talent, and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Initially we are looking for six writers who will be commissioned to write a treatment for an original half hour idea that can form part of an ambitious anthology series. Of those six, three will then be commissioned to write scripts for production. They will be tutored by and work with experienced drama producers at BlackLight Television to develop their scripts. The series of 3x30min dramas will be broadcast on Channel 4.

At the end of the process the three chosen writers will also have the opportunity to develop an original series, serial or single with BlackLight Television and Channel 4.

Commissioned by Channel 4 from BlackLight Television, the aim is to create an eye-catching, original and bold anthology. We aim to start pre-production in Wales in the spring of 2020.

### **What we are looking for**

Bold, unique and surprising voices, unafraid of ambition, with wit, urgency and fearless entertainment in their DNA. We are looking for voices who bring a fresh perspective rarely seen on UK television.

### **Who can apply**

Writers who have not had an original single, serial or series broadcast on UK television. Writers who have contributed episodes on soaps, series or serials are eligible to apply but can have had no more than 2 hours of broadcast credits.

Writers have to apply with an original full script for TV, radio, film or stage. We recommend writers submit scripts no less than 15 pages in length.

Applicants must be a resident of the United Kingdom.

Applications are welcomed from any writer who meets the criteria set out above. Although all applications will be considered on their individual merits, in order to promote diversity and to increase the participation of those who are currently under-represented in TV drama, use may be made of the positive action provisions in the Equality Act 2010 when deciding between two equally qualified and talented applicants.

### **How to apply**

You must complete the online application form and provide the following:

1. Your completed Equal Opportunities Form (available to download on the website)
2. A PDF of your CV/Biography (the name of the file should include your full name)
3. A writing sample - which must be your original dramatic writing. This must be a full-length script in dramatic form. This script can be for TV, FILM, RADIO or THEATRE. It should have a title page with your name (or names if you are a writing partnership) on it. Treatments or pitch documents will not be accepted. Please submit your writing sample as a PDF. The file name should include the full title of the script.

4. If you are a writing duo please only submit ONE application. You should apply with one email address (as your point of contact) and include both your CVs in one document.

The closing date is SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER. (We reserve the right to extend this deadline)

### **The process**

1. We will read all submissions
2. If you haven't heard from us by the 15th of December I'm afraid your application wasn't successful this time. Unfortunately we don't have the resources to individually inform each unsuccessful applicant.
3. We will meet shortlisted candidates for interview (more details of that interview process will be provided to the shortlisted candidates)
4. We will choose 6 applicants to participate in the scheme.
5. The six writers will be commissioned to write a treatment for an original 30min story for an anthology of films (the broad theme of which is still to be decided).
6. BlackLight and Channel 4 will then select and commission 3 of the writers for script development and production.
7. Throughout the scripting process writers will be tutored by and work with experienced drama producers at BlackLight TV where their scripts will be developed.
8. Scripts will be signed off by BlackLight and Channel 4.
9. We aim to go into pre-production spring 2020 in Wales (we reserve the right for this date to change)
10. At the end of the scheme the three successful writers will be commissioned to develop a new original idea for a serial or series with BlackLight and Channel 4.

We would like to share your CVs/scripts/email addresses with C4's Creative Diversity Team, who are keen to connect with diverse talent. We would also like to keep 4Story applicants informed of other opportunities for emerging talent in the future. Would you please let Neevon KhayatiDaryan know by email [neevon.khayatidaryan@banijayuk.com](mailto:neevon.khayatidaryan@banijayuk.com) by December 1<sup>st</sup> if you would rather we didn't do this.

Good luck with your submission.

BlackLight Television  
Sept 2019