

## **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, ethnically diverse talent, and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Initially we are looking for six writers, who will be tutored by and work with experienced drama producers at BlackLight Television to develop an original half hour idea as part of an ambitious anthology series, ON THE EDGE. Of those six, three will then be chosen for further development and production. The series will be broadcast on Channel 4. You can watch series 2 and 3 of ON THE EDGE on All4.

At the end of the process the three chosen writers will also have the opportunity to develop an original series or serial 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 summer of 2022.

### **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**

We want to hear from you if you haven't had an original single, serial or series broadcast on UK television. It's fine if you've contributed to episodes on soaps or series but you should have no more than two 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 your name and 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.
5. We are NOT looking for scripts for ON THE EDGE. We are looking for great writers to work with BlackLight. If you get to interview stage we will ask you to pitch a new idea for the anthology.

The closing date is midnight on SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022. (We reserve the right to extend this deadline)

### **The process**

1. We will read all submissions
2. We aim to inform you if you have or haven't made the shortlist by mid-March 2022. Due to the large amount of applications it is possible this date will slip.
3. We will meet shortlisted candidates for interview where we will ask you to pitch an idea for the ON THE EDGE anthology and deliver a 1-page written version of that pitch (more details of that interview process will be provided to the shortlisted candidates)
4. In conjunction with Channel 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. Treatments will be signed off by BlackLight and Channel 4.
7. BlackLight and Channel 4 will then select and commission 3 of the writers for script development and production.
8. Throughout the process writers will be tutored by and work with experienced drama producers at BlackLight TV where their ideas will be developed.
9. We aim to go into pre-production Summer 2022 in Wales (we reserve the right for this date to change)
10. At the end of the initiative 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 us know - [info@blacklighttv.co.uk](mailto:info@blacklighttv.co.uk) - if you would rather we didn't do this.

Good luck with your submission.

BlackLight Television  
Jan 2022