

NEW WRITING  
NORTH



**Job Description: 'Sky Writes' Writers in Residence (three posts)**

**Length of Contract**

These roles are expected to begin in January 2021 and continue until January 2022. We are recruiting for three Writers in Residence, one each in Gateshead, Rotherham and Blackpool.

**Fee for the work**

£4500 (20 sessions at £225 per session), plus expenses (per residency). This fee is inclusive of all preparation work, script reading, meeting attendance, follow-up work and feedback. Payment will be made in two installments.

**Background**

New Writing North and Sky Studios are working together on **Sky Writes**, a new talent development programme which seeks to identify and nurture television writers from under-represented groups who are based in the North of England. This is the first year of the programme, which we anticipate will begin in Spring 2021.

Sky Writes has been created to help diversify the pool of television writers in the UK. It will offer an introduction to writing for television for people from under-represented groups and under-served geographical areas in the North of England, with a particular aim to support people of colour and those from LGBTQ+, disabled and lower socio-economic backgrounds.

The initiative, managed by New Writing North, will seek to address commonly identified barriers for writers, including a lack of role-model writers who reflect under-represented characteristics; the scarcity of entry-level access opportunities for people writing for television; and the challenges of gaining insider knowledge about scriptwriting, development and commissioning faced by those outside the industry.

Sky Writes will launch in **Gateshead, Rotherham** and **Blackpool** in Spring 2021. In each location, the project will begin with a series of open-access sessions for those with little or no writing experience and progress to offer more in-depth professional development for those who are identified as having the potential to be successful television writers.

**Writers in Residence**

We are looking for a Writer in Residence for each of these locations: **Gateshead, Rotherham** and **Blackpool**.

Each Writer in Residence will lead on devising the content and overseeing the delivery of the taster sessions, masterclasses and workshops in their location. The writers will work closely with the programme participants, the Sky Writes Coordinator (freelance post) and

New Writing North. The writers will play a key role in selecting participants and deciding who will progress to the advanced stage of the programme. The Writers in Residence will regularly report back to New Writing North.

### **Covid-19**

The intention is to produce as much of this project as possible through face-to-face work, when it is safe to do so. Due to the uncertainty around the Covid-19 pandemic, programme elements are subject to change and this may involve all or parts of the programme being delivered digitally. We may also have to make amendments to the programme schedule as we respond to the wider situation and follow the latest Government advice.

### **Responsibilities**

- To create engaging workshop content for early stage screenwriters, working closely with the participants and ensuring that their voices are given a chance to be expressed, validated and nurtured.
- To identify talented screenwriters who have the potential to move to the advanced stage of the developmental process.
- To take a creative, innovative and flexible approach to developing workshop content that is accessible for early stage writers.
- To devise and deliver a screenwriting programme for the selected writers, providing a framework for constructive feedback and advice for the participants.
- To collaborate with New Writing North on potential digital elements of the programme, as required.
- To provide regular feedback to New Writing North following each session and to respond efficiently to requests for updates on the programme.
- To work with the coordinator to ensure that all sessions are fully accessible and any barriers to engagement are reduced.
- To participate in programme evaluation as required.
- To work with New Writing North and the coordinators to ensure participants on the programme have access to further networks and advice following its completion.

### **Person Specification**

- Experienced screenwriter with at least one broadcast credit.
- Capacity to deliver workshops to participants of varied abilities and multiple backgrounds.
- Exceptional communication skills, with the ability to cultivate a productive, supportive and respectful group dynamic.
- Strong organisational skills, ideally developed in a creative environment.
- A commitment to addressing issues of under-representation amongst writers of colour and those from LGBTQ+, disabled and lower socio-economic backgrounds.
- Strong knowledge of northern England and ideally of the geographical location in which you wish to work.
- A flexible and open approach to embarking upon a unique new programme.
- Some awareness of digital approaches to arts-based activities.

### **Role management**

The writers must be willing to attend meetings with New Writing North (either face-to-face or via video call). The Writers in Residence will report to the Senior Programme Manager (Writing and Awards) at New Writing North.

### **How to Apply**

Please send the following via our submissions system by **12 noon on 6 November 2020**.

- A CV which includes details of your screenwriting work and two referees.
- A covering letter that includes a short statement about how you would deliver the programme, as well as explaining how you meet each point of the person specification.
- Details of which geographical area you are applying to work in (Gateshead, Rotherham or Blackpool).

### **Interviews**

Interviews with representatives of New Writing North and Sky Studios are likely to take place during the week commencing 23 November 2020. It is expected that interviews will take place via video call.