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Channel 4 Writing for Television Awards open to support new television writers in the North

The Channel 4 Writing for Television Awards have opened for entry until 5 June 2023.

The awards offer new television writers based in the North of England unique and career-changing opportunities. Three winners will each receive a package of support including a nine-month placement with either Bonafide Films (*Mood; The Last Post*), Lime Pictures (*Hollyoaks; Zero Chill*) or Rollem Productions (*Love Lies & Records; Girlfriends*); mentoring with an industry professional; and a £3000 bursary.

The awards are offered as part of the Northern Writers' Awards, New Writing North's flagship writer development programme, and form part of Channel 4 and New Writing North's Talent Development Partnership.

Launched in 2022, the Talent Development Partnership aims to identify and support new writers from the North with a particular focus on supporting writers from backgrounds that are currently underrepresented in the television industry. Alongside the awards and industry placements, it offers script development, writers' roadshows and workshops, and the formation of the Northern Talent Network.

Channel 4 and New Writing North have worked in partnership since 2014, and through the awards have already launched the television careers of several writers, including Sharma Walfall, who has gone on to work on productions including *Noughts and Crosses* and *A Town Called Malice*, and Jayshree Patel, now a core writer on the *Hollyoaks* team, as well as writers Taiba Ahmad, Adam Bennett-Lea, Joshua Halm, Kemi-Bo Jacobs and Samantha Neale.

Caroline Hollick, Channel 4 Head of Drama said: "Channel 4 is committed to tapping into new talent pools, discovering and nurturing new writers and providing a platform for lesser-heard voices. New Writing North's Writing for TV Awards offer a fantastic opportunity for creative, authentic storytellers to break into the broadcast industry, harness their skills, learn their craft and embark on a thrilling career, and we're very proud to support its ambitions."

Will Mackie, Senior Programme Manager (Talent Development) at New Writing North said: "New Writing North's commitment to identifying and developing talented writers in the North of England relies on innovative and value-driven partnerships. Our close and supportive relationship with Channel 4 allows us to offer transformative experiences for screenwriters that will contribute to reshaping the creative landscapes explored on our TV screens. We're delighted to extend our



placement opportunities with three of the region's most exciting and high-quality production companies in Rollem, Bonafide and Lime and look forward to welcoming submissions from across the North.'

Hannah Rose, Northern Talent Network Producer, said: "The Channel 4 Writing for TV Awards have such a brilliant track record for not only supporting new writers in gaining experience, connections and access to the television industry, but also in providing a meaningful and sustainable step forward in their writing careers. I'm excited to work with this year's cohort of winners as part of the Northern Talent Network."

The Channel 4 Writing for Television Awards are now open for entry until 5 June 2023. Eligible writers will be based in the North of England and will not yet have had a script professionally broadcast. To apply visit northernwritersawards.com

Northern Talent Network workshops and roadshows are open to all. Forthcoming events include [Writing Comedy for Screenwriters](#) (25 March, 11am-3.30pm, The Word, South Shields) and [Writing for Drama](#) (22 April, 1pm-5pm, The BIS, Hartlepool). Both events are supported by North East Screen.

Winners will be announced in autumn 2023.

