

Producers Expression of Interest Briefing Document

The **Film4** and **New Writing North** *GENRE FEATURE LAB* is a five-month industry connected film development lab that gives three of the most exciting Northern screenwriters the opportunity to develop a commercial yet boldly creative genre feature idea to a compelling treatment and pitch deck ready to present to Film4 and industry for further development. We want to get the most exciting, cutting-edge writers collaborating with Newcastle, Northumberland or North Tyneside (North of Tyne) based production companies and building a relationship with Film4.

NWN and Film4 will do a North-wide callout for writing talent and three writers/writer-directors will be matched with three production companies/producers. The production companies and writers will be supported by NWN and writer-mentors to develop the ideas to their full creative potential and then pitched to Film4 and wider industry.

In order to be eligible to apply you must have a production company based in the Newcastle, Northumberland or North Tyneside and have the ambition, expertise and creative talent to take emerging writers to market. Production companies who are yet to make their feature debut will be matched with an established co-production partner or executive producer at the end of the process thereby ensuring security for potential financiers as well as supporting the up-skilling NE region producers.

From this call of EOIs we will create a pool of production companies based in the North of Tyne region interested in this opportunity and then work to match writers with companies that are interested in exploring similar genres or themes.

On conclusion of the programme, all participants will meet with Film4 who will have first refusal on taking the projects onto their slate and will also offer advice, contacts and further feedback. If Film4 decide not to take the project onto their slate the production company will be supported by New Writing North to pitch the project more widely to industry.

Writer selection, rights, funding and the development process

NWN and Film4 will do a North wide call out for writers. We will ask them to submit a biography, an early stage feature idea, a screenwriting sample and talk about what themes and genre they are interested in exploring and why.

Writers will be shortlisted by NWN, Film4 and freelance film industry readers.

The short-listed ideas will then be shared with the production companies who will have the opportunity to meet with the writers and ideas they think might be a fit for their slate. We will help to facilitate this series of initial meetings and when both parties are agreeable, and a match has been made NWN will provide the following funding directly to the production company:

- £1000 for the producer to oversee the development of a pitch deck and materials and take part in the 2-day residential lab

- £3000 for the production company to pay the writer to take part in the 2-day residential lab, develop the story and create a treatment. This fee also includes the rights for the production company to pitch the idea to industry exclusively for 1 year from delivery of the developed materials

NWN will also provide funding direct to the supplier for the following:

- Pitch deck design
- Travel and accommodation to the residential lab
- Script editors
- Travel to industry meetings where applicable.

Rights

The producer/production company will commission the treatment in a form to be mutually agreed, for £3000. This is owned by the producer/production company.

After one year from delivery, if the project is not in active development (meaning EITHER in development with a bona fide third party financier or with the producer having themselves paid for the first draft at a first draft fee agreed in good faith), then the writer has the right to get the project back – i.e. it goes into turnaround.

If further development or a first draft is commissioned, then the parties agree to enter into a further contract to be negotiated in good faith.

Programme Structure

- **September 2024**

A two-day residential hosted in Newcastle where the three teams will have the opportunity to meet each other and workshop their ideas with a facilitator/s. There will also be the opportunity to hear from an inspirational guest writer who has recently made their debut genre feature.

- **October - November 2024**

The teams will use this time to write, touching base with their script mentor and NWN throughout. They will work on three revisions of the treatment.

- **January - February 2025**

Finalising the treatment and working with a design partner to pull together a compelling pitch document. Once the materials are signed off, teams will meet with Film4 to discuss the projects and further opportunities.

- **February - March 2025**

If projects are not taken onto the Film4 slate for further development, we will help to facilitate further industry meetings where applicable.

Are you Eligible?

Producers must be **based full-time** in the **North of Tyne** (Newcastle, North Tyneside or Northumberland) region of Northeast England. Please read here for further clarity on which areas are included in the North of Tyne region.

and meet **at least one** of the following criteria:

- Produced two+ commissioned/funded short films that have played BAFTA, BIFA or Academy Award Qualifying festivals or been broadcast on television/streaming platform.
- Produced, Associate-Produced or Line Produced a feature film or television programme intended for distribution theatrically, broadcast on television or presented on a streaming platform.

Please note you can apply as a production company or a freelance producer.

To apply, please complete the application form on the website.