



BSLBT MAY 2024
Commissioning Round
DRAMA



BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE
BROADCASTING TRUST

Fairy



SMALLOWORLD

1) STEP UP: DRAMA

- Looking for NEW writers with a great idea for a short film (10 mins).
- Perhaps you've done a small amount of writing in theatre or film. Perhaps you have no experience at all. But you must be keen to get some training to write a short film.
- The film idea you have should be based in ONE location and have a maximum of FOUR characters. It should feel fresh and different to what we've seen on BSLZone.
- It must be an idea that will fit within the budget tariff.
- Diversity within the deaf community is rich. We have people from different ethnicities, religions, social-economic backgrounds, genders and sexual orientations, people with disabilities, and so on... we want our writers to reflect this brilliant diversity.



WHAT TRAINING WILL YOU GET?

- You will get a masterclass and mentoring from experienced script editors.
- Additionally, you would learn about all the script stages, plus how to use professional scripting software
- When you've fully developed your script, you'll see your idea on screen- which will be very exciting and rewarding!



2) FAMILY DRAMA

- We are looking for a single drama (1 x 28') that families can watch together. It must be suitable for an 8am slot.
- We want something that is fresh, original and self-contained.
- We are particularly interested stories that has diversity at its heart to reflect the rich diversity that makes up the deaf community.
- We're looking for projects that are brimming with warmth, humour, and tender moments that resonate with viewers of all ages.
- It must be an idea that will fit within the budget tariff.
- Take inspiration from shows such as 'The Goonies', 'Fleabag' (toned down!) and 'Crazy Rich Asians'



3) ROM-COM SERIES

- We are looking for a three-part rom-com series (3 x 28'). This can either be suitable for a watershed or, if your idea involves adult/risky content then it can be for a post watershed slot.
- We want something that is fresh, original and self-contained. The series must have a riveting plot twist.
- We want it to become an iconic series that people will talk about in years to come.
- It must be an idea that will fit within the budget tariff.
- We are particularly interested stories that has diversity at its heart to reflect the different ethnicities, religions, social-economic backgrounds, genders and sexual orientations, people with disabilities that makes up the deaf community.
- Take inspiration from shows such as 'One Day', 'Emily in Paris', 'Heart Stopper', 'Normal People' & 'Sex Education'.



HOW TO APPLY?

- Check your eligibility- see 'ADDITIONAL INFORMATION' page at the end of this document.
- If you are eligible, complete the submission form and send it to commissioning@bslbt.co.uk by Monday 22nd July 2024.
- If your idea is shortlisted, you will be invited to meet with our Drama Commissioner and our Production Executive w/c 5th August 2024 to answer further questions.

HOW TO APPLY IN BSL?

If you want to submit your idea in BSL, then you can! Here are the steps to follow:

- 1) Make sure you download the submission form
- 2) Answer the questions on the submission form in a BSL video
- 3) Send the video via WeTransfer to commissioning@bslbt.co.uk by Monday 22nd July 2024.

If you want the submission form to be translated into BSL or if you need help with creating the videos then please email commissioning@bslbt.co.uk for support.



WHAT'S THE BUDGET?

Step Up: Drama

Up to £60K for production
(* *development of the script will be from a separate fund*)

Family Drama

Up to £150K

Rom-Com Series

Up to £150K per episode



WANT TO TALK?

If you want to talk through your idea, do
contact commissioning@bslbt.co.uk to set
up a chat with our Drama Commissioner
Charlie Swinbourne.





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 1) Your idea **must** be accessible to deaf BSL users.
- 2) Your idea **must** reflect diversity on screen.
- 3) These drama rounds are **aimed** at deaf writers (you can co-write with a hearing person). It is not essential to have a production company attached as we can pair you with a suitable production company.

STATEMENT

By taking part in this process, you:

- Confirm that you are deaf, over the age of 18, live in the UK and have the right to work in the UK.
- Confirm that you are the sole and exclusive owner of the proposal and you are formally submitting it to this BSLBT May 2024 Drama Round.
- Understand that BSLBT may already be exploring programme proposals and/or ideas which are similar to your proposal and that, in some cases, similar or identical ideas may be generated independently.
- Agree that BSLBT may discuss your proposals with staff and Board members.
- Confirm that you have read and understood the [Privacy Notice for Programme Proposal Submissions](#).
- Understand that programme ideas will be assessed and considered by BSLBT's Commissioning team and the Board.
- Acknowledge that BSLBT reserves the right to change the Commissioning process/timetable at any time.