

## Flatpack Projects and Creative England Talent Modules

**Flatpack Film Festival and Creative England team up to deliver a series of events for emerging filmmakers in the Midlands.**

Designed for up to 40 writers, directors, and producers, who have experience in film, animation, TV, theatre, visual arts, music promos or commercials, the course will consist of a combination of talks, panel discussions, groupwork, and screenings. You'll meet fellow filmmakers working in the region, and hear from a number of experienced film industry professionals.

Part of the [BFI NET.WORK](#) the course will run from September 2015 to January 2016 at The Impact Hub in Digbeth, Birmingham.

Each session will be packed with information from how to tell stories, to fundraising, to tips on how to get distribution. Peer to peer learning will be encouraged throughout and informal dinners during each of the sessions will allow opportunities to network with fellow participants and speakers.

The application deadline for the course is Monday 17 August at 6pm.

For further information please email: [info@flatpackfestival.org.uk](mailto:info@flatpackfestival.org.uk)

Please note: that applicants have to be over 18, out of full-time education, and based in the Midlands in order to apply,

Speakers confirmed (with more to be announced over the coming weeks):

**Simon Ellis** (Director, *Soft, Stew and Punch*)

**Paul Ashton** (Senior Film Executive, Creative England)

**Anna Higgs** (Commissioning Executive, Film4)

**Caroline Cooper-Charles** (Senior Executive - Film Enterprise, Creative England)

**Lizzie Francke** (Senior Development and Production Executive, BFI Film Fund)

**Luke Moody** (Film and Distribution Manager, BRITDOC)

**Simon Young** (Director of Acquisitions, Shorts International)

**Will Massa** (Senior Film Programme Manager, British Council)



## **SESSION #1**

**Wednesday 16 September**

**MONTH ONE – Telling Stories**

**Advice on short form storytelling and knowing when to try and make the leap into features**

We hear from three of Britain's most respected short filmmakers about how they've made a success from short-filmmaking, and knowing the right time to try and make a feature. They'll be offering advice on how to make your short stand out in the vast short film landscape, by avoiding clichés, and making genuinely distinct work, whilst also using it as a tool to get future projects underway. There'll also discuss the role of the agent, and offer tips on how to get representation.

4:30 – 6:30pm Intro to modules + Panel Discussion + Q&A

6:30 – 7:30pm Dinner

8:00 – 10:30pm Dots & Loops Screening

### **Dots and Loops Screening**

Informal social short film evening with a filmmaker focus on the filmmakers from the panel (Simon Ellis + filmmaker TBC). Screening a selection of their films, and a few shorts that they've chosen as important to them. Informal Q&A during the evening too.

## **SESSION #2**

**Wednesday 30 September**

**MONTH TWO – Working with Producers**

**The importance of getting the best producer for your particular project**

Whether you're an animator, an experimental, a documentary, or a dramatic filmmaker, having the right producer on board could be make or break for your project. For this session we invite a group of producers working in different sectors to explain what should be expected from the producer, highlighting the importance of getting the right producer for the right project, and the benefits that can have for your film.

4:30 – 6:00pm – Panel Discussion + Q&A

6:00 – 7:00pm – Dinner

7:15 – 9:15pm – Groupwork + Groupwork feedback



**SESSION #3****Wednesday 28 October****MONTH THREE – A Filmmaker's Tale****Maintaining drive and ambition, and telling the story you want to tell**

The filmmaking process can often feel like you're fighting a losing battle. Rejection letters, contrary visions, and a lack of funding, amongst a whole host of other factors make it easy to want to throw in the towel. For this session we hear from a filmmaker who rallied through, and, against the odds, made a feature film the way they intended it be made. Discussing how to deal with the knockbacks and the contrary voices throughout production, they'll offer advice on keeping focussed and remaining true to your vision.

4:30 – 6:15pm – Director's Feature Film Screening

6:30 – 7:15pm – Dinner

7:30 – 9:15pm – Talk &amp; Q&amp;A

**SESSION #4****Wednesday 25 November****MONTH FOUR – Finances**

Where to find the finances and how to manage those finances effectively

**Money Matters**

A panel discussion which outlines the various avenues in which to find funding. As well as panellists discussing from known sources such as Creative England, the BFI, and ACE, the speakers will also discuss innovative ways in which you can look to fund your projects.

**Managing and Stretching Money**

Looking at the fiscal side of your project - exploring how you can budget quickly, efficiently, and accurately, acquire information on the current standard industry rates, what you should be charging, and how much you should be paying yourself. The discussion will delve into the issue of tax and look at potential tax breaks. All the key facts that you should know will be outlined.

4:30 – 6:00pm – Money Matters Panel Discussion + Q&amp;A

6:00 – 6:50pm – Dinner

7:00 – 8:30pm – Managing and Stretching Money Panel Discussion + Q&amp;A

8:30 – 9:45pm – Groupwork + Groupwork Feedback



## **SESSION #5**

**Wednesday 16 December**

**MONTH FIVE – Distribution & Festivals**

### **The Changing face of Distribution**

You're making something and you think it's good, but what now? Tricks of the trade offered by a group of professionals working across various sectors of the film industry who'll discuss how distribution models are changing, and the varying avenues you can now go down to get your film out there.

### **Festivalists**

Investigating the importance of festivals, and what attending particular festivals can do for your film and your career, this panel discussion will offer tips on what festivals you ought to fork out to attend, and the ones that are all hype and no substance. Strategies on submitting to festivals will also be discussed.

4:30 – 5:45pm – The Changing Face of Distribution Panel Discussion + Q&A

6:00 – 6:45pm – Dinner

7:00 – 8:00pm – Festivalists Panel Discussion + Q&A

8:15 – 9:15pm – Groupwork

9:15 – 9:45pm – Groupwork Feedback

## **SESSION #6**

**Wednesday 20 January**

**MONTH SIX – Have Your Say**

### **Group Feedback**

All attendees will present in Pecha Kucha (3 mins) style a project they're currently working on and how elements from the course have influenced their project.

### **Drinks Reception**

Celebrating the end of the course with a beverage.

4:30 – 6:00pm – Pecha Kucha Presentations

6:00 – 7:00pm – Dinner

7:00 – 8:30pm – Pecha Kucha Presentations

8:30 – 9:30pm – Drinks Reception

