

# WELSH TALENT NETWORK MANAGER

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ffilm Cymru Wales is committed to supporting sustainable growth in the Welsh film sector and improving access to film and its benefits for the people of Wales. We work across the sector supply chain, supporting film development, production, cinemas, film festivals and film and media education, offering advice, funding, skills advancement and advocacy.

We encourage filmmakers we fund to test and prototype their ideas, collaborate with other creative industries to identify any additional IP potential within their idea, and connect with their audiences from the earliest stages of their project's development ([click here for more information](#)).

Central to all of our work is our commitment to inclusion: we champion and support equality and diversity in all of our activities and work enthusiastically to inclusion targets drawn from the Census information for Wales and in line with our Welsh Language Plan.

Crucial to our work is our management and delivery of the BFI-funded Welsh Talent Network- the focus of which is to identify and nurture talented new and emerging filmmakers in readiness to make their first feature film. The Welsh Talent Network operates within Ffilm Cymru Wales' creative team, whilst also working with the other BFI-funded talent networks across the UK and with the BFI executive centrally. The Welsh Talent Network provides a range of support initiatives for new and emerging talent born or based in Wales, encompassing the following three strands:

**Beacons** – annual short film scheme

**Horizons** – feature film project development or individual mentoring

**Connector** – film-related groups/networks within Wales

In addition to this, The Welsh Talent Network may run targeted Launchpad events which aim to stimulate applications from under-represented communities in Wales.

For more information on Ffilm Cymru Wales please refer to our website and our Annual Reports. For information on the BFI please see [www.bfi.org.uk](http://www.bfi.org.uk)

## MAIN PURPOSE OF JOB

The Welsh Talent Network Manager will lead on the delivery of our BFI funded talent initiatives, for those working in both English and Welsh. In addition to maintaining our existing slate of network projects, the post holder will identify and nurture new and emerging filmmakers; they will offer support to advance talent towards the making of their first feature by creating ladders of progression toward Ffilm Cymru Wales' project funding for feature development and production, as delegated by the Arts Council of Wales, and/or other national funders including BFI support, as and where appropriate to the particular project.

The post holder will work to the Head of Creative Business and work closely with colleagues in the creative team, particularly the Development Executive(s), in identifying and championing talent, projects and 'best fit' support. The Welsh Talent Network Co-ordinator will provide administrative and logistical support to the Welsh Talent Network Manager, whilst also supporting with talent outreach and representing the Network at appropriate events in Wales.

## PRINCIPAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Design and delivery of the Welsh Talent Network's support initiatives for new and emerging talent, managing the BFI allocated budget and developing and entering into partnerships and co-financing arrangements where appropriate to leverage resources.
- Specific outlined interventions include: management of our short film scheme Beacons; management of our peer-to-peer network fund Connector; management of our feature film development and mentoring fund Horizons. Supervision of in-year commitments through to completion, including Y Labordy, Straeon Iris, the WNO Filmmaker in Residence, and all other network-funded activity.
- Line-manage the Network Coordinator, maintain systems, procedures and data gathering in line with Ffilm Cymru Wales' organisational and funder requirements, and extract learning and use to refine on-going support measures.
- Undertake regular meetings with talent and peer-to-peer networks to scout out promising filmmakers and to exchange information and learning with support from the Welsh Talent Network Coordinator.
- Assess submissions (along with relevant Ffilm Cymru Wales staff) and paper agreed funding awards to our funding templates.
- Maintain the slate of Network projects, identifying and matching mentors and other partners with talent and facilitating the provision of creative and commercial feedback for awarded projects via script readers, the appointment of script editors or execs, test audiences/teasers/research and, if necessary, direct in-house support.
- Identify those projects that have the potential to progress to first features and widen the awareness of emerging talent across the UK wide network, with peers and other interested parties.
- Work collaboratively with BFI talent network representatives across the UK and the BFI's talent team to profile emerging talent and discuss opportunities for furthering that talent.
- Work to Ffilm Cymru Wales' Head of Creative Business to maximise opportunities for emerging talent to provide best value, including identifying opportunities for network talent to participate in ACW funded Magnifier cohorts to identify wider IP potential and audience building opportunities, or to showcase best practice examples of inclusive approaches to filmmaking, for example.
- Work collegiately with other colleagues in Ffilm Cymru Wales' Creative team to ensure a joined-up approach to talent development in Wales.
- Work closely with Ffilm Cymru Wales' Exhibition, Education and Regeneration Manager, to seek out opportunities for linking talent, projects and initiatives with the BFI Audience Network (Chapter Arts Centre being the lead organisation in Wales for that network) and the BFI education offer, as well as the network of Wales based film and media education practitioners to develop synergies and scales of economy and to add value across these film interventions.
- Develop opportunities for creating digital assets that can be shared with the BFI's talent website (e.g. recorded masterclasses, podcasts, interactive sessions and e-publications, for example), Welsh Government's 'Hwb', Ffilm Cymru Wales' education database, and otherwise.
- Liaise with the other National film funds, Film London and Creative Skillset in order to ensure a joined-up and complementary approach to talent development across the UK.
- Speak on public platforms and represent the Network at industry events.
- Establish and maintain a wide range of industry relationships with agents, production companies, broadcasters, sales agents, distributors, financiers and related creative media and arts organisations.
- Identify any gaps in representation apparent at application point in order to plan targeted outreach or support where necessary in line with Ffilm Cymru Wales' Inclusion and Diversity plan in the context of Wales and the BFI's Diversity Standards.
- Undertake other duties as may be reasonably required.

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

- Significant experience of assessing and developing feature length projects and supporting creative talent.
- Excellent creative and commercial acumen.
- A demonstrable track record of discovering creative talent and helping it break through.
- Proven project management skills.
- Some event management experience.
- A wide range of current relationships within the film and creative/cultural industries at a regional, national and international level.
- Extensive awareness of industry trends and key players.
- Proven abilities in partnership building and budget management.
- Excellent negotiation, communication and presentation skills.
- Able to self-manage diary, correspondence and travel.
- Bilingual – Welsh/English – is desirable.

Ffilm Cymru Wales has an Equal Opportunities Recruitment Policy.