

GLASGOW   
FILM FESTIVAL

# FUNNY FEATURES

Delivered by Glasgow Film Festival through the BFI Creative  
Challenge Fund, made possible with National Lottery Funding.

**SCREEN SCOTLAND  
SGRÌN ALBA**



**PEOPLE  
MAKE  
GLASGOW**

Glasgow Film Theatre (GFT) is registered in Scotland No. SC097369 with its registered office at 12 Rose Street, Glasgow G3 6RB.  
GFT is a company limited by guarantee and is registered as a charity (No. SC005932) with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

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## About Glasgow Film

Our vision for Glasgow Film is an inclusive, collaborative space where audiences and communities can nurture their passion for cinema and film, and be empowered through participation in our programmes. Everyone is welcome and everyone is included. This is 'Cinema For All'. Our mission is to provide 'Cinema For All'.

We exist to celebrate the magic of film and nurture excellent independent cinema from across the globe. To do this we provide high-quality programmes of curated screenings, festivals, events and industry opportunities; we empower our communities to participate through education and outreach initiatives; and we develop sector leading equalities initiatives to ensure cinema is accessible, safe and welcoming for the widest possible audience.

### **Our values are:**

#### **Community**

This means that we will value, nurture and grow the Glasgow Film community of film fans, staff, supporters, industry and young people. We will have a positive impact in our community and build meaningful relationships with local people and local organisations as well as national and international networks. We will prioritise equality of access and work to tackle the consequences of systemic racism and inequalities that negatively impact the screen sector and fair access to the arts and culture.

#### **Authenticity**

This means we are genuine, honest and transparent with our audiences, our stakeholders and with each other as colleagues. We will behave ethically, with purpose, mindfulness and integrity in our everyday activities. We will celebrate our important history and strong identity. We know who we are, and our mission and purpose is clear.

#### **Sustainability**

This means we will future proof Glasgow Film for future generations through strong governance, expanding the diversity of our communities and reducing our carbon impact. We will continue to learn how to work more sustainably and imbed good environmental practices across all areas of our organisation.

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## **Glasgow Film is:**

### **Glasgow Film Theatre**

GFT has been leading the way in specialised cinema for 50 years. Our three screens show 100% specialised titles, first run world and independent cinema, artists' experimental work, issue based programmes, thematic seasons, repertory programmes, Scottish produced work, festivals, and a programme of event cinema and live broadcast.

We provide an independent film programme for diverse audiences, including specific community engagement and equalities driven initiatives. These initiatives include our flagship programmes Visible Cinema (D/deaf and hard of hearing audiences), Movie Memories (Dementia friendly) and Access Film Club (Autism friendly).

GFT thrives in a highly competitive Glasgow market for cinema by providing a clearly differentiated experience and programme.

### **Glasgow Film Festival**

Glasgow Film Festival is dedicated to presenting the best new Scottish and international film, including feature films, specially commissioned work and special events. Our approach is 'up close and personal' where audiences and creative industry practitioners get the opportunity to meet filmmakers from around the world. We are passionate about cross sector collaborations and partnerships and our unique 'pop-up cinema' events are a model of innovative programming in their exciting use of different, vibrant venues across the city.

Our Industry Focus programme is at the heart of the festival, creating a bustling hub of activity for emerging and developing screen practitioners. This is where we forge connections, share fresh new thinking and nurture diverse filmmakers of tomorrow.

### **Glasgow Film Learning and Youth Opportunities**

Glasgow Film works collaboratively with young people, teachers, our fellow film education organisations to provide a fun and relevant programme for ages 5- 25. The programme includes free Saturday screenings for families all the way through to access the industry events. Glasgow Film Youth Board is made up of young people who have graduated from one of our programmes who curate our year-round programme of free monthly Youth

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Screenings. Glasgow Film is also the home to Glasgow Youth Film Festival where each year young people aged 15-19 co-curate the three-day festival.

We are the lead organisation for the Glasgow Film Education Alliance, a collaborative film education initiative with Glasgow Film, Into Film, Glasgow City Council Better Futures and Glasgow Improvement Challenge, supported by Screen Scotland.

By working with a range of outreach and recruitment partners we aim to ensure that young people from all backgrounds can access our opportunities.

## **Film Hub Scotland**

Film Hub Scotland, part of the BFI's Film Audience Network and is one of the eight Hubs across the UK with the aim of extending film choice, increasing audiences, and enhancing opportunities for audiences across Scotland to deepen their relationship with film.

## **Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion at Glasgow Film**

Glasgow Films' commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion is clearly stated in our vision: Cinema for All. We have a proud history and track record of diverse programming, equalities driven partnership working and developing sector leading equalities initiatives (particularly for disabled audiences). Our flagship initiatives are informed by the views of those with lived experience.

We believe in and champion the progression of Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: that "everyone has the right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts [...] and its benefits." However, significant inequalities continue to exist in accessing, participating in and working in the arts and screen sectors which are symptomatic of wider societal inequalities. Glasgow Film understands that discrimination and inequality affect people in complex ways.

During our recent Anti-Racism Audit, we learned more about what we need to do to embed a more actively anti-racist and intersectional approach to all of our work; both internally (with staff and volunteers) and externally (with audiences and participants). We know that we still have a lot of work to do and our new Equalities and Anti-Racism Strategy (led by the Executive) will guide us as we drive forward these changes. Our Community Engagement activities play an important part in the success of our new strategy.

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Information on our community engagement and flagship equalities initiatives can be found [here](#).

Glasgow Film's original commitments in response to Black Lives Matter can be read [here](#).

Glasgow Film has an Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion strategic plan, and all departments must track and report on their progress. Glasgow Film organises annual equalities training for staff and volunteers.

## About the BFI

The BFI is a cultural charity, a National Lottery distributor, and the UK's lead organisation for film and the moving image.

Our mission is:

- To support creativity and actively seek out the next generation of UK storytellers
- To grow and care for the BFI National Archive, the world's largest film and television archive
- To offer the widest range of UK and international moving image culture through our programmes and festivals - delivered online and in venue
- To use our knowledge to educate and deepen public appreciation and understanding
- To work with Government and industry to ensure the continued growth of the UK's screen industries

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Jay Hunt.

### **BFI National Lottery Creative Challenge Fund**

Over three years from 2023 to 2026, the BFI National Lottery Creative Challenge Fund, which is run by the BFI's Filmmaking Fund using by National Lottery funding, will focus on five different 'challenges' which collectively are expected to support around 24 separate development programmes or labs and they in turn will support many more projects and filmmakers. The first challenge addressed by this round of funding seeks to address the comparative lack of genre projects coming through to public funders which is contributing to a lack of genre diversity in UK independent projects that come into the international and domestic commercial marketplace.

The new fund has been structured to decentralise project development and support the wider ecosystem in which emerging UK filmmakers can develop new projects. It is complementary to longstanding feature development support provided through the BFI Filmmaking Fund, enabling more filmmakers to develop their own creative practice.

## **Funny Features Overview**

***Funny Features is delivered by Glasgow Film Festival through the BFI Creative Challenge Fund, made possible with National Lottery Funding.***

Glasgow Film Festival's Funny Features is an innovative UK-wide talent lab for producers, writers and writer/directors developing their first or second feature.

Over 6 months, successful creative teams will gain access to one-to-one consultancy sessions, online workshops and mentoring. This will be a rare opportunity for comedy projects to be developed in a constructive and practical development environment where they will be able to participate in peer-to-peer and professional feedback.

- Script Consultancy & Feedback
- Story Workshop & Consultancy
- Audience Design Consultancy
- Pitching Workshop
- Finance & Film Packaging Intensive Workshops
- Mentorship
- Pitching Sessions

Teams will leave Funny Features with extensive knowledge of the film finance landscape, heightened confidence in navigating the marketplace, a clearer understanding of their audience and market placement, a widened network of decision-makers, a film finance package, a final draft of their script and a project ready to enter the international marketplace to being securing financing.

Funny Features is the only UK talent development lab that provides talent with a rare opportunity to develop their comedy features to a point where they are ready to secure finance. This targeted development and training will increase the chances of independent UK comedies reaching the big screen for audiences to enjoy nationally and internationally and empower filmmakers to navigate the global film market.



## Application Criteria

Funny Features is open to producers, writers and writer/directors who are developing a comedy project that is their first or second feature.

To be eligible for Funny Features, you must apply as a creative team which includes a producer and writer (or writer/director). You can apply if you already have a director attached, but they cannot participate in the lab sessions. We cannot accept applications from individuals.

Applicants must also meet the below criteria:

- The project genre must be a comedy, and this includes sub-genres such as Romantic Comedy, Drama Comedy and Horror Comedy. Comedy must be central to the overall theme of the project.
- The project must be the producer or writer's (or writer/directors) first or second feature
- Project must have a completed first draft script
- Project team must comprise of a producer and writer (writer/director is also eligible)
- The maximum number of producers attached to the project for participation is two
- The maximum number of writers (or writer/directors) attached to the project for participation is two
- Producer(s) or Writer(s) must match one of the below minimum experience criteria:
  - Made at least three short films, two of which must have been commissioned
  - Made at least two short films (one commissioned) and have one TV Credit as a writer or producer
  - Have at least two TV credits as a writer or producer

Funny Features is actively encouraging applications from talent based in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and Northern England and those who are from underrepresented groups, including but not limited to, those from the global majority, LGBTQIA+ people, those who identify as a gender minority and/or those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Applications to Funny Features must be submitted via MySmashMedia's application portal- [mysmash.media/gff-2024-funny-features](https://mysmash.media/gff-2024-funny-features)

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## About My Smash Media

My SMASH Media connects innovative & diverse content creators with decision-makers in film & TV. They provide creators with Pitch Builder and Pitch Protector formats so they can safely share and track their pitches. And they enable decision-makers to find projects that match their brief and help them connect with new audiences. SMASH connects Creators, the people with ideas, to Discoverers, the people who need ideas.

My SMASH Media was founded by independent feature producers Fiona Gillies and Christine Hartland who joined forces with tech expert Mahesh Ramachandra.

My SMASH Media were finalists in Investing Women's AccelerateHER Competition in the Disruptive Tech category and in the Digital TV Group TV Transformers' competition. The platform showcased at the European Film Market at the Berlin Film Festival and was a finalist at the prestigious San Sebastian Film Festival Zinemaldia Startup competition and Makers & Shakers Awards.

My SMASH Media disrupts the traditional landscape by exposing new talent to the market. New voices attract new audiences.

- 2024 Winner: Best Pitch. Edinburgh University AI Accelerator - AI for Good.
- 2024 - Selected for the Creative Catalyst supported by Innovate UK for the SXSW Programme
- 2023 - Winner: Gold Award in Tech & Innovation, Cannes Film Festival
- 2021 & 2024 - Awarded Innovate UK Smart Grant & Future Economies in the Creative Industries Grants

## **Application Process**

Applications for Funny Features will open on Wednesday 5 June at 12 noon and will close on Wednesday 21 August at 12 noon.

Applications must be submitted via MySmashMedia – [mysmash.media/gff-2024-funny-features](https://mysmash.media/gff-2024-funny-features)

We will be hosting Online Information Sessions for interested applicants which we will advertise on our social media accounts. These sessions will go through application requirements, the lab programme and there will be opportunities for prospective applicants to ask questions.

### **To apply for Funny Features, you must provide the following:**

- Draft of the feature film script
- One-pager of feature film idea
- Personal statement
- Names, biographies and CVs of creative team members
- Declaration of any finance/funding already secured/Letters of Interest

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of industry experts. Applications will be scored primarily on project quality and originality. The panel will also consider the project's probability of securing financing in the current market, the strengths of the creative team and their potential to be able to deliver a final product ready for theatrical distribution.

The Glasgow Film Festival team are available to assist if you need support in making your application, for instance if you have any learning difficulties, require submitting your application in another format (such as video or audio), or if English is not your first language. If you have any access requirements, please contact [Grace.Feinmann@GlasgowFilm.org](mailto:Grace.Feinmann@GlasgowFilm.org)

## FAQS

### **Q: Who is Funny Features for?**

A: Funny Features is open to producers, writers and writer/directors who are developing their first or second feature which is a comedy. The scheme is only for producers and writers (or writer/directors) and they must apply as a creative team. Directors can be attached to projects, but they will not be able to participate in the sessions.

We are encouraging applications from talent who are from underrepresented groups, including but not limited to, those from the global majority, LGBTQIA+ people, those who identify as a gender minority and/or those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. We are also encouraging applications from talent who are based in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and Northern England.

### **Q: What level of filmmaking skills and experience do I need to have to apply for Funny Features?**

A: One of the producer(s) or writer(s) must match one of the below minimum experience criteria:

- Made at least three short films, two of which must have been commissioned
- Made at least two short films (one commissioned) and have one TV Credit as a writer or producer
- Have at least two TV credits as a writer or producer

Films made with funding from a university course or talent development scheme are eligible as commissioned shorts.

### **Q: Which benefits will I gain from Funny Features?**

A: If you are successful in your application, teams will leave Funny Features with:

- Extensive knowledge of the film finance landscape
- Heightened confidence in navigating the marketplace
- Clearer understanding of their audience and market placement
- Widened network of decision-makers
- A film finance package
- A polished draft of their script
- A project ready to enter the international marketplace to being securing financing

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Funny Features is the only UK talent development lab that provides talent with a rare opportunity to develop their comedy features to a point where they are ready to secure finance. This targeted development and training will increase the chances of independent UK comedies reaching the big screen for audiences to enjoy nationally and internationally and empower filmmakers to navigate the global film market.

**Q: Can I request a specific mentor when I apply or if I am successful in my application?**

A: No - we will assign a mentor to you based on our assessment of your application and project needs.

**Q: What happens after I've submitted my application?**

A: You will receive confirmation from MySmashMedia that your application has been submitted successfully. If you do not receive confirmation of your application being received within one week, please contact [Grace.Feinmann@GlasgowFilm.org](mailto:Grace.Feinmann@GlasgowFilm.org) and [mahesh.ramachandra@mysmash.media](mailto:mahesh.ramachandra@mysmash.media)

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of industry experts. Applications will be scored primarily on project quality and originality. The panel will also consider the project's probability of securing financing in the current market, the strengths of the creative team and their potential to be able to deliver a final product ready for theatrical distribution.

We aim to confirm successful projects and communicate decisions to applicants by the end of September 2024.

**Q: Will sessions take place in-person or remotely?**

A: All sessions will take place remotely apart from the final pitching workshop and Live Pitch

**Q: Which other access measures are available to support people taking part in the mentorship?**

A: We will be able to provide support for childcare, BSL interpretation, live-captioning, note-taking and any other reasonable access requirement. We will do our best to meet all requirements.

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**Q: We're a team with two writers, can we apply?**

A: Yes, you may apply as long as the project also has a producer or producers attached.

**Q: I'm a first-time feature writer or writer/director working with a producer who has already made a feature, can we apply?**

A: Yes, you may apply if you're working with a more experienced producer

**Q: My experience is in documentary and not scripted, can I still apply?**

A: Yes. We encourage talent with experience in other mediums to apply, though you must be applying with a comedy fiction project.

**Q: Our producer is based in Scotland, but our writer is based in Wales. Can we still apply?**

A: Yes. Creative team members do not all need to be based in the same location.

**Q: I am a writer with a first draft of a comedy feature, but I don't have a producer attached. Can I still apply?**

A: No. You must have a producer attached to apply. We would encourage you to reach out to producers you have worked with in the past, or to do a call out on social media to find a producer to collaborate with. We would also encourage you to reach out to your local film network or hub to see if they can help you connect with a producer.

**Q: What should I include in my personal statement?**

A: This is an opportunity to tell us more about your creative team, your project and why we should support you in developing your project. This should ideally be written by the lead applicant (i.e. the producer).

**Q: How many applications can I submit?**

A: Writers can only be attached to one submitted project. Producers may be attached to more than one submitted project but personal statements for each application must be unique to the individual project.

**Contact Us**

Grace Feinmann, Industry Project Coordinator (Primary contact for Funny Features) –  
[Grace.Feinmann@GlasgowFilm.org](mailto:Grace.Feinmann@GlasgowFilm.org)

Samantha Bennett, Industry Manager – [Samantha.Bennett@GlasgowFilm.org](mailto:Samantha.Bennett@GlasgowFilm.org)

David Anderson, Festival Marketing Coordinator - [David.Anderson@GlasgowFilm.org](mailto:David.Anderson@GlasgowFilm.org)

For general Glasgow Film Festival Industry Enquiries, please contact  
[Industry@GlasgowFilm.org](mailto:Industry@GlasgowFilm.org)

For more information about Glasgow Film and Glasgow Film Festival, please visit our  
website: <https://www.glasgowfilm.org/about-us>