



Scriptunities

Winter edition 2006

<http://www.xerif.com>

A return for Scriptunities in 2006 after a prolonged period of ill-health. The list includes competitions, opportunities, writer's organisations and websites of interest to writers from a UK/Irish perspective.

Updates will now be quarterly with any short notice items being sent out to subscribers. As usual any additional information will be appreciated.

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Don't forget to subscribe to Scriptunities at <http://www.xerif.com>

**Birkbeck,
University of London**

Birkbeck's online screenwriting courses continue into 2006. For full details check out the details at <http://www.xerif.com/>

New Updates are in Blue	
BBC	http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom The BBC has completely overhauled its writing sections with the result that most of the information dotted about the BBC web site can now be tracked down from the Writers room page. There is lots of short notice writing opportunities so it's worth a weekly visit. The main competitions are listed below.
BBC Marchmont Films Film & TV competition 31 January	The BBC is currently working with Marchmont films in a trawl for new writers. They are looking for one off 30 minute TV shorts or longer film drama. They don't appear to want genre specific material. For full details and conditions go to http://www.marchmontfilms.com/scripts.php
BBC Commissioning	http://www.bbc.co.uk/commissioning/ There is a wealth of information on what the BBC are looking for in a huge range of subjects. If you are considering pitching ideas this deserves some serious investigation.
BBC Get Writing	http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/getwriting/ This site seems to have been the victim of a recent cull at the BBC although the American and N.Ireland versions are still active.
BBC Open Door Policy and Bearded Ladies	The BBC has launched a new Open Door policy to encourage new comedy writers. If you are interested in sketch comedy, the guidelines from producer Carol Smith are worth close perusal. It would appear they are inundated with 'bottom drawer' material and even TV scripts for a radio shows! If you fancy yourself in comedy this is a definite way in. (Just make sure you listen to the show!) Open door policy is described at http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/opportunity/opendoor.shtml The brief for Bearded Ladies is at http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/opportunity/beardedladies.shtml
BBC Radio Writers	A very useful newsletter full of information which you can now subscribe to.

Newsletter	http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/opportunity/
BBC Smartsript	http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/scriptsmart/ Don't waste money on overpriced software when Scriptsmart does the job of formatting for free.
BBC Wales Writers Unit	http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/commissioning/writers/index.shtml Actively looking for writers to join its shadow scheme.
BBC Northern Ireland Tony Doyle Bursary	This award has switched to being biannual. Details at http://www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/drama/writing_opps/tony_doyle04.shtml
BBC World Service	http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/arts/features/howtowrite/index.shtml Has lots of general information but competitions for overseas writers only.
Celador	http://www.celador.co.uk/pro_con_fags.php Well established production house is accepting scripts for comedy and radio.
Channel 4 Ideas Factory	Channel 4 has quietly launched a writer's area in their Ideas Factory web site. The site covers all the arts and looks a slick but is a bit content free for screenwriters. C4 also ignore it for launching its occasional competition. Take a look at http://www.ideasfactory.com
Charasmatic Productions	Charismatic Productions Ltd. is looking for feature film scripts. We want meaning, depth, humour, integrity; any genre really - except horror or action. All scripts will be read and if S.A.E. is included will be returned. Please send them to Charismatic Prod. Ltd.3, Temple Fortune House, Finchley Road, London NW 11 6XH.
EM-MEDIA East Midlands	East Midlands Film Council body. A steady stream of events aimed at writers on offer. Check site for current funding for screenwriters. www.em-media.org.uk
Film Council	Http://www.filmcouncil.org.uk The home page for the Film Council
Film Council Development Fund	http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/funding/features/development/ You can receive funding of up to £10000 for your next project from the Film Council. It appears this is open to everyone without the requirement of having an agent.
Film Council Regional Bodies	A map of the bodies http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/usr/downloads/UKMap.pdf
Film London	http://www.filmlondon.org.uk/ New site for the Film council's London arm.
Filmshed	http://www.filmshed.com/phpBB2/ A new online ezine which includes an online writer's forum. Currently being rebuilt.
First Film	Sadly First Film seems to gone dark.
First Take	http://www.first-take.demon.co.uk/ Another site gone dark/
FLIP ZOOM	www.f-l-i-p.com FLIP currently restructuring their site and activities
Script Factory Horror Film Competition	http://www.golcondafilms.com/competition.html With horror films continuing to make steady financial returns, Script factory is looking for scripts with Golconda films.
27/1/06 deadline Inktips	Inktips (Writers Script Network) Writers Script Network has renamed itself Inktips. An excellent site for pitching scripts with a genuine success story to tell. Try http://www.writersscriptnetwork.com/ . This is particularly good for listing small/new production companies looking for scripts. Subscribe to their weekly newsletter.

<p>Irish Film Board</p>	<p>http://www.filmboard.ie</p> <p>Funding and other information for film makers in Ireland. The regularly updated news column features opportunities.</p>
<p>Kaos Films British Short Screenplay competition</p>	<p>http://www.kaosfilms.co.uk/</p> <p>The British Short Screenplay competition has established itself as the major short film competition in the UK and the only one wherein the winner will actually be made. Details for 2006 still to be announced</p>
<p>Kaos Films Hi-Concept initiative.</p>	<p>http://www.kaosfilms.co.uk/hi-concept.htm</p> <p>Kaos Films' other initiative is to find hi-concept, commercial screenplays with a European setting.</p>
<p>Lighthouse</p>	<p>http://www.lighthouse.org.uk/</p> <p>Well established Brighton based Media/arts organisation.</p>
<p>Soho Writers/ London Script Consultancy</p>	<p>http://www.londonscriptconsultancy.com/</p> <p>The London Script consultancy seems to be filling in the gap caused by the demise of Screenwriters Workshop and has weekly meetings under the Soho Writers title. Shooting People usually has details of the meetings.</p>
<p>MEDIA</p>	<p>The EU's Media II initiative is another site in development but most of its training courses are still listed</p> <p>http://www.mediadesk.co.uk/</p>
<p>Moonstone</p>	<p>http://www.moonstone.org.uk</p> <p>Moonstone works in consultation with the Sundance Institute, the organisation founded by Robert Redford in North America to support and develop the work of independent screenwriters and directors of vision.</p> <p>The Screenwriters' Lab is aimed at experienced European screenwriters with sufficiently developed screenplays to benefit from a week's intensive collaboration with advisors who are themselves experienced screenwriters. In a series of one-to-one meetings with the advisor, the writer will discuss and analyse the nature, structure and creative possibilities of the project. Rewrites do not take place on the course, but participants will leave with a clear outline for their next draft. After the Lab, MOONSTONE provides continuous project support and guidance as well as co-coordinating re-drafts by advisors.</p> <p>Projects that have gone into production following the Labs include Lynne Ramsay's 'Ratcatcher' Sara Sugarman's 'Very Annie Mary' and Shane O'Sullivan's 'Second Generation'.</p> <p>Check site for next projects</p>
<p>North West Vision</p>	<p>http://www.northwestvision.co.uk/</p> <p>Film Councils body for the North West. Check site for current funding for screenwriters.</p>
<p>NORTHERN FILM & MEDIA</p>	<p>North East's Film Council body.</p> <p>www.northernmedia.org</p> <p>A Script reading service has been established which promises to read up to 3 scripts a year with a ten week turnaround. Full contact details on site.</p>
<p>Northern Ireland Open Script Call</p> <p>27/1/06</p>	<p>An opportunity from NIFTC for all Ulster based writers to be matched up to producers through a script competition. Details at</p> <p>http://www.niftc.co.uk/newspage.asp?id=100&storyID=707</p>
<p>Northern Ireland</p>	<p>Northern Ireland's Film Council body</p> <p>www.niftc.co.uk</p>

	Substantial amounts of money are being made available to kick start and sustain film production in N Ireland about local subjects. This in turn will mean local producers will be on the lookout for scripts.
Northern Screenwriters	http://www.northernscreenwriters.co.uk/ A new screenwriting organisation in the North.
Oscar Moore	http://www.screendaily.com/omf.asp Awaiting the results of the 2005 competition,
PAWS	http://www.pawsdrama.com/ This long established organisation looks for science and technology based scripts from radio film and TV. Email for full details of the various opportunities. pawsomni@globalnet.co.uk
Player-Playwrights	TEST RUN YOUR SCRIPT http://www.cjs.uk.com/players_page/index.htm Player-Playwrights are a leading writers' group. Each week, a member's script (TV, Radio, Film, Drama, Sitcom, etc.) is given a reading to the group, which is followed by a structured, positive discussion of its strengths, weaknesses and marketability. It's an excellent way of hearing how your work sounds live, and the critical but supportive = feedback is invaluable for rewrites. The membership ranges from established writers and actors to newcomers. There are regular talks from agents, producers and other media professionals. Come along, have a beer and network. Where? The HORSE AND GROOM , 128 Great Portland Street, London W1. ((Oxford Circus & Gt. Portland St tubes)
Pomegranate Treatments Competition	http://www.pomegranatepictureslimited.co.uk/ Synopsis/treatment submissions wanted. Now free to enter, enter as many times as you want each month. Three winners each month will need to have their screenplays written and submitted into the grand final by the end of the year, please see web site for details, Awards: The grand finalist's will win. 1st UKP 2250 pounds 2nd UKP 1750 3rd UKP 750 pounds or the equivalent in USD or in Euros
Raindance	http://www.raindancefilmfestival.org/ Extensive site with lots of information on all aspects of film making and a weekly ezine. Good for looking for networking opportunities through its training courses.
Rocliffe Forum	Well established venue for performing extracts from scripts. Currently looking submissions for Radio and Theatre scripts to submitting a script please email scripts@rocliffe.com for an application form, each submission must include one. It is important that once a script has been scheduled you attend on the night your script is being used. Visit them at http://www.rocliffe.com/homepage.htm
Scottish Screen	www.scottishscreen.com Scottish film initiatives.
Screen East	Screen East is the Regional Screen Agency for the East of England http://www.screeneast.co.uk/
Screen South	www.screensouth.com Film Council Funded body for SE England. Lots of events and opportunities often at short notice so worth a regular visit.
SCREEN WEST MIDLANDS	West Midlands Film Council body. www.screenwm.co.uk

ScreenPimp	<p>http://www.scriptpimp.com/</p> <p>Don't be put off by the name. ScreenPimp offers similar services to Inktips but is also putting together a comprehensive database of US production companies and what they want. Worth consideration if you are writing for Hollywood.</p> <p>Also see this news piece concerning a UK writers success using Screen Pimp http://www.scriptfactory.co.uk/go/News/ScriptFactory/Article_285.html</p>
ScreenYorkshire	<p>http://screenyorkshire.co.uk/</p> <p>Yorkshire Film Council body.</p>
Script Factory	<p>http://www.scriptfactory.co.uk/</p> <p>An excellent web site for the Script Factory that aims to fill the gap between writers and the industry and runs along side Shooting People.</p> <p>There are extensive courses, script reading services and networking opportunities and a mail list to keep up to date.</p>
Script Factory Project Tiptree	<p>The Script Factory has joined forces with new production company Mute Marmalade to establish Project Tiptree – a search for new screenwriting talent, but with a unique difference. Screenplay submissions are invited within specific genres on a quarterly basis, with selected scripts offered development with The Script Factory and an option with Mute Marmalade. The selection is formal – writers will be working under option to Mute Marmalade with a development plan. Once the development is complete, revised drafts will be resubmitted to Mute Marmalade for the company to consider exercising the option or acquiring the rights in the project, to pursue pre-production and financing.</p> <p>This is an exciting collaboration for both partners and for the selected writers – Project Tiptree has a clear brief, an end goal, and the real potential to result in films for the big screen.</p> <p>The latest is CRIME details about submission, option agreement, rights acquisition agreement and the genre for this quarter are available at http://www.scriptfactory.co.uk/go/WhatWeDo/Article_227.html</p> <p>www.mutemarmalade.com</p>
Scriptblaster	<p>http://www.scriptblaster.com/</p> <p>Similar to the Writers Script Network in that you post your script online and hope Spielberg gives you the call. Has a list of happy customers so worth consideration for US style scripts.</p>
Shooting People	<p>http://shootingpeople.org</p> <p>Excellent daily source of information and script calls from new producers/directors as well as general screenwriting conversation. Moderated.</p> <p>A Pitching only newsletter is issued every Wednesday and is recording its first successes and Wideshot interviewing new filmmakers has been launched http://shootingpeople.org/wideshot/</p> <p>Starting to offer subscribers deals like substantial discounts of First Draft http://shootingpeople.org/finaldraft/ Screen International and Broadcast.</p> <p>To subscribe, e-mail: writers-join@shootingpeople.org</p>
Sitcom trials	<p>http://sitcomtrials.co.uk/</p> <p>Well-established vehicle for budding sitcom writers. You need to join the egroup to find out how to enter.</p>
Film Council '25 words or less'	<p>If you fancy pitching high concept ideas, this is for you. The Film Council is going to run 3 of these a year and they are funding winners very generously - which gives some idea of the importance high concepts are held in.</p> <p>However, you must have an agent or be a full member of the Writers Guild to enter. If you are check out</p> <p>http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/funding/features/development/25woldcgdlns/</p>
Skillset	<p>http://www.skillset.org</p>

	<p>The Film Council has effectively handed over training to Skillset. With a budget of over £6M, Skillset has considerable scope to radically change the training of screenwriters in the UK. A raft of initiatives are on the way.</p> <p>Check out the site for announcements and sign up for their newsletter.</p>
South West Screen	<p>http://www.swscreen.co.uk/ The Screen Council funded body in the South West. Check site for current opportunities</p> <p>First Draft to First Chance</p> <p>South West Screen and The Script Factory are offering a new training initiative for South West screenwriters designed specifically for those who have completed (or nearly completed) a first draft screenplay but are yet to break into the film industry.</p> <p>The programme will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding the story in your idea • Creating the characters and their world • Working with genre • What makes a strong screen story? • Good screenwriting • Infiltrating the industry <p>The scripts developed as a result of this course will be submitted to South West Screen for consideration for further development and/or production funding.</p> <p>Contact us for full details and application form - info@swscreen.co.uk</p>
SouthWest Scriptwriters	<p>http://www.southwest-scriptwriters.co.uk/</p> <p>Established in 1994, Southwest Scriptwriters works to develop and promote new drama writers and writing in Bristol, Bath and the surrounding area.</p>
New Producers Alliance	<p>NPA recently took over the long established writers Workshop and is now running more screenwriter focused events. Full details of courses and joining at http://www.npa.org.uk/index.htm</p>
Storylab	<p>http://www.storylab.co.uk/index.cfm Forms part of Screen East and is always promising to relaunch itself!</p>
Talent Circle	<p>http://www.talencircle.co.uk/ Promoting itself as the website for new and emerging filmmakers and artists in the UK, this is a very slick site with lots of information and a scriptwriters section. You need to register. Worth a look.</p>
TAPS	<p>http://www.tapsnet.org/</p> <p>Well established organization promoting new writing. Contact for details of their current activities. TAPS, Shepperton Studios, Studios Road, Shepperton, TW17 0QDTel: 01932 59 2151 email: taps@tvarts.demon.co.uk Fax: 01932 59 2233</p>
Trigger Street	<p>A well-meaning attempt by Kevin Spacey amongst others to find new writers. A bit like Zoetrope and already submerged under hundreds of submissions from writers. www.triggerstreet.com</p>
US Competitions Wales	<p>The best source is http://www.moviebytes.com, which keeps a comprehensive database. Wales' Film Council Body www.sgrin.co.uk Check site for current funding for screenwriters</p>
WGA	<p>You can register your script online with the Writers Guild of America at www.wga.org. for \$20. Worth serious consideration before entering non-UK competitions.</p>
Writers Guild	<p>http://www.writersguild.org.uk/</p>

A lot of the WG info is available for download. Worthwhile joining if you haven't got an agent and want some advice.

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