

Young Filmmakers Competition Briefing Pack 2013/14

Win the opportunity to create a short film!

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www.sparklondon.org/filmmakers



Getting started...

The Young Filmmakers Competition sets out to develop local talent in the creative industries. **Spark!** in partnership with **the local authority, Picnic Films, Sky Skills Studios** and **West Thames College** are challenging the creativity of KS4 and KS5 students from schools and colleges around the borough.

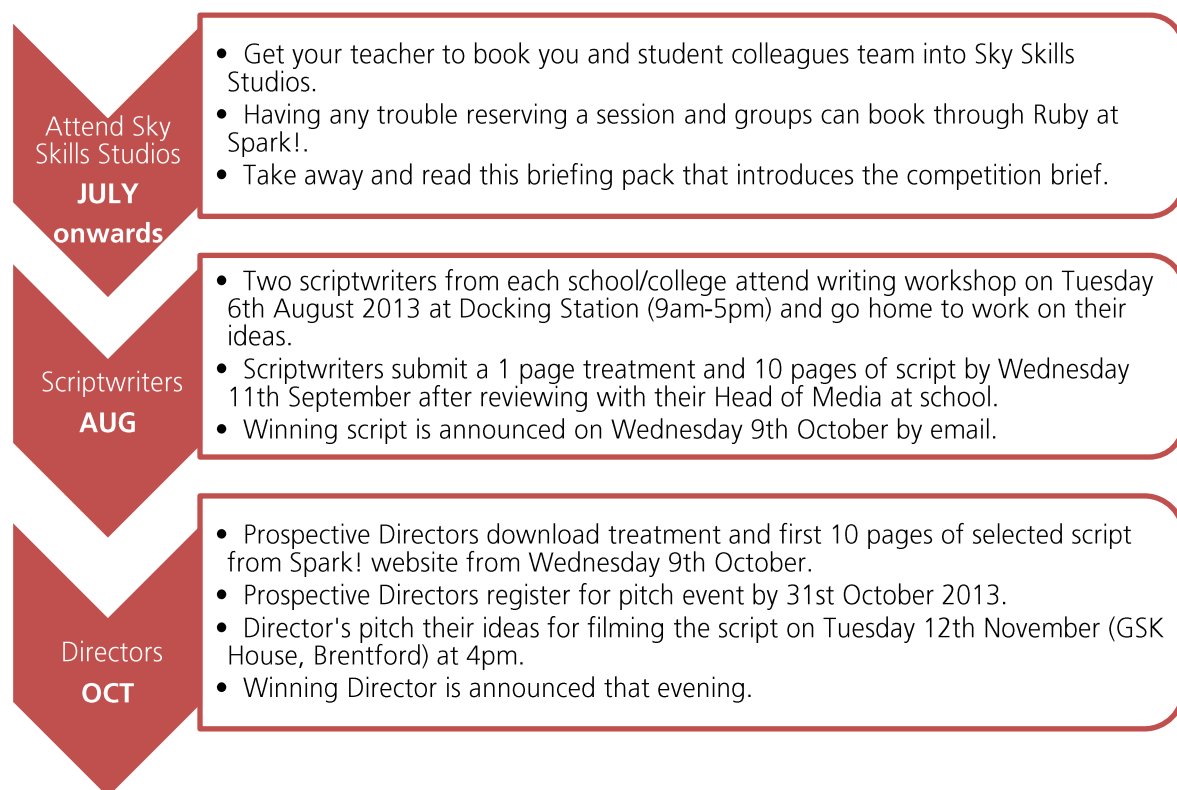
The challenge

The goal of the project is to produce a 20-30 minute short film, in a drama or documentary format, about growing up in the Hounslow area. The ultimate goal is a broadcast quality production.

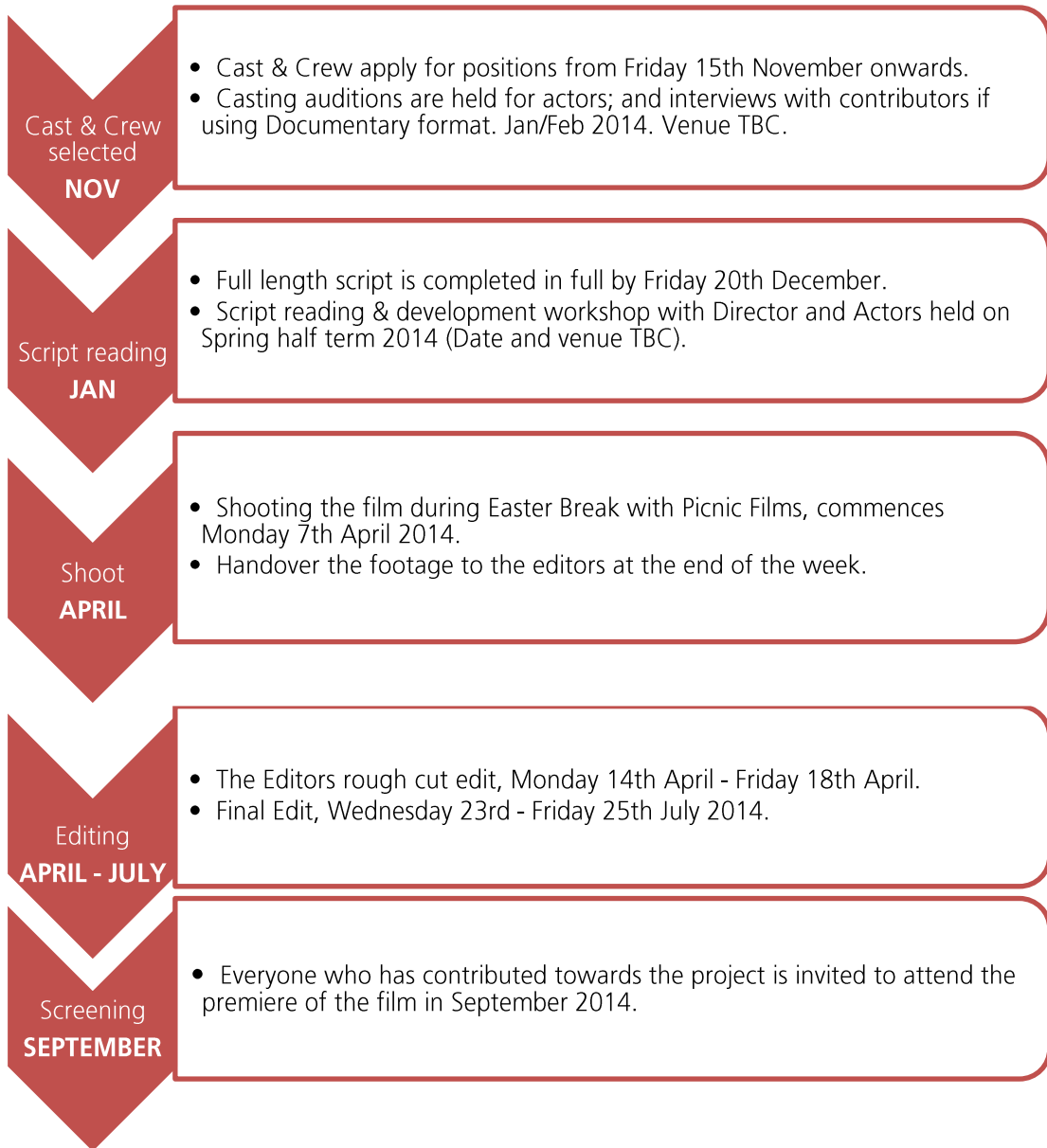
Every student who works on the project will be mentored in their specific roles. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone who may wish to work in the media and entertainment sector in the future.

There are many stages at which you can enter the project...

The process



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Eligibility checklist

Before you get stuck into the briefing pack, be sure you can answer **YES** to the following **three** questions...

1. Are you part of a school group that has attended the Sky Skills Studios since it opened in 2012/13? Alternatively get a group from your school booked in to the Skills Studios asap through Ruby at Spark!
2. Do you attend a school or college in the Borough of Hounslow at level KS4 or KS5?
3. Have you selected which talent development pathway you wish to pursue? You will be given training by the Picnic Films team for whichever position you take; you just need to be enthusiastic!
 - Writer
 - Director
 - Actor
 - Camera Operator
 - Director Of Photography
 - Sound Mixer
 - Lighting Technician
 - Wardrobe / Hair & Makeup
 - Location Scout
 - Props / Special Effects
 - Video Editor

*You are welcome to apply for more than one position

If you answered **YES** to all three questions you are ready to proceed.

Once we have received your entry form, we will be in touch to confirm key dates for your talent pathway, so keep an eye on your email inbox!



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Registration form

Time to make a movie!

Please send the following information by email to Ruby Mir, Spark! Business Links Co-ordinator

E. ruby.mir@sparklondon.org

T. 020 8047 3350

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

School:

Year:

Teacher name:

Teacher contact:

Teacher telephone:

Talent Pathway:

- Writer
- Director
- Actor
- Locations Producer
- Camera Operator
- Director Of Photography
- Sound Mixer
- Lighting Technician
- Wardrobe / Hair & Makeup
- Location Scout
- Props / Special Effects
- Video Editor

Remember you are welcome to apply for more than one position!

Any key dates you will be unable participate:



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Parental/carer consent form 1

Get the support needed to participate in a Sky Skills Studios twilight session

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child has been invited to Sky Skills Studios, an exciting educational experience at Sky's headquarters in Osterley, as part of the Hounslow Young Filmmakers Competition.

Please find the details of our trip below. There is also some information about the Sky Skills Studios experience and what students can expect on the day.

Date: _____

Time: 5.00pm – 7.00pm

Students attending Sky Skills Studio Twilight session will be required to make own travel arrangements as tutors/teachers will not be accompanying

Additional information:

Sky Skills Studios

Sky Skills Studios is an exciting educational experience created by Sky. We're inviting young people into our headquarters to make their very own TV report based on subjects they're studying at school. They'll get to work with our amazing technology, including green screens, broadcast quality cameras and bespoke touch screen edit tables. By showcasing our commitment to great entertainment and new technologies, we hope to inspire young people to be the best they can be.

During their visit, students will experience:

- A behind the scenes tour of Sky Studios
- A hands on learning experience by creating their own TV report
- The chance to work with our team of experts and cutting edge technology

We've worked with education specialists to make sure every visit is relevant to what's being taught in the classroom and the final report will be available on a USB wristband for your child to bring home after their visit

Terms of your child's involvement

The terms and conditions for your child's involvement are attached to this letter. Your child will not be allowed to participate unless this form has been signed and brought with them on the day they attend the twilight session.

If you have any questions or concerns you would like answering please do not hesitate to contact your child's school or Ruby Mir at Spark.

This will be an unforgettable learning experience for all pupils involved.

Sky Skills Studios

Here is some important information that you need to agree to before your child visits Sky Skills Studios. It is important that Sky Skills Studios receive this signed form on arrival so that your child can take part in this fun and inspiring experience.

At Sky Skills Studios, your child will be working in a team of students from their class or school group to produce a section of a filmed report. Depending on what role (producer, director, camera operator, reporter, script writer, editor) they perform, they may appear on camera. We want your child to be able to share their unique and exciting experience with you after their visit, so we will provide a USB wristband loaded with the TV report that their group has produced. You are responsible for how you and your child share this video online and Sky accepts no responsibility for where the video is shared and any comments that are posted by users as a result of you or your child posting it online.



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Due to the large number of young people that will visit Sky Skills Studios, we are unable to offer payment or other benefits as a result of participation and you or your child will not receive a credit for this piece of work. We are also unable to allow participants or parents/carers right of approval for the content produced, hosted online and provided on USB. It will be the responsibility of Sky and the teacher/group leader to ensure all content created and hosted online and provided on USB is suitable for purpose and in good taste. In the case that we believe the content produced not to be in good taste or unsuitable for distribution for any reason, we reserve the right to withhold the USBs.

Sky will maintain ownership of the content produced by your child and the rights associated with this content, wherever it is distributed. All copyright, trademarks and all other intellectual property rights in all material or content supplied as part of the Sky Skills programme belongs to Sky, including the contents produced by your child's group which will be provided on USB. You agree that neither you nor your child may use it for any commercial purpose or in a way which may reasonably be expected to be harmful to Sky.

We want to make sure every young person has the best experience possible and this means we may need to collect personal information about your child to deliver the experience safely and effectively. Your child's teacher will be responsible for letting us know if your child has any special requirements relating to their health, allergies, disability or behaviour that can help us give them the best possible experience at Sky Skills Studios. This and other personal information will be used to facilitate your child's participation in the Sky Skills Studios experience and to ensure the experience can be run safely and effectively for all participants. Sky will not use any information relating to your child to market commercial products or services.

We have created Sky Skills Studios to help your child's learning and development and we will never use the content created by them for commercial purposes except occasionally to promote Sky Skills Studios. If this is the case, we will always consult the teacher or group leader to seek permission in advance, and in these instances we might edit the footage to suit the purpose of the promotion.

If you have any questions relating to any aspect of the Sky Skills experience, please direct these to Ruby Mir at Spark! and we will endeavour to provide them with information to answer them.

By signing this letter I confirm that I have read the above information regarding my child's visit to Sky Skills Studios and consent to all aspects included in the paragraphs above.

Name of child _____

Name of parent _____

Signature of parent _____

Date _____



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Parental/carer consent form 2

Get the support needed to enter the Young Filmmakers Competition

If you are in KS4 education (under the age of 16) then please ensure that every member of your team has their parent or carer complete the form below and return it to Ruby Mir, Spark! **Either scan and email to ruby.mir@sparklondon.org or return by post to GSK House, 980 Great West Rd, Brentford, Middx TW8 9GS.**

Please print and sign this document and return.

I, _____, the parent of

_____, hereby grant my permission for my son/daughter to participate in Young Filmmakers Competition. I further grant permission for my child's appearance in the Young Filmmakers Competition film, if required, and that this can be publicly viewed: print, online, broadcast at public events or anywhere the Young Filmmakers Competition winning films are demonstrated, including postings on Spark! and partner websites.

Parent or Guardian Signature _____

Print name of Parent or Guardian _____

Date _____

Home Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this Parental Consent Form, please contact Ruby Mir, Spark! Business Links Co-ordinator
E. ruby.mir@sparklondon.org T. 020 8047 3350



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Scriptwriter's brief

What the scriptwriter needs to provide

Your School or College's Head of Media studies/ drama will put two students forward for the Scriptwriter's Workshop at the start of the summer break.

Scriptwriter's Workshop Date: Tuesday 6th August 2013

Time: 9am-5pm

Location: Docking Station, 108 High Street, Brentford TW8 8AT

Script Submission Deadline: Wednesday 11 September 2013

The Treatment

This is one side of A4 that describes the events of the story. It can be three to five paragraphs that detail the beginning, the middle and end.

It includes characters and developments in the narrative and running themes. Treatments generally do not contain detailed descriptions or dialog.

Ten pages of Documentary or Drama Script

Documentary script

You should aim to produce 10 pages that outline your documentary, the main theme and ideas you wish to investigate. Provide some basic research on your subject, people you wish to interview and or follow.

Will you need a presenter and or a narrator? Is there any footage that we will need to approved for you to include it in the documentary? The shoot will be over five days. Is this enough time to film all that you need?

Try to touch on these questions in your script.

Drama script

Scripts tend to read at one page for every minute on screen. So the completed script should be 20-30 pages in length. For the competition we are asking that you enter ten pages, one half to a third of the film – about 10 minutes of screen time.

This can be from any section of the film but should be continuous run and not from different sections of the film. However, exceptions could be made if completely necessary.

The ten pages of drama script need to be formatted correctly to industry standard. Celtx is free software that you should download (<https://www.celtx.com>) and will allow you to format your script correctly.



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Scriptwriter's brief

Sample Treatment: 'And Then Came Love'

Julie (mid 40s), a successful Manhattan reporter-turned-columnist believes she has it all - a great job, a rent controlled apartment, a boyfriend and best of all, an adorable six-year-old son named Jake, whom she conceived via an anonymous sperm donor.

Her perfect world, however, is rocked when she's called in for an emergency parent-teacher conference and learns that her son has been acting up, needs to be 'tested' and is on the brink of expulsion. Overwhelmed, Julie instinctively blames herself... it's easy to do since her mother has made her feel inadequate for not being a stay-at-home mom.

Julie, however, will not concede that her mother could be right, so she places genetic blame on Jake's anonymous father. Through a private investigator, Julie learns the identity of the donor and meets him - Paul, a struggling actor and law school dropout. Julie has neither intention nor desire to reveal her identity to him, she simply needs to check her sources, get the facts, and move on.

A child psychiatrist tells Julie that Jake does not appear to have ADHD, but could benefit from a "father figure" in his life. Julie's boyfriend, a charismatic photo-journalist is up for the challenge and proposes. Julie believes her life is back on course until Paul, the donor, shows up, hoping she'll promote the Broadway show in which he's performing.

Jake instantly bonds with Paul. No matter how hard Julie tries to keep Paul from complicating her life, the more he does as he begins to fall for her, and she finds she can not deny her feelings for him, and her boyfriend is pushing to set a date.

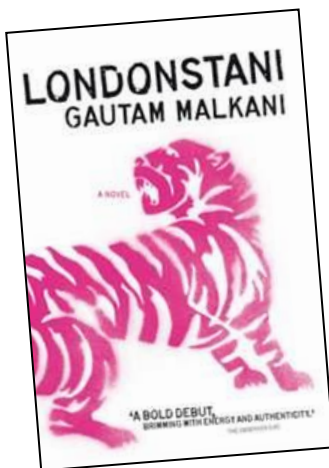


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Gautam Malkani

Former Hounslow student, author and Financial Times Journalist

Gautam Malkani is a journalist for *The Financial Times*, and the author of the novel 'Londonstani'; which was shaped by his experiences growing up and going to school in Hounslow. He has worked on *The Financial Times* UK news desk in London, as well as in the Washington bureau. Gautam is giving the competition his backing as he is keen to see more young writing talent emerge from Hounslow.



Londonstani tells the story of a bunch of 19-year, old middle-class mummy's boys trying to be men – which they do by asserting their cut-and-paste ethnic identities; by blending their machismo with consumerism; by trying to talk and act as if their affluent corner of a London suburb is some kind of gritty ghetto; by adding to this whole pretence by trying to block out their intelligence; and by grating against typically overbearing mothers who would rather their sons remain boys.

Discover more at: www.gautammalkani.com and ask Ruby Mir for a copy of 'Londonstani' if you would like to take inspiration and insight from Gautam's work...



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Director's pitch

Getting ready to wow the judging panel

On Wednesday 9th October 2013, we will release the treatment and 10 pages of the winning script. We're then looking for budding directors who have the skills and desire to take the story from paper to film with the full backing of cast and crew.

The questions that follow will help you prepare your pitch ready to present to the judging panel on **Tuesday 12th November 2013**.

A pitch is a short presentation that may also be supported by a short written or visual document, setting out your idea for a production.

Bring five copies of your pitch documents to leave with the panel after you have completed your 5 minute pitch. This will be a useful reminder when they make a decision.

Make your pitch fun, inspiring and full of the creativity you would demonstrate through your short film if you win!



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Pitch template

Include the following information at the beginning of the presentation...

Name:

School:

Email:

Telephone:

Aim to answer the following questions during your pitch:

1. What previous films, videos or creative projects have you worked on? What are your creative outlets and passions?

2. What are your thoughts on the characters, main themes and underlying themes in the script and how would you like to visually show this?

- Characters
- Main themes
- Underlying themes

3. What films or other media have inspired you? What will you take from the knowledge you've gained from these into this project?

4. The following skills are essential for a director. Please provide information about where you have demonstrated these skills in any walk of life:

- Good leadership
- Motivational skills
- Staying calm in a stressful situation
- Excellent communication skills

You can download more pitching tips from www.sparklondon.org/filmmakers



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How to find out more

Anything you would like to ask before you start developing your script/director's pitch?

If you have any questions about the competition, please use the space provided below to plan and then send them by email to Ruby Mir, Spark! Business Links Co-ordinator.

E: ruby.mir@sparklondon.org

I would like to know....

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



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Competition entry terms

Make sure you've read the small print!

1. The Young Filmmakers Competition is free to enter and open to KS4 and KS5 students from Hounslow schools and colleges. Students under the age of 16 must have parents/ guardians permission to enter.
2. All participating students will need to have attended Sky Skills Studios with their school, or registered and attended one of the Sky Skills Studios twilight sessions during 2012-2014. You must have parent/ guardian permission to attend.
3. The short film is to be drama or documentary and 20-30 minutes in length. All scriptwriters must be available to attend the workshop on Tuesday 6th August 2013 at Docking Station.
4. For the scriptwriting phase, to participate students must be nominated for one of their school/colleges two workshop places.
5. Directors must be registered for the pitch event by 31st October and attended on the 14th November 2013.
6. The winning scriptwriter will be selected by a panel of judges by Wednesday the 9th of October 2013. The winning Director will be contacted on Thursday 14th November 2013. Under certain conditions, this maybe the same person.
7. All Cast & Crew (selected in November – December) must be available to attend the read through on Thursday 2nd January 2014.
8. Spark! will own all copyright on the finished production.
9. By entering the competition, entrants will be deemed to have read and understood these terms and be bound by them.



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