



## **BREAKOUT: Guidelines for Applicants**

### **What is BREAKOUT?**

BREAKOUT is a project development scheme. It's aimed at **UK-based black and minority ethnic writers, directors and writer/ directors** who are ready to develop **low-budget commercial fiction feature films** and **feature-length documentaries** for potential theatrical release and television broadcast.

You will be guided by key personnel drawn from the international film industry, enhancing your professional understanding of the international marketplace. You will develop your project throughout with input from BREAKOUT production partners **Warp X** and the **Channel 4 British Documentary Film Foundation**, for potential inclusion on their development and production slates.

### **How long does BREAKOUT last?**

The deadline for applications is **January 12th 2007**. After selection is complete, BREAKOUT begins in late February and culminates in an industry showcase & networking event in **December 2007 / January 2008**.

### **How will BREAKOUT be delivered?**

The scheme is delivered in 3 phases. Each phase lasts approximately 3 months, with a break between phases of approximately 3 weeks. During these breaks (***Pinch Points***), the BREAKOUT panel (comprising representatives from the scheme partners) evaluates each project for progression to the next phase (or not).

#### ***Phase 1*** consists of:

- 2 residential weekends and 1 development day, at monthly intervals.
- These intensive weekends/ day will combine screenings; discussions of case study films; panel presentations; tutored sessions by leading industry figures; keynote screenings & interviews with outstanding international film makers.
- Projects will be developed in small-group, tutor-led workshops.
- Between each residential weekend/ development day, there will be development tasks, specific to each project, to be completed.
- There will be a mixture of shared sessions and dedicated sessions for the two strands (**fiction & factual**).

#### ***Phase 2*** consists of:

- One-to-one meetings with a development executive assigned to each project.
- 1 additional residential weekend with screenings, discussions, panel presentations, keynote interviews and tutor-led project workshops.

**Phase 3** consists of:

- Continued one-to-one meetings with your development executive, to prepare your project for its final showcase presentation.
- **Fiction** projects will be given a rehearsed reading.
- **Factual** projects will produce a 3-4 minute trailer on digital video.

### **How many places does BREAKOUT offer?**

There are up to **30** places available at the start of the scheme. We are looking for approximately 12 projects overall, of which at least 4 will be **fiction** projects and at least 4 will be **factual** projects. For the **fiction** strand, you can apply **individually** or in **writer & director teams**. For the **factual** strand, you can apply as a **writer/director**, or in **producer & director teams**.

At the end of each 3 month phase, projects are evaluated; only projects demonstrating the strongest commercial potential will be selected for progression to the next phase. This means that project numbers will reduce from the initial 12 during phase 1 to approximately 6 in phase 3. It's envisaged that approximately 20 people will progress from phase 1 to phase 2, and approximately 10 people will go forward to phase 3.

### **Will BREAKOUT support people whose projects exit the scheme after Phase 1 or 2?**

Yes. BREAKOUT will support all of the people selected for entry to the scheme. People whose projects exit the scheme after phase 1 or phase 2 receive a project surgery with the BREAKOUT team. We will give detailed feedback and advice, and will support you in identifying and contacting other agencies/ development initiatives that may be able to take your project further.

### **Who can apply for BREAKOUT?**

UK-based black and minority ethnic writers, directors, or writer/directors who are ready to develop **fiction** and **factual** feature films. The scheme is open to emergent and experienced film makers, and to established theatre writers and directors and visual artists (photographers). BREAKOUT is NOT for entry-level film makers.

Your application must demonstrate strong evidence of talent via prior experience in features or short films, festival exposure, broadcast long-form documentaries or dramas, photographic exhibitions or publication, or distinctive narrative work in theatre or radio.

BREAKOUT participants will be required to attend **all** residential weekends, development days, meetings with development consultants and showcase events provided under the scheme, and to complete the assigned development tasks specific to your project. (Please go to **Programme of Events** on our Homepage to access our proposed schedule)

## What kind of projects is BREAKOUT looking for?

- We are looking for distinctive feature-length projects for potential theatrical release and television broadcast. Your project may be at a very early stage of development or a little more advanced.

We are looking for projects under two categories:

- Low-budget commercial **fiction**
- Feature **documentary**

**Warp X**, BREAKOUT's **fiction** production partner says:

“**Warp X** aims to make exhilarating films with outstanding new and established creative talent. Genre movies with an original twist and creative signature. We are going to make seven films by the end of 2008.

We passionately want to 're-tox ' British cinema with an injection of adventure. Our films will be fuelled by irresistible stories and compelling worlds, to challenge and entertain contemporary British and international cinema audiences.

Our first two films going into production are a 'rom-com' documentary and a high-octane thriller set on a yacht. **We are already committed to a development and production scheme in the horror genre, so applicants should NOT submit horror proposals.** We are also unlikely to develop character drama unless the story and world have a very strong hook to attract a cinema audience. Films are far more likely to be developed with **Warp X** if they can be shot (which does not mean set) in Yorkshire or the East Midlands regions, which offer a wide variety of affordable urban and rural locations.

**Warp X** films have to be made digitally and on budgets between £400,000 - £800,000. So we need movies that can be made faster, leaner, lighter – with no excess baggage. That way the films will become profitable much quicker.”

**The Channel Four British Documentary Film Foundation**, BREAKOUT's **factual** production partner says:

“Our aim is to secure a creatively ambitious and diverse future for British documentary by looking beyond television to develop, fund and distribute the work of the next generation of UK documentary filmmakers. We believe that documentaries are a vital part of British culture and that British documentary filmmakers are amongst the very best in the world. The last two years have been an incredible time for documentary. *Fahrenheit 9/11*, *Supersize Me* and *Jamie's School Dinners* have underlined how documentaries can change the world around us whilst films like *Etre et Avoir* and *Spellbound* reminded us that documentaries are an important and often unacknowledged art form. Now, our aim with the **Foundation** is to create an independent space for British filmmakers to make the most groundbreaking and

important work they can.

The [Foundation](#) team are passionate about documentary and want to work with people who share that passion. We are looking to develop feature-length projects with the potential to break through on the national and international circuit. These documentaries can be of any genre - observational, narrative, experimental or passion projects. We want the [Foundation's](#) work to help maintain the UK's world-class reputation as the home of documentary, as well as finding new avenues for films to be seen both in the UK and on the international film circuit."

### **Will the production partners guarantee to take up all Phase 3 projects?**

No. [Warp X](#) and [The Channel Four British Documentary Film Foundation](#) will evaluate all projects for possible inclusion on their development & production slates, but we cannot guarantee inclusion. However, they are closely involved in all aspects of BREAKOUT including initial selection, so you will develop a good grasp of their requirements.

Projects which are taken onto their development & production slates will be subject to the standard terms and conditions offered by each company respectively.

You will retain all rights in your project during BREAKOUT.

### **How much does BREAKOUT cost?**

£600 + VAT (£705 in total). But please DO NOT allow financial concerns to prevent you from applying. We'll help you in every way we can.

BREAKOUT provides:

- Mentors, tutors, development executives, case study and international keynote film makers from the UK and international film industry to inspire and guide you throughout 2007, and follow-up contact with you in 2008.
- Accommodation, food & refreshments for the residential weekends, and lunch & refreshments at the development day.
- Accommodation, food & refreshments for the showcase & networking event.
- Contribution towards travel costs for attendance at residential weekends, development day, meetings with development consultants and the showcase & networking event.

We have **up to 10 bursaries** available for participants who would otherwise be unable to participate in BREAKOUT. We have also received strong expressions of support from the UK regional screen agencies; we will assist candidates to whom we offer a BREAKOUT place in applying to their RSA for financial assistance.

(NB: If you are VAT-registered, you can reclaim the VAT charged on your BREAKOUT fees.)

### **How do I apply for BREAKOUT?**

Please submit, **by 5pm on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2007**:

- BREAKOUT Application Form (**3 copies**)
- Monitoring Form (**1 copy**)

- 1 page outlines for (up to) 3 potential project ideas (**3 copies x each idea**)
- Examples of previous work, as follows:

**If you are applying as a writer, at least ONE of the following:**

- Fiction feature screenplay, developed and commissioned; may /may not have been produced/ given theatre release. Submit screenplay (**3 copies**) and, if produced, DVD/ VHS tape (**1 copy**).
- Short film screenplay, produced & screened at one festival (minimum). Submit screenplay (**3 copies**) and DVD/ VHS tape (**1 copy**).
- Television screenplay (minimum length: 30 minutes), developed and commissioned; may /may not have been produced/ broadcast. Submit screenplay (**3 copies**) and, if produced, DVD/ VHS tape (**1 copy**).
- Stage play (minimum length: 60 minutes), produced. Submit playscript (**3 copies**) and review(s) (at least one national or significant regional review); if DVD/ VHS tape is available, submit (**1 copy**).
- Radio playscript (minimum length 45 minutes), produced & broadcast. Submit playscript (**3 copies**) and CD or audio tape (**1 copy**).

**If you are applying as a director, at least ONE of the following:**

- Feature film (fiction or factual), produced, may/ may not have been given theatrical release. Submit DVD/ VHS tape (**1 copy**).
- Short film (fiction or factual), produced & screened at one festival (minimum). Submit DVD/ VHS (**1 copy**).
- Television drama (minimum length: 30 minutes), produced, may/ may not have been broadcast. Submit DVD/ VHS tape (**1 copy**).
- Television documentary (minimum length: 30 minutes), produced, may/ may not have been broadcast. Submit DVD/ VHS tape (**1 copy**).
- Commercials showreel (**1 copy**).
- Corporate showreel (**1 copy**).
- DVD/ VHS tape of theatre production (**1 copy**) and review(s) (at least one national or significant regional review).

**If you are applying as a writer/director, at least ONE of the following:**

- Feature film (fiction or factual), produced, may/ may not have been given theatrical release. Submit DVD/ VHS tape (**1 copy**) and screenplay (**3 copies**).
- Short film (fiction or factual), produced & screened at one festival (minimum). Submit DVD/ VHS (**1 copy**) and screenplay (**3 copies**).
- Television drama (minimum length: 30 minutes), produced, may/ may not have been broadcast. Submit DVD/ VHS tape (**1 copy**) and screenplay (**3 copies**).
- Television documentary (minimum length: 30 minutes), produced, may/ may not have been broadcast. Submit DVD/ VHS tape (**1 copy**).
- DVD/ VHS tape of theatre production (**1 copy**), playscript and review(s) (at least one national or significant regional review).
- Commercials showreel (**1 copy**) and short film screenplay (may not have been produced) (**3 copies**).

- Corporate showreel (**1 copy**) and short film screenplay (may not have been produced) (**3 copies**).
- **Factual** strand: portfolio of photographs (**1 copy**), some of which must have been publicly exhibited or published, plus reviews/ exhibition notes (if available)
- **Fiction** strand: portfolio of photographs (**1 copy**), as above, **PLUS** a screenplay (produced or unproduced, feature film or television) (**3 copies**).
- **Writer/directors applying for the fiction strand** must submit examples of **both** their writing and their directing work. This may be a single project you have written & directed, or one project you have written plus one project you have directed.

**If you are applying as a writer & director team (Fiction only):**

- The writer should submit **ONE** from the **writer** list (above).
- The director should submit **ONE** from the **director** list (above).
- This may be a single project you have completed as a team, or two separate projects.
- Both members of the team must submit examples of their work.

**If you are applying as a writer/ director & producer team (Factual only):**

- The writer/director should submit **ONE** from the **writer/director** list (above).
- The producer should submit **ONE** from the **director** list (above).
- This may be a single project you have completed as a team, or two separate projects.
- Both members of the team must submit examples of their work.

**Please DO:**

- Mark **everything** you send with your name (where applicable)
- Enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you would like your examples of previous work returned (paperwork cannot be returned).

**Please DON'T:**

- Send originals/ master copies of scripts, DVDs, VHS tapes, CDs or audio tapes, showreels or photographic portfolios.

Breakout Training & Development Ltd takes care to safeguard materials submitted but will not be held responsible for any loss or damage.

**What happens after I/ we have submitted my/ our application?**

All applications will initially be reviewed by the BREAKOUT management team, and a long-list drawn up for the **fiction and factual** strands. All long-listed submissions will be reviewed by the full BREAKOUT panel including **Warp X** and **The Channel Four British Documentary Film Foundation**.

A short-list of candidates for interview will be drawn up **by January 25<sup>th</sup> 2007**. Short-listed candidates will be invited for interview during the following **two weeks**.

Successful candidates will be notified by **February 12<sup>th</sup> 2007**.

BREAKOUT begins on **February 14<sup>th</sup> 2007**, when we will assign the first set of preparatory tasks, to be completed in readiness for the 1<sup>st</sup> residential weekend (**2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2007.**)

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