



# Information Pack

South West Network



calling the shots

**Guidelines and Background information**

**Thank you for your interest in applying to the** Random Acts project through Calling the Shots. We are thrilled to be working on this Arts Council funded project and hope to inspire and engage young creative people across the South West over the next three years.

**Random Acts** was established in 2011 as Channel 4's platform for short arts films, showcasing a wide variety of films inspired by creative arts. The premise of the format was to make films as art, rather than about art; it has featured hundreds of shorts since launch, coming from a range of established and emerging talent across a broad range of creative mediums. You can check out all the films featured so far online at [www.randomacts.channel4.com/](http://www.randomacts.channel4.com/).

Channel 4 is re-launching **Random Acts** in partnership with Arts Council England and will now be acquiring a number of films each year from its five new **Network Centres** across England, who will be engaging creative young talent across their regions.

**Calling the Shots** is the Network Centre for the South West and we are looking for creative young people to submit their short film ideas to us for potential inclusion in the Random Acts strand on television and/or online. A panel will review the ideas submitted to us and from each round of applications, 12 individuals will be chosen for their film to go into production. These applicants will be partnered with an industry mentor and have a support package tailored to their needs and experience – this is an opportunity for **everyone** who has strong creative ideas and we want to ensure the broadest participation possible. There will be a series of workshops across the three years that will offer some practical training, an immersion in arts and assistance in developing ideas for submission into an application round.

### **Who can apply?**

To apply for the project in the **South West** you have to be between the ages of **16-24** and be a resident or attend university or college in the South West region (there are another four Random Acts regions across England to which you can apply if you live in another part of England). You can apply as an individual, as a partnership or as a group.

Calling the Shots will be hosting two long-running application rounds per year across the three years, so there are several opportunities to apply. These rounds are open to **everyone** within the above criteria.

If you have any access requirements please email [randomacts@callingtheshots.co.uk](mailto:randomacts@callingtheshots.co.uk) for additional information on how we can support you and your application.

### **The brief – what are we looking for?**

**Random Acts** brief is for '***bold, innovative expressions of creativity***' across a range of art-forms. Whether you're inspired by poetry, visual art, dance or any other creative form, we want to see pitches that demonstrate strong creative ideas and a clear vision as to how they will translate into the short film format.

You do not have to have prior filmmaking experience – all selected participants will be guided through the filmmaking process – but likewise confident filmmakers are very much encouraged to apply. Film is itself an art form.

### **How can I find out more?**

Calling the Shots will be hosting a number of free outreach and engagement workshops throughout each year, hosted at different locations throughout the South West in partnership with a variety of organisations. To find out when the next workshop is and if you are eligible to attend, visit [www.callingtheshots.co.uk](http://www.callingtheshots.co.uk).

**To ask a question via email:** [randomacts@callingtheshots.co.uk](mailto:randomacts@callingtheshots.co.uk)

**To ask a question via phone:** (0117) 930 0141

### **How do I apply?**

Once you have developed your idea you can complete the application form at the end of this document and submit via email [to randomacts@callingtheshots.co.uk](mailto:randomacts@callingtheshots.co.uk).

[If you have any issues with accessibility or further questions regarding the form, don't hesitate to contact us for alternative ways to apply.](#)

### **What can I expect if I am successful?**

If your application is successful you will be assigned a *Production Mentor* to work closely with you and help guide you through the production process.

You will meet with Calling the Shots and your assigned Production Mentor and Executive Producer. Between Calling the Shots and your mentors, budgets, final treatments and schedules will be agreed and finalised. You will then shoot and edit your film with the help and guidance of professionals and Calling the Shots will deliver your film to Channel 4 in the formats they require. Channel 4 will then decide on which films to host on the Random Acts website and / or television programme.

All participants in the programme will be invited to an additional weekend training workshop in the South West, alongside additional meet ups and social events with the other filmmakers.

**In short it's an opportunity not to be missed!** So, good luck - really look forward to receiving your application.

Don't be shy, be bold – you never know where it might lead!