



# THE BFI NATIONAL LOTTERY FILMMAKING FUND



DISCOVERING | IMPACTING | CHALLENGING | NURTURING

# INTRODUCTION

The BFI awards National Lottery funding UK-wide in order to help build a diverse and accessible screen culture that benefits all of society and contributes to a prosperous UK economy. We have National Lottery players to thank for contributing to this good cause funding.

The new BFI National Lottery Filmmaking Fund has £54 million to support UK films and talent over three years. Backing distinctive projects from adventurous storytellers across a range of genres, approaches and perspectives, which reflect and represent a wide range of voices and backgrounds.

Funding supports live-action and animation shorts and features, documentaries, immersive work and professional development, all funding decisions are guided by our fund priorities:

## Our priorities

- Equity, diversity and inclusion
- Cultural and audience impact
- Talent progression
- Creative risk taking
- UK-wide reach
- Sustainability

# DEVELOPMENT FUND

Flexible and broad, funding can support a range of costs at all stages of development. Aiming to support around 60-70 projects per year, there is a focus on backing projects that are unlikely to be commercially or privately financed at an early stage.

**This rolling fund is currently open.**



Image: *How to Have Sex*  
Wri-dir. Molly Manning Walker

# DISCOVERY FUND

For directorial debuts with projects budgeted up to £3.5m. Awarding up to £1m per project. Assessment of applications will focus strongly on the talent involved and their progression, as well as on the strength of the project itself. Through championing under-represented talent earlier in their careers, we can help create a more diverse and inclusive film industry.

**Fund is currently closed, with the next funding round opening in summer 2023.**



Image: *Layla*  
Wri-dir. Amrou Al-Kadhi

# IMPACT FUND

For second-time directors and beyond, working at any budget level, as well as directorial debuts budgeted over £3.5m. Funding awards will recognise the potential that projects have for impact at scale – culturally, socially, and commercially – as well as potential impact on the filmmaker’s careers.

**This rolling fund is currently open.**



Image: *The Old Oak*  
Dir. Ken Loack  
Wri. Paul Laverty



# CREATIVE CHALLENGE FUND

Opening later in 2023, this will award funding to successful production companies and screen organisations to create time-specific labs and development programmes. These will aim to support a range of projects, helping filmmakers move their work forward in dynamic ways beyond script-based work.



# DOCUMENTARY FUND

The BFI Doc Society Fund supports and nurtures independent non-fiction film by UK filmmakers, prioritising expansive, director-led storytelling. The Fund comprises a features fund, the Made of Truth shorts fund for new and emerging filmmakers, and a talent support programme all enabled by the National Lottery. Our funding is intended to be transformative and representative of all UK society.

# BFI NETWORK

For emerging filmmakers, BFI NETWORK will fund live action and animation shorts and early feature development and professional development programmes.



Image: *Name Me Lawand*  
Dir. Edward Lovelace



Image: *An Irish Goodbye*  
Wri-dirs. Tom Berkeley, Ross White

# OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING AVAILABLE

## AUDIENCE

We work with the audience in mind

We want to bring audiences the widest choice of the best UK and international independent film.

Through our **Audiences Project Fund** we support film festivals, touring programmes and major film events, and help with the distribution of films – with a particular focus on reaching young and underserved audiences.

## INTERNATIONAL

We work with the screen sector

The **BFI International Fund** helps connect the UK film industry with the global film community, by building cultural partnerships and showcasing home-grown talent.

We support the promotion of UK films and filmmakers at major international festivals and markets.

## GLOBAL SCREEN FUND

The **UK Global Screen Fund (UKGSF)** is designed to boost international development, production, distribution, and promotional opportunities for the UK's independent screen sector. The UKGSF targets support across the screen sector, including film, TV, documentary, animation and interactive narrative games content.

Download the specific leaflet or visit [bfi.org.uk/uk-global-screen-fund](https://bfi.org.uk/uk-global-screen-fund) for more information



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