

BBC

writers
room

2021

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

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WELCOME



It's a great pleasure to present this annual round-up of 2021/22 activity on behalf of the BBC Writersroom team.

I joined the BBC in June 2021, taking over the BBC Writersroom reins from the wonderful Anne Edyvean who transformed the department in recent years, creating the local hubs across the four nations and facilitating so many brilliant opportunities for writers to gain their first paid writing opportunities and professional credits. I was immediately impressed by the range and volume of support BBC Writersroom offers early career writers, and the passion and commitment of its UK-wide team.

Working with new and emerging talent is a great privilege and, for me, the most exciting and energising sector of the industry to work within. Writers are the lifeblood of the screen industries and the opportunity to provide a space for creative risk-taking and exploration, where writers can hone their voices and grow in confidence, is nothing short of thrilling. The BBC Writersroom has a unique track record spanning two decades of creating just such a space for writers and it is exciting to build on this incredible legacy.

You will see across the pages of this document that we have been very busy scouting, nurturing and championing writers from our talent development bases across the UK. It is an honour to work with so many talented people and to find pathways and connections for them within the industry. I hope you enjoy reading about them and celebrate their successes with us.

Thank you to all the established writers, producers and industry friends and colleagues who share their knowledge and expertise so generously with our writers, to our colleagues in Drama Commissioning and across the BBC who support our work so effusively and to the many thousands of writers who entrust their work to us to read each year.

Jess Loveland

Head of New Writing
BBC Writersroom & BBC Drama Commissioning

*Two decades of
scouting, nurturing
and championing
writers across the UK*



MEET THE BBC
WRITERSROOM TEAM

BBC

writers room

A home for new writers at the heart of the BBC

ABOUT US

BBC Writersroom is a home for new writers at the heart of the BBC. Our mission is to discover, develop and champion new and experienced writers across the whole of the UK.

Our dedicated new writing development team is unique in the UK broadcast industry. Working with dynamic new storytellers, our aim is to revitalise and enrich the whole broadcasting ecosystem.

Every great story, whatever the format or genre, begins with the writer. Every corner of the creative industries relies on the superlative talent and imagination of these storytellers. However, for early career writers it can be difficult to find the time, resources, industry knowledge and pathways to develop their craft. This is where we come into the picture: the BBC Writersroom team actively looks for talent across the length and breadth of the country, champions under-represented voices, shares information, demystifies industry practices, and makes crucial professional connections.

We invest time developing fresh voices to enable the next wave of storytellers to translate their innate talent into screenwriting success. In turn audiences benefit from an abundance of stories brought to life by masterful home-grown writers.

*Every great story
begins with the writer*

*Developing the next wave of
storytellers to translate their
talent into screenwriting success*

There are talented writers to be found in every corner of the country

Because there are talented writers to be found in every corner of the country, members of the BBC Writersroom team are on the ground working from our local bases in Belfast, Cardiff, Glasgow, London and Salford. We work closely with departments across the BBC locally and nationally, as well as with BBC Studios and independent production companies. We plug ourselves into local networks by building key partnerships with new writing theatres, festivals, screen and talent agencies and writing organisations.

We want to empower writers by sharing knowledge. BBC Writersroom is an accessible open door for writers, we run free in-person and digital events, and our website is packed with vital information for writers from our regular blog posts and video content to our extensive script library and podcasts.

With writers discovered through our annual script submission opportunity (the Open Call) and other talent searches, we run development programmes for hundreds of writers each year, ranging from a few weeks to 18 months or more.



Our local hubs

Read on to find out more about our opportunities, partnerships and other successes, meet our writer development groups from 2021 and 2022 and hear from just a few of the many talented writers we have worked with.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE



THE START OF THE WRITER'S JOURNEY

Each year we throw open the doors of BBC Writersroom and call out for unsolicited scripts from across the length and breadth of the country. Anyone who is over 18, resident in the UK or Republic of Ireland and has completed a Drama or Comedy/ Drama script of at least 30 pages can share it with us via the Open Call. The BBC Writersroom team and our talented pool of freelance readers read at least the first ten pages of every script received.

We want to go on a journey with our writers and the Open Call is very often the starting point. We're looking for talented, diverse and distinctive writers to develop rather than projects to commission or produce. We receive upwards of 4000 scripts each year via Open Call and it is probably how we are best known within the writing community.

Open Call is our main talent scouting tool and we use it as a means to select up to 100 writers annually to take part in our Drama Room and Voices writer development groups.

We are looking to unearth the treasures, the page-turners, the new perspectives, the engaging dialogue and the surprising character creations. We want to find that special something that grabs our attention, pulls us into its world and makes us want to read more.



4000⁺ 2022
'OPEN CALL' SUBMISSIONS IN

We want
projects
writers

Who reads your scripts?

OUR READERS

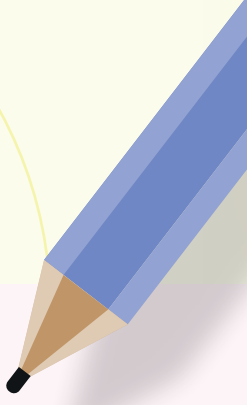
Each year we are sent thousands of scripts to read, and we couldn't manage the scale and volume of reading without our incredible pool of freelance readers. We work with a group of around 25 experienced professionals (script editors, producers, writers and lecturers), from a range of creative backgrounds (TV, film, radio, theatre) and from across the whole of the UK.

We put an open call out for readers in Autumn 2022 in order to expand our reading pool membership and ensure it is as representative of the diversity of the UK as possible.



**FIND OUT HOW TO SUBMIT
A SCRIPT TO OPEN CALL**

16 *ENTER THE 'DRAMA ROOM' PROGRAMME* **WRITERS**



DEDICATED WRITERS' GROUPS ACROSS THE UK

In 2022 we worked with 69 talented new writers from across the whole of the UK. We ran five dedicated Voices groups across Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England with each group managed by the teams in our local BBC Writersroom hubs.

The writers took part in an intensive programme over 4 months offering an insight into how the television industry works featuring expert masterclasses, craft sessions, roundtables and discussions providing participants with the core tools and knowledge to write for TV.

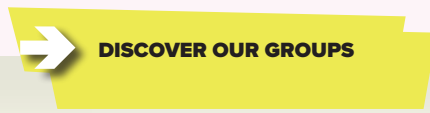
We heard from inspiring industry guests including producers, commissioners and agents. The writers also got an opportunity to take part in writer Q+A sessions with Alice Seabright (CHLOE) and Tony Schumacher (THE RESPONDER) who both had their first original series broadcast in 2022, as well as Daragh Carville (THE BAY) and Lisa Holdsworth (A DISCOVERY OF WITCHES).

The development of a writer peer group is just as important as the official workshop sessions and encouraged through in-person meet ups within the local Voices groups.

69 TALENTED WRITERS

5 LOCAL HUBS

4 MONTH PROGRAMME



OUR 2022 VOICES

SCOTTISH VOICES →



NORTHERN VOICES →



BELFAST VOICES →



WELSH VOICES →



LONDON VOICES →



Our Voices writers are encouraged to apply the learning to define and develop a new original series idea and work closely with the BBC Writersroom team to develop a professional series outline document.

CASE STUDY

KATIE ELIN-SALT

Katie Elin-Salt was one of our Voices in Wales for 2022.

"The BBC Writersroom team have been incredibly generous at creating a safe space where we can learn together, making horrible mistakes, asking awkward questions and being vulnerable with people in the room who can help.

It's been a real learning curve, at times challenging and confronting, but being able to learn and have space and time with people at the top of their game sharing time and knowledge with us - has been so validating."



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VOICES



**BLOG: BECOMING A BBC
WRITERSROOM VOICE**

SCRIPT EDITING SUPPORT

NFTS

NATIONAL
FILM AND
TELEVISION
SCHOOL

*A collaboration with
twenty of our Voices*

*to partner with NFTS Script
Development Diploma
students*

*and develop their Voices
projects to at least
first draft script stage.*

The opportunity allowed both writers and trainee script editors to experience a professional editorial relationship within a more educational setting as well as accelerating the development of project ideas initiated through the Voices programme.





ONE YEAR DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

BBC Writersroom's Drama Room is a 1-year writer development scheme for writers identified through our Open Call and other talent searches.

There are normally between 15 and 20 writers on the Drama Room scheme. They meet about once a month for six months and receive targeted training and development including workshops (with practical writing exercises), masterclasses, introductions and networking events, and writing briefs with the opportunity to pitch. Following this they receive the support of a Script Editor for a further 6 months to develop their original spec' script.

The aim of the scheme is to encourage and develop the best in new drama writing and to give these writers the opportunity to build strong connections with producers and help them gain BBC broadcast commissions.

 **FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
OUR DRAMA ROOM**



DRAMA ROOM WRITERS 2022

Following the Open Call submission window which closed in January 2021 the following sixteen writers were chosen to be part of Drama Room for 2021/22:



Alvin Yu



Gillian McCoruack



Alex Riddle



Emilie Robson



Georgia Affonso



Fionnuala Kennedy



Tim Barrow



Sarah Gordon



Rosanna Suppa



Carlo Kureishi



Benedict Lombe



Paris Ventour



Faebian Averages



Breunig Hayden



Houuni Miura



Nathan Ellis



BLOG: INTRODUCING THE DRAMA ROOM WRITERS

CASE STUDY

WATERLOO ROAD

Waterloo Road Shadow Scheme included 4 writers - Alex Riddle, Benedict Lombe, Faebian Averies, Georgia Affonso.

"In my final feedback session my Script Editor Amy and I were able to talk about the whole process and what I'd learned from it. Amy advised me to trust my instincts, and I've been holding onto that in all my writing as I go forward.

Recently, I've loved watching the new series of Waterloo Road and seeing all the characters come to life. Shadow Schemes have huge value to emerging writers and hopefully, it won't be too long until I'm writing on a show for real."

Georgia Affonso

**WATERLOO
ROAD**

Alex Riddle, Benedict Lombe,
Faebian Averies and Georgia Affonso



**BLOG: THE WATERLOO ROAD
SHADOW SCHEME**



THE DUMPING GROUND

"The Dumping Ground Shadow Scheme was a fantastic experience where we got to hear about the future vision of the programme, create storylines for existing and new characters, and do a site visit where we met the cast.

Getting to go through a script process with the show's script editor really gave us an insight to what it's like to write for TV, and specifically for a children's TV show.



Fionnuala Kennedy, Rosanna Suppa, Brennie Hayden

Although the process was intense at times when turning round drafts and working through notes, the learning from it was huge, and this really informed the process of developing my spec' script."

Fionnuala Kennedy

"Although the process was intense at times, the learning from it was HUGE..."



THE VERB

"The Verb was one of the absolute highlights of my Drama Room journey. Heading up to the studio to hear my piece recorded and watch the cast and production team work their magic was a real joy.

I've remained in touch with the drama team and we're knocking about ideas for future projects. It's been a great introduction to radio drama, and I'm buzzing to hear Floater on Radio 3." (Listen on BBC Sounds)

Alex Riddle



"The Verb was one of the absolute highlights of my Drama Room journey"





FOR TOO LONG...

For too long writers from the disabled community have been overlooked by the television industry. Many writers face significant barriers to progress their career as a result of their lived experience of being deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent.

The BBC is committed to improving the representation of disabled people on and off-screen.

The Writers' Access Group is a training programme that aims to support and accelerate the professional development of the next wave of talented deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent writers.

13

WRITERS FROM FICTION,
RADIO, THEATRE AND
SCREEN WRITING





Laurence Clark



Angela Clarke



Robbie Currau



Carou Braud



Lizzie Watson



Shahid Iqbal Khan



Kate Wickeus



Mandy Redvers-Rowe



Karen Featherstone



William Barrington



Adau Fenton



Amy Trigg



Leanna Benjamin

MEET THE WRITERS

Our second Writers' Access Group supported 13 exciting new voices from a range of creative backgrounds - fiction writing, radio, theatre and screen - they took part in a series of workshops, heard from colleagues across the BBC and embraced the chance to pitch for opportunities on continuing dramas such as Doctors and EastEnders.

The writers were also paired with a professional script editor to develop a new spec' script and participated in speed networking sessions with representatives from independent production companies and agents.



BLOG: THE LATEST WRITERS' ACCESS GROUP

CASE STUDY

RALPH & KATIE

Lead writer Peter Bowker worked with five disabled writers in the creation of *Ralph & Katie*, a spin-off of popular BBC Drama *The A-Word* which was broadcast in the autumn 2022. Most of the writers had previously taken part in our Writers' Access Group.

"Joining the BBC Writersroom's Writers Access Group changed a lot for me. It was brilliant to connect with other emerging writers, as well as learn more about navigating the industry."

"It was through this group that the RALPH & KATIE opportunity came up. I was already familiar with the world of THE A WORD and the chance to pitch a story in Peter Bowker's wonderful universe was too exciting to pass up."

Lizzie Watson



**BLOG: WRITING
RALPH & KATIE**

Returning for 2023!

We are delighted to announce that our BBC Writersroom Writers' Access Group will be returning for a third time in 2023 and we'll be looking for a brand-new group of talented deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent writers to work with over the course of 2023/2024.

We've been working closely with our friends and colleagues at TripleC DANC to make the programme open and inclusive. For the first time we will be selecting writers for the group via an open call out between January and April 2023.



"I am thrilled to be an Ambassador for this year's Writers' Access Group. Disabled voices need to be heard on and off screen, and we need more disabled writers! The Writers' Access Group is a fantastic way to get talking (and writing!) the stories that we don't see enough on our screens."

Rose Ayling-Ellis



"I'm so thrilled to be an Ambassador for this year's Writers' Access Group. I truly look forward to seeing the work of new deaf, disabled and neurodivergent creatives, that will change how stories are told in our industry."

Ruth Madeley

"This country is chock full of ableism and I firmly believe that TV has a role to play in challenging it. But it can't do so with the same old writers writing the same old scripts. We need new disabled voices and that is why I'm delighted to be an Ambassador of the Writers' Access Group and hopeful a creative revolutionary lies in their midst."

Jack Thorne

OUR AMBASSADORS



APPLY FOR THE WRITERS' ACCESS GROUP 2023

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PILOT

*Partnerships
to develop
promise*

A UNIQUE INITIATIVE

Pilot (formerly TV Drama Writers Programme) is a unique initiative that gives talented emerging screenwriters a paid commission to write the first episode of a potential original series or serial for the BBC.

Every two years around 10 to 15 writers are partnered with independent production companies and work together to define a new original TV drama series and develop the pilot episode. The aim is that the writer's series or serial will be taken into full development by the BBC.



MORE ABOUT PILOT

2021-2022 WRITERS + PRODUCTION COMPANIES



Tim X Atack + Hillbilly Films



In-Sook Chappell + Sugar Films



Celia Morgan + The Lighthouse Films & TV



Daniel Rusteau + Element Pictures



Alissa Anne Jeun Yi + BBC Studios



Adam Usden + Moonage Pictures



Amy Trigg + Eleven Films



Tolula Dada + Firebird Pictures



Nikesh Shukla + Hartwood Films



Chloë Mi Lin Ewart + Dancing Ledge Productions



Anna Mason + The Forge



Abi Hyues + New Pictures



Siotra Drougoole + See-Saw Films



**BLOG: 2021 PARTICIPANTS
ANNOUNCED**

CASE STUDY

LOST BOYS & FAIRIES

BBC Drama and BBC Cymru Wales have announced a new drama co-commission titled *Lost Boys and Fairies*. Leeds-based indie Duck Soup Films will produce as their first commission for BBC One and BBC iPlayer. The 4x60' drama series is created and written by Welsh writer Daf James.

Lost Boys and Fairies is Daf's first original screenplay for the BBC and filming will commence in 2023.

Daf developed the project with Duck Soup Films as part of BBC Writersroom's TV Drama Writers' Programme 2019. Daf had previously taken part in the first ever BBC Writersroom Welsh Voices development group.



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PILOT



LOST BOYS AND FAIRIES
ANNOUNCED

OTHER SCHEMES AND OPPORTUNITIES

MORE ACROSS THE UK



SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH DRAMA WRITERS' PROGRAMME

Our Scottish Drama Writers' Programme with Screen Scotland paired eight writers with a Scottish independent production company to support them in developing an original TV script aimed at BBC One or BBC Three. It concluded with script read-throughs as part of the Edinburgh TV Festival in August.

➔ **BLOG: MAY SUMBWANYAMBE ON HIS EXPERIENCE**



NORTH OF ENGLAND



ALFRED BRADLEY BURSARY

The Alfred Bradley Bursary Award is a £5,000 writing bursary for writers based in the North of England who are new to writing for radio. The award allows writers the opportunity to develop their script with the support of BBC radio drama producers and the chance of a Radio 4 drama commission. In 2021 we received over 300 applications with Paul Jones' script, Patterdale (**listen on BBC Sounds**), winning the award and subsequently being produced for BBC Radio 4.

➔ **BLOG: PAUL JONES ON HEARING HIS WINNING PLAY PRODUCED**



NORTHERN IRELAND

MAMMOTH & ELEMENT

We partnered with Mammoth Screen and Element Pictures to seek out exciting new voices with a connection to Northern Ireland. Shortlisted writers were supported to develop an original series treatment.

Matt McDevitt was chosen to develop his idea to pilot script with Element and Aislinn Clarke with Mammoth.



➔ **READ MORE**



➔ **READ MORE**

Other Schemes and Opportunities



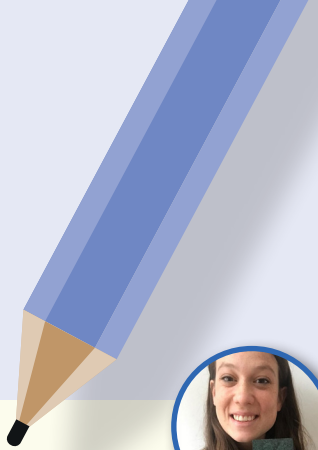
WALES

WORLD PRODUCTIONS WALES

To celebrate the launch of World’s new Cardiff office, World and BBC Writersroom collaborated to discover writers with the potential to bring distinctive and contemporary Welsh stories to a television audience.

The programme offered a paid opportunity to develop an original series idea with World Productions. Writers Zia Holloway and Clare Byrne were chosen to be taken into development with World and write a treatment for a new series idea.

[READ MORE](#) →



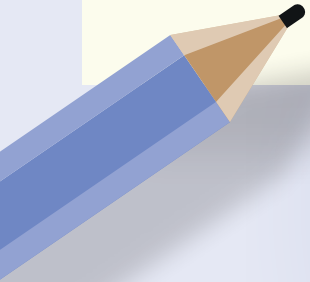
WALES WRITER IN RESIDENCE

Wales Writer in Residence: Faebian Averies announced as the 2021 winner

During their year-long residency, the winning writer received over £12,000 and got to spend six months working with the BBC, including time with BBC Studios, followed by six months with National Theatre Wales. They were given access to industry expertise and support to develop their ideas and talent alongside a BBC-broadcast credit in the form of a BBC Radio 4 drama commission.

Faebian’s winning script *The Lemonade Lads* ([listen on BBC Sounds](#)) was subsequently produced for BBC Radio 4. Faebian was awarded the Imison Award for the best play by a writer new to Radio/Audio at the BBC Audio Drama Awards 2022.

[READ MORE](#) →



CORNWALL, COVENTRY & THE NORTH EAST

MORE VOICES

We ran three additional Voices groups in specific cities and regions of the UK in 21/22. We were able to work with and champion new voices in Cornwall, Coventry and the North East of England.

[CORNISH VOICES](#) →

[COVENTRY VOICES](#) →

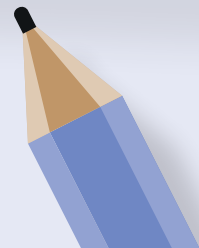
[NORTH EAST VOICES](#) →

NORTHERN IRELAND

NORTHERN IRELAND HOTHOUSE

BBC Writersroom engaged with very early career writers who had found some success in theatre scratch-nights or on the stand-up circuit, but who had not yet worked in any comprehensive way on television drama.

Focussing on writers from lower socio-economic areas and/or writers whose heritage was atypical for Northern Ireland, we developed craft-skills and industry knowledge which would enable the writers to bring their unique perspective on Irish life to the wider Network audience.





"We left feeling energised and fizzing with ideas"

In 2022 the BBC Writersroom launched the pilot of the Write Across programme, a grass-roots writer development scheme focussing on one location in UK.

For the first Write Across, we worked closely with a number of key cultural partners in the Liverpool city region to identify fresh talent and create accessible entry points to the BBC for new writers in the area.



"Write Across Liverpool ran as a blended programme of Zoom and in person sessions offering us the best of both worlds: the opportunity to meet a wide range of incredible talent across the industry (in their living rooms) and the chance to meet each other (with free sandwiches!)"



The face-to-face sessions were spaced evenly across the two month programme and kicked off with a get-to-know-you workshop in Liverpool where we met the Writersroom team, took part in a full-day class on the fundamentals of scriptwriting with Beth McCann of Scriptwriting North, and found out what we all liked to watch on telly. We left feeling energised and fizzing with ideas."



Julie Skeat



BLOG: MY WRITE ACROSS EXPERIENCE



9 OPPORTUNITIES
200 WRITERS
40+ COMMISSIONS

NEW VOICES

New Voices was an ambitious and wide-ranging partnership between BBC Writersroom and BBC Children's to continue to widen the demographic of writers working in the Children's TV scripted sector.

With the support and enthusiasm from BBC Children's In-House and Indie teams, nine individual opportunities were offered up, from invitations to writers' rooms to animation placements, development mentorships to podcast commissions. There was a real range of opportunities in place.

In total almost 200 writers were engaged through the programme with more than 40 individual commissions for writers achieved. These included in-house and indie animation, interactive and drama script commissions.



My first TV commission

"I ended the workshop absolutely certain that I would love working on a Children's show. When I saw an opportunity to apply to attend a JoJo & Gran Gran story day (my favourite CBeebies show) with nine other amazing writers, and then submit pitches for two episodes I jumped at the chance. One of the pitches I submitted became my first TV commission."

Gemma Bedeau



BLOG: SUCCESS FOR BBC CHILDREN'S WRITERS

OUT AND ABOUT



*Belfast Book Festival
 Belfast Voices 2022
 Cinemagic, Belfast
 Contains Stroug Language Writersroom
 Drama Room 2022-23
 Scottish Voices 2022
 Scottish Drama Writers Programme 2022*

Popcorn Awards

Set up in 2019 by Popcorn Group, the Popcorn Writing Award celebrates fearless new work at the Edinburgh Fringe which playfully and artistically questions and addresses current affairs, societal trends and contributes positively to public debate.

2022 marked the first year of a collaboration with BBC Writersroom. We read the longlisted plays and took part in the judging committee while also offering individual feedback and advice to all the longlisted writers.



BLOG: POPCORN AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED



100K MONTHLY VISITORS
100s OPPORTUNITIES
1000s RESOURCES

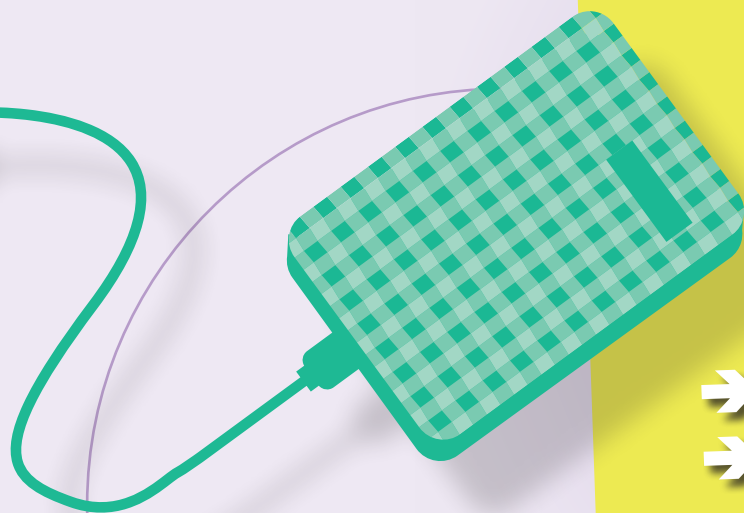
BBC WRITERSROOM ONLINE

BBC Writersroom’s digital presence is a key component in our engagement with the writing community and the public at large, aiming to be an approachable and accessible front door for writers of all ages and experience.

Our website gets nearly 4 million annual page views with up to 100,000 monthly users, many of whom check back in regularly.

We have social media accounts on Twitter (98k followers), Facebook (36k) and Instagram (18k) as well as a YouTube channel. Our Ask the Write Questions podcast is available on BBC Sounds and other podcast providers.

Across our digital output we share the latest news and opportunities, introduce writers who are part of our development programmes, provide resources to support writers, respond to questions and feedback and engage with the issues that are affecting writers and the wider industry today.



Get the Latest News

- ➔ [BBC WRITERSROOM WEBSITE](#)
- ➔ [BBC WRITERSROOM BLOG](#)

Writing Opportunities

One of the most popular and visited areas of our website is our Opportunities pages where we publish hundreds of free-to-enter writing opportunities each year. They range from callouts for 1 minute stage monologues through to opportunities from Film and Television companies.

The Opportunities page is a vital resource and has given many writers a first tangible entry point to the industry leading to their first professional credit.

➔ **DISCOVER OPPORTUNITIES
ACROSS THE INDUSTRY**

Follow us on Socials

[@BBCWRITERSROOM](#)  ➔

[@BBCWRITERS](#)  ➔

[@BBCWRITERS](#)  ➔

[YOUTUBE](#)  ➔

Script Library

Our online script library contains over 1000 scripts from across BBC TV, Radio and Film. It is one of the most comprehensive resources of its kind available worldwide.

Scripts include Happy Valley, Line of Duty, Doctor Who, This is Going to Hurt, Sherlock, In My Skin, Inside no. 9, Detectorists and many, many more.

➔ **EXPLORE THE
SCRIPT LIBRARY**

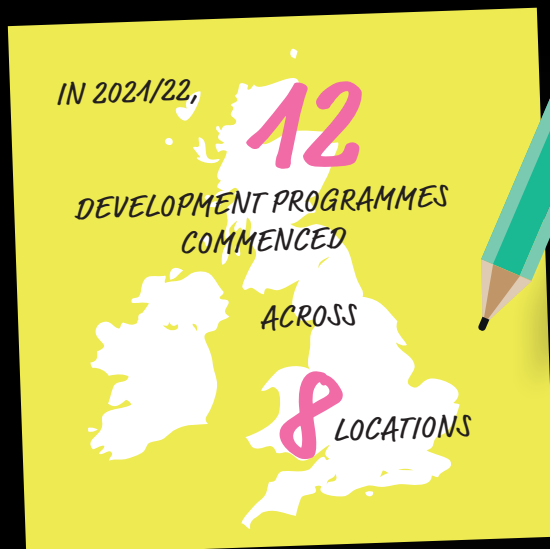
Digital Events

Alongside our online content resources we also regularly run digital events with the teams behind the BBC's latest drama releases or to support our schemes and initiatives for writers.

In 2021/22 these have included webinars with the teams behind Bloodlands, Crossfire, The Girl Before and Ralph & Katie as well as Inside Scoop sessions offering advice and support for writers entering our Open Call, the Hot House opportunity and Casualty's NHS Heroes.

➔ **MORE OPPORTUNITIES
AND EVENTS FOR WRITERS**

STATS AND DIVERSITY INFORMATION



DIVERSITY BREAKDOWN FOR 2021/22 PROGRAMME:

Gender Female/Other: 58.7%

Ethnic Minority: 32.1%

Lower Socio-Economic: 29.4%

Disability: 25.7%

Out of London: 83.2%

NUMBER OF WRITERS WE SUPPORTED IN 2021/22:

- 16** DRAMA ROOM 21/22
- 8** SCOTTISH DRAMA WRITERS' PROGRAMME 21/22
- 21** NORTHERN IRELAND HOTHOUSE 21/22
- 13** TV DRAMA WRITERS' PROGRAMME 21/22
- 16** WRITE ACROSS LIVERPOOL 2022
- 92** VOICES 21/22

The following Voices groups took place in 21/22: Scottish, Northern, Belfast, Welsh, London, North East, Coventry.

These Writer Development Programmes also concluded during 2021: Cornish Voices 2020/21 (17) and Writers' Access Group 2020/21 (13).

Our figures are derived from the most up-to-date data available. This is self-identified data taken from monitoring forms which are voluntarily completed, so we can't always guarantee a 100% return rate.

11,388

TOTAL NUMBER OF SCRIPTS SUBMITTED TO OUR OPPORTUNITIES VIA OUR ONLINE SUBMISSIONS SYSTEM IN 2021/22



194*

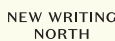
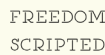
TOTAL NUMBER OF WRITERS WE WORKED WITH IN DEVELOPMENT GROUPS DURING 2021/22

*Two writers were selected for two programmes

Events & Partnerships

Partnerships are at the heart of everything we do at BBC Writersroom, working with industry friends and colleagues allows us to get to know and work with more writers in interesting and agile ways. Some partnerships are at the foundation of our writers' groups such as the seven cultural partners we worked with on Write Across Liverpool, and we contribute to others by sharing specific knowledge or expertise via talks and workshops for industry bodies and at events and festivals across the UK.

Here is a selection of some of the partners we worked with throughout 2021/22:



BBC

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We are looking ahead to an exciting and packed year working with passionate and talented writers.

HIGHLIGHTS 2023 2024

The **WRITERS' ACCESS GROUP** for deaf, disabled and neurodivergent writers returns for its third iteration and will be selected via an open selection process for the first time.

THE BREAK our series of micro shorts by new writers will be hitting BBC Three, this time with a focus on stories and storytellers from the West Midlands.

THE ALFRED BRADLEY BURSARY AWARD will be back and celebrating its 15th year championing emerging radio writers based in the North of England.

We will be opening up applications for our **PILOT** programme and **WRITE ACROSS** will return with an emphasis on a different part of the UK.

Our **OPEN CALL** will be back in November 2023 looking for exciting new writers for our **VOICES** and **DRAMA ROOM** programmes.

We will be announcing some exciting **NEW INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS** which will support emerging writing talent from the North East of England.

The **SCOTTISH DRAMA WRITERS' PROGRAMME** will return.

We will be exploring more partnership working across the whole of the UK and enriching those we have already established, including the **POPCORN NEW WRITING AWARD** which will return to the Edinburgh Fringe in August 2023.

Scan the QR code for a downloadable version of the Annual Report.



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