# Screenplay Development & New Writing Development
## Guidance Note

Bord Scannán na hÉireann/the Irish Film Board (BSÉ/IFB) will shortly make changes to the ways in which it considers projects and reaches decisions with regard to its Screenplay Development Scheme (for individual writers, writing teams and writer/director teams). These changes will come into effect from November 2017. This Guidance Note describes the context for these changes, the new procedures, and the principles that will inform them.

## *Supporting Creative Talent*

Over the past five years, BSÉ/IFB have noted a marked increase in the volume of applications for screenplay development funding (47% rise from 2012 – 2016) which demonstrates, not just the demand for support, but also the mass and diverse range of writers and directors currently developing feature film projects in Ireland. While supporting creative talent, both established and emerging, remains at the heart of the agenda of BSÉ/IFB, the challenge of balancing the demand for support with the limitations of BSÉ/IFB resources, has led to an internal review of the effectiveness of the current screenplay development scheme which has been operational (with some minor alterations) since 2007.

In light of this review, a number of priorities have emerged:

- BSÉ/IFB will remain ready to take an early-stage risk on both new and experienced screenwriters and directors but will put adequate provisions in place to ensure the fruitful development of each project funded as well as enhance the craft of the applicant themselves. With this in mind it is proposed to treat established and new talent separately within screenplay development, with bespoke programmes for each.
- BSÉ/IFB will continue to encourage strong collaborations between writers and script editors within the screenplay development scheme in order to maximise the results of the development process.
- BSÉ/IFB remains committed to gender equality particularly within the creative roles of writing and directing. Further initiatives may be announced specially targeting this in the future.

## *New Procedures in Practice*

### 1. Established Talent

The Screenplay Development Scheme as it currently exists will remain operational but will *only* be open to established talent. Established talent is defined as Irish (born or resident in the Republic of Ireland) individual writers, team of writers and writer and director teams where each applicant has at least **one produced** feature film or TV drama (drama series, mini-series and single drama) credit. Please note that credits on serial drama or soaps, short films, theatre, radio drama etc. are not eligible.

Awards of up to €12,000 for an individual or up to €16,000 for teams of two or more individuals will be made available to support the writing of a live action or animated feature film from treatment/outline or first draft stage. Successful applicants will be teamed with a BSÉ/IFB Project Manager and BSÉ/IFB approved Script Editor (subject to BSÉ/IFB approval) to further the development of the project.

*How to Apply*

Application for the Screenplay Development Scheme will be accepted on a monthly basis (generally the last working day of every month unless otherwise notified) with the applicant(s) entitled to enter one project only in any monthly round. The following items should be submitted through the BSÉ/IFB's online application system:

- Logline (up to 25 words) and Synopsis (up to one A4 page)
- Detailed treatment/outline (6-10 pages which should details the full narrative) and sample script pages (up to 25 pages) OR first draft screenplay (120 pages maximum)
- Writers (and Directors if applicable) notes on further development
- CV (s) clearing indicating produced credits
- Declaration of ownership of rights

*Application Deadline*
31st January 2018 (and monthly thereafter as indicated on the BSÉ/IFB website)

*Assessment Process*
Projects submitted will first be assessed by the Production, Development & Distribution team made up of BSÉ/IFB Project Managers, Production & Development Executive, Chief Executive and Distribution Manager. An independent readers report from an external reader will be obtained and consulted during the assessment process. This report will be available to applicants as the only form of feedback after the decision making process is completed.

## 2. New Writing Talent

The New Writing Scheme will be introduced for new talent. Emerging/new Talent is defined as Irish (born or resident in the Republic of Ireland) individual writers, writing teams and writer and director teams who may not have any produced feature film or TV drama credits but can display a track record in the creative arts via other writing work, short film making or appropriate third level qualifications.

Awards of up to €8,000 for an individual or up to €10,000 for teams of two or more individuals will be made available to support the writing of a live action or animated feature film from treatment/outline or rough first draft stage. In addition to the monetary award, successful candidates will partake in a collective workshopping stage over a nine - twelve month period with access to bespoke training, mentors and screenwriting experts. It is expected that this more focused and holistic approach will benefit the project but also enhance the craft and industry knowledge of each participant.

*How to Apply*
A call for applications for talent development will be made every nine to twelve months, with an applicant(s) allowed to enter one project only into a round. The following items should be submitted through the BSÉ/IFB's online application system:

- Logline (up to 25 words) and Synopsis (up to one A4 page)
- Detailed treatment/outline (6-10 pages which should detail the full narrative) and sample script pages (up to 25 pages)
- Writers (and Directors if applicable) statement on proposed plans for further development as well as reasons for attending the workshops
- CV (s) clearing indicating credits, education and relevant experience
- Declaration of ownership of rights

*Assessment Process*

Projects submitted will first be read and shortlisted by an independent panel of external expert assessors with an independent report commissioned within this process. Some applications may then be rejected, without further consultation, if judged to be not strong enough at this stage. Applications retained as interesting will then be assessed by the Development Group (made up of BSÉ/IFB Project Managers, BSÉ/IFB Production & Development Executive, CEO, members of the BSÉ/IFB Business Affairs team together with an External Consultant if deemed necessary).

*Application Deadline*
28th February 2018

Up to ten applications will be selected for support through the workshop process based on the Guiding Principles explained further in this document. The decisions of the Development Panel are final and unsuccessful candidates may request their independent reader's report as the only form of feedback that will be available following a submission.

## *Guiding Principles*

BSÉ/IFB remain deeply committed to facilitating and enhancing the development process particularly in terms of supporting individual screenwriters and directors and are somewhat unique (compared to their international counterparts) in the extent and level of involvement, it takes within this process.

In addition to the Principles and Criteria outlined on the BSÉ/IFB website which form the foundations of all decision making within BSÉ/IFB, a number of key principles will come into play when considering applications for screenplay and New Writing support.

While BSÉ/IFB understands that development will always be a "leap of faith", strong preference will be given to submissions on behalf of projects which display:

- A sound awareness of the craft, particular genre and understanding of audience expectations
- An original and authentic cinematic voice(s) that have interesting and ambitious stories to tell which add to the canon of Irish cinema
- Strong visual storytelling with relatable settings, characters and worlds
- Viability for production and potential to attract an audience
- Projects may be written in the Irish or English language
- BSÉ/IFB remains committed to achieving gender parity and diversity across all of its funding schemes

## Treoirnóta ar Fhorbairt Scripteanna Scannánacha & ar Fhorbairt Tallainn Éiritheach

Beidh Bord Scannán na hÉireann/the Irish Film Board (BSÉ/IFB) ag cur athruithe i bhfeidhm ar ball beag ar an dóigh a mheasann sé tograí agus a dhéanann sé socruithe maidir lena Scéim Fhorbartha Scripteanna Scannánacha (i gcomhair scríbhneoirí aonaracha, foirne scríbhneoireacha agus foirne scríbhneora/stiúrthóra). Tiocfaidh na hathruithe seo i bhfeidhm ó mhí na Samhna 2017. Cuireann an treoirnóta seo síos ar chomhthéacs na n-athruithe seo, ar na gnásanna nua, agus ar na prionsabail a chuireann bonn eolais fúthu.

### *Ag Tacú le Tallann Cruthaitheach*

Le cúig bliana anuas, thug BSÉ/IFB faoi deara go raibh méadú suntasach ar mhéid na n-iarratas a bhí ag lorg maoiniú forbartha scripteanna scannánacha (méadú 47% ó 2012 – 2016) a léiríonn, ní hamháin an t-éileamh fá choinne tacaíochta, ach líon agus réimse ilchineálach scríbhneoirí agus stiúrthóirí atá ag forbairt tograí príomhscannán in Éirinn i láthair na huaire. Cé go bhfuil soláthar tacaíochta do thallann chruthaitheach, idir bhunaithe agus éiritheach, go fóill i gcroílár chlár oibre BSÉ/IFB, tá dúshlán ann ag iarraidh cothromaíocht a aimsiú idir éilimh i gcomhair tacaíochta agus teorannú áiseanna BSÉ/IFB. De bharr seo cinneadh ar athbhreithniú inmheánach a dhéanamh ar éifeachtacht na scéime forbartha scripteanna scannánacha reatha a bhí ag feidhmiú (le roinnt mionathruithe) ó 2007.

I bhfianaise an athbhreithnithe seo, tháinig roinnt tosaíochtaí chun cinn:

- Fanfaidh BSÉ/IFB réidh le riosca luathchéime a ghlacadh ar scríbhneoirí scripte scannáin agus stiúrthóirí úra agus orthu siúd a bhfuil taithí acu fosta. Ach cuirfear coinníollacha leormhaithe i bhfeidhm chun forbairt thairbheach gach togra maoinithe a dheimhniú mar aon le ceird an iarrathóra féin a fheabhsú. Agus seo ar intinn againn moltar go bpléifear le tallann bunaithe agus éiritheach astu féin lastigh d'fhorbairt scripteanna scannánacha, agus cláir shaincheaptha a bheith ar fáil don dá ghrúpa.
- Leanfaidh BSÉ/IFB de bheith ag spreagadh comhoibriú láidir idir scríbhneoirí agus eagarthóirí scripte taobh istigh den scéim fhorbartha scripteanna scannánacha chun torthaí an phróisis fhorbartha a uasmhéadú.
- Leanfaidh BSÉ/IFB de bheith díograiseach do chothroime inscne go háirithe lastigh de na rólanna cruthaitheacha scríbhneoireachta agus stiúrthóireachta. Thiocfadh tuilleadh tionscnaimh a fhógairt sa todhchaí a dhíreoidh go speisialta air seo.

### *Cleachtadh Nósanna Imeachta Nua*

#### 1. Tallann Bunaithe

Leanfaidh an Scéim Fhorbartha Scripteanna Scannánacha á cur i bhfeidhm mar atá sí faoi láthair ach beidh sí oscailte do thallann bhunaithe amháin. Tugtar sainmhíniú ar thallann bhunaithe mar scríbhneoirí Éireannacha aonaracha (a rugadh nó atá ina gcónaí i bPoblacht na hÉireann), fhoireann scríbhneoirí agus mar fhoirne scríbhneoirí agus stiúrthóirí. Caithfidh aon chreidiúint amháin ar a laghad a bheith ag gach iarratasóir atá bunaithe ar phríomhscannán léirithe nó ar shraith theilifíse dhrámaíochta (ní ghlacfar le creidiúintí atá bunaithe ar dhrámaíocht shraithe nó ar shobaldhrámaí, ar ghearrscannáin, ar amharclannaíocht, ar dhrama raidió srl.).

Cuirfear sparánachtaí a fhad le €12,000 ar fáil i gcás duine aonair nó a fhad le €16,000 i gcomhair foirne beirte nó níos mó chun tacú le scríobh príomhscannán aicsean beo nó beochana ó chéim an

bhunchuntais/bhreac-chuntais nó an chéad dréachta. Cuirfear iarratasóirí rathúla le Bainisteoir Tionscadail BSÉ/IFB agus le hEagarthóir Scripte ceadaithe ag BSÉ/IFB (faoi réir cheadú BSÉ/IFB) le tuilleadh forbairt a chur ar an togra.

*Treoirlínte*
Glacfar le hiarratais don Scéim Fhorbartha Scripteanna Scannánacha ar bhonn míosúil (an lá oibre deireannach i ngach mí de ghnáth, mura sonraítear a mhalairt) agus iarratasóir(í) i dteideal aon togra amháin a chur isteach in aon mhí amháin). Ba chóir na míreanna sonraí a leanas a bheith san áireamh trí chóras iarratais BSÉ/IFB atá ar líne:

- Gearrchuntas (suas le 25 focal) agus Achoimre (suas le leathanach amháin A4)
- Mionléiriú/creatlach (6-10 leathanach ar chóir cur síos ar an scéal iomlán) agus leathanaigh scripte samplacha (suas le 25 leathanach) NÓ céad dréacht na scripte scannáin (uasmhéid 120 leathanach).
- Nótaí Scríbhneoirí (agus an Stiúrthóra más bainteach) ar thuilleadh forbairte
- CV(s) ag cur síos ar chreidiúintí léirithe go soiléir
- Dearbhú ar úinéireacht na gceart

*An Dóigh le hIarratas a Chur Isteach*
31 Eanáir 2018 (agus go míosúil ó sin amach mar a léirítear ar shuíomh ghréasáin BSÉ/IFB

*An Modh Measúnaithe*
Ar an chéad dul síos measfaidh an fhoireann Léirithe, Fhorbartha & Dháilte na tionscadail a chuirfear isteach. Comhdhéanfar an fhoireann seo de Bhainisteoirí Tionscadail BSÉ/IFB, Feidhmeannach Léirithe & Forbartha, Príomhfheidhmeannach agus Bainisteoir Dáilte. Gheobhfar tuairisc léitheora neamhspleách ó léitheoir seachtrach agus rachfar i gcomhairle leis le linn an phróisis mheasúnaithe. Is í an tuairisc seo an t-aon sórt aiseolais a bheas ar fáil ag iarratasóirí tar éis chomhlíonadh an phróisis chinnteoireachta.

## 2. Tallann Éiritheach

Tabharfar Scéim an Tallainn Éiritheach isteach do thallann úr. Tugtar sainmhíniú ar thallann éiritheach mar scríbhneoirí Éireannacha aonaracha (a rugadh nó atá ina gcónaí i bPoblacht na hÉireann), fhoireann scríbhneoirí agus mar fhoirne scríbhneoirí agus stiúrthóirí go mb'fhéidir nach bhfuil aon chreidiúintí do phríomhscannáin léirithe nó drámaíocht TV acu ach a thig cnuasach oibre a léiriú sna healaíona cruthaitheacha mar thoradh ar obair scríbhneoireachta eile, ar ghearrscannánaíocht nó ar cháilíochtaí chuí an tríú leibhéil.

Cuirfear sparánachtaí a fhad le €8,000 ar fáil i gcás duine aonair nó a fhad le €10,000 i gcomhair foirne beirte nó níos mó chun tacú le scríobh príomhscannán aicsean beo nó beochana ó chéim an bhunchuntais/bhreac-chuntais nó ón chéad gharbhdréachta. Mar aon leis an sparántacht airgeadaíochta glacfaidh iarratasóirí rathúla páirt i gcéim chomhcheardlainne thar thréimhse naoi – dhá mhí déag ina mbeidh teacht ar thraenáil shaincheaptha, ar mheantóirí agus ar shaineolaithe scríbhneoireachta scáileáin. Bítear ag súil go mbeidh an cur chuige níos fócasaithe agus níos iomlánaíochta seo ar leas an tionscadail mar aon le heolas gach rannpháirtí ar an cheird agus ar an tionscal a fheabhsú.

*An Dóigh le hIarratas a Chur Isteach*

Ceadófar iarratais d'fhorbairt tallaínn ar bhonn gach naoi go dtí sá mhí déag agus cead ag iarratasóir(í) aon togra amháin a chur isteach in aon bhabhta amháin. Ba chóir na míreanna sonraí a leanas a bheith san áireamh trí chóras iarratais BSÉ/IFB atá ar líne:

- Gearrchuntas (suas le 25 focal) agus Achoimre (suas le leathanach amháin A4)
- Mionléiriú/creatlach (6-10 leathanach ar chóir cur síos ar an scéal iomlán) agus leathanaigh scripte samplacha (suas le 25 leathanach) NÓ céad dréacht na scripte scannáin (uasmhéid 120 leathanach).
- Ráiteas Scríbhneora (agus an Stiúrthóra más bainteach) ar phleananna molta i dtreo tuilleadh forbairte mar aon le cúiseanna chun freastal ar na ceardlanna
- CV(s) ag cur síos ar chreidiúintí léirithe, ar oideachas agus ar thaithí ábhartha go soiléir
- Dearbhú ar úinéireacht na gceart

*An Modh Measúnaithe*

Léifidh agus gearrliostóidh painéal measúnóirí saineolaithe neamhspleách na tionscadail a chuirfear isteach agus coimisiúnófar tuairisc neamhspleách mar chuid den phróiseas seo. Thiocfadh roinnt iarratais a bheith diúltaithe ansin, gan tuilleadh comhchomhairle, má mholtar go bhfuil siad lag go sonrach ag an chéim seo. Ansin measfaidh An Grúpa Forbartha iarratais a shíleadh a bheith suimiúil. (Comhdhéanfar an grúpa seo de Bhainisteoirí BSÉ/IFB, Feidhmeannach Léirithe & Forbartha, PF, baill na foirne BSÉ/IFB um Ghnóthaí Gnó i dteannta le Sainchomhairleoir Seachtrach má mheastar gur gá).

*Spriocdháta Iarratais*

28 Feabhra 2018

Roghnófar suas le deic n-iarratas i gcomhair tacaíochta tríd an phróiseas cheardlainne a bheas bunaithe ar na Treoirphrionsabail atá mínithe níos faide anon sa cháipéis seo. Tá socruithe an Phainéil Fhorbartha daingean agus is féidir iarratasóirí mírathúla tuairisc an léitheora neamhspleách a iarraidh – an t-aon sórt aiseolais a chuirfear ar fáil i ndiaidh aighneachta.

## *Treoirphrionsabail*

Leanann BSÉ/IFB de bheith tiomanta go láidir d'éascú agus d'fheabhsú an phróisis fhorbartha go háirithe maidir le tacaíocht a sholáthar do scríbhneoirí scripte agus stiúrthóirí aonaracha agus tá cur chuige ar leith acu (i gcomparáid lena gcomheagrais idirnáisiúnta) i dtaobh leis an mhéid agus an leibhéal rannpháirteachais a ghlacann sé lastigh den phróiseas seo.

Chomh maith leis na Prionsabail agus Critéir a bhfuil achoimre orthu ar shuíomh idirlín BSÉ/IFB a leagann síos bonn na gcinntí i BSÉ/IFB, beidh tionchar ag roinnt príomhphrionsabail nuair a bheifear ag meas iarratas i gcomhair thacaíocht scripte scannáin agus tallainn éiritheach.

Cé go dtuigeann BSÉ/IFB go bhfuiltear ag dul ar choimirce na cinniúna i gcás na forbartha, tabharfar claonadh láidir d'aighneachtaí ar son tionscadal a léiríonn:

- Tuiscint mhaith ar an cheird, ar an seanrá agus ar shúilíochtaí an lucht féachana
- Guth(anna) bunaidh barántúil scannánaíochta a bhfuil scéalta suimiúla uaillmhianacha le haithris aige a chuirfidh le canóin na scannánaíochta in Éirinn.

- Scéalaíocht láidir fhísiúil a bhfuil suíomhanna, carachtair agus saolta sothuigthe inti
- Inmharthanacht léirithe agus acmhainn le lucht féachana a mhealladh
- Is féidir tionscadail a scríobh i nGaeilge nó as Béarla
- Leanann BSÉ/IFB de bheith tiomanta do chothromaíocht agus éagsúlacht inscne a bhaint amach trasna a chuid scéimeanna maoinithe go léir.