Course outline: Certificate in TV Drama: Creating the Bible

A few years ago, UK TV executives came to the view that the day of the complex drama series was over. With the arrival of the digital age, audiences were likely to lose patience with the idea of following a complex story over a number of weeks. Drama series would have to tell a complete story each week in a familiar genre.

However, with the current success of streaming TV Drama – first pioneered by HBO in America – that view seems premature. Shows like *The Wire* and *Mad Men* have created a new appetite among audiences for original and challenging drama series. The BBC has acknowledged this by commissioning a whole range of new drama series for BBC2. Channel 4 is also expanding into this territory. ITV's huge success with *Downton Abbey* came from a decision to think outside of the traditional 'cops and docs' formula.

TV Drama: Creating the Bible is a course designed with this background in mind. It will offer writers the chance to plan and write a 50-minute pilot episode and bible for an original drama series. It will encourage the kind of ambition achieved by the best drama series of the past and present in a very practical way. The course will not be based on any academic idea but on the actual experience of working on a script among professionals over a period of eight weeks. It will be fuelled by the best writing practices from television's past and present.