



Freelancer Focus

Monday 2nd - Friday 13th October



The BBC and Channel 4 have partnered with the National Film and Television School to deliver two weeks of free online sessions aimed at freelancers working in the UK.

The schedule includes masterclasses, workshops, advice and wellbeing sessions for those working in both scripted and unscripted production. Delivered as webinars, they will offer practical knowledge, skills and support on topics as varied as financial planning, cv writing and self-confidence at a time when the sector is facing unprecedented challenges.

All sessions will be hosted on **Zoom**. Please note, they will not be recorded.

Week 1: Monday 2nd to Wednesday 4th October

MONDAY 2nd

10.00 – 11.00

Pitch Yourself Perfect

Is your CV or application getting lost in a stack? Don't know how to pivot into a different genre? Now more than ever, it's vital to build an approach and online profile for yourself that helps you stand out, as well as attracts the kind of connections you want to work with. And when the industry is quiet, it's a chance to be proactive about it. Join co-MD of staffing company [Talented People](#) and Producer/Host of [The Imposter Club](#) podcast, Kimberly Godbolt for this useful and upbeat session on tangible ways to tweak your positioning.

14.00 – 15.30

BBC Unscripted: Career Progression Opportunities

Join Nichola Garde, BBC Creative Diversity, Disability Lead to explore BBC Elevate, supporting the industry wide progression of deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent production talent and learn about the Production Management Skills Fund, the RAD/Supersizer/ Fast Track and SP programmes run by TRC.

Commissioners Beejal Patel and Emma Loach join to discuss funded regional female self-shooting courses and editor traineeships in Documentaries.

TUESDAY 3rd

10.00 – 11.00

CVs: The good, the bad and the best

Your CV is still the most effective tool in marketing yourself and there are simple but effective ways to make it stand out. Media industry coach Matt Pearcey will take you through best practice on writing and updating a cv and the common mistakes everyone should avoid.

13.30 – 14.30

How to be Strategic about your Freelance Career

Being freelance doesn't mean you can't be strategic in your approach to work. In this session, Sara Putt, founder of Sara Putt Associates and also Chair of BAFTA, shares insights and tips on how to take control of your career and navigate the ups and downs.

WEDNESDAY 4th

10.00 – 11.15

Managing Your Finances as a Freelancer

Being freelance brings flexibility, but when times are challenging it also means you have to get organised with finances and keep money under control. David Thomas will look at how to engage with budgeting and cash flow planning as a freelancer. We will also cover how the tax office treats different types of freelancer, and how to keep records without wasting time on paperwork. After the session you will have online access to useful templates and downloads some of which will be demonstrated during the session.

14.30 – 15.30

C4 Digital Commissioning with Laura Marks

Channel 4's Senior Digital Commissioner and Senior Operations Lead, Laura Marks, will talk about C4's latest digital slate and brief attendees on upcoming C4 Digital Commissioning opportunities.

Week 1: Thursday 5th to Friday 6th October

THURSDAY 5th

10.00 – 11.00

Film and TV Charity: Wellbeing and Support

The Film and TV Charity provide support for people working behind the scenes, from freelancers to full time workers. In this session they will take you through the many ways they can support your financial, mental and practical wellbeing during this difficult time, along with a walkthrough of how their Whole Picture Toolkit can support you and any production you are working on to become a mentally healthy production.

13.30 – 14.30

In Search of the Perfect Story with John Yorke

John Yorke is widely acknowledged as the UK's foremost expert on story; in this masterclass he will take you on a tour of the origins of narrative structure and how you can apply it to tell increasingly powerful narratives. There will be the chance to ask John questions at the end of the session.

FRIDAY 6th

11.00 – 12.00

Opportunities for Growth with Channel 4

Join Rebecca Thompson, Head of Indie Relations, Caroline Percy, Senior Portfolio Manager and Kevin Blacoe, Head of Partnerships and Skills as they cover the support C4 offers for freelancers and indies. This will include information on the Emerging Indie Fund, Indie Growth Fund, 4Skills and the wider Nations and Regions strategy.

14.00 – 15.00

Opportunities in Games and Immersive Production

Many of the skillsets in tv production are also applicable to games and immersive storytelling. Writers, directors, producers and production managers for example, will have transferable skills that are sought by companies in the games and immersive sector. This panel discussion will explore where the opportunities lie and hear from those who have made the move.

Week 2: Monday 9th to Wednesday 11th October

MONDAY 9th

10.30 – 11.30

Introduction to Script Editing

Join **Zina Wegrzynski** to gain an overview of the role of script editor within scripted television. We'll look at how the role shifts through development to production and the different responsibilities that the script editor has as a show progresses.

14.00 – 15.30

BBC Comedy and Drama: Career Progression Opportunities

Join **Jess Loveland**, BBC Head of New Writing to learn how BBC Writersroom discovers, develops and champions writing talent, and Emma Lawson, Commissioning Editor for Comedy, to find out about the schemes, projects, and bursary activity available within BBC Comedy. Nichola Garde outlines the BBC Elevate scheme and upcoming DDPTV networking sessions connecting Deaf, Disabled and/ or Neurodivergent talent with production companies to help expand contact networks.

TUESDAY 10th

11.30 – 12.30

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13.30 – 14.30

Freelancer Guide to Contracts and Negotiating

Gwenda Carnie of Industry Media explains the different types of contracts that companies use to engage production staff and crew, the clauses that can be negotiated (and the bits that can't) and other essential information every freelancer should know.

WEDNESDAY 11th

10.30 – 11.30

CV Clinic

Sign up for a 1-to-1 with a Talent Manager who can give feedback and tips to improve your CV. Slots will be allocated on first come first served basis and this session is exclusively available for those who attended CVs: The Good the Bad and the Best on Tues 3rd Oct.

15.00 – 16.00

Introduction to 4Studio

Join Channel 4's in-house digital content team as they talk you through the work of their team, including insight into changing audience behaviours, how they engage with younger audiences, and how they work with the independent sector.

The session will include Ally McCrae, Digital Development Producer and other members of the 4Studio team.

Week 2: Thursday 12th to Friday 13th October

THURSDAY 12th

10.30 – 11.30

Confidence Surgery

In this highly motivational session you'll learn simple, practical skills that can be used to build up and sustain your confidence and self-confidence in any situation – be it an interview, starting a new job or learning new skills. Sasha Damjanovski is a coach, lecturer and an award-winning producer, director and writer with over 25 years of experience in film, TV, and business communications.

14.00 – 15.15

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FRIDAY 13th

10.00 – 11.15

BBC Digital Opportunities and The BBC Academy

James Reeve outlines BBC Creator Lab, the new talent scheme for social media content creators in collaboration with TikTok. He will be joined by Karlene Pinnock from BBC Content Social Team, Bethan Jinkinson Executive Editor, BBC Ideas, and Cerys Griffiths Creative Director, BBC Education to talk about opportunities in digital production and content creation for freelancers at the BBC. Louise Blythe, BBC Academy Training Manager will give an overview of the new Inclusion Hub and BBC Academy career networking initiatives.

12.00 – 13.00

Creativity and Resilience: A conversation with Sally Wainwright

Multi-award winning screenwriter, director and executive producer Sally Wainwright (Happy Valley, Last Tango In Halifax, Gentleman Jack) will be discussing maintaining creativity while navigating the inevitable obstacles and challenges that come with a creative profession.



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