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**Monday 2nd September 2019**

**Open Horizons#2 - opening doors to creative careers**

Northern Film + Media (NFM) and The Film and TV Charity launch the second Open Horizons initiative, a 9 month initiative for early and emerging career professionals which provides bespoke support to develop career opportunities. The initiative is again financed by The Film and TV Charity and managed by NFM and NFM Academy. It is open to applicants from throughout the UK who find geographical location a barrier to career advancement.

Open Horizons#2 is the senior tier of NFM Academy, which has supported over 800 new entrants to the industry since its launch in 2015.

NFM Academy has been designed to support new entrants into the film and television industry, equipping members with skills development, networks and industry specific training. Lack of awareness of career opportunities among new entrants is a critical issue – often made worse by lack of financial capital, social capital and physical distance from the epicentres of the industry.

“*Opportunities in the film and TV industry are much scarcer if you live in a production cold spot like the North East of England. If the level of production in a region is low then opportunities for work experiences can be incredibly limited – especially in the early years of your career, if you’ve had a career break or if you want to up to a new role. The need to undertake work experience outside of your home region in areas where the cost of living is high is a significant obstacle for those without the financial means to do so. It is a real barrier to socio-economic inclusion.” John Tulip Managing Director NFM.*

NFM Academy counteracts these combined problems in part by being both free to access and supporting placements. Additionally, it is distinctive in helping guide suitable new entrants towards skills shortage areas, which are currently abundant and pressing. It is thereby intended to maximise participants’ chances of establishing a viable career while helping to strengthen the UK’s screen industries as a whole.

Rachel Hillman, Director of Grants and Programme Development at The Film and TV Charity, commented: “*Ours is a wonderful, world beating creative industry but we hear so often from the people we help how hard it is to get a break so we’re excited to be backing the Open Horizons initiative. We hope it will help open up opportunities not only to help talent flourish but strengthen our screen industries as a whole*.”

Gayle Woodruffe, NFM Academy added: *“Film and TV productions can often find it time consuming or difficult to find the most appropriate person for them. At NFM Academy we endeavour, not only to help them find the best of the emerging talent we also make sure they are prepared for the industry and have a high standard of professional, interpersonal and ethical practice.”*

Up to now NFM Academy services have been restricted to those right at the start of their careers. The ‘Open Horizons#2’ initiative will open provision up to those with more experience, supporting super-charged placements and industry expert mentoring, specially curated set tours on high end productions and bursary support to help to with costs stemming from the distance between where they live and national work placements.  The aim is to help participants progress to higher grades, secure more work, secure work of better quality, and secure work in more prestigious genres currently inaccessible to them

*“Open Horizons is a career changing initiative, it will give opportunities not available before and we are excited to see how participants grow their skills, experience and networks and move forward in their careers fulfilling their potential.”* Gayle Woodruffe, Head of Production Service, NFM.

There are 12 places available on this 9-month initiative and applicants will be shortlisted and interviewed to assess support and professional development needs. Applications for the 2019 initiative will open on 2nd September 2019 and close midday 11th October 2019.

Application forms and guidance notes can be found at [www.northernmedia.org/project/openhorizons](http://www.northernmedia.org/project/openhorizons) or to contact a member of the team email info@nfamcademy.co.uk.

**Who Can Apply?**

Open Horizons#2 is open to applicants with at least two years of professional experience including work placements and paid experience in any behind-the-camera role across the film and television industry. Your two years’ experience may have been achieved cumulatively or consecutively.

You must not earn more than £20,000 per annum or have readily accessible savings or equity of more than £10,000.

You must be resident within the UK.

You must be over 18.

Open Horizons#2 does not award individuals any funds directly.  All activity will be agreed with the participants in advance and costs covering that activity will be administered by NFM.

**ENDS
Notes to editors:**

**For further information contact Gayle Woodruffe Head of Production Service at Northern Film + Media** **gayle@northernmedia.org**

**Northern Film + Media** (NFM) is North East England’s creative industries development agency. We work with businesses and professionals specialising in film, TV and screen-based arts, primarily through our talent development projects, events and production service. In addition, we drive regional commercial film and television production and attract inward investment by promoting the region as a base for incoming film and TV production. <https://northernmedia.org/>

**NFM Academy**. [www.nfmacademy.co.uk](http://www.nfmacademy.co.uk)

Showcasing creative career opportunitiesfor young professionals, improving their skills, creative confidence, and aspirations and providing pathways into industry. NFM is the regional leader in talent development in film and TV. The NFM Academy supports the next generation of diverse practitioners. NFM’s work to increase opportunities for new, emerging talent and young professionals from the North East of England to be employed in the industry – to stay and work in the region on experimental, ambitious and world class productions and to go on to work nationally and internationally able to manage sustainable careers. NFM have a strong understanding of the needs of new and emerging talent and the demanding requirements of industry. This alongside NFM’s extensive and established relationships with the industry through managing the North East’s production service means they are uniquely placed and have a track record of success.

**The Film and TV Charity** <https://filmtvcharity.org.uk/>

The Film and TV Charity supports people in the film and television industry in the UK at every stage of their career and beyond. The charity’s revitalised mission is to support the wellbeing of all those who help bring stories to our screens, and empowering them to fulfil their personal and professional lives.

The Charity does this in three ways: providing financial assistance; through everyday support; and speaking up to shine a light on the under reported issues it sees through its work with individuals. The organisation launched its 0800 054 00 00 Film & TV Support Line in April 2018. It has provided confidential and independent support on a wide range of needs including stress, anxiety, mental health, bullying, harassment, and financial and legal issues to over 1,700 clients since its launch.

Formerly the Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund, the charity was founded by the industry for the industry in 1924 to help in times of need.

Alex Pumfrey was appointed CEO in October 2017.

HM The Queen is the Patron of the Charity.

 