



PARLIAMENTARIANS' CALL FOR FILMMAKERS TO ENTER FILM THE HOUSE PARLIAMENTARY COMPETITION

Tracy Brabin MP (Shadow Minister for Cultural Industries), Lord Tim Clement-Jones (Vice-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Intellectual Property Group) and Giles Watling MP (Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Writers Group) are calling for local creators to enter Parliament's prestigious **Film the House** competition. This annual competition offers the opportunity to put local filmmakers in direct contact with the movers and shakers of the film industry and to have the best of UK talent take front and centre stage.

Each year, the best upcoming creators from around the country submit entries for a range of awards including Best Film Script (under and over 19), the Directors UK Award for Best Film Directions (under and over 19) and Best Short Film (under and over 19).

Entries are shared with MPs and an expert industry panel of leading figures from across Britain's creative landscape choose the shortlist and winners. In 2019, prizes included mentoring from professionals in the film industry, a private screening of the winners' films for friends and family and classification of the winning films and scripts by BBFC. The **Film the House** competition is a pioneering opportunity to showcase what the UK has to offer, while raising awareness about the importance of intellectual property (IP) to our creative industries.

Dates for the 2020 competition are:

- 15 June 2020: Competition launch date
- 16 November 2020: Closing date for entries
- 1 February 2021: Shortlist announced
- 2 March 2021: Awards Ceremony, House of Commons, London

The categories for the 2020 competition are:

- Best Film Script (under 19)
- Best Film Script (19 and over)
- Directors UK Best Film Direction (under 19)
- Directors UK Best Film Direction (19 and over)
- Best Short Film (under 19)
- Best Short Film (19 and over)

What supporters of IP and the competition are saying:

Helen Lederer, writer, comedian and 2019 Film the House judge said:

"It was a pleasure to be part of a competition that helps celebrate up-and-coming British film talent. Creative competitions like Film the House are an integral way for new creators to get involved in the industry while at the same time highlighting the importance of IP to MPs and creatives alike."

Lord Tim Clement-Jones, Vice-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Intellectual Property Group and parliamentary sponsor of Film the House, said:

“Intellectual property is a vital way of making sure that creators are properly rewarded for the artistic works they produce. This is as true for film and other visual media as it is for books, fashion or music. Film the House is designed to highlight the importance we place in Parliament on IP and on good IP protection and enforcement. We hope that for their part creators will respond by taking part in Film the House and demonstrate the huge audiovisual and writing talent that we have in this country.”

Notes for editors

Film the House was set up by former MP and IP adviser to the Prime Minister, Mike Weatherley. The competition was set up to:

“Educate Parliamentarians about the importance of the creative industries to the British economy and how, without protecting Intellectual Property, we are putting important industries and revenue streams in jeopardy.”

Film the House was launched as a fun way to educate Parliamentarians and young people about the importance of the creative industries to the UK economy and the many ways in which we can nurture and protect our creative industries. It is now one of Parliament’s largest competitions and is just one of a number of initiatives that is aimed at significantly raising awareness of the need to protect creativity and copyright by bringing together young filmmakers and Parliamentarians.

Film the House is intended to invite and to showcase the ‘best’ filmmakers and scriptwriters across the UK – with particular emphasis on young participants and people who have not, yet, been noticed and realised their potential. It is also a way for participants to meet their local MP and to learn a little more about how ‘Parliament in Westminster’ works.

As of 2020, **Film the House** is being run by its industry sponsors:

- ALCS
- Directors UK
- The Motion Picture Association
- Netflix
- Viacom
- The Walt Disney Company
- Warner Bros. Entertainment

And the following organisations are supporting the competition:

- Alliance for IP
- Association of Authors’ Agents
- British Board of Film Classification (BBFC)
- British Film Institute (BFI)
- British Copyright Council (BCC)
- British Screen Forum
- Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA)
- Creative Industries Federation
- Educational Recording Agency (ERS)
- Intellectual Property Office (IPO)
- Society of Authors (SoA)
- Writers’ Guild of Great Britain (WGGB)

For more information please contact:

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