



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

Rt Hon Sir Kevin Barron MP (Chair of the All Party Film Group), Lord Tim Clement-Jones (Vice-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Intellectual Property Group) and Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP (Chair of the All Party 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. This year's competition heralds the addition of the Directors UK award for Best Film Direction for under and over 16s, as well as prizes for Best Film Script and Best Short Film.

Entries will initially be shared with MPs before an expert industry panel of leading figures from across Britain's creative landscape chooses the shortlist and winners. In 2018, 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 2019 competition are:

- 9 September 2019: Competition launch date
- 19 December 2019: Closing date for entries
- 3 February 2020: Shortlist announced
- 3 March 2020: Awards Ceremony, House of Commons, London

The categories for the 2019 competition are:

- Best Film Script (under 16)
- Best Film Script (16 and over)
- Best Film Direction (under 16) **NEW FOR 2019**
- Best Film Direction (16 and over) **NEW FOR 2019**
- Best Short Film (under 16)
- Best Short Film (16 and over)

More information on how you can apply for the competition and the criteria for entry can be found at: [www.filmthehouse.co.uk](http://www.filmthehouse.co.uk)

**What supporters of IP and the competition are saying:**

**Lord Dobbs, writer and executive producer of *House of Cards*:** *"Those who work in our creative industries are world beaters, singing way above the scale and generating more than £101.5 billion a year for the U.K. economy. While audiences around the globe lap up this tremendous creativity with*

*more enthusiasm than ever, it's never been more important to protect those who make it all happen. That's where Film the House comes in. It's a fantastic way of celebrating the newest generation of creative artists, while also highlighting the importance of intellectual property rights and engaging MPs with their constituents. I'm delighted to have been a part of last year's parliamentary celebrations - so much fun - and I want to encourage any budding filmmakers to get involved with this year's competition. Make it happen!"*

**Steve Smith, Chair of Directors UK and Director of *The Graham Norton Show* said:** *"We're delighted to be part of Film the House and to introduce a new award: The Directors UK Award for Best Film Direction. We look forward to being inspired by the submissions from all over the UK. So, to those budding auteurs out there with ambition and vision, we encourage you to pick up a camera – even the one on your phone - and start shooting. Film the House aims to raise awareness of the value of intellectual property for creators. For working freelance directors this is particularly important as the royalties generated from copyright are a vital source of income. At Directors UK our aim is to protect directors and their copyright, ensuring they can sustain careers and continue to make films for others to enjoy."*

## 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 2019, **Film the House** is being run by its industry sponsors:

- ALCS
- Directors UK
- Disney
- Lionsgate
- The Motion Picture Association
- Sky
- Viacom
- Warner Bros. Entertainment

And the following organisations are also supporting the competition:

- Alliance for IP
- British Board of Film Classification (BBFC)
- British Film Institute (BFI)
- British Copyright Council (BCC)
- Educational Recording Agency (ERS)
- Intellectual Property Office (IPO)
- Into Film
- Luther Pendragon

- British Screen Advisory Council (BSAC)
- Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA)
- Society of Authors (SoA)
- Writers' Guild of Great Britain (WGGB)

For more information please contact:

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