

DIRECTORS UK

Press Release

Embargoed until 25th August 2016

Directors UK Announces New Extended High End TV Drama Directors Mentoring Programme

Directors UK and the High End TV Council are delighted to announce an expanded career development initiative, to help progress and diversify the directing talent in High End TV drama.

In conjunction with Creative Skillset, the High End TV Levy Fund has committed to funding this new scheme for directors looking to advance their careers. With this new investment, Directors UK is working closely with the High End TV Council to create an extended 12-week paid mentoring placements with production companies and broadcasters across the UK.

The 'Directors UK High End TV Drama Directors Programme' aims to give directors a broader understanding of how shows within the genre are made, and how they differ from lower-budget drama productions. Directors will gain an insight into all areas of High End drama including pre-production, shooting, and post-production, ultimately giving them the skill set needed to be able to direct an episode in the future. As part of the scheme, directors will also have access to post-placement support from Directors UK.

This new programme follows on from the successful pilot scheme in 2015, which focused on delivering practical hands-on learning and opportunities across a recording block on popular High End dramas including *Undercover*, *Mr. Selfridge*, *The Tunnel*, *Humans*, and *Dickensian*.

Laura Adams, Head of Member Services at Directors UK said:

"We're delighted to be working closely with Creative Skillset to build on a successful mentoring programme for directors. As well as gaining vital experience, directors will form close connections with production companies, which we hope will lead to employment opportunities in high-end drama as well as long-running drama series."

Ruth Palmer, High End TV Manager at Creative Skillset said:

"Following the success of the pilot scheme in 2015, the High End TV Council are delighted to support the work of Directors UK in embarking on this incredibly important programme

which will ensure there is a first-class, multi skilled, talented pool of Directors for High End TV drama. With the continued growth and demand for High End TV drama, there has never been a more important time to ensure we are supporting our industry in providing the talent that will maintain and enhance our reputation.”

Details about the scheme and how to apply will be published on the Directors UK website in the autumn, at www.directors.uk.com.

-Ends-

Notes to Editors:

- **DIRECTORS UK** is the single voice of British screen directors representing the creative, economic and contractual interests of over 6,000 members – the overwhelming majority of working film and television directors in the UK. Directors UK campaigns for the rights, working conditions and status of directors in the industry and works closely with fellow organisations in the UK, Europe and around the world to represent directors’ rights and concerns. It also promotes excellence in the craft of direction both nationally and internationally, and champions change to the current landscape to create an equal opportunity industry for all.
- **CREATIVE SKILLSET** works with the UK’s screen-based creative industries to find and develop skills and talent, from classroom to boardroom. www.creativeskillset.org
- Further information can be found at www.directors.uk.com
- Directors UK Social Media handle: **@directors_UK**

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