



Press Release

13th Dec 2018

## **BBC and Directors UK Announce the Fourth Year of the Continuing Drama Directors' Training Scheme**

**BBC Drama and Directors UK are delighted to announce that the Continuing Drama New Directors' Training Scheme is to run again, for a fourth year.**

Following the success of this collaboration since its inception in 2015, this year will see nine drama directors mentored on some of BBC Studios' continuing drama series. In previous years this has included *Doctors*, *EastEnders*, *River City*, *Holby City* and *Casualty*.

As part of their training, each director will observe and participate in the entire production process of an episode of a show, from pre to post production, and will ultimately take the helm for one full episode to gain a directing credit. The scheme also offers the possibility of employment after training, as there is an ambition for the series to hire directors within nine months for a full directorial commission if the director has shown that they can meet the standards required.

The award-winning day time series, *Doctors* will be the first series to take submissions for the scheme. Applications will open on Thursday 13th December 2018 and the deadline is Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

The scheme is inviting applications from directors who have a genuine interest in *Doctors* and are passionate about developing their skills in continuing drama. Candidates are expected to demonstrate a solid knowledge of the drama, and it is open to anyone who meets the requirements of the scheme.

The selection panel will include **Anne Edyvean**, Head of BBC Writersroom; **Simon Nelson**, Development Executive, BBC Writersroom; and a team of experienced continuing drama TV directors along with BBC Producers and Executive Producers from *Doctors*.

**The Continuing Drama New Directors' Training Scheme** is funded by BBC Drama and Directors UK and is run by BBC Writersroom, with support from BBC Studios. Applications from BAME and female directors are encouraged as the industry recognises that both are currently under-represented within film and TV directing generally.

Applications for other continuing drama series in the scheme will be rolled out at the start of 2019.

More information about the scheme, full requirements and application details are available at the BBC website, via the link below. Deadline for applications is January 14th 2019 at 10am.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/opportunities/BBC-New-Directors-Scheme-Doctors-2019>

-Ends-

**Notes to Editors:**



- **Directors UK** is the professional association of UK screen directors. It is a membership organisation representing the creative, economic and contractual interests of over 7,000 members - the majority of working TV and film directors in the UK. Directors UK collects and distributes royalty payments and provides a range of services to members including campaigning, commercial negotiations, legal advice, events, training and career development. Directors UK works closely with fellow organisations around the world to represent directors' rights and concerns, promotes excellence in the craft of direction and champions change to the current landscape to create an equal opportunity industry for all.
- The BBC Drama and Directors UK Continuing Drama Directors' Training Scheme launched in 2015, since then 21 directors have been selected to take part in the scheme across a number of BBC continuing drama programmes, including *Eastenders*, *Doctors*, *River City*, *Holby City* & *Casualty*. Many directors who have taken part in the scheme have gone on to work on the series.
- **BBC WRITERSROOM** is a department within the BBC with responsibility for developing and promoting new writers and directors across the whole of BBC Drama, Children's & Comedy. We have offices across the UK dealing with several thousand scripts per year. BBC Writersroom has a mission to promote new talent to meet the creative needs of the future.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/successes/continuing-drama-new-directors-scheme>

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