

Drama Commissioning brief 2025

This year LumoTV invites you to submit the kind of fresh, bold, brave, ground-breaking and 'off the wall' ideas that other broadcasters wouldn't dare to take a risk on!

We will be inviting submissions for stories of all shapes and sizes as long as they're 'super-sized' in ambition, scope and originality; with deaf centred story-telling and characters at their core. We want to see stories and characters that celebrate a diverse array of talent, representation, stories and world.

Whilst we continue to accept ideas for short films, half hours and single, one-off dramas, we're keen to ensure that the majority of ideas submitted can act as the pilot episode for a limited or long-running, returnable series in a 1 hour format (approx. 54-58 mins).

Short films

Short film ideas (14 mins) should be considered as writer, director or writer/director opportunities for emerging and first-time film-makers, or (for more experienced film-makers) as the opportunity to act as a proof of concept for a feature.

We're also happy to accept submissions for feature film ideas as long as the Creatives and Production companies attached can demonstrate pre-existing experience in this field.

Half Hour films

Ideas for half hour films (28 mins) should skew Sitcom, Children's or comedy-drama.

Your ideas can be pre or post watershed, action, comedy, horror, romance, period, contemporary, sci-fi, internationally or UK set – as long as they are achievable within our budget tariffs and BSL is the pre-dominant language.

This year, we would encourage ideas from - and set in - the nations and regions. We would also encourage ideas for a deaf-led, cosy crime series in the mould of 'Sister Boniface', 'Death in Paradise', 'Midsomer Murders', 'Madame Le Blanc mysteries' etc. A deaf detective/investigator paired with a hearing side-kick that could form the basis of a returnable series for a mainstream channel.

We would also encourage ideas for a ‘John Wick’, ‘Taken’, ‘Death Wish’ style, vigilante revenge thriller or action movie (on a budget!). A Jason Bourne esque, fighting tale of a BSL user who can utilise the power of their hands for more violent means when the time for communication is done....

Budget

The budget tariffs we can offer for ideas that are chosen to be greenlit from the development phase into Production will be determined on a project by project basis but will be circa. 50-70K for a Short Film, 150-180K for a half hour and 250-320K for an hour.

Development funds will be also be determined on a project by project basis but will be circa 6 – 15K depending on the format length. If you have any further questions about budgets, allocation or project affordability for a pitch; please feel free to get in touch with our Commissioner and Production Executives to discuss things in more detail.

Any submissions for a feature film will require co-production and additional finance plans TBD. We are also open to discussing co-funded deals that can raise additional finance for higher tariff ideas or productions if required.

Please note that we will have fewer commissioning slots available this year so you will need to ensure that ideas are of the highest quality to fulfil our programming and audience demands.

Housekeeping

We invite ideas from everyone (with any level of experience), as long as a deaf creative is attached at the heart of the project. You can submit ideas with a Production company attached or as a creative in search of a Production home.

As a charity serving the deaf/BSL communities we contract all of our productions on an all media, in perpetuity, worldwide basis. This enables us to serve our communities with as much signed content as possible, as the only signed commissioning body in the world.

We are open to explore ideas for co-funding and distribution deals to widen our reach and, if additional funding is secured, associated rights negotiations. If you’d like to discuss any of this, please let us know.

The commissioning round will open from 31st March with submissions to reach us by 2nd May with a view to develop, shoot and TX in 2026/27. Shortlisted candidates will then need to make themselves available for interview during the first two weeks of June.

What should I submit?

The more developed your idea, the better. So, we'd be happy to accept fully realised Pitch decks and Series outlines, sizzle reels, trailers, proof of concepts, previous work etc. But we're also happy to solicit 1 page or 1 paragraph pitches for ideas, inclusive of a topline/logline pitch. You will need to include details of yourself, any production company attached and your relevant experience.