

## **Drama Commissioning Brief 2026**

**Have you got an idea for the next breakout deaf drama like ‘Reunion’ or ‘Code of Silence’?**

**Then we want to hear from you!**

This year LumoTV is inviting fresh, bold, brave and ground-breaking drama ideas. We want stories that are led by deaf creatives and foreground deaf representation both onscreen and off.

**What kind of stories are you looking for?**

We invite submissions of all shapes and sizes, pre or post-watershed, as long as they’re ‘super-sized’ in ambition, scope and originality; can be shot on a shoestring and have deaf centred story-telling and characters at their core.

We also want to find stories that celebrate a diverse array of talent, representation and world, with a particular focus on stories about the nations and regions with the potential to attract additional screen agency, climate or co-funding opportunities (either for the development and/or Production phase).

We want stories that are built to entertain and engage deaf viewers but also work on a universal level for all audiences to be compelled, entertained and moved by our stories.

We want mass market, break-out, box office hits but we also want stories that speak to very specific audiences, issues, risk, reach or experimentation and that no other broadcaster would dare to touch or deem commercial enough.

We’d also be interested in stories that are being told with an international flavour that can foreground British, deaf representation on a global, multi-lingual stage.

**Specific invitations this year include -**

- We are keen to find the **UK’s first, deaf micro/vertical drama**. Any genre. Be it a soap, period drama, action thriller, rom-com or comedy, we want an idea for a smash hit, hook-riddled, 10 or 20 x 2, 3 or 5 min an ep series that can be shot for a short film budget.
- We’ll also be looking to run another **‘Step-Up’ short film scheme** designed as a mentored, training pathway for emerging, first time Writers, Directors, Writer/Directors and DOPs.

- We're also keen to invite short film ideas from emerging or more established filmmakers who are looking to build a proof of concept for a feature or show-reel defining showcase for the next step in their film-making careers.
- We'd particularly love to see more stories that can attract (or already have attached) high profile, established talent from the TV, Film and digital space - both in front of or behind the camera – that can help increase our marketing visibility and audience reach.
- We are open to innovative approaches to production/storytelling. Any proposed use of Generative AI will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must comply with LumoTV's AI guidelines, online - <https://lumotv.co.uk/meet/about/ai-guidelines> - with clear editorial justification and without inhibiting opportunities for deaf creatives and workforce.
- We're interested in comedy and comedy skewing stories or sitcoms.
- We'd love to see fresh takes on pre-established IP that is now in the public domain- ie: Dickens, Holmes, Shakespeare - provided that there's an original and compelling reason to revisit that world through a 'deaf gaze'.
- We'd love to see more stories set in the nations and regions, in particular the North of England and Wales.
- We'd love to see a deaf 'John Wick', vigilante revenge thriller or more mainstream, family friendly facing 'Karate Kid'.

### **What kind of stories might you NOT be looking for?**

If it's a strong and original enough story, voice or concept, then we're always happy to accept submissions but we're pretty covered for horror and crime facing shows/series at the minute, so it would really need to be something extra special and fresh for us to consider any further ideas in that space.

### **Who can submit?**

We invite ideas from everyone with any level of experience, as long as the stories are deaf led (i.e.: a deaf creative is attached at the heart of the project as either writer, co-writer, director etc) and deaf facing in their onscreen representation and storytelling.

Whilst the predominance of our onscreen language will always be BSL and sign language focussed, we are able to consider a limited number of projects from non-signing deaf or hard of hearing creatives on a case-by-case basis where this reflects their lived experience.

### **How can I submit?**

You can submit ideas with a Production company already attached or as a creative in search of a Production home. (Please note that we would expect ideas submitted for consideration as either series or feature film to have a broadcast established writer and/or Director already attached. First time and non broadcast experienced writers or directors should focus their ideas on short form, single film or Vertical/Micro drama projects - either 14 or 28 minutes in the first instance).

### **What should I submit?**

We're happy to solicit 1 page or 1 paragraph written, verbal or BSL/Sign led pitches for ideas, inclusive of a topline/logline pitch.

You will need to include details of yourself, any production company attached (if applicable) and your relevant experience. The more developed your idea, the better. We're happy to accept fully realised Pitch Decks and Series outlines, sizzle reels, trailers, proof of concepts and examples of previous work.

### **What kind of format and length are you looking for?**

Whilst we continue to accept ideas for short films, half hours and single, one-off dramas, we strongly encourage submissions for ideas and stories that can act as the pilot episode for a limited or long-running, returnable series.

We can look at ideas for feature films or mainstream, series pilots but we will likely be skewing towards more short-form ideas this commissioning round and any longer form projects would need to come via established Production companies with a view to having experienced creatives already attached.

### **When's the deadline?**

The commissioning round will open from 5th October 2026 with submissions to reach us by 13th Nov with a view to develop early 2027. Shortlisted candidates will need to make themselves available to discuss their idea with the LumoTV team from 8th – 22nd Jan, 2027

### **What's the Budget?**

Development funds will be determined on a project-by-project basis but will be circa 6 – 15K for projects that we'd be looking to finance, produce and broadcast exclusively for our platform.

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:

|                                           |             |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Development                               | £6K-15K     |
| Short Film/Vertical or Micro-drama series | £50K-70K    |
| Single 30 min drama                       | £150K-£180K |
| Single 60 min drama                       | £250K-£320K |

For mainstream focussed, co-development projects involving established writers, directors, producers and production companies, additional funds in line with WGGB rates can be discussed on a case-by-case basis for commissions involving a single, commercial half hour or hour, pilot script and series bible.

### **What else do I need to know?**

We're always happy to invite submissions from established Production companies and/or Creatives for mainstream focussed, deaf led and starring series or feature films – a la 'Code of Silence' and 'Reunion' - where we can assist in helping consult and/or fund on the development side – i.e.: either in funding or co-funding a pilot script and series bible that is then taken out to market with a view to **a mainstream co-commission – or by becoming a co-production partner.**

We'd also be happy to explore opportunities to join, **collaborate or co-fund any existing series or shows** that are already pretty-fully realised, either in development and/or partially funded for production. These can be UK set and/or internationally focussed as long as there is a deaf UK creative's involvement and onscreen representation amongst the cast.

### **What are your standard, Commissioning and Production Terms?**

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 commissioning body for sign language content in the world.

For mainstream focussed, development-only projects, we can be WGGB and PACT compliant but, subject to negotiations, expect to take a share of IP and net profits in more of a co-production partner basis.

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.

### **Any other questions?**

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions about the brief, budget, tariffs or whether your idea might be right for LumoTV - [commissioning@lumotv.co.uk](mailto:commissioning@lumotv.co.uk)

(NB: If you have an idea but need to **look for deaf talent to work with**, please head to our site – <https://lumotv.co.uk/meet/train-with-us/looking-for-deaf-talent> - or get in touch at [talent@lumotv.co.uk](mailto:talent@lumotv.co.uk).)