

Short film production: Two Hands / Dewdhorn / Deux Mains / Daou Zorn



Frequently Asked Questions - Q&A Information Session Notes

Additional support or further questions?

Please email laura@screencornwall.com if you have any further questions or you need introductions to possible collaborators.

What are we looking for?

We're looking for something that can be brought to life on screen in a Cornish / Breton world, that builds on the range of scripted work made separately.

We've left the brief quite open in terms of genre, however using both languages is essential. As the languages are quite closely linked, the idea is that someone who speaks either could watch and understand it, the main thing is for a strong idea is how language is used in a real way for the characters in that world.

There are also be other ways of demonstrating collaboration between Cornwall and Brittany, so it may be that it's filmed in one place and post-produced in another, or there's a mixture of skills in the crew.

How does the partnership work?

It's a co-funded project between Screen Cornwall through SPF funding and the Breton broadcasters who will take rights after a festival run for 12 months to stream on digital platforms.

What is the deadline for the whole project?

Contractually the deadline for delivery will be 31st March 2025. In our role as Executive Producers, we will keep in touch with you throughout to discuss and manage through any challenges with the timeline.

As we know these timings are still tight, we are intending to keep the turnaround from the submission deadline to interview quite quick so that we can get contracts to successful company issued as soon as possible – so please be aware if shortlisted you will need to be available w/c 3rd June for online interview.

Is there only one project being funded and do you have to apply for the full amount?

Yes, there is one project being funded and you can apply for the full amount.

Does it have to be a contemporary production?

The production needs to be contemporary but future-set is also possible if not a huge amount of production design required. This is largely because on this budget a story set in any period other than contemporary would have to be a very simple idea to be realisable on this budget. If there are archive elements you have in mind it would be sensible to take these from a contemporary perspective looking back.

Can we use archive footage?

As long as it's negotiated, all the licenses are paid for within the budget etc. which is in the general terms and conditions.

Will this be an annual scheme?

At the moment on both sides it is a single year funding opportunity, however there is a strong desire to find other sources of funding to continue co-commissioning with other Celtic nations into the future. Although future funding is not entirely dependent on the outcome of this production, the bigger a life the commissioned piece of work has and the more successful it is, the more likely it can be repeated for all parties.

What are the criteria for selection?

- Quality of script – we recognise it may be a newly written project so we're not expecting it to be super polished, there is time to develop it further once commissioned. However, we need to see that the core of the idea has got potential, that it's engaging for the audience, that the characters and world are strong, that it works in the languages and is also achievable. It doesn't have to be a complex production but it does need to be a sharp idea that embodies the brief of using both languages and developing collaboration with colleagues across the channel.
- Quality of creative team – this commission is probably not suitable as a first project for someone coming out of education. This is for someone who has made a few shorts, has some momentum and is feeling confident that this is a good next step on their creative pathway. Submissions will need a dedicated producer attached, because of the logistical and financial complexities of this project as well as the need for a robust creative team and support for the writer/director. If you don't have a producer attached but want to apply, please speak to us as soon as possible. [ADDENDUM – producers may be attached to more than one submission]
- Evidence of collaboration between Cornish and Breton creatives – would like to see a collaboration in place or certainly starting. Projects with clearly defined partnership intentions will be considered to have met the brief more than those where the areas of collaboration are vague.
- Use of Kernewek / Breton language
- Achievability of budget and timeline

What stage does the script need to be in?

By the deadline we want as much information as possible, so the idea ideally in script form even if it is a first draft or, if you can't manage that, a very detailed (scene by scene) treatment and a script sample from the writer so that we can see that they can write in screenplay form.

Which language should the script be written in?

Scripts can be submitted in whatever language you naturally write in – Breton, French, English or Kernewek scripts will be accepted. You don't need any translations to submit at this point.

Is there support available for translations?

There will be costs involved for Breton translations but no charge for Kernewek translations. Time for translation will need to be factored into the production schedule as will a good amount of rehearsal time with actors if they are not already native speakers.

How developed does the Cornish/Breton collaboration or partnership need to be?

Whilst we wouldn't be expecting you to necessarily have solidified those partnership relationships in the next few weeks, we would expect to see the intention clearly articulated and for you to have reached out to us to discuss matchmaking opportunities at a minimum. You will need to be very clear in your proposal as to which line items are being spent in Brittany/Cornwall as far as possible.

Is a co-production with a Breton company possible?

There are possible regional funding strands available for co-production with a Breton company but please be aware the process is complicated because there are financial, legal and rights implications. Please consider whether a co-production partnership is right for your project or whether you are looking for strong partnerships with people working on the ground.

Will there be support in forming partnerships?

We can pass information about what you're trying to do and what you're looking for to Screen Cornwall's colleagues in Brittany and when we get a response pass those contact details back to you. What we can't do is headhunt people for you and broker the details, so it is quite light touch as appropriate to the resource we have. Likewise Breton companies are welcome to contact the Screen Cornwall office for information on local companies and services. Please send details that include: what kind of company/freelancer you are looking to work with, what you are looking to do and how you want to collaborate, so that we can pass this on.

Be really clear about what your needs are - are you looking for a Breton company to co-produce with, or are you looking for a local fixer and you're bringing your own crew and you're looking for somebody to help with locations and possibly casting.

Please bear with us in terms of response times, particularly if it's about brokering contacts and things. Please get those requests in as soon as possible, ideally by mid-May.