

BFI NETWORK

FINDING COLLABORATORS FOR YOUR PROJECT

The **regional BFI NETWORK hubs and partners** run regular events where filmmakers can network and find collaborators. There's more information about the hubs online [here](#) – you should also get familiar with your region's individual website and social media.

If you are a writer, director or producer seeking other 'above the line' collaborators, or are seeking crew to work with on a production, you may want to look at joining [BFI NETWORK X BAFTA CREW](#).

Stay connected

- ◇ Sign up to the NETWORK Newsletter and your region's mailing list (if they have one) as this will keep you in the loop for upcoming events. If you're SW based, sign up to FHSW's [online projects sharing folder](#).
- ◇ Follow all the relevant social media accounts; twitter is the best way to find out about local events. Some suggestions to start you off: @bfinetwork, your local hub, @intofilm_edu, @UKScreenSkills, @BAFTA, @ShootingPeople, @FAN_BiggerPict
- ◇ Join social media groups (e.g. on Facebook). These are a great resource for anyone working in film, whether you're looking for a job or networking opportunities. Your regional hub might have a group you can join, but don't worry if not as there are loads of UK groups out there – you just need to get searching!
- ◇ Keep an eye on the twitter feeds for local, regional and national support organisations, and where you can, take part in training initiatives.

REMEMBER - It's as much about the people you meet at events and training initiatives as the things you learn. The likelihood is the people in the room are at a similar career level to you and will encounter similar highs and lows. Finding a peer group can offer the chance to collaborate and support each other as you develop and gain experience in the industry.

Watch short films!

There are loads of places online and in the real world to watch great shorts and it's one of the best ways to find people to work with who share similar tastes and ambitions to you.

Look for trends and common themes in your work and the films you engage with; take note of the talent attached to those films and make a list of people to approach. It's also worth challenging yourself to watch films made in styles and weaving narratives very different from your own to see how others are using short film.

Watch every first feature you can, especially those funded by or made by organisations and companies you might be looking to gain investment from someday. Like with shorts, look up the talent and see if you can find out about their career journeys to date.

You can often find contact details for filmmakers on their websites, or if you're watching their work at an industry screening there's a high chance they'll be in the room.

Here's some places we'd recommend for watching brilliant short films to get you started:

Funded by BFI NETWORK: <https://network.bfi.org.uk/funded-by-network>
NETWORK Nights: A quarterly [short film and networking night](#) we run at BFI Southbank

Northern Exposure: A [short film night](#) run by BFI NETWORK Talent Execs in the North

Short of the Week: <https://www.shortoftheweek.com/>

Vimeo Staff Picks: <https://vimeo.com/channels/staffpicks>

Encounters Film Festival: <https://www.encounters.film/>

London Short Film Festival: <https://shortfilms.org.uk/>

Aesthetica Short Film Festival: <https://www.asff.co.uk/>

Other places to look for or meet collaborators:

- BFI NETWORK Talent Programmes such as **NETWORK@LFF** and **Weekender**
- Local and national **film festivals**
- **Graduation shows** at university film courses
- Local/regional filmmaking **networks**
- [Film London Talent Connect](#)
- [Shooting People](#)
- National talent labs
- Edinburgh Festival Talent Lab

Starting a dialogue

Before approaching anyone to produce your film, or collaborate with generally, really understand what you're asking of them. ScreenSkills provide job descriptions for different roles within the industry, including producers: you can find the list [here](#).

If you find a producer (or similarly a writer or director) that you'd love to work with, try to chat with them first. Maybe take them for a coffee or ask to talk over the phone about their work and why you loved it. It's much easier to strike up a collaboration with someone if you try to find out a bit more about them first before immediately putting your project in front of them.

Remember: a collaboration works both ways. They will be trying to figure you out too. You both want to be happy that you're on the same vibe before working together.

If you meet with a producer, you pitch your projects and they chose not to take it forward at this time, be understanding and polite. They aren't the right producer for this project right now but they might be for a future project.

When you meet producers to talk about your projects, be clear about how much creative input you expect them to have. Be open to compromise, but it's also important to know what your boundaries are and which elements are essential for achieving your vision for the project.

For more information on funding & events in your region:

ENGLAND

[Film Hub London](#)

[Film Hub Midlands](#)

[Film Hub North](#)

[Film Hub South East](#)

[Film Hub South West](#)

NATIONS

[BFI NETWORK in Northern Ireland](#)

[BFI NETWORK in Scotland](#)

[BFI NETWORK in Wales](#)