

TALENT EXECS APPOINTED IN NORTH OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND AS PART OF UK-WIDE SUPPORT OF NEW FILMMAKERS

- Roxy Mckenna named BFI NETWORK Talent Executive in Film Hub North
- Keith Potter is Talent Development Executive at Scottish Film Talent Network
- All BFI NETWORK Talent Executives, including two new appointments, will be the Edinburgh International Film Festival for a day of activity dedicated to new talent

Friday 21 June 2019: Roxy Mckenna has been appointed **BFI NETWORK Talent Executive** at **Film Hub North**, and **Keith Potter** the **Talent Development Executive** at **Scottish Film Talent Network (SFTN)**, joining the team of executives supporting new filmmaking talent across the UK. Mckenna will work alongside fellow Talent Executive Amy O'Hara to lead the talent development resource in the North of England, and Potter will be responsible for the first feature slate at SFTN, which is supported by Screen Scotland and BFI NETWORK.

Mckenna will be based out of the Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle upon Tyne, and joins Film Hub North having worked in a variety of roles at Northern Film & Media over the last 12 years. During that time, she has worked with and developed some of the most exciting emerging filmmaking talent in the North East. She has commissioned and exec-produced over 30 short films and documentaries, including 14 Random Acts for Channel4, and devised and delivered numerous talent development and digital innovation programmes. Since 2016, she has also been working as a freelance creative producer running innovative cross-arts/cinema events and producing short films.

Potter joins SFTN from Catalyst Global Media in London, where he was an Executive Producer across film and television investments for their production division. Previously he was a Project Manager at Screen Ireland, across features including *Room*, *Love & Friendship* and *Killing of a Sacred Deer*, and as Head of Production and Development at Ffilm Cymru Wales he represented the fund on projects such as *Submarine* and *Kelly + Victor*.

Mckenna and Potter will join the rest of the UK talent execs at the Edinburgh Film Festival for a BFI NETWORK day on Friday 21 June. Offering 1-2-1 sessions, themed roundtable discussions, an informative and fun games night, it promises to give writers, directors and producers valuable insight, information and advice, plus the chance to network.

With **National Lottery** funding, BFI NETWORK supports filmmakers early in their careers with short film funding, early feature development, industry-backed professional development, and community-building and networking support. Working closely with the BFI Film Fund team, seven BFI NETWORK Talent Executives in England (based in BFI Film Audience Network organisations and venues), work alongside national partners in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland, to deliver BFI NETWORK across the UK. Offering funding, editorial support and professional guidance, they aim to help talent progress from making shorts to developing long-form stories, including features.

Jessica Loveland, Head of BFI NETWORK, said: "In Roxy we have a fantastic exec joining the NETWORK who has experience in discovering and nurturing talent, and Keith's wealth of experience will hugely benefit filmmakers in Scotland. Through BFI NETWORK and our partners, we now have a regional and national infrastructure in place which enables execs to provide very local and grassroots support, while being part of UK-wide programme that offers the talent access to greater opportunities. I'm confident these two appointments will only strengthen that."

Roxy Mckenna said: "I am incredibly excited to be joining the Film Hub North team as a BFI NETWORK Talent Executive. The North is bursting with talent and I'm looking forward to working with and supporting the development of bold, original and diverse new voices across the region."

Keith Potter said: "I'm really looking forward to working with Scotland's hugely gifted writers, directors and producers and the Scottish Film Talent Network team. Edinburgh's terrific film festival presents an ideal opportunity for me to meet the talent I'll be working with for the first time and to connect with SFTN and BFI NETWORK colleagues."

Members of the BFI NETWORK Talent Executive team are: Jessica Loveland, Head of BFI NETWORK; Thomas Wightman, Film Hub South East; Alice Cabañas, Film Hub South West; Alexandra Jackson, Film Hub Midlands; Josic Cadoret and Mathieu Ajan, Film Hub London; and Roxy Mckenna and Amy O'Hara, Film Hub North. Lead talent executives outside England are: Christine Morrow in Northern Ireland Screen, Alice Whittemore in Ffilm Cymru Wales, and Keith Potter in the Scottish Film Talent Network. The BFI Doc Society Fund also runs a programme for new and emerging documentary filmmakers, as part of BFI NETWORK.

Since 2012, BFI NETWORK has provided vital support to a growing number of new writers, directors and producers, delivering on a continued commitment outlined in the BFI's five year strategy **BFI2022**. It consistently achieves awards success, with NETWORK short *The Field*, directed by Sandhya Suri, nominated for a BAFTA this year, while in 2018, Rungano Nyoni became the first filmmaker supported by BFI NETWORK, and subsequently the BFI Film Fund and Ffilm Cymru Wales, to win a BAFTA for her debut feature *I Am Not A Witch*.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About BFI NETWORK

Made possible through National Lottery funding, BFI NETWORK exists to discover and support talented writers, directors and producers at the start of their careers. We collaborate with film organisations and leading cultural venues across the UK to provide funding for short films, support for the development of first features, as well as a range of professional and creative development programmes.

Find out more and watch supported work: [@bfinetwork](http://www.bfinetwork.org.uk)

About the BFI Film Audience Network

Supported by National Lottery funding, the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN), is central to the BFI's aim to ensure the greatest choice of film is available for everyone. Established in 2012 to build wider and more diverse UK cinema audiences for British and international film, FAN is a unique, UK-wide collaboration made up of eight Hubs managed by leading film organisations and venues strategically placed around the country. FAN also supports talent development with BFI NETWORK Talent Executives in each of the

English Hubs, with a mission to discover and support talented writers, directors and producers at the start of their careers.

BFI FAN Film Hubs are:

- Film Hub Midlands is led by Broadway, Nottingham working in partnership with the Birmingham-based Flatpack
- Film Hub North is led collectively by Showroom Workstation, Sheffield, HOME Manchester and Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle upon Tyne
- Film Hub South East is led by the Independent Cinema Office in collaboration with Saffron Screen in Saffron Walden and The Depot in Lewes
- Film Hub South West is led by Watershed in Bristol
- Film Hub Scotland is led by Glasgow Film
- Film Hub Northern Ireland is led by Queen's University Belfast
- Film Hub Wales is led by Chapter in Cardiff
- Film Hub London is led by Film London

About the BFI

The BFI is the UK's lead organisation for film, television and the moving image. It is a cultural charity that:

- Curates and presents the greatest international public programme of world cinema for audiences; in cinemas, at festivals and online
- Cares for the BFI National Archive – the most significant film and television archive in the world
- Actively seeks out and supports the next generation of filmmakers
- Works with Government and industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.