

BREAKING WAVES: OPEN CALL FOR MOVING IMAGE PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION

Create London are pleased to announce an open call out for two moving image commissions for emerging artists and filmmakers with links to Barking & Dagenham. Selected filmmakers will be supported with critical mentorship and creative guidance from industry experts with a public presentation of the works at Eastbury Manor House as part of our National Lottery Heritage-funded *Breaking Waves* programme.

BREAKING WAVES: A living archive of Thames Ward through the lens of The Great Flood 1953-2023

Often considered the worst natural disaster Britain experienced during the 20th century, the Great Flood of 1953 saw widespread flooding and devastation across East England. Coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the flood, this ambitious project highlights the inextricable, and sometimes uncomfortable, link between our industrial heritage and effects of climate change.

Supported by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, [Breaking Waves](#) is a year-long project and will include new artist and architecture commissions, co-designing opportunities for residents, local filmmakers, after-school workshops and masterclasses, open air painting classes, bird watching, mudlarking sessions and more. In addition, disappearing histories of life in Thames Ward will be documented with oral histories experts, residents and creative practitioners, giving a voice to those traditionally excluded from historical records.

The project spotlights the history and fate of Creekmouth village in the wake of the flood, erasing 55 Victorian houses and a church built for chemical plant workers. Fast-forward 70 years, the area is once again under huge transformation. Power stations have been demolished to make way for East London's largest housing development. Pollution from plants is replaced by dust from construction work. Displacement and migration is no longer confined to people, but its impact is felt on wildlife and natural heritage. Consequently, *Breaking Waves* adopts a unique approach, placing equal value to 'voices' of non-human life, lived experience of longtime residents and newcomers to the area.

BRIEF FOR ARTISTS/FILMMAKERS

We are interested in hearing from filmmakers who want to make a work that has a clear link to history and heritage, and some or all of the other central themes of the *Breaking Wave* programme. Those are:

- Changes to Barking & Dagenham over time
- Local impacts of the climate crisis, on human and non-human life
- The relationship between industry, community and the environment
- The history of industry or movement along the Thames and/or River Roding
- Forced migration as a result of the climate crisis.

We are open to creative interpretations and responses to these themes.

The film should be approximately 5 minutes in length. We are interested in receiving proposals from emerging filmmakers with a broad range of ideas and approaches; you may want to create a documentary; a narrative short film; animation; or video art. We are open to the form and style. We also encourage ambition and innovation while being mindful of budget limitations.

Create London will work with the engaged filmmakers to develop a suitable accessibility plan for their work; this may include inclusive subtitling, audio description or other access measures as appropriate for the style of the work.

The finished works will be shown at [Eastbury Manor House](#); a beautiful Grade I listed manor house, built in the Elizabethan style and situated in the heart of Barking. Eastbury Manor House is co-run by the National Trust and London Borough of Barking & Dagenham. It attracts a broad public audience and we expect that the commissioned works will be suitable for audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Final works must have a [Creative Commons Licence \(CC-BY 4.0\)](#) allowing the public use of the work in the future. Filmmakers will retain full IP ownership of their work. Please read more about funding requirements [HERE](#).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Through the commissioning process, engaged filmmakers will benefit from guidance and feedback from Create London staff, and significantly through mentorship conversations with Industry Mentors. We are delighted to be partnering with two experienced leaders in the film industry, providing a unique opportunity for professional development:

Shannon Murphy

Shannon Murphy is a multi-award-winning, internationally acclaimed film, television, commercial and theatre director. She's known for her expansive body of work across mediums always injecting her singularly relatable sensibility regardless of genre.

Her debut feature film *Babyteeth*, starring Essie Davis, Ben Mendelsohn and Eliza Scanlan premiered in Official Competition at the Venice Film Festival to critical acclaim. The film showcases Murphy's proclivity for capturing the chaos of life, her keen eye for casting and performance, always toeing the line of drama and comedy with a confident touch. The film netted her a BAFTA Nomination for Best Direction as well as the prestigious Kering Women in Motion prize presented at the Cannes Film Festival. Other notable work includes episodes of *Killing Eve* (BBC America), *The Power* (Amazon Prime, based on Naomi Alderman's best-selling novel of the same name), and more recently Season Three of *Dave* (FX).

Darragh Mortell

Darragh Mortell is a writer and director who thus far has worked within the mediums of television, audio and film. He was awarded the 2020 Prix Europa Best European Fiction of the Year for his BBC Radio Wales play *I am Kanye West*. He is currently writing the second series of the Radio 4 Drama *Siege*, developing a television drama for ITV and is under commission to write a six part comedy series for BBC 3.

Darragh is also an alumni of the BBC Wales Writersroom, BFI BAFTA Crew and has a host of award winning and acclaimed short films to his name.

Industry Mentors will provide feedback on initial project concepts; with artist/filmmakers then able to capitalise on Mentors' experience and advice as they undertake the creation of their commissioned films. Once the works are

complete, artist/filmmakers will again benefit from their critical feedback - this time on the finished works.

In addition, commissioned artists/filmmakers will have their work presented alongside highly regarded moving image artist and Turner Prize-nominee Catherine Yass' new moving image, *Flood Barrier*, commissioned by Create London as part of *Breaking Waves*.

Yass is best known for her distinctive photographic and film based work. Typically she manipulates her subject matter by overlaying the negative and the positive from photographs she has taken and then realises the resultant images as lightboxes, prints and films.

Out of a dedication to ongoing professional development, commissioned artist/filmmakers will be invited to share their finished moving image works with current Photomedia students at Barking & Dagenham College, along with a talk or masterclass to extend their own experience and learnings to the next generation of emerging media artists. Details of these screenings and talk/masterclasses will be coordinated based on class schedules in the new education year.

Commissioned artists/filmmakers will also be invited to participate in a public talk or panel discussion at Eastbury Manor House, alongside the screening of their finished works.

THE COMMISSION

Selected projects will receive:

- £5,000 commissioning fee. The sum will cover all fees and production costs. Create London holds a separate budget to cover accessibility measures and the costs of presentation at [Eastbury Manor House](#).
- Mentorship via feedback and advice on film treatment, working approach, and finished work from our Industry Mentors: [Shannon Murphy](#) & [Darragh Mortell](#).
- Facilitated visits to the [Valence House archives](#) to discover local heritage material.
- Introductions to nearby community members for local knowledge and/or potential collaborators, as necessary
- Introduction to [Film LBBD](#) who can provide advice on filming locations, equipment hire, as necessary.
- Curatorial guidance from Create London's Senior Curator, and Barking & Dagenham College's Photomedia lecturer David Bennett.
- Meeting and working space at [the White House](#), on Green Lane in Dagenham.
- Presentation of your work in a three month exhibition season at Eastbury Manor House, alongside artist [Catherine Yass' Flood Barrier](#).

ELIGIBILITY

We are inviting filmmakers in the first 5 years of their practice to make proposals. You do not need to have studied filmmaking in higher/further education, but we suggest this opportunity is best for those who have some experience under their belt and can share examples of previous work.

Project proposals must have a clear link to local history and heritage, as well as the broader themes of the *Breaking Wave* programme. Filmmakers should have some connection to Barking & Dagenham.

Funding cannot be used for work that has already been realised. We are also unable to consider any adaptations of existing work by third party copyright holders unless you can demonstrate that you have already acquired any necessary rights.

You must be over 18 to apply.

TIMELINE

22 Aug 2023	Open call launches
11 Sep 2023	Submission deadline
15 Sep 2023	Selection of artists/filmmakers
w/c 18 Sep 2023	Initial meeting with Create London to discuss programme First meetings scheduled with Industry Mentors to provide advice on proposals and process Visits to Valence House Archives (for local heritage research) and Eastbury Manor House (presentation venue) scheduled
29 Sep 2023	Check-in point with Create London
13 Oct 2023	Rough-cut screening with Create London
20 Oct 2023	Delivery of presentation-ready files
26 Oct 2023	Presentation begins at Eastbury Manor House for a 3 month season
Early Nov 2023	Meetings for feedback on finished work with Industry Mentors
Early Jan 2024	Display at Eastbury Manor House finishes and project evaluation

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YOUR PROPOSAL

Please send us:

- A project outline. This could be a storyboard or film treatment (1-2 pages).
- A visual/style description. This could be an example of previous work or a moodboard.
- A draft timeline for your process
- A draft budget
- Details of necessary roles/personnel for the project;
 - If you have collaborators confirmed please indicate. Note; we do not expect at this point you will have full teams on board.
- CV detailing previous creative/moving image works.
- Link to online showreel or previous work (we will watch max 5 minutes per applicant; please indicate which sections to watch).

Please send the above in one PDF, titled "LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_Moving Image Proposal.pdf" to info@createlondon.org by 10am on the 4th September.

Create is committed to equality of opportunity and supporting diversity and inclusion across all aspects of its work. We strongly encourage applications from individuals who are under-represented in the arts sector including those of Black, Asian or diasporic heritage, those who have faced socio-economic barriers, those who identify as LGBTQ+, those with disabilities or neurodivergent people.

Create is committed to providing an open and accessible process for all candidates, therefore if you have any additional requirements to complete your application form or access needs please contact kieran@createlondon.org and we can discuss an alternative format for proposal.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE AND CONTRACT

The commissioned artists/filmmakers will be expected to sign a contract outlining the terms and conditions of the commission and payment schedule. Payment schedule will be in three stages; the first payment (50%) on agreement of the artists' proposal, the second payment (40%) on the viewing of a rough cut before the final edit and the third payment (10%) on delivery of the finished work.

FAQ

What is the selection process?

Create London staff will select two from the provided proposals with the input of London Borough of Barking & Dagenham, Barking & Dagenham College Photomedia Lecturer David Bennett and an artist/filmmaker. Criteria we will assess applicants against include connection to the themes of the broader project; ambition of the project in relationship to the experience of the applicant; and realistic approach to timeline and budget. We will also consider the quality and innovation of previous work. We may invite shortlisted filmmakers for a short informal interview to finalise selection.

I wasn't born in Barking & Dagenham, can I still apply?

We are interested in hearing from emerging artists/filmmakers with a connection to Barking & Dagenham. You may have been born here or moved to the borough in later life. You may have lived here for a period of your life before departing. We will also consider extended work or research experience of the area as fulfilling the criteria.

Will Create London be producing my film?

For this project, we will serve as commissioners, providing financial support for fees, equipment and other costs. We will be able to offer guidance and introductions to local organisations and agencies who can provide additional support, but we will not serve as Producers of the works. We expect that you will self-produce or engage a producer to collaborate with.

For any other questions, please contact Senior Curator Kieran Swann, kieran@createlondon.org.

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