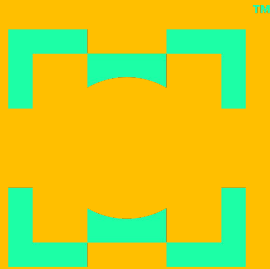




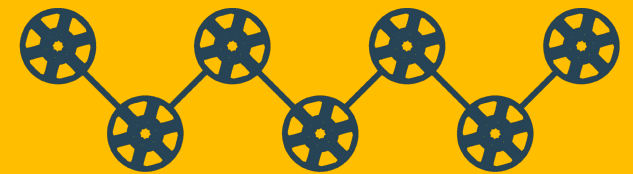
# SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE

## CULT AND INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

## EMERGING SPIRIT BRIEFING GUIDELINES



OPEN HOUSE  
PICTURES



South Yorkshire  
Filmmakers Network

# Our Story

Founded in 2018, the Spirit of Independence film festival showcases films with limited finances and resources, highlighting exciting voices without Hollywood budgets. We provide a platform for films that other festivals may not.

The festival has grown each year, expanding the number of screenings it shows as well as bringing in local talent to highlight the wealth of filmmakers in the Yorkshire region and beyond.

Next, we want to inspire a new generation of filmmakers to make their stories a cinematic reality and that's why this year we're continuing our Emerging Spirit Script to Screen Competition, in partnership with some of the best local filmmaking talent and companies in the region.

Do you want to make your story a reality but just don't have the resources to make it happen? Well, read on....



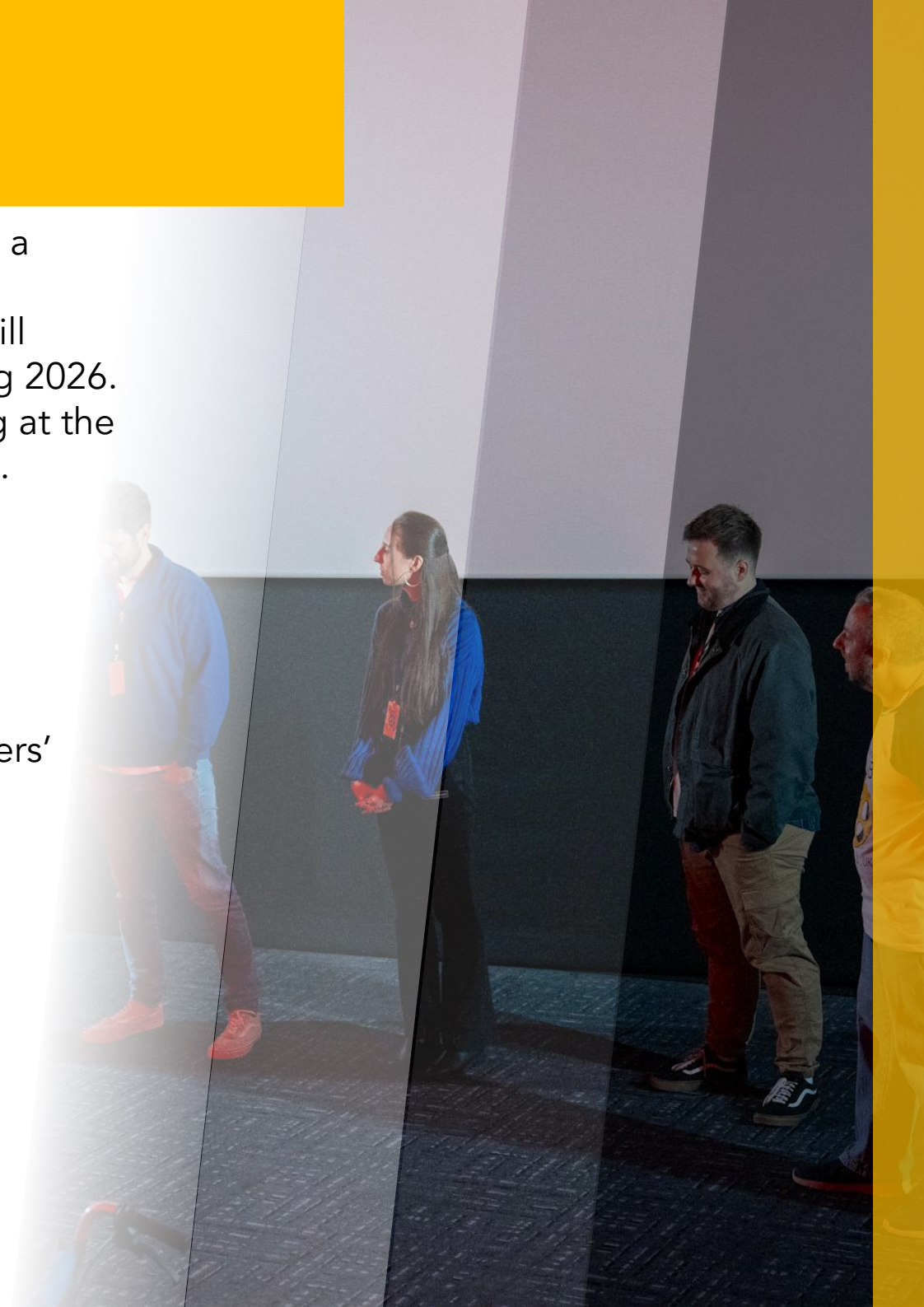


# The Competition

We will support a filmmaking team to make their script a reality. Together with our partners, we will provide the competition winner with a package of resources that will support them to turn their script into a short film during 2026. Their finished short will also be guaranteed a screening at the Spirit of Independence film festival in September 2026.

We will be offering the following to the winner of the Emerging Spirit Script to Screen Competition:

- Minimum £750 cash
- Free equipment hire from South Yorkshire Filmmakers' Network
- Free colour grading from Colourist Paul Handley
- Free digital effects from Steel Motion Media
- Free film scoring from Jody Wildgoose
- Festival strategy consultation
- Mentoring by a member of BFI Network
- Production support by Open House Pictures



# The Rules

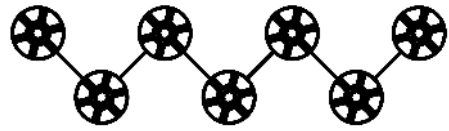
Sound good so far? There are a conditions in order to meet the competition criteria:

- All films must be made in the Yorkshire region
- Scripts should be submitted in traditional script format as a PDF
- Scripts must be no longer than 10 pages in length
- The festival directors and the competition sponsors must be credited as Executive Producers
- Logos of the festival and the award sponsor must be displayed at the beginning of the film
- All scripts must be submitted via filmfreeway.
- A submission fee of c.£10 applies
- Projects need to have a writer, director and producer attached before an application can be made. Teams need to have a minimum of two individuals across the three creative roles, e.g. separate individuals who are a writer-director and producer respectively, or a director working with a writer-producer. Director-producers are not eligible to apply
- The film must be ready by September 2026



# Your Support

Want to know more about the support you will receive as part of the prize? Here's some information about our competition partners.



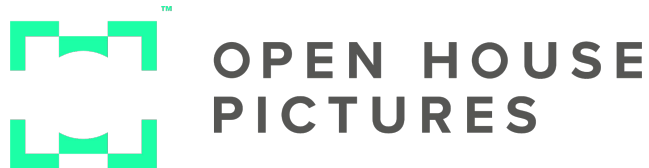
**South Yorkshire  
Filmmakers Network**

The South Yorkshire Filmmakers' Network will be providing

- Free access to SYFN's equipment during the winning film's production period
- Advice on local crew members and locations

The BFI Network will provide:

- Notes and guidance on script development and support throughout the production process
- Guidance on next steps for the film including festival strategies
- Mentoring opportunities for the writer, director and producer



Open House Pictures will provide:

- Production guidance and support

**All support offerings are subject to availability and timescale agreements with competition partners listed above**



# Your Support

The logo for SteelMotion, featuring a stylized white icon of three interlocking rings on the left, followed by the text "SteelMotion" in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a black rectangular background.

Steel Motion have kindly volunteered:

- Consultancy on what visual effects will work for your film
- One day of visual effects services

The logo for Paul Handley Colourist, featuring the text "PAUL HANDLEY" in a light blue, serif font above the text "COLOURIST" in a light blue, serif font, both on a black rectangular background.

Paul Handley will provide:

- Colour grading service for the winning script
- Consultation on the colour palette, to help create the feel and shape the mood

The logo for Jody Wildgoose, featuring the text "JODY WILDGOOSE" in a white, serif font on a dark red rectangular background.

Jody Wildgoose will provide:

- Full score for finished film

**All support offerings are subject to availability and timescale agreements with competition partners listed above**

# Timelines

If you're ready to get writing and want to know how long you have for the award, you'll find the timelines for the Emerging Spirit Script to Screen Competition below:

**17<sup>th</sup> January**

**28<sup>th</sup>  
February**

**16<sup>th</sup> March**

**1<sup>st</sup> September**

**27<sup>th</sup>  
September**

Official launch, scripts can be submitted via filmfreeway.

Submissions close and the judging process begins.

Winner announced and support process begins.

Film delivered to Spirit of Independence

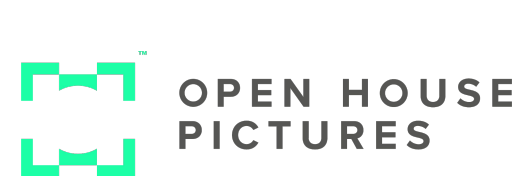
Film screened at festival.

# Our Festival Partners

The Spirit of Independence Film Festival could not run without the support of our excellent festival partners and sponsors. Read on to get to know them a bit better.



Run by producer/director Rob Speranza, SYFN provide training and networking opportunities, host film screenings celebrating the work of the region's filmmakers and beyond, and host film competitions like 2Weeks 2Make It, the exciting music video competition, each year. SYFN also operate as an award-winning production company, producing shorts and films for businesses.



Open House Pictures is a commercial video production company that specialises in promotional advertisement for businesses. They also have a mission to help champion young filmmakers' voices with an emphasis on providing a platform for continued growth and collaboration within the Sheffield filmmaking community.



# Links

Want to do a bit more reading? Below are some links to resources that you may find useful:

Spirit of Independence: [www.soifilmfestival.com](http://www.soifilmfestival.com)

Filmfreeway: [www.filmfreeway.com/spiritofindependence](http://www.filmfreeway.com/spiritofindependence)

South Yorkshire Filmmakers' Network: [www.syfn.org](http://www.syfn.org)

Open House Pictures: [www.openhousepictures.co.uk](http://www.openhousepictures.co.uk)

Paul Handley: [www.colourgrade.co.uk](http://www.colourgrade.co.uk)

BFI Network: [www.network.bfi.org.uk](http://www.network.bfi.org.uk)

Jody Wildgoose: [www.jodywildgoose.bandcamp.com](http://www.jodywildgoose.bandcamp.com)

Steel Motion: <https://steelmotion.uk/>



# Contact

For any other queries, please contact us at:  
[info@soifilmfestival.com](mailto:info@soifilmfestival.com)



[www.facebook.com/soifilmfestival](http://www.facebook.com/soifilmfestival)



[@soifilmfestival](https://twitter.com/soifilmfestival)



[soifilmfestival](https://www.instagram.com/soifilmfestival)

Ready to submit? Then click below...

Submit on  FilmFreeway

