

PRESS RELEASE

ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY LAUNCHES INAUGURAL *FUTURES 48* SHORT FILM CHALLENGE

London, 18 September 2020 – The Royal Television Society (RTS), Britain’s leading forum for television and related media, has launched a new short film competition, *Futures 48*, open to aspiring filmmakers with no broadcast credits from across the UK. The idea, brought to the RTS by actor and director Daymon Britton (*Emmerdale*, *Tales from the Lodge*), is a unique challenge where entrants have 48 hours to create, film and edit a three-minute short film that will be judged and awarded by television industry heavyweights.

The competition gives filmmakers a chance to showcase their creativity and innovation, and entries can be submitted either as an individual or as part of a team. During the launch event on Friday 9 October, participants will receive the film title at 7.00pm, and will then have 48 hours to create a three-minute short film based on this which also adheres to all COVID-19 rules and restrictions. All entries must be submitted to the RTS by 7.00pm on Sunday 11 October.

The nominees will be announced in November, with the winner set to be crowned later this year. The winning film will be showcased on the RTS YouTube Channel and will also receive a prestigious Royal Television Society Award.

Daymon Britton said: “With so many people recovering from the effects of COVID-19, and personally reflecting on how huge the impact has been on our industry I wanted to bring creatives together for something positive. With incredible support and vision from the RTS we have formed an official film challenge called *Futures 48*. The challenge gives a focus, a deadline, and an incredible platform for those taking part. Open to people of all ages, I am hoping to see an outpouring of creativity over those 48 hours in October. This is just the beginning of *Futures 48*, and it’s already incredibly exciting.”

Theresa Wise, CEO of the Royal Television Society, added: “Necessity has been the mother of invention this year – and the television industry top to bottom has been a great

example of this during COVID. We are grateful to Daymon for bringing this idea to involve young British film-makers and we are also delighted that the RTS Regions and Nations are leading this effort.”

Registration for the launch event and full conditions of entry can be found on the RTS website: <https://rts.org.uk/event/futures-48-film-challenge>

For further information please contact:

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About The Royal Television Society:

From glamorous award ceremonies to lively debates, the RTS embraces all aspects of television, and is open to anyone with an interest in the medium.

As an educational charity, we encourage and celebrate work in television and its related fields, from finding out how the nation’s favourite shows are made in our Anatomy of a Hit series, to celebrating burgeoning talent at our annual Student Awards.

The industry’s most talented individuals give us an insight into the work that goes into making cutting edge contemporary TV. From Government ministers and CEOs to workshops with great runners, our events look at every part of the business.

Our annual Television Journalism, Programme, Craft and Design, and Student Awards celebrate achievements across the broadcasting industry.

Each year, we offer Television Production and Technology bursaries to help those from less affluent backgrounds get a foothold in the industry, and Masterclass sessions bring together students, academics and industry heads.

Global television leaders gather to discuss what the future holds for television at our London Conference or the RTS Cambridge Convention.

Alongside our engaged community of over 5,000 full members, the Society is supported by Britain and the world’s biggest broadcasters, producers and consultants, including Principal Patrons BBC, Channel 4, ITV and Sky.

Originally founded as the Television Society in 1927, the Society was granted its Royal title in 1966 and HRH The Prince of Wales became Patron of the RTS in 1997.

Today, 15 regional and national groups curate lively events and awards around the UK and Ireland, from Glasgow to Galway.

RTS Futures, which is aimed at those in their first two years of employment, organises an exciting roster of discussion, training and social occasions. Recent events have included workshops on learning how to format shows and how to survive as a freelancer, and expert panels explaining how to be the best researcher and how to make it on-screen.